Priests Stole, a gift to Mothers' Union from, Kathleen Wilson on completion of her term of Office as Diocesan President.

Prayer walk in support of 16 days of Activism against gender violence. Kathleen DP and Members after prayers outside the Cathedral.

2022 Theme: Transformation - Now!

Durham Diocese Newsround Spring/Summer 2022

President
Mrs Carole Hopkinson
01388 527827

Finance
Mrs Janice Hardman
0191 3865497

Dear Friends and fellow members,

Thank you for the great privilege of being elected diocesan president of the wonderful Mothers' Union in Durham diocese. It is a huge responsibility and challenge, but with the Lord's help and the support of the members and trustees, I am sure we shall all move forward together in carrying out our aims and objects. Kathleen set us all a wonderful example of living a Christian life, encircled by prayer, and we must strive to follow her in her footsteps, as she followed those of our founder, Mary Sumner.

After the last two difficult years of Covid and the current anxieties in Ukraine, it is heart-warming to return to the fellowship of Mothers' Union in our branches and to start to rebuild our project work within our own communities – although I know that many branches have continued with their good work, in spite of restrictions. I am aware of various activities within branches, but please keep me informed of what you do – good ideas need to be spread around where appropriate. Our support for AFIA and the overseas fund is still needed as much as ever – separate articles on this will be found elsewhere in the magazine – refuges have been bursting at the seams; refugees are likely to increase in numbers as violence around the world continues; hospital emergency bags are always needed. Our branch in Low Newton prison is still not able to meet after the Covid restrictions, but we hope to resume very soon – please keep the ladies in your prayers.

It is with great delight that we are able to hold our diocesan services in the cathedral this year, the IMPC service will be held on the 4th May (this will have taken place before you receive this magazine) and most importantly, for the first time in 3 years, the festival service on June 14th, when our guest speaker will be Bev Julien, MU's chief executive. I do hope that as many members as possible – with banners – will be able to attend.

When planning your branch programmes, please invite myself and any of the trustees to speak. We need to celebrate the wonderful work of MU as much as possible, so please make sure your communities know what we do, as well as your clergy. I suspect that during this decade, there will be several branches celebrating their centenary – a great opportunity to advertise MU.

Above all, we must not lose confidence in ourselves – we may have lost members in the last two years, but there are signs that new people are becoming interested in what we do. For many years, my own branch has had just 4 members – we now have seven! So never give up hope and trust in the Lord.

We give thanks for the life and witness of those who have died

Ruby McLoughlin	95yrs.	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Joyce Lowson		St. John's Church Lynesack
Carol Holland		St. John's Church Lynesack
Sandra Armstrong		St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le street
Miriam Breckon	82yrs	St Michaels and All Angels, Houghton
Margaret Sparrow	84yrs	St. Mary's Barnard Castle
Delphia Irene Tunstall	86yrs	St. Mary's Barnard Castle
Terry Lovell	89yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Anne Slater	91yrs	All Saints, Monkwearmouth
Wendy Rogerson	91yrs	St Nicholas, Durham (former Diocesan president)
Audrey Gittins	100yrs	St Cuthbert's, Darlington

We extend a very warm welcome to our newly enrolled members

Norma Nevin	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Vicki White	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Patricia Whitfield	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Susanne Williams	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Canon Rev. Michael Hampel.	Precentor, Durham Cathedral.
Rosemary Pinch	St. Paul's ,Spennymoor
Emily McDonald	St. Paul's ,Spennymoor
Norma Metcalfe.	St. Paul's ,Spennymoor
Audrey Donoghue	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le street
Sue Brissenden,	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le street
Anne Smith	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le street
Anne Brown	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le street
Rev. Mary Judson.	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le street
Joan Henderson	South Hetton Holy Trinity
Wendy Smith	South Hetton Holy Trinity

Members who have celebrated special birthdays

Audrey Philp	90yrs	Christ Church Consett
Kathleen Smith	75yrs	Christ Church Consett
Shelagh Whipp.	70yrs	Consett
Judy Cooke.	80yrs	Consett
Myra Reavely	100yrs	St Andrews Tudhoe Grange.
Marjorie Walters	80yrs	St Andrews Tudhoe Grange.
Anna Smith	75yrs	St Andrews Tudhoe Grange.
Jean King	96yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Sammie Hewlett	90yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Elizabeth Taylor	90yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Patricia Guthrie	85yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
June Kirby	75yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Nora Ramshaw	75yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Patricia Whitfield	70yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Hazel Gaskill	80yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Margret Burt	90yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Ann Sinclair	80yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Jean Harrison	80yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Angela Lee	80yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Audrey Newton	80yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Jean Redfearn	96yrs	St. John's Church Lynesack
Jeanne Hunt	80yrs.	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le street
Margaret Henderson	80yrs	St Michaels and All Angels, Houghton
Mary Vasey	96yrs	All Saints, Newton Hall
Esmee Telford	80yrs	All Saints, Newton Hall
Connie Hinds	90yrs	St Mary's Cockerton
Margaret Porter	80yrs	St. Mary's Norton
Greta Redman	80yrs	All Saints, Monkwearmouth
Margaret Hagan	80yrs	Houghton-le-Spring
Pat Watson	80yrs	Houghton-le-Spring
Evelyn Curry	99yrs	Houghton-le-Spring
Gillain Walker	70yrs	Sunderland Minster
Denise Sanderson	83yrs	Sunderland Minster
Lily Holcroft	84yrs	Sunderland Minster
Carole Pattison	84yrs	Sunderland Minster

An MU prayer – Loving Lord, we give thanks for your faithfulness to Mothers' Union through many years. Unite us together in vision and love, that we may continue to reach out as your hands across the world, to carry out your mission on earth. Amen

Carole Hopkinson

We admitted three new members to St. Paul's Mothers' Union, Spennymoor Branch, on Monday 14th February 2022. They are left to right: Rosemary Pinch, Emily McDonald and Norma Metcalfe. Beside Norma is our new Diocesan President, Mrs. Carole Hopkinson. Rev Matt Tarling, our Vicar, officiated at the Eucharist when we admitted the ladies. This was followed by our AGM and Refreshments to close with. There were 15 other Members present to welcome them. It was lovely to get back to some kind of normality being able to meet and enjoy social time together.

Low Newton Prison.
A short update.
We continue to support the Residents of Low Newton. We are still waiting to re open our branch meetings. At present no groups or visitors allowed.
The diocese donated Christmas cards for the Residents , and a donation towards Christmas gifts for Residents children , through the Angel Tree project. Thankyou.
I have regular contact with the prison chaplain. Also send prayers to be used at Services .
We are still in there!. Please remember in your prayers all who are in prison, and who administer to them.
'Lift High The Cross ,and Crown Him Lord of All'
To God be the Glory.
Kathleen Wilson.

End of a Triennial

This is the end of a triennial, and we hope it is also the end of an upheaval in the world which we could never have imagined. We have been fortunate during this time to have Kathleen as our leader. In the early part of her leadership, she worked tirelessly through a revision of the constitution, helping Susan face the difficulties of setting up a database. We became the only Diocese to have a Mothers' Union branch in a women's prison. This project, I know, is very close to her heart. With members support we supported a project in Gilesgate which provides housing and education for young mothers, we were also active in promoting the campaign against gender-based violence.

And then came COVID. Everything was on hold but when we couldn't meet, we were sustained by prayers, and we grasped the workings of ZOOM meetings-some grasped that more quickly than others!

Trustees met in Belmont Park and Ride Car park-regardless of the weather-and collected Newsrounds and Mothers' Union Enterprise goods and shared anything else that was relevant.

Then came the introduction of Direct Debit. When restrictions eased Kathleen knew the importance of getting out into the branches to support and re energise the membership. During these last weeks her diary has been full of visits to branches. Throughout all this she has flown the flag for Durham Diocese – Mary Sumner House certainly know that we are around. We were visited by the Worldwide President to see the work going on in Low Newton Prison. I was fortunate to accompany Kathleen to a gathering in the House of Lords during prison week. A packed house including MPs and Peers- many of whom took a copy of our Newsround away with them. There are many other things which could be included-probably things which only individuals know about.

Well done Kathleen and Thank You. Kathleen was presented with an engraved pen, roses for the garden and a bouquet of flowers. Don't go far away Mothers Union still needs you.

Members receiving long service awards

Gillian Hanratty	10yrs	Christ Church Consett
Kathleen Smith	10yrs	Christ Church Consett
Heather Moss	10yrs	Christ Church Consett
Audrey Philp.	55yrs	Consett
Patricia Guthrie	61yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Josie Gregory	55yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Janice Hardman	40yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Heather Crook	31yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Joan Cummins	30yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Joy Eve	30yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Joan Mary Harland	30yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
June Kirby	30yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Margaret Stainthorpe	30yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Betty Young	26yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Maureen Abernathy	25yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Delia Dixon	25yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Emily Forrester	50yrs	St Michaels and All Angels, Houghton
Anne Todd	10yrs	St Michaels and All Angels, Houghton
Joy Wanless	50yrs	Houghton-le-Spring
Maureen Davison	50yrs	South Hetton Holy Trinity
Sheila Ledger	50yrs	South Hetton Holy Trinity
Enid Trudgill	35yrs	South Hetton Holy Trinity
Isobel Wheatley	30yrs	South Hetton Holy Trinity

Congratulations to all who have celebrated special wedding anniversaries

Norma & Maurice Colwell	65yrs	Christ Church Consett
Judy & Barry Cooke	60yrs	Consett
Sandy & Peter Jackson	40yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Margaret & John Brown	45yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Susan & Brian Kinghorn	50yrs	All Saints, Newton Hall
Eleanor & Harry Ross	50yrs	All Saints, Newton Hall

Dates for your diary

Thursday 28th April Diocesan Council at Waddington Street URC, Durham at 10.30 – starting with communion. Council meetings are open to all members - an opportunity to ask questions and learn what is going on in the diocese. The annual accounts for 2021 will be approved at this meeting.

Wednesday 4th May IMPC service at the cathedral at 2pm – a communion service led by our chaplain, Norma Clee, when we remember all our indoor members. It is always a lovely service and is open to all members.

Tuesday 14th June Festival service in the cathedral at 2pm – the first time for three years – when we can all come together and bring our banners. If your banners are too heavy to bring, please come anyway. The guest speaker is MU chief executive, Bev Julien. This should be one of the highlights of our year.

Thursday 21st July Deanery leaders lunch at Waddington Street URC at 11am. This is an opportunity for informal discussion where any problems can be raised, and plans made for the future.

Thursday 15th September Founders day celebration at St. Cuthbert's church, Darlington, at 2pm – open to all members. The official Mary Sumner's day is in August, but as that is in the holiday season, the trustees have decided to try a different date and venue. We all need to celebrate the life and inspiration of Mary Sumner.

Thursday 20th October Diocesan Council at Waddington Street URC at 10.30. Open to all meetings and there will be a guest speaker – yet to be arranged.

Opportunities for MU members in the diocese to get together are very precious and important in encouraging us to find ways to fulfil our aims and objects. It is hoped that all members will be able to attend at least one of these events.

THANKYOU!

My Dear Members and Friends,

Thankyou for your kind words and generosity, on completion of my term of office as your President.

The greetings cards from near and far, e cards, telephone calls, prayers and words of verse, very much appreciated.

For the Rose bushes, 'Peace' and 'Friendship'. Shoots and leaves peeping through to a new beginning, to grow into long time colour. Lovely!

A personalised silver pen- now , no excuse not to write, gives me a pause from talking!.

An enjoyable lunch with the Trustee board- all very special, Thankyou.

Prayer, friendship, team work, Mother's Union united as one '-people friendly,' together.

It was an honour ,and a privilege to serve as President of Durham Diocese Mothers Union, in every aspect of duties.

The past is important, it is the roots, the present ,and future are the blossoms for the future, given by a generous God.

May you always unite together in prayer ,and your thoughts reflect on our founder Mary Sumner

Who loved all people. Guided by your President Carole Hopkinson-----All will be well.

My work continues too. I will always be with you, and for you.

Thankyou ,and every blessing.

' Walk with me oh my Lord
Hold my hand and guide me on my way'

My love and prayers, always.
Kathleen Wilson. February 2022.

Members and Kathleen DP at end of triennial, Provincial Service ,in Liverpool Cathedral.

Michelle Dundas writes ...
At our branch meeting on Monday the 24th January , we had the great pleasure of welcoming 5 new members to our Mothers Union here in Chester le Street. Rev . Mary Judson admitted Audrey Donoghue, Sue Brissenden, Anne Smith and Anne Brown and our branch leader Sue Begg admitted Rev. Mary Judson.

St John's Church, Lynesack ladies taken with their 100th birthday cake which was celebrated in October

Christian care
for families worldwide

Away from it all

After the last two years, there must be many families who would benefit from a break through our AFIA scheme. Our funds are healthy at the moment, but we expect a lot of applications this year. Please make sure that this scheme is known in your community, particularly in your local schools – it is open to anyone going through difficult times, are in financial hardship and have not had a holiday for at least two years.. Forms are available from me.

Carole Hopkinson

The topic of the Sunderland Minster Mothers' Union branch was

'Do you remember the 1950s?'.

Music from the 50s was played quietly in the background as the members recalled various events which took place in that decade. The Festival of Britain, the death of King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II Coronation, Suez Crisis,4 different Prime Ministers, ITV was created, the Mini car, and the birth of Rock and Roll. There were many bomb sites. Prefab houses were built as a temporary measure.

We relied upon the radio and newspapers for local or world news. Sitting in the dark watching black and white television was a novelty. Hardly anyone had a telephone.

Rationing ended in 1954 and we had a short quiz about the price and quantity of various foodstuffs which were in short supply. Milk was delivered by the milkman with his milk float pulled by a horse. Few homes had a fridge, so food was still bought on a daily basis. There were no supermarkets, a takeaway meal was fish and chips from the local chippy. Rice was in the form of a milk pudding, only plain crisps were available, bananas and oranges were a rarity. We all ate white bread and tea was made in a pot using leaves.

It was a lively meeting which brought back many memories.

We then celebrated the birthdays of four of our members:

Gillain Walker	70yrs
Denise Sanderson	83yrs
Lily Holcroft	84yrs
Carole Pattison	84yrs

Ann Craig Branch Leader

Deadline for next magazine 1st October 2022

Please send entries to:
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joan.parr24@virginmedia.com
4, Walworth Crescent, Darlington DL3 0TX

INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED TREASURER

As your newly appointed Diocesan Treasurer I thought it would be nice for me to introduce myself.

I became a member of the MU on 12th June 1988 by being, enrolled by the then enrolling member, who happened to be my mam, into Wolviston St Peter's Branch.

At the beginning of 1998 my head nodded and I became the Branch Leader, a role I still fulfil today. I nodded again in 2007 and became Stockton Deanery Treasurer until the demise of Deanery Treasurers. I appear to have a habit of nodding, hence at the beginning of this year I was appointed as your Diocesan Treasurer.

All these positions I find a great privilege to uphold mainly by being a member and following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner.

With love to you all
Edna Thompson

MONEY MATTERS

An appreciative thank you to all branch Treasurers for their preparation of 2021 annual accounts. The majority of accounts have been submitted using the newly amended form very successfully. The next stage is preparing a set of Diocesan accounts to send to the Charity Commissioners. This is a legal requirement for any registered charity.

Treasurers are busy collecting annual subscriptions from their members and have forwarded the branch subs to our newly appointed Diocesan Treasurer, Edna Thompson. Well over half the expected subscriptions have been paid. The numbers in the Diocese are looking healthy despite such a turbulent two years when branches have been closed. Thankfully branch life is returning to normal.

There has been a small percentage of members who have chosen to pay their membership by Direct Debit. The subscription was taken from bank accounts at the end of January. Thank you to those members who decided to use this method of payment.

Janice Hardman, Finance Officer

Some members of St Cuthbert's Church ,Darlington ,enjoying a get together over a Christmas Afternoon Tea in early December

A13 Mother and Baby Unit

The Mother and Baby unit in Durham has been closed to the general public while the 9 apartments there have undergone some renovations.

Each apartment now has a new kitchen and new flooring throughout and, hopefully, everything is getting back to normal.

The new administrator there has assured me, that as soon as any of the residents require anything for their baby, or items for their apartment, she will let me know. Everyone who has supported this Mothers' Union project over the years, have been very generous in their giving and I'm sure this will continue in the future.

Yours in Christ
Doreen Sams
Action and Outreach for Durham Deanery.

A collect Prayer for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign , Queen Elizabeth, and all who are in authority under her; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour and glory of your name and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you , in the unity of the Holy Spirit , one God ,now and forever. Amen

(taken form Stockton Deanery Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Thanksgiving Service)

Rita Boyle from Christ Church MU Consett writes……..

We had our Mothers Union carols by candlelight service on the 7th December it was very good and raised £150 for Willowburn Hospice.

On Thursday February 10th members from Stockton Deanery met at St Michael and All Angels Church Norton for a service of praise and thanksgiving to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We were delighted that Carole Hopkinson DP and Ann Harrison VP were able to join us.

The service led by our vicar Revd Martin Anderson included members renewing our promises and to close we sang with gusto the National Anthem. Wonderful. Thankyou Martin.

My thanks must also go to Bill our church organist and to Dawn and the members from St Michael's who prepared the church (the tables looked lovely) and organised the delicious faith tea - thankyou everyone.

So a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all. We are truly blessed.

Ivy Gilby
Deanery Contact

A Special Lady

We were sad to hear that our former President, Mrs Wendy Rogerson had passed away on 14th November 2021.

Wendy led a very full life whose faith shone through everything she did. A vicar's daughter, a nurse and a midwife, a missionary, a loving wife to Colin, mother to Catherine and Jane and a passionate supporter of Mothers' Union-particularly in Durham Diocese.

During her time as President, we became involved in several new projects-supporting a prison visitors centre and providing refreshments for visitors-some of whom had travelled long distances. We became involved in AFIA scheme to provide breaks for individuals and families in difficult circumstances. Wendy was also very supportive of the Mothers' Union coffee shop in Hebburn which was run by Irene Neve for many years. This project caught the attention of Mary Sumner House staff, and we were visited by the Action and Outreach Co-ordinator. After retirement Wendy's support continued and she attended Diocesan events until recently when she was prevented by ill health.

During these years she wrote her book-A midwife in Borneo- telling of her experiences. As a nurse in Borneo, she carried out medical work and procedures never required of nurses in this country. Undaunted, Wendy carried on throughout, with all that was required of her. She told of one occasion when she had to accompany a patient to hospital in a small boat through rough water-she sang the Lord is my Shepherd throughout the trip.

A Thanksgiving service for Wendy's life was held in St Nicholas Church, Durham on December 13th. Wendy's husband, Colin, her daughters Catherine and Jane and friends spoke movingly of their happy memories. The readings were Corinthians 13 and Psalm 23. They felt particularly relevant as Wendy was full of love and The Lord was certainly her Shepherd.

A donation from the Diocese was given in her memory towards the work of Sabah Mission in Borneo.

Beryl Wilson

Christ Church Consett. Kathleen Wilson DP and Members who received long service certificates.

Infant loss Awareness week was 9th-15th October. Some members of Houghton Mothers Union crochet squares and made them into blankets for babies born asleep. The blankets were given to Walker and Morrell Undertakers who appreciated the help of the Mothers Union and thanked us on their Social Media page.

Newsround

Because of concerns about the diocesan finances, there will be just 2 issues of Newsround this year, so please get all your articles to Joan in good time. The deadline for the next issue is October 1st.

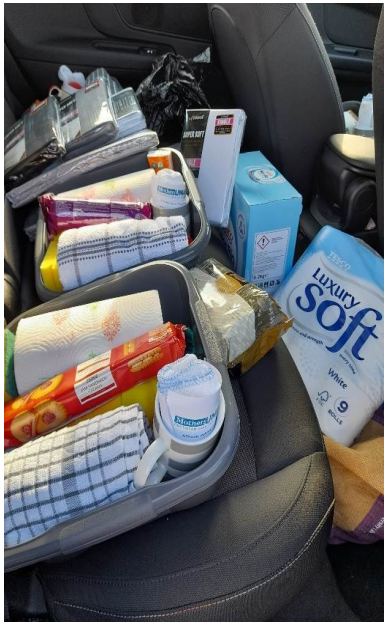
What does "Top up "mean to you?

Is it to top up the tea pot, top up your tan, top up your Isa (I wish), the phone, the car? It could be any one or all of these. To me it conjures up a picture of me up and down the front street checking on prices of items to top up the dishes Mothers' Union gives to Womens' Refuge ladies. Several items have increased in price while some seem to have evaporated.

Whatever I need to do is all worthwhile when I deliver the dishes complete with a message from M.U. to the local Refuge. The staff are **so** pleased to have these ordinary things to give to the new arrivals. It gives such a good feeling to be able to improve the lives of our sisters escaping domestic violence with M.U. dishes. Sometimes I have 9 decorating my hall way, visitors are naturally intrigued by the sight of them. Of course, I explain the reason for them and often the listener is willing to contribute… it gives them a "feel good factor".

In the photograph, showing the inside of my car and including toilet rolls, new bedding and washing powder, you can see some dishes ready to go. This project is definitely a win win situation which M.U. members can justly take some pride in

Thank you all so much.



Anne Todd

Joy Wanless

Emily Forrester

Sheila Wynne from Houghton-le-Spring writes….

At our Thursday church service Joan Beattie, branch leader, presented Anne Todd with her 10 years long service award. She also presented Emily Forrester and Joy Wanless with their 50 years long service award and a bouquet of flowers

Anne Todd ,Joy Wanless
Emily Forrester
Joan Beattie, Curate John D'Silva and Rev Judith Howes

Prayers

Loving Lord, we give you thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union in this Diocese and the world, as we begin our new Triennial. We praise you for Carole, our new Diocesan President, for Norma our new Diocesan Chaplain for the Vice-Presidents and Trustees that, by your guidance, the work of the Mothers' Union will flourish through forward thinking leadership and active commitment to your will.

We thank you for past President Kathleen and all who have held office and have faithfully served you in ways unseen by many and have given selflessly of their time and gifts. Amen.

Lord of all people and nations we lift before you the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia and of each girl and boy each woman and man living in fear of what tomorrow might bring. Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression and fill all earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths of peace. We lift this prayer to you, our God who is able to do more than we can ever ask or imagine, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Jesus Christ, Light of the world, we walk in the light of your presence that our lives may brightly reflect your love.

Lord of all, we bring to you our praise for the precious fellowship we share with our members worldwide. Bind us together in love and support as we uphold one another in prayer. Lord, guide us, draw us close to those who hurt, and clothe us with compassion to share their sorrows and lessen their pain. Amen.

Eileen Bishop. (Faith and Policy Co-ordinator)

I received the following email from Eric Heatherington. He writes:
Dear Joan Parr
Let me introduce myself.
I am the eldest son of Mrs Olive Heatherington who was a former Vice President of Durham Diocese Mothers Union; at the time Mrs Dorothy Butt was Diocesan President.
Myself and my two brothers are Atlas members.
Mrs Dorothy Butt was the wife of Revd Roy Butt a parish priest in our Parish of Ebchester before he retired and moved to be near his family.
I noticed in your latest edition of Newsround some information about Lynesack M.U. which is a parish Dorothy and Roy served before coming to live in Ebchester.
In our January parish magazine, a parishioner reported on the death of Dorothy Butt in a short article which I am attaching to this email.
I felt you may wish to publish the information in a future edition of your Durham Diocese NEWSROUND.
People like Mrs Jean Carleton will remember members like Mrs Butt and my mother Olive Heatherington.
kind regards
Eric Heatherington

Maybe others will remember too.

Dorothy Butt
27/11/1930-23/11/2021

'You will never be lonely while she is around'. The words of a former parishioner nicely summing up Dorothy Butt's loving character and it with great sadness that we learned of her death. She had suffered from severe dementia for the last ten years but died peacefully in her sleep. Dorothy was the wife of the late Revd. Roy Butt, Rector of Ebchester from 1983 to 1994.

Dorothy was born in Barrhead, near Glasgow, and was brought up in the Scottish borders. She was a nurse in Glasgow during the war and became one of the first State Registered Nurses in the early days of the NHS. She met Roy whilst on holiday with friends in Devon. He was a salesman for a music publisher at the time, but later worked for a bank in central London. Dorothy worked as a children's nurse in Croyden and Crawley before they took over the running of a residential home. During this time Roy, with Dorothy's full support, entered the ministry.

She committed to supporting his work and it became in reality a shared ministry. During their time at Ebchester she became Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union, and her name is on a plaque in Durham Cathedral. They had two children,

six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Using her musical knowledge, she helped with the choir at St. Ebbas and was instrumental in organising a joint St. Ebbas and Christ Church choir to perform works such as Night of Miracles and Love Transcending. She had a modern approach to worship and encouraged children's involvement with Family services.

Dorothy was a loving, wonderfully caring and gifted lady, who was a friend to all who knew her. She will be long remembered and sadly missed.
RIP Mrs B.

Ivy and David Gilby celebrated their "Blue Sapphire", 65 years, Wedding Anniversary cutting their cake to share with their church family.

What a very special Wedding Anniversary to celebrate!

Muriel Molloy from St. John's Mothers' Union writes…

It is our centenary year and we will be celebrating by having a Choral Evensong on Sunday 24th April at 3pm. Members of the Lanchester Deanery will be invited to join us.