Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

To mark the beginning of Prison Week, Linda Ferries, from Jarrow Deanery, was interviewed by the Rev David Cleugh, about her work in Low Newton Prison. Fr David is also a Mothers Union member.

This photo is of Jean Higgin, Margaret Laws and Wendy Harrison proudly standing with their banner after the Mother's Union cathedral service. They belong to Cleadon Mothers Union which meet every second Thursday afternoon in the Chapter House of All Saints Cleadon. The banner has stood for many years in pride of place near the altar at All Saints. We are the only Mothers Union left in the Jarrow Deanery.
We are a mixed bunch. Our leader is Linda Ferries from Hebburn and others come from Whitburn, Jarrow and Cleadon.

Christian care
for families worldwide

Mothers' UNION
Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice
www.mothersunion.org

Mothers' UNION
#Nomore1in3
End abuse and violence now

Durham Diocese Newsround Autumn/Winter 2024/25

Respond
Inform
Support
Empower
Unite
Pray

RISE UP against domestic abuse

President
Mrs Carole Hopkinson
01388 527827

Finance
Mrs Janice Hardman
0191 3865497

Dear Friends and Fellow members,

As we slowly approach the end of the year, it is also the end of the triennium, and the end of my term of office as diocesan president. It has been a great privilege to lead the Mothers' Union in our wonderful diocese. Thank you to everyone for your constant support, friendship and prayers, and especially to the trustees for their hard work, commitment and dedication to the aims and objects of MU. My work has been greatly eased by their support.

This triennium began at the end of the Covid epidemic, which had a huge impact on everyone, but especially the number of our members. These, sadly, have decreased each year, but the energy and hard work in our branches has ensured that the work of MU goes on as steadily as ever – the knitting, fund raising, providing toiletries for the refuges, items for the prison – support for all our diocesan projects , as well as the national campaigns; and most importantly, our prayer life, which underpins all that we do. Thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work.

Next year sees the new triennium. MU has a new World Wide President, Kathleen Snow, from Canada, and our provincial president will be Christine Sharp from Manchester. As you know, there is no diocesan president in Durham, and so we shall run as a committee. The officers, Linda Murdie, our secretary, and Edna Thompson our treasurer, will remain in post, and I am delighted to say that Jean Carleton and Loraine Dodds have agreed to join the trustees. In addition, trustees will be responsible for contact with particular deaneries – Sue Begg for Chester le Street and Houghton, Linda Ferries for Gateshead, Gateshead West and Jarrow, Kathleen Wilson for Hartlepool, Stockton and Darlington, and myself for Barnard Castle and Auckland. If you have any queries about MU matters, please get in touch with your relevant trustee. I shall be continuing as AFIA officer, so please send any referrals to me as usual; Janice Clasper as communications and literature officer; Sue Begg as faith and policy; Linda Ferries as safeguarding; and Kathleen Wilson as our lead on the prison project as well as our link with the cathedral. We have a very committed and prayerful trustee board, so with the Lord's help, I am sure the diocese will go from strength to strength.

Looking ahead nationally, there is to be an annual meeting in the latter part of 2025, venue and date to be decided, and, of course, 2026 is the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Mothers' Union, so there will be major celebrations to look forward to. Perhaps here in Durham, we could organise our own celebration – possibly a topic for you to discuss at your deanery meetings. If you decide to do anything, please let the trustees know, so that we can ensure special events don't

Members who have celebrated special birthdays

Margaret Ransome.	85yrs	Consett
June Raine.	65yrs	Consett
Ivy Wade.	95yrs	Consett
Sybil Walton.	80yrs	Consett
Vera Walton.	95yrs	Consett
Audrey Lambert	75yrs	Consett
Sandra Lister	75yrs	Consett
Olive Weddle	75yrs	St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon on Tyne.
Bessie Smart	95yrs	St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon on Tyne.
Anne Batey	80yrs	St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon on Tyne
Doris Winlow	101yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Pam Newbould	70yrs	St Michael & All Angels Norton.
Jenny Armstrong	80yrs	St. Paul's Winlaton
Anita Robson	80yrs	St Thomas, Harelaw
Elizabeth Ann Fowler	80yrs	St Philip & St James Tow Law
Jane Oxenham	90yrs	St Pauls Spennymoor
Greta Taylor	80yrs	St Pauls Spennymoor
Anne Crossley	80yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Marjorie Gilpin	95yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Angela Dimambro	80yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Norma Hedley	80yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Isabel Burlison	80yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Audrey Purvis	90yrs	St Michaels & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring.
Joan Beattie	70yrs	St Michaels & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring.
Sheila Wynne	60yrs	St Michaels & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring.
Sylvia Oates	80yrs	Sherburn St Mary's

Deadlines for Newsround 2025 are

Friday 21st February;
Friday 6th June
Friday 3Rd October

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

Members receiving long service awards

Joan Lambert	56yrs	St Mary's Norton
Pam Duck	47yrs	St Mary's Norton
Margaret Porter	37yrs	St Mary's Norton
Marjorie Forster	34yrs	St Mary's Norton
Joan Hiscocks.	34yrs	St Mary's Norton
Wendy Oxley	5yrs	Consett
Rene Green.	55yrs	Consett
Audrey Lambert	45yrs	Consett
Christine Dale.	5yrs	Consett
Louise Holmes.	5yrs	Consett
June Raine.	5yrs.	Consett
Sheila Hutchinson	19yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Brenda Davies	18yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Marjorie Glancey	13yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Olive Blake	19yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Vicky Browne	19yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Maud Hardy	43yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Pauline James	19yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Anita Knaggs	56yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Sue Kirton-Darling	19yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
June Nelson	10yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Edythe Simpson	67yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Betty Thornton	22yrs	St Philip and St James, Kimblesworth
Jill Finlayson	40yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Pat Walker	25yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Marjorie Gilpin	30yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Betty Stockdale	30yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Evelyn Weetman	30yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Janice Clementson	30yrs	Holy Trinity, South Hetton
Nora Bates	40yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Mandy Grey	40yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Liz Parker	40yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Sheila Barnes	40yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Glynis Bell	31yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Rosie Junemann	31yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside

clash. The more events we hold, the greater impact we can have in the diocese to promote the wonderful work of Mothers' Union.

Finally, may I wish everyone of you a blessed and happy Christmas, filled with joy, as we remember the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ .

Carole Hopkinson.

SUBSCRIPTION 2025

2025 is fast approaching which means that Mothers' Union subscriptions are due. The amount for 2025 will be £28 (£24.50 for MSH & £3.50 for Durham Diocese)

After much discussion the Trustees arrived at this figure having considered the various demands on the Diocesan purse.

The start of 2025 is a busy time for treasurers……..
Subscriptions to collect and forward to the Diocesan Treasurer (address on subscription form) with the accompanying cheque and stamped addressed envelope for receipt. Deadline 25th March 2025.

Branch Account form for 2024 to the Finance Officer, Janice Hardman (address on form). The role of the Finance Officer is to deal with financial figures for the Diocese, having no responsibility for money. ALL cheques go to the Diocesan Treasurer.

Many thanks to Branch treasurers in anticipation of their busy time ahead.

Janice Hardman, Finance Officer.

Audrey Newton, secretary at All Saints, Lanchester reports:

Not only has Jill Finlayson achieved 40 years' service, she also served 20 years as secretary .
To date Lanchester MU have sent 80 hospital bags and 50 cot blankets to Durham University hospital.
Also, donations of clothes and bedding items have been sent to the Womens' Refuge

Deanery Leader Lorraine Dodds and Members of St Mary's MU Easington Village , also Holy Trinity and Kathleen after an update on Diocesan Prison work.
Hand knitted baby clothes and hats donated to our MU work. Special mention for coloured hat (pictured) Knitted by Lorraine's granddaughter.

Holy Trinity Darlington Branch of MU welcomed a new member in September at our service to bless the annual contribution to work overseas. Ivy Green was made a member by the Rev Mary Yasini and welcomed by Branch leader, Kath Wood, and Deanery leader Margaret Kidd and all of the members.

Photo taken on 10th June 2024 at a Branch Meeting of Spennymoor St. Paul's Mothers' Union showing Jane Oxenham cutting her 90th birthday cake. Also, there is June Wilson, Branch Leader and Kathleen Wilson (past President) who was the Speaker at the Meeting.

To all new members

Sandra Ramsey	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Kathleen Wallace	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Jean Coyles	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Penny Dawson	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Pam Jopling	St. Aidan & St. Cuthbert's Durham.
Kate Johnson	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside

Congratulations to all who have celebrated special wedding anniversaries

Gillian & Tom Hanratty	60yrs	Consett
Barbara & Tommy Docherty.	60yrs.	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Dawn & John Craggs	50yrs	St Michael & All Angels Norton.
Jennifer & David Alps	60yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Isabel & George Burlison	60yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert. Chester le Street
Norma & Les Nevin	50yrs	St. Aidan & St. Cuthbert's Durham
Nora & Malcolm Bates	60yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside

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

Mary Brown	85yrs.	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Paula Harris	76yrs	St. Paul's Winlaton
Sheila Sunley	81yrs	Holy Trinity ,Darlington
Margaret Ann Miles	79yrs	St. Mary's Barnard Castle
Rev Joihn Moore	91yrs	St. Mary's Barnard Castle
Olive Gibson		St Michaels & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring.
Elizabeth Deacon (Betty) M.B.E.	93yrs	St Philip & St James Tow Law

Joan Hiscocks receiving her long service award for 34 years

Joan Lambert receiving her long service award for 56 years

On 11th September, St Mary's Norton MU celebrated its 130 years Anniversary (1894 - 2024) with a service led by the Revd. Hannah Richardson followed by a delicious afternoon tea with members and invited guests from Stockton Deanery MU branches.

The above members were presented with their long service awards at the event by Linda Ferries (MU Durham Diocese Trustee).

Val Swansbury

Pam Duck, Branch Contact receiving her long service award for 47 years

Chilton Moor, Branch leader Barbara Hall, Treasurer Kathleen Curry, Members with Kathleen Wilson after her talk on Diocesan Prison work.
An afternoon of prayer and friendship. Included Generous donations of finance ,and toiletries to the project

The photo above shows Revd. Diane Ryan presenting flowers to the Birthday Girl, Bessie.

ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH MOTHERS UNION

We were very lucky to share in one of our long-standing members' birthdays back in January 2024, when Mrs. Bessie Smart was 95 years young. We celebrated with flowers, tea and cake, which her daughter kindly made and was enjoyed by all

This photo shows Bessie and her cake maker daughter and other M.U. members, including Mrs. Olive Weddle (in yellow) who had also recently celebrated a special birthday (75).

Bessie received a personalised 'bottle light' made by one of the members, recognising her birthday and her love of the M.U. Bessie has a great mindset and is always first to ensure her name is down for any event or special service.

In July, we had the pleasure to celebrate with Mrs. Anne Batey as she reached 80. A small party was held for her and this was attended by Anne's 2 daughters, son, granddaughter, friends and M.U. members

The photo on the left shows Anne being presented with flowers from M.U. members and on the right Anne celebrating with her cake and personalised bottle showing her love of the M.U. and Newcastle United!!

Christine Ogilvie on behalf of: Olive Weddle (Branch Leader)

Low Newton Branch.

Our branch continues with positive actions.

First branch meeting with the new Chaplain Rev Rebecca Feeney was open discussion on Mothers Union and well attended by the women. Followed by a delicious strawberry tea.

Rev Rebecca and Julia (Prison Education Staff) have been admitted as members. Some of the women are interested too.

The branch is a prayer group (Prayers) in this edition are written by the members during the meeting.

At the Festival Service Rev Rebecca and Julia were present and branch banner processed in the Cathedral.

Members knit the prayer squares which are accessed from the Chapel, and the hearts for 4 Louis project.

Thankyou to everyone for your Prayers, support and generous donations. The books, which are read by Mothers to their children by phone, toiletries and wool. For the financial help to the Angel Tree project. To Wearmouth Deanery for the payment of Christmas cards for the prisoners.

If you have MU badges you do not use , we can use them for the branch.

We as Trustees/ helpers go into the prison, but this is a team effort , and you, Families and friends are part of this enthusiastic team. We all work together. The women trust us , know we are there to help, not judge.

It will soon be the Christmas season.
Our thoughts and prayers for all who are separated from families. May they all know the love of the King of Kings is for everyone.

Love Is His Word. Thankyou.

Kathleen Wilson.x

DARLINGTON DEANERY MOTHERS UNION EVENT

The members of Darlington Deanery Mothers Union met together for their annual event on Friday 5th October in the St Cuthberts Church Centre.

The speaker was Rev Dr John Elliston, former CEO of '700 Club'. He told us that the 700 Club has been running for 30 years and was initially set up to help the homeless in Darlington. The initial fund raising was to buy a house to provide a bed for the homeless. The people of Darlington and some visiting MPs donated to the fund, meaning they met their target. It has now grown and they now have Hostel's at Grange Road and Elmfield Lodge with 18 and 11 beds respectively; a building near St John's Church in Darlington that has 32 apartments helping people short term. Along with somewhere to live they are helped to learn basic skills to enable them to look after themselves i.e. cooking, money management, household tasks and self-care. The age range of those helped ranges from 18 to 82, and they can stay up to a 1 year.

The current project is to acquire houses to home families, these will be permanent homes for them. The 700 club is working closely with the local council to achieve this.

This was a very interesting afternoon and good to know, as in Dr Elliston words "People with no hope – Have hope".

The afternoon was finished off with Tea and biscuits and a chat.

Heart for Hearts.

A Thankyou Chocolate heart treat for the 4 Louis project knitters.
Donated by Caroline and Mark Austin.

Visitors, Emily and Alyssa from a Christian organisation in America. At Holy Trinity Church Southwick. Joined in our MU meetings.
Helped carry the branch banner at the Festival service, in the Cathedral made Peace Doves and featured in the Cathedral display .
A visit to 4 Louis project helped in making the special bereavement boxes.
Wonderful to have young people interested and participating in Mothers Union community work.
Kathleen Wilson.

Emily and Alyssa in the Cathedral display.

Emily and Alyssa with Kathleen and MU members at 4 Louis Project.

Away From It All

Thank you to everyone for your constant commitment and generosity to AFIA. Please keep on fund raising for this project, as the cost of holidays is, inevitably going up. It has been a disappointing year for us, as we have had very few referrals – perhaps we are still suffering from the after effects of covid, but there must be people in our communities who need a break. Please make sure that your clergy and any other people in positions to be aware of needs, such as doctors, teachers, social workers, etc. know about our project. I am happy to come to any branch or deanery to talk about it.
Carole Hopkinson

Mothers Union Christmas cards for the prisoners to send to each other or family and friends.
Thankyou to you all for this support to the women.

Prayers written by Low Newton Branch members.

Low Newton Prayer
We pray for each other
Pray for peace at war
Pray for children all over the world
Pray for those we love and miss
Pray for all families
Pray for all prisoners
Pray for the homeless
Pray for the environment
Pray for people who are getting released
Pray for the sick, and pregnant women
We pray for the whole world. AMEN.

BRANCH PRAYER.
We pray for each other
Pray for our loved ones
Pray for our chapel and chaplains
Pray for good health
Pray for people who have left us
Pray for all service men and women
Pray for our music group and talent show
Pray for all NHS staff
Pray for prison environment
Pray for harmony amongst us
In Jesus name. AMEN.

St. John's MU, Burnhope

This is a photograph of items we have collected to send to UHND (University Hospital of North Durham), Treetops ward for sick children. We always send toiletry bags to UHND for people in emergency cases but they asked if we could send activity items to Treetops for their young patients and their siblings who often have to sit around waiting for hours while their ill siblings are being treated.
Doreen Park

St. Mary and St Cuthbert Branch. Chester le Street.

Branch Leader Sue Brissenden, Kathleen Wilson with Trustees and some branch members. Kathleen gave members an update on Low Newton Branch. A warm and spiritual afternoon. Prayer squares donated to Low Newton. Thankyou.
Kathleen Wilson.

Holy Trinity Southwick Wearmouth.

Celebrated Afternoon Tea at Bede's Bakehouse, part of St Peters Church Wearmouth.

Long Certificates presented to Marjory Glancey, Sheila Hutchinson and Brenda Davies.

A special Thankyou to our Mothers Union friend, Jean Scott, a great knitter for our hospital project and 4Louis . Jean received flowers and a Thankyou card from the members.

An afternoon of friendship and love, and a delicious tea!

on with button thread or double strand sewing thread. Reinforce any beads / buttons with a backing of firm fabric to prevent knitted stitches being pulled out. Sew sides up .

Bag for chemo / urine packs

Materials
2 strands of double knitting wool or 1 strand chunky wool.
One pair of size 4 or5 needles (6mm or 5.5mm).
Directions
Cast on 48 stitches and knit in garter stitch for 9 ins (21 cms)
Knit strap- cast on 8 stitches and knit for 32 ins (80 cms)

Make up
Fold bag and sew up, sew on handles.

OPEN AFTERNOON

For a number of years our branch has held an 'Open Afternoon'. On the last meeting in July we provide tea for Atlas members, non members from this church, friends, members of other churches, speakers from the past year and others we want to impress!

Before we feed them, and we do our best to compete with local cafes, and after we pray, we share the work done by Mothers' Union internationally, nationally, at Diocesan level and what we do. When I say we want to 'impress' them, it isn't difficult. We show them the actual items, you know them so I won't repeat them here but I can say the visual impact is great. It is an idea to remind branch members who are so generous about all the things we do in the Diocese, sometimes it can be hard to share the idea that while no branch can do everything we, by being members, are part of all we do and we should rejoice in that.

We are fortunate that Trustees are able to join us and are willing to speak about their particular areas so all present can learn about latest happenings. It is good for members and visitors to meet and hear Trustees, it can be so easy to become a bit removed form the bigger picture.

Visitors are discouraged from 'paying' , we ask only that they go forth ***and wax lyrical about what they have seen and heard.***
Jean Carleton

A SIDEWAYS MOVE

As Mothers' Union members, I know we are always looking for ways to expand what we do with the aim of helping those in any kind of adversity. For many years we (that's probably every member in this Diocese and their friends) have produced hundreds of emergency hospital bags per year, must be millions by now. They are always welcomed and sometimes we get acknowledgements of their usefulness.

Last year a long term member of St Andrew's M.U. Stanley spent several weeks in Intensive Care Unit in University Hospital Durham. She was really ill and received Last Rites, thankfully she survived and has recovered quite well. Her experience there has given her branch members an opportunity to "thank " the staff in ICU. We now provide items necessary for very sick patients

Waterless shampoo caps (apparently so good for hair washing when the usual procedure isn't possible).
Foot peel - sound a bit gruesome – but it helps dry feet.
Face masks – a bit of luxury
Hair brushes instead of combs
Emery boards

We also make knitted bags for the carrying of various fluids (saves dragging a drip stand) and Activity muffs, just like those created for Dementia patients, these distract patients from tugging and tubes and things.

We didn't realise that ICU needed our help, we feel fortunate that we can do a little to make staff and patient life easier / more comfortable.

Activity Muff

Measure

This muff pattern is perfect for using up left over and odd balls of wool.
One pair of size 4 or 5 needles (6mm or 5.5 mm).

Directions

Cuff – cast on 40 stitches using 2 strands of double knitting wool or 1 of chunky wool.
Muff body – Continue with stocking stitch and using oddments of various textures of wool i.e. chunky, mohair ribbon. Cuff and muff should measure 23 ins (58.5 cm) in total. It might look better if the cuff endings are the same.Cast Off.

Decoration and Finishing

Now is the time to decorate the muff body with beads, flowers, loops etc. Sew

I am sure that you are all as distressed as I am at the violence taking place around the world, and especially in our own country at the moment, even in our own diocese; also at the prejudice, bigotry and lack of love for our neighbour. As MU members of a certain age, it may be difficult to see how we can make a difference, but there is one thing we can all do, and that is to bring it all to God in prayer. No doubt you are already doing so, praying for our government and the police, justice system and prison system, as they try to deal with the situation. The following prayer was written by a member in USA

Heavenly Father, as we come before you today, we pray for peace - peace among us, peace in our nation, peace in the world. Help us all to learn to accept each other, regardless of our differences, in a loving way; to be tolerant and treat each other in a kind, loving and gentle way. Help us to reconcile any hurt or malice we may have and to learn to love and respect one another, regardless of race, creed, gender or views. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Carole

Two members of St. Aidan's and St Cuthbert's Durham, Muriel Smith and Heather Crook, handing over emergency toilet bags to the Tree Tops ward (children's) at U.H.N.D. where they were gratefully received.

St. Paul's MU members who were at the Service at Durham Cathedral on Tues 18th June 2024.
In the photo left to right are
Barbara Hardy, Brenda Crooks, Pauline Storey, Kenneth Wilson and June Wilson (Branch Leader). We did have another two members at the Cathedral but they didn't want their photographs taken. It was a beautiful Service and good to see so many other MU members attending

Chester le Street Mothers Union.

June was a busy month for us! Monday 10th June saw us meeting in church with our Rev. Matt Strand for the commissioning of our new branch leader Sue Brissenden It was a lovely service and we presented Sue with flowers after the commissioning, Committee members also reaffirmed their vows. Three of our members who were at the service were presented with long service awards and flowers. The service continued with Holy Communion which was a nice ending to the celebrations. After the service everyone went over to the Parish centre for refreshments including delicious Mothers' Union themed buns!

At our 2nd meeting in June, we enjoyed an afternoon tea sing along with the wonderfully talented Rachel Orr entertaining us where members got the chance to have a good sing along with some good old classic songs and share cakes scones and cheese and crackers. We also said goodbye to two of our long service members Shirley Oldham and Pat Walker who have both moved away to be nearer family We presented them both with a beautiful Forget me not brooch and card .They will be greatly missed

SMARTIE PRAYERS.

As part of our Harvest festival service here at Chester le Street MU we used this Prayer activity and encouraged our members to fill up their empty smartie boxes with loose change over the next 3 months and return them to Mothers union as part of our Fundraising initiative:

As you place each coloured smartie in your mouth pray these prayers

RED SMARTIE: We pray for Peace in our broken world, The Middle East, South Sudan, The Yemen, Myanmar, Ukraine and Russia and all country where there is unrest and violence. We also pray for Peace in our neighbourhoods and in our families. Amen.

ORANGE SMARTIE: We pray for our loved ones, family, friends and neighbours. Amen.

BLUE SMARTIE: We pray for the work of the Mothers Union, worldwide and locally. For our leader, the committee members and our indoor members. Amen.

GREEN SMARTIE: We pray for our environment, those affected by floods, hurricanes and extreme weather and climate change. Amen.

YELLOW SMARTIE: We pray for those that are sick in mind, body or spirit. We remember those who are mentioned in our prayer book or those on our hearts. Amen.

PINK SMARTIE: We pray for our church, our leaders, staff members, volunteers and our congregation. We also pray for Persecuted Christians across the world unable to meet freely and without fear for their safety. Amen.

VIOLET SMARTIE: We pray for our community, the unnoticed, the homeless, the unloved and the desperate. We also pray for the volunteer and support groups, our local services and all our emergency services. Amen.

BROWN SMARTIE: We pray for ourselves and lift up our needs to Our Lord and we give thanks that we are loved greatly by him always. Amen.

Houghton-le-Spring Mothers Union had a summer trip to Whitley Bay. We enjoyed a lovely lunch at Trenchers. The cost of the bus was granted by the Community chest fund, Sunderland City Council.

What can you buy with 50pence per week?

To be more accurate 53.8pence per week?
Well, I have a few ideas

*You could buy 2 Freddo chocolate bars (25p.each)

*If you save it for 2 weeks you could get a small brown (supermarket) loaf.

*4 weeks savings would buy you 1 1st class and 1 2nd class postage stamps.

All valuable purchases, however, if you save it for 52 weeks and use it for Mothers' Union subscription in Durham you will be part of amazing work. Look at the back of the latest Connect magazine and then think of all we do in Durham – I promise you the list is impressive it includes the fellowship of members, support for hospitals, hospices, homeless people, refugees, families and Refuges.

When you read this you will know that the subscription for 2024 in Durham has been set at £28.00. This pays for the £24 .00 per member for Mary Sumner House costs – the magazine, support of projects and staff salaries and expenses- here it pays administration charges, Trustee expenses (these ladies are VERY careful with claims), Cathedral costs and ensures the vital and exciting work we do because we follow Jesus example- helping others is part of being a Christian, and should be done with love. As Mothers' Union members we are so fortunate to have this opportunity to serve others; it is such a privilege.

Houghton-le-Spring MU held a Harvest Festival lunch in the Kepier Hall. The members enjoyed pies and peas. Amazing entertainment was by Barry Holmes who sang many well known songs Great time was had by all who attended.

Houghton-le-Spring MU members at MU Festival Service in June

Houghton-le-Spring Mothers Union held a Summer of Hope tea in the Kepier Hall. Entertainment was provided by Anthony Stringer. Good time was had by all who attended.

Knit and Natter – A winner!

Another accolade for Knit & Natter at St. Mary's. Pat Strachan. Sherburn Village Mothers' Union member, exhibited one of her woollen Beanie hats in the Sedgefield Show, they had a special class for the needy Sailors coming into Hartlepool's cooler climate. Pat did extremely well and gained 2nd prize in her class – Congratulations to Pat and the Knit & Natter team.

K. Gilson

Mothers' Union Clergy Pack

In September 2023 the Annual Gathering was held in York. Some MU Chaplains spoke about how they promote the MU with clergy in local churches. They were very inspiring, and had some good ideas; inviting clergy to meetings, not to lead a service or speak, but just to show support and meeting with new clergy to talk about MU and invite them to become members.

Since the Gathering, there have been regular Chaplains meetings on zoom including discussions about how to involve clergy, and now a Clergy Pack has been prepared. This can be given to clergy to introduce them to Mothers' Union and the benefits of engaging with us. The Clergy Pack aims to help you introduce and share the work that MU is doing with the clergy in your diocese.

Mary Sumner House has provided an insert which covers MU in this country and overseas. However, we need to include an introduction to MU in Durham Diocese.

It is suggested that:

- we give an overview explaining the mission, objectives, and MU Programmes currently active in your diocese and an invitation to explore how collaboration between clergy and MU members could work.
- include a brief description of our inspiration, aims and values.
- Objectives: What is your goal? E.g. to support families and communities through prayer and practical help.

Members in Durham Diocese are involved in a lot of different projects and it would be good if we could share some of these with clergy.

So can you please let me know of any projects that can be included in the Pack? If possible can you give me details of how the project began, how its going at present and what you hope to achieve. Any photos would be great too!

Rev'd Norma Clee, MU Chaplain
Telephone: 07964029986 Email: normaclee@icloud.com

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 2024

(please join in the parts in bold)

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 worldwide; with those known to us or not.

With support and love we reach out to our sisters and brothers across the world
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**

Sharing of the peace

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