St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS

In May we celebrated the coronation of King Charles with a Coronation Tea party organised by our Mu committee members .

We were joined by other members of our Church . We had over 70 people attend ,great fun was had as we joined together with food ,drinks, a quiz and coronation themed raffle .

We ended with a good sing song of patriotic songs lead by the very talented Rachel Orr where everyone enjoyed waving their union jack flags .

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations .

Mothers' UNION

Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice

www.mothersunion.org

Durham Diocese Newsround Autumn /Winter 2023/24

2022-2024 Theme: Transformation - Now!

President
Mrs Carole Hopkinson
01388 527827

Finance
Mrs Janice Hardman
0191 3865497

Dear Friends and Fellow members,

This year, so far, has been a mixture of joy and sadness – as is always the case. Several branches have celebrated their centenaries, and it has been a great privilege to share in their special services – and enjoy the cake! But it has also been a time of regret for others, which have either closed or gone into abeyance. Difficulty in finding branch officers has been the most common cause, and it is my prayer that, in the future, new members will be found willing to take on these responsibilities, so that the branches may reopen. I feel sure that the members will still feel part of Mothers' Union, even if there is no local branch – it is part of our DNA. As a diocese, the trustees have tried to simplify the workload, and the practical support that members give to those in need in their communities is too valuable to be lost.

Our special diocesan events this year have been very successful and enjoyable – the IMPC service in May, led by our chaplain, Norma Clee, had representatives from every deanery and was, as usual, thoughtful and inspiring. It was with great sadness, that Carole Pattison and Betty Malaugh felt that they were unable to continue as IMPC officers, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude for their willing service over many years. I am sure that their prayers will continue to be with the indoor members. Mrs. Margaret Nesom has kindly agreed to take on the role of IMPC officer.

The retreat day in May was a particular success. Led by Rev. Cameron Abernethy, it was a reflection on the life of Julian of Norwich. a subject new to most of us, and which gave us much food for thought. On a practical level, the venue being in Durham encouraged more members to come, and so this will be the case for the foreseeable future.

As always, the festival was well attended at the cathedral, with banners processed. Our chaplain, Norma Clee, was unable to be with us, and we were very grateful to Rev. Geoff Lawes for taking her place at short notice, and to Bishop John Packer for his inspiring address. For the 2024 festival, we had asked Bishop Paul to be our guest preacher, but with the news of his retirement, there had to be a change of plan. The new dean of the cathedral is to be Rev. Dr. Philip Plyming, and he has kindly agreed to be our preacher – we shall all look forward to getting to know him. Next year is election year for MU, and all officers, trustees, deanery and branch officials will need to be elected. Please give thought and prayer as to how you could play a part in promoting MU values and supporting the essential work that we do through our projects. Being an MU officer does involve some time, but as Christian women, we are all more than capable of serving our Saviour through simple procedures and willing hearts. AFIA and Overseas projects need financial support,

Congratulations to all who have celebrated special wedding anniversaries

Janice & Keith Clementson	50yrs	Holy Trinity, South Hetton
Marjory & John Lovel	50yrs	St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon on Tyne
Sylvia & William Oates	60yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Brenda & Arthur Ridley	60yrs	St Georges, Fatfield
Dianne & Brian Oram	60yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Robert & Carole Hopkinson	50yrs	Wolsingham
Janice & Ken Clasper	50yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS
Rosemary & Billy Harris	40yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS
Jeanne &Geoff Hunt	60yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS
Pat & Peter Walker	60yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS

TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen McCormack	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Diana Barclay	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Janice McAleer	Wolviston St Peter's

Members receiving long service awards

Victoria Callaway	5yrs	Consett
Helen Follett.	5yrs	Consett
Gillian Peacock.	5yrs	Consett
Liz Toner.	5yrs	Consett
Eirlys Eccles	70yrs	St Thomas, Harelaw
Rachel Burton	25yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS
Jean Stothard	25yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS
Rose Yeowart	26yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS

Members who have celebrated special birthdays

Ann Dixon	80yrs	Consett
Joyce Parker	75yrs	Consett
Elsie Fairlamb.	75yrs	Consett
Renee Green.	85yrs	Consett
Audrey Thompson.	85yrs	Consett
Joan Lamb	85yrs	Consett
Mildred Lynn	85yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Nora Bates	80yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Susan Hamilton	80yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Marjory Lovell	70yrs	St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon on Tyne
Lillian Pearson	90yrs	St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon on Tyne
Doris Winlow.	100yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Betty Johns	90yrs	St. Paul's Spennymoor
Dorothy Beadling	80yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Pam Baggott	80yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Aileen Armstrong	80yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS
Valerie Cowell	80yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS
Rosemary Harris	80yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS
Margaret Edwards	80yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS

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

Janet Ramshaw	83yrs	Consett
Sammie Hewlett,	91yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Eric Holmes.		Holy Trinity Southwick.
Dorothy Brown	87yrs	St. Mary's Barnard Castle
Dorothy Cox	93yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Brenda Craddock	84yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Audrey Telford	80yrs	St Mary and St Cuthbert CLS

and members are always enthusiastic fund raisers; but even more important are the practical gifts which members provide for refuges, food banks, hospitals, schools, prisons, refugees and so many other needs.

Our diocesan theme this year has been hope and perseverance, and I feel we have all shown how strong is our hope and how endless is our perseverance, as we strive to serve our God and support our wonderful organisation. With our prayers and our work, we can continue to transform both ourselves and the world in which we live.

As we approach the latter part of the year, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.

Carole

Members of St. Paul's Spennymoor and Atlas member at Members Prayer Service Durham Cathedral. *(above)*

Also ,at The Festival Service in Durham Cathedral

Diocesan Council

This is on the 19th October at 10.30am at Waddington Street. There will be a communion service, followed by a speaker, Rev. Joanne Thorns. This meeting is open to all members.

Kimblesworth MU welcomed two new members ,Kathleen McCormack and Diana Barclay. They were by welcomed Rev Michael Peers during the Sunday Holy Communion Service at St Philip and St James, on April 30th.

Away From It All

Thank you to everyone for your constant commitment and generosity to AFIA. So far this year, we have received 7 requests for holidays, which have come from social services and a school, and we have enabled 9 adults and 9 children to have breaks at local caravan parks and B & Bs. In addition, 7 children went to an international conference on robotics in Dallas! Our contribution paid for the visas. These children came from a junior school in a deprived area, and had worked hard to be accepted. The opportunity to travel and meet children from around the world will be life changing for them. As in the past, other applications have come from families where children have special needs, serious health issues, and, in some cases, affected by domestic violence. While we know that MU nationally is struggling, it gives us a very strong purpose to keep going when we know that our projects are so valuable in our communities. Please be aware of any families in your parish who need a break – we can do something to help. I am willing to come to any branch to explain further about AFIA. donations are always needed, and should be sent to diocesan treasurer, Edna Thompson.

Carole Hopkinson

Overall, the day was excellent, the fellowship, being together and we even had good weather whilst it was raining heavy back in Blaydon, God certainly was looking out for us that day.

Olive Weddle, M.U. Branch Leader.

St Paul's Church Winlaton

On Thursday 1st June we welcomed two new members into our Mothers' Union. . The service was conducted by our Rector, Revd. Alison Stewart Smith. The candidates are Pam Robson and Paula Wison, both of whom are long time active members of our church congregation. It was a joyful occasion and was well attended. We now have 30 members in our Winlaton group and we continue to serve our church, our community and the diocese as well as the wider M.U. organisation.

Also in the photo is our Branch leader Margaret Graham who continues to lead us with love. We pray for God's blessings on our new members and that he will continue to guide us all in our endeavours as we journey on together.

St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon, Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne and Seahouses

On Saturday 22nd July 49 people travelled to Holy Island for our Church Trip. This was extra special as we had friends from St. Pauls, Winlaton and St. Barnabas, Rowlands Gill, but it was also our first trip after Covid. 10 of us are Mothers Union Members.

After arriving on Lindisfarne, there was free time to wander about and many people took the opportunity to visit the castle, the priory, church, local shops and even the pub! As we walked around it was great to keep seeing people from our trip and how everyone was having such a great day.

At 12 noon a short service was held on the sea shore, just in front of the Saint Cuthbert's Island. This was such an inspirational service taken by Revd. Diane Ryan, prayers were offered and we sang Be Thou My Vision, whilst looking at this view, many people commented how calming and peaceful they felt

Mother's Union Members from St. Cuthbert's, Blaydon and St. Paul's Winlaton.

We then left for Seahouses, when again we had free time to look around and many people visited local eating places, but of course the most visited one was the Fish and Chip shops, where some
people ate in, others as below enjoyed looking at the harbour whilst eating. There was even time for some people to hold a meeting on how the day went in the 'Olde Ship' !!

Celebrating 100 years of St Mary's Mothers Union, Heworth, Gateshead

A Eucharist service was presided over by Reverend Norma Clees, MU chaplain.

This was followed by a buffet tea with cake provided by Mrs Pickerings daughter.

Mrs. Pickering was presented with a bouquet of flowers as it had recently been her 70th birthday, Norma had also celebrated her 70th birthday.

Our president Carole Hopkinson, Janice Clasper and Lindale Ferries also attended.

GOOD NEWS for Treasurers

There has been a change in the procedure for money transactions within the Diocese. As you know there were several different accounts for various donations....for Overseas, for AFIA, for IMPC. The trustees decided that life would be a lot easier for Treasurers if payments were centralised. These accounts have now been closed and all donations have to be sent to the Diocesan Treasurer.

All cheques must be paid to MU Durham Diocese and sent to Mrs Edna Thompson, Diocesan Treasurer. Please add a covering note to let Edna know what the cheque is for, especially if a cheque includes more than one payment.....for example subscriptions and a donation. Please include your branch name so that monies can be recorded correctly. Subscriptions still have to be sent to the Treasurer as done in the past.

The Treasurer would appreciate a stamped addressed envelope for ALL cheques that she receives so that a receipt can be returned to the branch. This will help keep branch and Diocesan records up to date.

Thank you for returning your 2022 Annual accounts to me. I am preparing the Diocesan accounts to go to the Charity Commission.

The usual forms for subscriptions for 2024 and Annual Accounts for 2023 will be available for collection at the Diocesan Council in October. Deanery leaders will pass them on to Branch Treasurers. Please return these forms to the appropriate addresses which will be on the form.

Thank you for all the work you do throughout the year keeping your “books” up to date. It is a very important role within the branch and greatly appreciated by the Trustees.

Janice Hardman
Finance Coordinator

Wolviston St Peter’s MU as they celebrated 90 years since the formation of the Branch”

At our branch meeting on the 25th May, (St Cuthbert's, Darlington) we were joined by our vicar the Rev James Harvey, who enrolled our new member Mrs Linda Leeds to our Mothers Union, with them is Mrs Margaret Kidd our branch leader.

Doris Winlow celebrated her 100th .

A long time member of Holy Trinity Church Southwick and Mothers Union.

Received congratulations from King Charles and Queen Camilla.

Stockton Deanery Lady Service 9th August 2023.

LOW NEWTON BRANCH.

Monthly branch meetings continue and well attended. To date 7 new members admitted, and others interested.

Members participate in reading prayers or psalms and ‘songs’. Discussions include Mothers’ Union update, and future programs within the diocese.

Low Newton is a prayer branch. The enclosed prayer is written by the prisoners. Please read it. Hopefully more to come!

Strawberry Tea. The Cook and members, provided delicious fruit scones, strawberry jam and cream, a summer feast!. Thankyou.

At the Festival service , the Banner was present (carried by a Volunteer), members proud their Branch was represented.

Linda Ferries and Myself have completed prison Key Training. Ann Harrison to attend the next session.

Thankyou to Members , family and friends , for your support and prayers.

Our support and leadership continues through , the love and Blessings of God, and his unconditional love for everyone.

Love and Prayers.
Kathleen Wilson.

Prayer. Written by Low Newton Members.

Dear God
We have hope as an Anchor for the soul
As we see ourselves through God’s eyes.
Lift the darkness, clear our worries,
And guide us to the light.
Amen.

Letter from Norma Clee, Mothers Union Chaplain

Some of you may know that I work as a Hospital Chaplain. A few weeks ago I met a patient who asked me about my work. I explained that as well as being a Hospital Chaplain I am also the MU Chaplain and love to visit branches, either as a speaker or to take services. She said, "You haven't been to our branch!"

Some Branch Leaders have invited me to their MU meetings, and sometimes I'm even invited back. However following this conversation in hospital I realised that some branches may not know that I am always delighted to visit and join meetings.

If you would like me to come to your branch, please get in touch:

Email - normaclee@icloud.com

Tel. 07964029986

Having made this offer, I have to say that my husband and I are going to Australia to visit our son and his family in December and will not be back until the end of January. So perhaps when you're planning your programmes for 2024 you will bear this in mind.

Every blessing,

Norma

Dates for your diary

Thursday October 19th Diocesan Council at Waddington Street

Wednesday 8th May IMPC service in the cathedral at 2pm

Tuesday 18th June Festival service at 2pm, when the guest preacher will be the new dean, Rev. Dr. Philip Plyming

Help!!

The three photos below have been emailed to me, however I do not know who sent them. I could have made a mistake and not saved the write up (Very sorry)or the photos were sent by one person and the write up was coming from someone else but whatever the reason it is a mystery! I have my fingers crossed that someone will be able to solve my mystery as I want to put the photos in the next issue with the appropriate explanation. The photos were sent in June /July

I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for your contributions to the magazine it is really a true reflection of MU in Durham Diocese. Please keep them coming in and I will try not to create any more mysteries

Joan

Deadlines for Newsround in 2024 are 5th April & 6th September

Please send entries to:
Joan Parr 01325 487981
joan.parr24@virginmedia.com
4, Walworth Crescent, Darlington DL3 0TX

Sharing of the peace
God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world.
2 Corinthians 5.19

As we share God's peace together we also reach out in peace to those with whom we are linked across the world.

We offer each other a sign of peace

Hymn

Lord, as we have celebrated your goodness together,
may our unity deepen and grow.
We are the family of God.
His love draws us in to himself and out to one another.
We reach out as your hands across the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen

The GRACE

Wave of Prayer service

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer service. We gather to give thanks for our Wave of Prayer links across the world and for the privilege of prayerful support that we both give and receive. We gather to commit ourselves afresh to upholding our unity in prayer in the year ahead.

Lord of all the earth, we come to worship with thankful hearts.
Let us praise His name together. Amen

Hymn

With thankfulness and love, we take our place in the family of Mothers' Union worldwide.
Open our eyes to the significance of relationship with members wordwide; with those known to us or not.

With support and love we reach out to our sisters and brothers across the word
Strengthen our commitment to those with whom we share vision and values, wherever we may live.

In unity and love, we link hands with our worldwide family of God.
Unite us in worship; build us in service, as together we seek to share your love.
In Jesus' name. Amen

Confession

Merciful Lord, who died that we may be accepted into the family of God, forgive us for the times when our love for each other is strained, when the bonds between us are loose. Forgive us when we choose to ignore the joys of shared relationship and focus on weakness and strife. Help us to change our selfish ways, that we may love God and his children with all our hearts. Amen

Absolution
May our heavenly Father open wide his arms in loving forgiveness and grace. May we know the joy of restored relationship with God and His people. Amen

New testament reading: Ephesians 3.14 – 22
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel reading: Mark 12: 28-31
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Glory to you, O Lord

Hymn

Thanksgiving and Intercessions

As we come to give thanks for Mothers' Union worldwide, and particularly for our link dioceses, may God encourage us in heart and unite us in love.

Loving Lord, we bring to you our praise for the fellowship and prayer support that we have through our links with – **Namibia; Mount Kenya South; Northern Izon and Ijebu North in Nigeria.** We give thanks for the blessing of being united in prayer with them. We pledge to continue to remember our sisters and brothers in prayer

Loving Lord, help us to appreciate the blessings of being united together in the family of God. Let us ever be ready to intercede for each other for God's assistance and protection.
May God encourage us in heart and unite us in love.

We pray for all members.
May God be with them in every part of their lives, encouraging them and leading them, sheltering them and strengthening them so they may work to your praise an glory. Amen

Christian care
for families worldwide