

Autumn 2010

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Manchester

Cymbal

Supporting you and your church in working with families



Student welcome

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Salisbury Visit

by Molly Marsh

The visit to Bradford on Avon and Devizes, will take place on Thursday 12th May 2011 to Sunday 15th May 2011.

The cost of travel will be £45.00 and a deposit of £10.00 is required as soon as possible. Your cheque should be made payable to Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union, with name and address on the back, together with Salisbury Trip.

Please forward your cheque to Mrs. Joanne Roberts, 20 Drayfields, Droylsden, Manchester M43 7ET (telephone 0161 370 6750).

Mrs. Barbara Hill has a list of those wishing to go on the trip, and there are still a few places left. Please get in touch with Barbara at 166 Kirkway, Alkington, Middleton, M24 1LN, telephone 0161 653 0482 if you would like to go.

Arrangements are being made for us to go to a National Trust Property so if you have a NT card, please bring it (otherwise there will be a separate charge of £9.00) also your bus pass!

Jessie Homer – 78 years a member

by Barbara English

Jessie Homer, who died on 7 June, ten days before she would have reached the age of 108, was the oldest member of the Mothers' Union at St Clement's, Urmston. She was born in Hulme on 17 June 1902 and at the age of 6, when her father died, moved to Moss Side.

Jessie was married to Doug in 1931 and in the following year joined the Mothers' Union at Christ Church, Moss Side. In the late 1940s she became Enrolling Member and was involved in all aspects of Church work, including being a Churchwarden for some time. In 1977 she moved to Urmston and regularly attended St Clement's Church and the Mothers' Union meetings until she found it too difficult.

Through all the years Jessie never lost her faith in God and six years ago she said, "I've reached a good age, I've had a long and happy life, I've never been a wealthy woman, but I have never wanted for love." Jessie was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, and will be missed by all.

Dates for your diary

Nov 18th – Quiet Day at Cathedral

Nov 23rd – IMPC - 5th Floor Deansgate

Nov 30th – Advent Carol Service at St Ann,
Manchester 2pm (please note Tuesday)

Dec 4th - An invitation has been received from the Chaplaincy at St Peter's House for us to join their International Carol Service at 6pm in the Chaplaincy

Dec 9th – Thursday Prayers

2011

Feb 9th to 11th – Worldwide Council

Feb 13th to 19th – Marriage Week UK

Feb 14th – Deanery Marketing Meeting 10 for 10.30 am Church House

March 25th – Lady Day

April 3rd – Mothering Sunday

April 16th – Spring Council St George's Centre Ardwick

April 18th to May 3rd – Office & Shop closed for Easter

May 12th to 15th – Visit to Salisbury Link

Correction

The Editor wishes to apologise to Jill Crofton and Barbara Bray for the error in the last Cymbal. The caption, under the photograph on page 4 of The New Salford Archdeaconry story, was incorrect.

The Cake was made by Barbara and the photograph, reproduced here, was of Jill.



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Jolts and opportunities

"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times," wrote Charles Dickens. Mothers' Union, like everyone else, is finding this a difficult time.

Thank you for supporting the Wheels Appeal, to help counteract cuts in the transport budget. In Manchester we are not immune either. The Board of Trustees has taken the difficult decision, with the full support of Bishop Nigel, not to commit the huge sum necessary to hire the Bridgewater Hall for an Evening of Celebration in 2011.

There are two sides to every question and I know there will be lots of comment about this decision. For well over 10 years we have struggled to make this event financially viable. We needed either to increase the ticket price or the numbers attending. Members, asked for their views, stated clearly they wanted the event, at the same price and in the Bridgewater Hall! That left only the option of bringing more friends but 2010 showed yet a further fall in numbers. The hope now is that we can hold a Celebration in the final year of each triennium.

So the challenge is with you! We have been jolted out of our comfort zone, but let's grasp the opportunity. Can you think of alternative ways to celebrate or to fundraise in the intervening years? Be imaginative and let us know your thoughts.

Susie Mapledoram, speaking at our Festival, challenged us to look at ways of developing relationships with the young people in our communities. Maybe these two strands could be combined? Susie's refrain was "inform, enthuse and resource". Do please watch out for ideas and encourage those around you to get involved.

Members seen to be active in their communities is the best way in which to make our organisation known and from that to grow. It is very encouraging that at present we have three or four potential new branches and I would ask you to pray for those who are involved in these initiatives.

By The Diocesan President



Barbara Taylor

In addition to trying to grow in number we need to grow in commitment. Bishop Nigel set us a great example when he travelled back from a meeting in London for our Festival before returning for the Pope's visit the following day. We value his fantastic support. Some of our projects need more help if they are to continue, others could expand if more volunteers could spare a few hours. Please ask if you don't know where help is needed.

I meet many members who have given so much over many years. Just this evening I have presented certificates for 67 and 70 years' membership - an achievement to which I can only aspire, but these two lovely ladies are far from being unique.

Mothers' Union is full of Marthas and Marys (and whatever is the male equivalent!). It is the best of times – we have so much to celebrate, to be thankful for, to work towards, as we commit to fulfilling Mary Sumner's vision.

With love, Barbara



Bosom Buddies Thanks

'We at the Mustard Tree have been amazed at the flood of bras that have been donated in response to the Bosom Buddies campaign. In particular it has been noticeable that a huge number of packages and bags of bras have come from Mothers' Union groups across Greater Manchester.

The generosity of these groups has meant we have far surpassed our expectations of the number of bras we would have to distribute.

Thanks to the success of the campaign and the kindness of those responding, hundreds of vulnerable ladies across Greater Manchester have and will have decent underwear that reinforces their value and sense of self worth.

“a huge number of packages and bags of bras have come from Mothers' Union”

We recently held a ladies pampering evening to help distribute some of the bras. On the night ladies from hostels, soup runs and refuges were treated to a 3 course meal, an abundance of pampering treatments, and a personal bra-fitting service.

One of our volunteer fitters told a moving story of a lady who came in with very badly fitted underwear, she was refitted and given a number of new bras, the lady was clearly incredibly grateful and emotional, saying that she felt 'like a new woman'.

So on behalf of the Mustard Tree and most importantly on behalf of many vulnerable ladies across Greater Manchester,

Thank you Mothers' Union! Paul.



Former branch leader Lynda Rigg (left) and branch leader Maureen Cooper (right).

New Banner for St Stephen's, Bury Maureen Cooper

This is our new banner which took two years from innovation to dedication, with a lot of help from various people in the planning, design and making. Much of the time was spent finding and choosing the right materials for the project. It was dedicated at our 'Back to Church' Sunday service on September 26th 2010 in the presence of our Diocesan President, Barbara Taylor, and our Deanery Leader Lynne Longworth.

Afternoon Tea with the President

(ssh... it was her birthday too!)

by Mary Helliwell

Ladies and gentlemen from across the Diocese enjoyed afternoon tea at Falshaw's Farm Shop in aid of the 'Wheels Appeal'. We were served a very substantial tea of assorted sandwiches, scones with cream and jam and luscious cakes.

A total of £333.80 was raised and the quiz was won by Judith White of Radcliffe, the answers are available from the office.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all, even though the weather prevented us from enjoying the wonderful views. We will certainly be visiting again!



Faith and policy

by Lily Critten

Diocesan Retreat Day

This successful event, led by Revd. Alison Hardy and attended by 24 members, has been fully reported upon by Susan Roberts. From feed-back received, members would like more of them, and would support a 2/3 days away retreat, at a venue outside Manchester. The committee will be meeting shortly to discuss this.

Diocesan Quiet Day

Manchester Cathedral, Thursday November 18th 10am-2.30pm, led by Canon Andrew Shanks, Canon Theologian and Sub-Dean of the Cathedral. We need to know numbers who hope to attend, in advance, for administrative purposes. To reserve your place, please ring me on 01663 741070. You will need to bring a packed lunch and £2.50 to cover expenses.

Diocesan Prayer Chain

An up-to-date list of representatives and telephone numbers for each deanery has been issued recently, some of whom are new whilst others have served in this capacity for many years. All are aware of the importance of passing on the names of those in urgent need of prayer as quickly as possible and that a break in the chain can result in some names failing to be relayed full circle.

It is our trustees' wish that every member of Manchester Diocese has a copy of the new list, so they may contact their Prayer Chain Deanery Rep. to inform her of the names of people who need urgent prayer.

Keep prayers coming in. We have received requests from members living in the Isle of Man, Finland, Africa and Australia, who are so grateful that they can access this facility. You do not have to give full details of names and reasons, just fore-names are sufficient.

Thank you, and let us not forget the 18 loyal and dedicated Prayer Chain Representatives in our prayers.

Indoor Members Service

by Margaret Goudge

An Indoor Members' service was held to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, at Christ Church, Heaton Centre in the afternoon on Monday, 16th August. Rev. Ray Coward, a member of our congregation presided at the communion service. Thirty members attended, including visitors from the Five Saints Churches in Farnworth, St Stephen and all Martyrs and St Margaret's. It was a fine sunny day and the service was followed by a cream tea.

Congratulations

Many Congratulations to Brenda and Frank Charles from William Temple Church who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on September 3rd.

Congratulations also to: Jean and Jim Ashton from All Saints Church, Stand who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on October 1st

Invitation to Cruise

Father Lindsey from Mossley Parish Church invites members of the Mothers' Union of Manchester Diocese to join him on a 10 day Cruise to the Islands and Ports of St Paul and St John from Wednesday March 16th to Friday March 25th 2011. The Basic Price is £1276 per person plus insurance, airport taxes and Aviation Fuel. Single supplement £440.

The cruise commences with a flight to Athens, on day three boarding the cruise ship calling at Thessalonika, Veria, Kavala, Philippi, Istanbul, Pergamum, Sardis, Ephesus, Miletus and finally Patmos in Greece before flying home.

You will be made very welcome on this epic holiday. For more details please contact Father Lindsey, telephone 01457 832219 or e mail mossleyparishchurch@talktalk.net

Retreat Day

By Susan Roberts

The Retreat Day was held on the 21st August at the Marist Youth Centre on Nell Lane in Chorlton. The day started at 10am in the Chapel, where we were welcomed by our leader for the day the Rev. Alison Hardy.

Morning prayers were said and we were settled into silence. There were lots of rooms available to us to spend time with God and there was a beautiful garden which we could also use, especially as it was a nice day. We had a coffee break at 11am spent quietly.

We met altogether in the Chapel for Bible Study, taken from John chapter 4: v 7-30. "The Samaritan Woman". We then joined together in a shared silence, after which we were free to wander as we wished until we met again in the Chapel at 12-30pm for Midday Prayers.

The prayers were followed by lunch, again a fairly quiet affair. Meeting back in the Chapel at 1-30pm for a shared silence for 10 minutes, we were free to do our own thing before meeting together at 3-15pm.

During our free silences there was a room where you could watch a DVD. The morning DVD was "A Unique Portrait of the Carmelite



Nuns" a film by Philip Groning, A meditation on life, a contemplation of time, silence, repetition and rhythm. The afternoon DVD was "No Greater love into Great Silence" a film by Michael Whyte.

During the afternoon there was an opportunity to share with Denise Smith in prayer writing. We all met back in the Chapel for "Guided Meditation" a modern day interpretation of the woman at the well. This was followed by a Eucharist, the music was played by Jean Whittaker.

The Marist Youth centre was a beautiful, peaceful and tranquil place in the middle of urban Manchester, altogether a very enjoyable, peaceful day. Thank you to all the organizers for a very successful day.



New Banner at St Michael's Howe Bridge

Canon Robert Buckley

A new banner for St. Michael's Howe Bridge Branch was dedicated at the Michaelmas Eucharist. The banner had been made by Brenda Huby a worshipper at St. Michael's. The Bridger's, community group, offered every household in the Spring a Michaelmas daisy plant, inviting the receivers to grow it and bring the flowers to church for the Michaelmas Eucharist. The result was a church full of flowers and worshippers of all ages for the Eucharist on the evening of 29th September.

Bags of praise

by Margaret Morris

"Do you find husbands?" was one of the comments made to the ladies when giving out goody bags to first year students at the University this year. What a magnificent effort this was once again and a huge big thank you to everyone involved. To all members, friends and congregations for their very generous donations of goods which allowed us to distribute 2464 bags.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the sorting and bagging with memories of a wall of toilet rolls and a mountain of pasta. Thank you to everyone who helped make and distribute the soup.

Thank you to everyone who helped distribute the bags. The students were very appreciative, happy to talk and many stimulating conversations took place.

Thanks also to Terry Biddington and his team at the Chaplaincy for all their help and support.



by Lynn Cotton

My experiences ranged from: wide-eyed disbelief that the offering was free, to: "Thank you so much – you are kind. I have never lived away from home before". The students peered into the bags and squeals of delight – Food! Wow! Coffee! - was heard as the groups walked away – sometimes operating a swop shop. I did wonder whether the student receiving one particular bag, containing a litre bottle of orange disinfectant, had been successful in swopping it for a jar of coffee. I do hope his or her English was good enough to realise it was not orange juice!

What the students said...

"You really showed that you are mothers to all. May the Almighty Lord continue to bless you abundantly in your mission as mothers. I remain one of your children."

"Yes, i'll have a bag, but I am not a mum"....."Would you be my mum"

"You are so cool...How kind. It's lovely to know that someone is thinking of us...How amazing you are...Tea Bags, just what I needed. We are sharing a house so we will only take one bag then there will be some for others...'Noodles' - That's my tea for three days! "





Thanks

I meet so many students during the course of the year for whom this welcome is a memorable part of their introduction to the city, the country and the Church of England.

On behalf of the chaplaincy team, thank you so very much. And I look forward to exploring with you all soon some possible new directions for our joint ministry to students. May God continue to bless you all!

Terry Biddington, Chaplain



by Freda Horrocks

We served many cauldrons of soup together with crusty bread and an unrecorded number of cups of tea, coffee and biscuits.

Students found it hard to believe that anybody would go to so much trouble to make them feel welcome and were keen to know all about us.

Seeing the hoards of hungry students waiting patiently to be served brought to mind the biblical story of the Feeding of the five thousand. In previous years there has been many more girls anxious to chat and admitting to being homesick than boys, but this year the boys seemed affected.

One such boy was anxious to chat and at the end of the conversation asked if there were any hugs going, to which I replied that the Mothers' Union specialised in hugs but only on request! Apart from working hard we enjoy lots of fellowship and fun, so don't forget when volunteers are requested next year to put your name down.



Northern Provincial Service-York Minster

by Marion Ball

When Barbara approached me at the AGM at Blackburn in June and asked me if I would represent our Diocese as Lay Assistant in York Minster I was so overcome emotionally that I was speechless, humbled and felt truly blessed.

York Minster is a very special place for it was there, in February 1993, at an evensong service that the Holy Spirit brought Derrick and me together in a loving relationship.

We had known one another for many years working together at St Martins on the PCC, often disagreeing on many issues. In December 1992 Derrick helped me to pack clothes, toiletries, medical items and soft toys in boxes which had to be lined and labelled in a certain way before I undertook a journey to Croatia taking humanitarian relief for the victims of the Yugoslav conflict.

“The love and friendship shared amongst us in Mothers’ Union is truly amazing.”

When I left Castleton to join a convoy of 100 vehicles of all shapes and sizes Derrick said “Please come back safely. Who knows what the Lord has planned for us?”

On the day of the service in York I arrived a little late for the briefing as I travelled on our coach. The verger at the minster was most helpful and said I did not need to worry just follow the Archbishop. Once again in that Holy Place the Spirit had moved and placed me in such a position of privilege.

As we moved forward to administer what a joy it was to offer the chalice to Lynne Tembey first and then so many of you from our own Diocese, including our priest and friend Ian Butterworth with Joy and Derrick.

The love and friendship shared amongst us in Mothers’ Union is truly amazing.



Marion Ball, Gaynor Kirby (Diocesan Banner Carrier) and Barbara Taylor, President



Woman of Oldham 2010

Many congratulations to Mothers’ Union member Anne Sykes on being voted Woman of Oldham 2010. Anne is the chairman of the Saddleworth Cancer Research Committee which was set up 30 years ago,

She was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester in 2002, served the Diocese for six years as secretary of the Board of Ministry and for seven years managed our Mothers’ Union ‘Away from it all’ project. Anne has been a magistrate for 19 years and is a member of the probation committee and a member of the panel which reviews people with drug treatment and testing orders. Keen on health matters she is vice chairman of Pennine Care Trust which runs Oldham’s mental health services.

What a catalogue of total commitment to the service of others, we send our sincere congratulations on this well deserved award.

The Jewish Museum

by Robin Morris

On the morning of 11 August a party of about 20 from St. Ann's, Belfield, together with members from St. Paul's, Blackley, visited the Jewish Museum in Cheetham Hill Road. The visit had been prompted by a friendship formed at the Inter Faith Marriage Exhibition at the Cathedral earlier in the year, and Irene Gould was one of our hosts.

On arrival we were given an introductory talk outlining the history of the museum – it had previously been the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, serving the traders in textiles who came to Manchester: it was designed by the distinguished Jewish architect Edward Salomons in the Moorish style reflecting the worshippers' homeland; they were Sephardi Jews and the building's decoration reflects this. The synagogue closed in the 1970s and the Museum opened in March 1984.

We were given a very helpful introduction to Orthodox Jewish life and worship and the various rituals and ceremonies were briefly explained to us. The various features of the building, such as the Ark, the Torah scroll, the everlasting light, the cantor's platform and the windows, were pointed



out. Afterwards we had an hour in which to explore for ourselves these and many other treasures, including documents, letters and photographs and records of Jewish life in this part of Manchester. We all came away feeling that we had gained a better understanding of the Jewish faith as well as our own: Jesus, after all, was a Jew who worshipped in the synagogue in his day. We strongly recommend other branches to make a visit, which can be arranged by ringing 0161 834 9801.

Diocesan Festival

The Diocesan Festival is always a special occasion, when members from the whole of the Diocese get together, remembering members of Mothers' Union, not only in Manchester but all around the world and the achievements. These times of togetherness inspire greater effort on every level. This year the speaker was The Diocesan Youth Officer, Susie Mapledoram, who spoke with great enthusiasm about her work and the effect faith has on her and the young people she deals with. Faith, empathy and optimism can overcome a multitude of problems.

It really was a great pleasure to see Eileen Chow with us again. She has been missed during these past months. I'm sure we all wish her continuing improvement to her health and look forward to a time when she can fully take on her work again.





Hospital Project

We work alongside the Hospital Chaplaincy Service, knitting and sewing, to support the Neo-natal units to help sick babies and families who have lost their baby.

Each hospital has a Link-person (see below) who gets in touch with the hospital and has authority to visit the special wards. Items are delivered as and when requested by the hospital and taken in by the Link-person. We are requested not to 'Drop In' to the hospitals as this raises Security and Health and Safety issues.

A huge thank you to those members who knit and sew the beautiful items which are greatly appreciated by the hospitals.

We knit ventilator bonnets, mittens and booties, tiny teddy bears and cot blankets and we sew angel pockets, baby gowns, soap bags, tiny sheets and candle bags.

Tiny mittens and booties help stop heat loss and also stop baby pulling out their tubes and lines. We make angel pockets in pale blue and pink, each with a tiny teddy bear, and also small lemon ones for the very young babies whose sex cannot be determined. We also

Rev Stephen Grosscurth (Wythenshaw Hospital Chaplain) with Sister Bernadette Bolland accepting a delivery of hats, mittens, booties and Angel Pockets from Lynne Longworth (Centre)

by Lynne Longworth

make toilet bags containing face flannel, soap, hair brush, toothbrush and toothpaste and a packet of tissues. These are given to patients who are admitted as emergencies.

The hospitals really value what we do and I quote from a letter received, 'It is always most challenging to care for a mother whose baby has died as it is in the wrong chronological order, however, our families are most appreciative of your time, hard work and compassion when they spend such special moments with their baby.'

This sensitive work has the power to touch the hearts of families that you have never met. It acknowledges their baby and makes them feel valued as parents.'

Can I add my thanks to all the Mothers' Union members, and others who provide these items and add that if anyone would like to knit/sew I have patterns available. Please email stewart@slongworth.orangehome.co.uk

Our Link-people *(call Judith in the office 0161 828 1427 to get involved)*

Wythenshawe Hospital	Mrs Dorothy Wynne
Tameside Hospital	Mrs Violet Bradshaw
North Manchester General Hospital	Mrs Freda Horrocks & Mrs Barbara Hill
Fairfield Hospital Bury	Mrs Ann Smith
Manchester Children's Hospital	Mrs Ann Smith
Rochdale Infirmary	Mrs Marion Ball
Royal Oldham Hospital	Mrs Enid Leach
Salford Royal Hospital	Mrs May Cavanagh
Royal Bolton Hospital	Mrs Jenny Murphy





Putting Jesus back into Easter

Bishops and Archbishops have welcomed the launch of The Real Easter Egg, the UK's first and only Easter egg to mention Jesus on the box and it was invented by David Marshall, our own Diocesan Director of Communications.

There are over 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK and, incredibly, not one of them mentions Jesus and the events of Holy Week on the box.

Not only is The Real Easter Egg the UK's first and only Easter egg to mention Jesus, it also makes a donation to charitable projects – buying everything from medical equipment for mums in the UK to chickens for farmers in Africa.

Supermarkets say no to Jesus

With 7 million people going to church at least once a month, another 7 million supporting the ethos behind Fairtrade products, and nearly 8,000 church schools, demand is expected to be high for the new egg. Despite this not all UK supermarkets are planning to stock the egg next year.



Marline Armitage and children sample the chocolate

Join the campaign

The plan is to prove to the supermarkets that Christians want the chance to buy an Easter Egg gift with a faith message.

To do this we need to prove demand so schools and churches are being asked to place orders now.

So have a word with your vicar, offer to be the Real Easter Egg champion for your church or branch and download the order form from www.realeasteregg.co.uk

The Real Easter Egg is made from high quality Fairtrade milk chocolate and for parishes the cost is £4.50 which includes the charitable donation, VAT, handling and delivery to your church drop off point.

The Directory

Diocesan Secretary: Mrs. Judith Hilton

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Next Cymbal

Articles should be sent, preferably by email to cymbal@mothersunionmanchester.org or to Chris Haworth, 15, Wardle Close, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 4QJ, or Carol Eyles, 8, Guilford Road, Manchester M30 7JF, by February 18th 2011.

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www.MothersUnionManchester.org

Words of truth

by Canon Roy Chow

Living and watching alongside Eileen over the last 10 months in her fight with cancer of the oesophagus, has brought home the value of hope.

Eileen was fortunate in that her cancer was discovered in a localised area of her body and had not, hopefully, spread throughout her body. The signs were good for a successful recovery.

However, that still did not distract from the fact that she had to undergo many months of gruelling pain and sickness. That in itself brought Eileen, at times, to the pit of despair, and, although she wouldn't admit it openly, her faith did help her throughout the treatment.

One of my favourite books of the bible is that of the Psalms. Some of these psalms record for us personal experiences of the believer's relationship with God. They are very revealing to us modern Christians because they show how the believer can:

Question God openly:

Hear my prayer, O God;

hide not yourself from my petition.

Give heed to me and answer me;

I am restless in my complaining. (55. 1-2)

Rail against God for allowing pain and injustice be inflicted upon them:

Will the Lord cast us off for ever?

Will he no more show us his favour?

Has his loving mercy clean gone for ever?

Has his promise come to an end for evermore? (77.7-8)

Chaplain's corner

And question if God really cares about the believer?.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,

and are so far from my salvation,

from the words of my distress?

my God, I cry in the daytime,

but you do not answer;

and by night also, but I find no rest. (22.1-2)

Yet all of this is set against the background that in the end God is God and that he will do what is right for the believer.

I waited patiently for the Lord;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He brought me out of the roaring pit,

out of the mire and clay;

he set my feet upon a rock

and made my footing sure. (40.1-2)

May your faith in God bring you hope and strength in believing, and especially in the trials of adversity and difficulty.

THANK YOU

On Monday 13th September, I was discharged from Christie Hospital and told that I need not undergo any more chemotherapy. This was very welcome news as I have found the last three cycles of drugs very difficult to cope with.

I should like to thank all who have sent cards and messages of love and support. In addition I know that many of you have been praying for me and my family and we are all extremely grateful for your concern.

With kind regards

Eileen Chow



BYE BUY



Childhood is now a marketing opportunity worth £99 billion in the UK.

But we believe that children should be valued as children, not consumers.

How can we challenge the commercialisation of childhood?

Mothers' Union has launched a campaign to address this issue.

Here is how you can help!

To do list:

✓ Check my consumer habits—both children and adults

Bye Buy Test

Use this test when shopping to help you think about what or who is influencing your choices:

- ❓ Why do I want to buy it?
- ⓪ How often will I use it?
- £ Can I afford it?
- ✕ What will happen if I don't buy it?

✓ Speak or write to manufacturers, retailers and marketers asking them not to market goods of a sexualised nature to children.

✓ Speak or write to my political representative asking them to keep the issue on the agenda, promote awareness, and take further action to protect children from the "sex sells" approach.

Join us at
www.byebuychildhood.org

