

Cymbal

**Newsletter of
Mothers' Union
in the
Diocese of Manchester**



Christmas 2009

“MADE IN HEAVEN”

This is the title of the Exhibition to be held in the Cathedral **7 – 14 February**: it will be a Celebration of Marriage across the faith communities of Greater Manchester during National Marriage Week.

There will be a service to launch the Exhibition on **Monday 8 February at 7.00pm**, in which the Bishop of Middleton and other faith leaders will participate. We shall also be honoured with the presence at this service of the Lord Mayor of Manchester.

The closing ceremony will be on **Sunday 14 February at 3.00pm** with the Bishop of Manchester and other faith leaders and Mayors and Mayoresses from surrounding areas.

Events during the week are being planned, including on **Thursday 11 February at 7.00pm** a Meeting of Politicians and Civic Leaders chaired by the Bishop of Bolton; other events and forums are planned for the rest of the week.

It would be wonderful if everybody could visit the Exhibition at some stage. If anyone has some memorabilia such as letters and photographs concerning marriages, which could be scanned and displayed at the Exhibition, please let me know. The communities involved so far include Anglicans and Roman Catholics, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs. Further details will be available and posters and leaflets will be circulated nearer the time. Please do support this venture and help us to proclaim the value and importance of marriage across all our communities in giving stability and cohesion to our life together in the wider community.

Margaret Morris

A.G.M.

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Mothers' Union is to be held at Preston – in our part of the country. Please let Judith know if you would like to attend. The date is Thursday 24 June.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 Dec – 4 Jan	Shop and Office closed
6 February	“Made in Heaven” Exhibition opens
8 February	“Made in Heaven” Launch Service
11 February	“Made in Heaven” Politicians' Meeting
14 February	“Made in Heaven” Closing Celebration
25-27 March	Visit of Worldwide President
25 March	Lady Day : Commissioning of Officers
27 March	Spring Council at Ardwick
26 May	Evening of celebration at Bridgewater Hall

From the Diocesan President

As I write this, on a lovely October day, my thoughts are beginning to turn to the season of Advent. I suspect though that by the time this (later than usual) edition reaches many of you we shall have celebrated Christmas and 2010 will have begun. I hope that you are looking forward to this New Year – to the challenges that lie ahead of us; the relationships we shall make or deepen. Our theme for the coming year, “Relationships not Rules”, calls on us to focus on the diverse relationships we have built up.

“Made in heaven”, our marriage exhibition in February, will certainly help us to do just that. Instigated by Mothers’ Union, it will bring together people from several different religions as well as other denominations to celebrate marriage. Our agreed aim is, “to present marriage as a stabilising of relationships and strengthening of communities.” It is great to be working together in this way. I do hope that you are able to be involved and will encourage families, church communities and local schools to visit.

We shall also be looking forward to a visit from our Worldwide President, Rosemary Kempshall, in March. Rosemary will preach at a Lady Day service in Manchester Cathedral at which Bishop Nigel will preside and also commission those in office for the new triennium. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as were able to come and listen to the Archbishop of York’s message to us recently. (Hopefully the Cathedral will be back to full capacity by then!)

It is very important to me that we begin these three years (as in 2007) with a time of prayer. I hope many of you will join me on Saturday, 30 January between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, at Christ Church Walmersley, Bury. Our focus this time will be the festival of Candlemas.

Whilst I do not intend to emulate Bishop Nigel in his amazing “Run the Race” pilgrimage, I *would* like to be able, at the end of six years as your president, to think I had met most of you. My task is far easier than the Bishop’s as we have only 117 branches! I am happy to speak to you in the branch or to your congregation, if you wish - but I am equally happy to come and share with you in fellowship or in worship.

Those of you who were able to be at Council last week heard my challenge to increase our membership in this diocese. Let’s use the next copy of Cymbal and our website to share good ideas; encourage others; and celebrate our success!

With my love, *Barbara*

*Full marks to those who said you couldn’t understand the footnote here in the last CYMBAL- it shows you read this publication carefully! The note was meant to convey that the Summer number was a one-off pilot designed to test the waters and to ask for your responses to a full colour magazine with pictures. We are exploring the possibilities of doing this permanently, with the expertise of the Diocesan Communications Department, but would like to hear your reactions first. Please let us know what you think! **Editor***

OFFICERS FOR THE NEW TRIENNIAL

Diocesan President—Mrs. Barbara Taylor

Archdeaconry Presidents -

Bolton - Mrs. Peggie Gathergood

Manchester - Mrs. Eileen Chow

Rochdale - Mrs. Mary Helliwell

Salford - Mrs. Jill Crofton

Unit Co-ordinators

Action and Outreach - VACANT

Administration - Mrs. Jennifer White

Faith and Policy - Mrs. Lily Critten

Marketing - Mrs. Chris Haworth

Deanery Leaders

Ardwick/Heaton— Mrs. Marcia Taylor

Bolton/Deane - Mrs. Christine Faulkner

Eccles - Mrs Yvonne Holt

Hulme - Mrs. Bernice Reid

Oldham West - Mrs. Cheryl Aspin

Radcliffe and Prestwich - Mrs. Barbara Cox

Rochdale - Mrs. Margaret Shewring

Rossendale - Mrs. Dorothy Newton

Salford - Mrs. Sally Sargeant

Withington - Mrs. Dorothy Wynn

The following Deaneries have yet to appoint Leaders:

Ashton; Bury; Heywood and Middleton; Leigh; North Manchester;

Oldham East; Stretford; Walmsley.

Please pray for these people as they take up positions of leadership and that leaders may come forward for the vacant positions.

SHOP

Thank you to all who have ordered Christmas cards and gifts from the shop. I have received the new catalogue for October to April 2010 but I am waiting for the Mothering Sunday and Easter leaflets to arrive before giving these to Deanery Leaders for distribution.

Hilary Riddick

WORLD WIDE PRESIDENT

We are delighted that Rosemary Kempshall, our World Wide President, will visit Manchester at the end of March. She will preach at the Lady Day Eucharist on 25 March in the Cathedral at 7.30pm. She will also speak at the Spring Council on 27 March at the St. Thomas Centre, Ardwick. All members are of course welcome. Between these dates, on Friday 26 March, she would be happy to visit any exciting projects or areas of interest: please let the Diocesan President know of any suitable suggestions.

INDOOR MEMBERS

There are approximately 180 members of the Indoor Members Prayer Circle, who have each received a holding cross and a Book of Prayers to keep – from the feedback these are greatly treasured and used regularly. The committee meets three times a year, a representative from each of the Deaneries attends to collect the packs for distribution. Each pack contains a letter from the Diocesan president, the Administrator and one other person in the Diocese – in June one from the Prayer and Spirituality Department at Mary Sumner House and in December one from the World Wide President. They also receive an Easter and a Christmas card, the programme for the Evening of Celebration and an order of service from the Diocesan Festival. A special book with the names of all the Indoor Members is presented at the Diocesan Festival and at the Provincial Triennial Service. This is the end of my six years in office and I feel greatly privileged to have been invited to be a part of this special section of the Mothers' Union.

Elaine Pennell
IMPC Administrator

DIOCESAN FESTIVAL

Over the years we have had some interesting guest speakers at the Cathedral, but never before have we had one who was both an Archbishop, and a member of Mothers' Union. The fact that the cathedral roof is being repaired made an exacting task for cathedral people responsible for the smooth running of an evening where the numbers were more than expected. We ran out of seats and service sheets. Despite this chaotic start to the evening, the service itself was inspirational; the intercessory prayers and music reminding us of the ongoing and outgoing movement to which we belong. We listened to the Archbishop of York, newly returned from a month of overseas travel, and in case you were not able to be there, he preached on the text of the lessons specially chosen by Barbara our President: Deuteronomy 6. 4-7 and 1 John 3. 11,16-18. A remarkable display of deanery and branch banners was carried in a seemingly never ending procession demonstrating the strength of the Mothers' Union in our Diocese. Was it my imagination or were there quite a number of new members present this year?

Mary Doyle

AUTUMN COUNCIL

After opening prayers by Jennifer White, and a welcome from our Diocesan President, Catherine Butcher, the Editor of Families First gave a very interesting and informative presentation. She was recruited as a professional journalist, but was so impressed by the ideology and the enthusiasm of members that she decided to join us and become a Member. Her vision for Families First, and Families Worldwide is a vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving respectful and flourishing relationships. Families First will be a bimonthly publication producing six magazines each year at a cost of £1.50 to members and £2.00 to non members. It is hoped that as circulation increases, it will be available on commercial bookshelves in newsagents and supermarkets, spreading the word to a much wider audience. The magazine is aimed at the wider public, it is outward looking, and anyone can read every issue. Families Worldwide is a free publication, printed three times a year. It includes the worldwide prayer diary, and is distributed to members by various means. Recently, it has been sent to subscribers of Families First with that publication, as this is the most cost effective way of distribution. We were encouraged to increase the circulation of Families First, perhaps by making it a compulsory part of our annual subscription, as happens in London and Peterborough. Catherine encouraged us to use the magazine as a tool to boost membership, by using back copies to give away, or raise money by charging the cover price, at Mother and Toddler groups and other groups within the Church, and to the families of newly baptized children. The mission is to spread love, kindness and understanding, and to change the nation, family by family. She said that Families First could help us share the vision and values of the M.U. with others, and show people how to get involved, and how to become members, but personal contact and invitation is a vital part of this process.

Jan Harney gave a presentation about the involvement of the Diocese and Mothers Union at Wedding Fayres. Marriages have fallen by one quarter and Church weddings have halved. Various new publications are available both at Fayres and online, to help plan a wedding. Parishes are encouraged to offer their Church Halls as reception venues, and to emphasize that "our Church is your Church too". David Marshall, Communications Director for the Diocese encourages us to take part in wedding Fayres in each Deanery and Archdeaconry. There are handouts available, and new publicity banners available for loan.

Margaret Morris is masterminding a marriage exhibition in the Cathedral 6-14 February: if anyone has pictures or artefacts to lend, please contact her.

Andrea Young has been appointed Parenting coordinator and runs courses at her Church, St Paul's in Monton. She is looking to recruit Parenting facilitators to run similar course through out the Diocese. She feels that the courses share Mary Sumner's vision, outreach into the community, build up relationships with statutory services, raise the Mothers' Union profile, show Christian witness and produce more confident parents. She can be contacted at andreyoung2@hotmail.co.uk

Margaret Goudge,
Christ Church, Heaton

ACTION & OUTREACH

What a fantastic year 2009 has been! I have been so fortunate to be able to visit Mothers' Union projects both at home and worldwide. How can I ever forget our moving, yet inspirational journey to Maseno West, one of our link Dioceses in Kenya? They value our link so much and thank us for our love and prayers. It is now these same loving and loved friends who are suffering greatly from lack of food and water. You have all made a wonderful response, both to Bishop Nigel's appeal for Nord Kivu and to Mothers' Union East African appeal following the third failed rainy season. Bishop Enoch and Phoebe Kayeeye from Nord Kivu have written to us to tell us about the difficult conditions. They still have many displaced families there. They still have the care of 375 women who have been raped, many with babies, who are now stigmatised by their husbands, families and society. They need money to buy much, including blankets, clothes and food such as rice and beans. To get the help to where it was needed the team had to travel up to 400 kilometres away. We were able to send £4050 to Nord Kivu from the Bishop's appeal, plus a further £1000 following the Evening of celebration. There are an estimated 20 million people in need in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The money for the East Africa appeal is still coming in but the total at the time of writing from the whole of the UK is £259,000. The estimated need from Mothers' Union Provincial Workers in Kenya alone is £190,000. Thank you all so much that in this present economic climate, you have managed to give your money and prayers. Please continue to pray for all in our link Dioceses.

Our new Parenting Coordinator, Andrea Young, has now facilitated three parenting courses at St Paul's, Monton, and is looking towards extending the courses throughout the Diocese. However, there is a cost involved as each Parenting Facilitator is trained and accredited: please remember this project when you are considering your branch/ deanery donations. The Virtual babies have gone back to school! One is in St Catherine's Academy in Bolton and two are at Radcliffe Riverside School. We look forward to talking to teachers and pupils during the year. Thank you also to everyone who continues their own individual and parish projects. Please don't stop knitting and sewing! From the end of the year, all knitting and sewing for the baby units (that is, angel pockets, ventilator bonnets, premature baby clothes, blankets, teddy bears) should be sent to Lynne Longworth. Lynne's details can be obtained from the office or website. Thank you, Lynne, for taking on this work. In addition, Lynne has another pattern for a tiny Teddy that can be knitted in one piece.

Now is the time to move on to "pastures new". Thank you all, individuals, branches, deaneries and Trustees, for your support and prayers during the last six years of my office as Unit Coordinator for Action and Outreach. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work on your behalf and to experience the love and care with which you have surrounded me. May God continue to bless you in all your work for Him.

JENNIFER WHITE

WELCOME TO FRESHERS!

Have we ever seen so many tea bags, toilet rolls or noodles? It was a big job to sort out the many donations which came from our members but it was done with lots of laughs and good organisational skills. Soon the tables and floor were groaning with goods. As soon as everything was sorted we went on to pack the bags and in no time at all 1000 bags had been filled. Enough for one day, home to tend our aching legs and backs to return on the Friday fit and ready to pack some more. What excitement when the message came that “2000 bags had been filled” and by the time all the donations had been allocated we had done a record 2775 bags.

But the excitement did not stop there; we had the next week to look forward to - meeting the students. Asking where they had come from, what course they were doing and with the offer of free soup and our ‘Goodie Bag’, which included our new Recipe booklet, giving them a warm ‘Welcome to Manchester’. What a privilege to be part of this very worthwhile project. I will remember 2009 Fresher’s for one particular conversation, speaking to a group of three boys, one from Birmingham, one from Cumbria and the other from Barnet, all doing the same course. On looking into their Goodie Bags – ‘Cool’ - ‘Wicked’ - ‘Thank you so much’ but the last comment was the best – ‘We will be back next Wednesday if it is only to see these lovely smiling faces’ That was us! - The members of Manchester Mothers’ Union. Well done Manchester another successful project.

Chris Haworth

Can I thank everyone who supported the project in whatever way and a very big Thank You to all the people who helped to sort, fill and distribute the bags? The venture goes from strength to strength each year and a record number of bags were given out this time

Margaret Morris

MARKETING

As this is my last report to you as Marketing Co-ordinator may I thank everyone for all the support and help given to me during my six years? I have thoroughly enjoyed my job and have tried to do my best. I have made many new friends, re-kindled old friendships and I thank you all for this. I am leaving you in the very capable hands of Chris Haworth, who is to take over as Marketing Co-ordinator in January: I am sure you will support her as you have me. Thank you all very much.

Margaret Morris

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

As I write this at the beginning of September one of the things I'm working on is our Harvest Festival Service and as usual I'm wrestling with whether to stick with the old or try something new (I perhaps should have learned by now that there is nothing new under the sun but I imagine you know what I mean). We, like many churches, are working hard to make sure that whatever we do in worship is not only of a high quality but also attractive and accessible to people who are new to church and not used to our ways.

But is the "something new for the new" approach the best way? Might it be better to stick with tradition, to retain the old ways, to offer again what we offered last time? I'm not sure

TRADITION is a wonderful yet slippery word. In Church particularly we tend to mean something very specific when we use it. TRADITION is about doing things how we have "always" done them. TRADITION is often used as a wall to hide behind, to protect the Church from CHANGE which is seen as its opposite and its enemy.

TRADITION though is really the beating heart of our Christian faith; It is the handing on, the communicating, the sharing of the Good News of Jesus. Tradition in its proper sense is not dry, dusty and dead but is alive, vibrant and dynamic. Tradition is what begins to happen when the angel appears to the women at the end of Matthew's gospel saying, "Go quickly and tell Jesus' disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead'." And off they go to tell their friends, who tell their friends, who telland here we are two thousand years later still telling our friends.

TRADITION is our vocation – to pass on what we know to be true; that Jesus is alive and active and working within us and with us to make the world a place filled with the love of God.

New ways or old ways? – when it comes down to it I suggest that we all need to remember that the packaging is never the most important ingredient. What matters is the message itself and that we hand it on with enthusiasm and wholehearted commitment and thus help people to see, to experience and to know how the Good News might be relevant to them.

I still haven't decided whether we will have the First Fruits procession at Harvest again this year. If we do it won't be because we've always done it or because it gives the Brownies something to do in the service or because Mrs X likes the tune. It will be because it helps to hand on the truth about our Creator God the giver of every good gift.

ALISON HARDY

TRAINING DAY

On Saturday 10 October over 50 members met at St James, Moss Side, despite the difficulties of travelling on a day when the Mancunian Way was closed and there was the largest march in the City centre that Manchester had witnessed. How resourceful and determined are the Mothers Union! We were made very welcome by Canon Sarah Bullock and members of her congregation who met us with a much needed cup of tea. Jean Williamson introduced an icebreaker session - this involved discussing the advantages and disadvantages of one's position within the family. The outcome it seemed was that the eldest was very organising and bossy whilst the youngest was cosseted and spoilt – a lot of fun, a lot of talking.

Following this our President, Barbara, led us in prayers and explained her role, concluding with her definition of the way she works: **“together everyone achieves more”**. Each Co-ordinator then explained her role and how she could assist new Branch Leaders, Secretaries and Treasurers. Each Co-ordinator was enthusiastic about her role and other informative contributions were given by the Treasurer and the leaders of AFIA and the Parenting course. Each Branch was given a pack entitled “Relationships not Rules” which can be used as a resource tool for discussion and prayers. Our busy day ended with a sung Eucharist led by Canon Sarah. A very enjoyable and useful day for all who came.

Doris Eaton, St. Philip's, Salford
Training Officer

FAITH & POLICY AT HIGH LEIGH

Mary and I attended the Faith & Policy Conference in June at the High Leigh Conference Centre. There were eight workshops: Mary went to one on Social Policy and I chose “Loving for Life” and “Setting up Prayer Stations.” Others were “Messy Church”, “Cross Unit Working” “Worldwide Projects” and “Listening to God”. We met others and exchanged ideas, heard about projects elsewhere and reviewed the highs and lows of the past Triennial. As you would expect, the Worship was outstanding, supplemented by Bible Studies and culminating in the Eucharist.

The Conference was thoroughly enjoyable and left everyone feeling enthused and refreshed, albeit with a tinge of sadness at saying good-bye to many our colleagues coming to the end of their term of office. Next year an All-Unit Conference is being arranged as a pilot scheme: the theme for 2010 will be “Relationship not Rules.”

Lily Critten

RUNNING FOR AFIA

After attending the Spring Council and hearing how many people had benefitted from Away From It All holidays a member of Middleton and Heywood Deanery, who was taking part in the Manchester 10k run to raise money for a nut allergy charity thought that since she had already registered she could also run on behalf of Mothers' Union. At our Deanery Social members said they would support her and £210 was raised for AFIA. Thanks to all who contributed and many congratulations to our member for a wonderful gesture.

Marion Ball, *Deanery Leader*

BANNER DISPLAY

Does your Banner need a new stand? If so, get in touch with Derek Fitton at St.Martin's, Castleton, and he will make you one to measure. Ring **01706 526 343** or email derrimari@tiscali.co.uk

CELEBRATING A CENTURY

In May the Goodshaw Branch marked a hundred years of history and the Mayor and Mayoress of Rossendale attended the Deanery Festival there. Also present were the Diocesan and Bolton Archdeaconry Presidents: Lynne Woodall led the service and Alison Hardy preached. Memories were shared between the Branches, the church was decorated with memorabilia and Edith Ellison cut the celebration cake at a buffet supper afterwards.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS!

This month we are delighted to record that a number of our members have passed important milestones on their life journeys. First of all, **George and Marion Burrows**, of Christ Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, celebrated 65 years of marriage on 29 July; and **Betty and Stan Tomlinson**, of William Temple church, marked their Diamond Wedding on 19 August, as did **Jean and Jack Roseby**, of St.Michael, Tonge-cum-Alkrington, on 3 September; **Lillian and Gordon Galloway**, also of William Temple church, on 22 October, and **John and Joan Round**, of St. Ann, Tottington, on 29 October.

In addition, a long service certificate for 70 years was presented last May to **Edith Ellison**, of St.Mary and All saints, Goodshaw, at the Rossendale Deanery Festival; for 65 years to **Marjorie Woodall**, of St.James, Gorton; and for 60 years to **Beatrice Poole**, **Eileen Whittaker** and **Florence Brandwood**, all of St.Paul, Astley Bridge To one and all we offer our warmest congratulations.