

Autumn 2011

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Manchester

Cymbal

Supporting you and your church in working with families



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www.MothersUnionManchester.org

Congratulations

Congratulations to all our members with special birthdays and anniversaries.

Congratulation to Annie Beaumont - 100 years old on August 25th 2011. Annie has been a member of Christ Church Davyhulme, in the Stretford Deanery, for over 60 years

Two members of St Anne's Mothers' Union, Tottington, celebrated with family parties their special birthdays. Lena Foot was 90 on July 20th and Betty Duckworth also 90 on August 19th. Congratulations to both these members.

Congratulations to Jean & Brian Heywood who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in August. Jean has been a Mothers' Union member for over 50 years.

Congratulations to Enid and David Horrocks, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August. Enid is the Branch Leader at Christ Church Ainsworth.



Angela Dand Commissioning

Congratulations to our Action and Outreach Co-ordinator who was commissioned by Bishop Chris at St Anne, Edgeside on August 9.

Salford All Saints Branch

The Salford All Saints Team Ministry is a group of three parishes and five churches serving a large area of central Salford. Our activities have a strong emphasis on participation and sharing across the Team. To serve a growing interest in the work of Mothers' Union our existing branch at Holy Angels, Pendleton and Claremont has been rebranded as the new Salford All Saints Branch. A new evening group is to meet at St Aidan's Lower Kersal from November 2011 and it is hoped that a link with the Mothers' Union's work in prisons will be established at St Luke's Weaste.

Dates for your diary

November 24	Quiet Day in the Cathedral
November 28	Board of Trustees
December 1	2pm Advent Carol Service, St Ann, Manchester
December 8	Thursday Prayers in Cathedral
2012	
March 31	9.30am - 2.30pm Spring Council and AGM St Thomas Centre Ardwick Green North
June 16	General Meeting Llandudno
August 9 to 16	Mothers on the Move (see feature, p.4)
September 28-30	Weekend Retreat Foxhill, Frodsham

Two new (episcopal) members

by The Diocesan President

Members present at the annual Festival Service in Manchester Cathedral on October 5 were thrilled to see Bishop Chris and Bishop Mark admitted as members of Mothers' Union by Bishop Nigel. With all those members present, they reaffirmed their baptism promises, promised to uphold and support the beliefs and vision of Mothers' Union, and to continue to plan their life to include prayer and Bible reading and worship in Church - a promise which Bishop Nigel assured us he would make sure they kept!

Both bishops have also accepted the invitation to become patrons, with Bishop Nigel, of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Manchester.

Facing up to our responsibilities

by The Diocesan President

It cannot be 5 years since Bishop Nigel commissioned me! Well, yes it can, and this time next year my term will be fast drawing to a close. Thankfully, whilst presidents come and go, the work and witness of Mothers' Union continues without interruption.

New branches being formed; new areas of work opening up; plans for 2012 are really exciting. But for it all to come to fruition we each have to play our part. That may be praying for new ventures, organising fundraising, getting involved in a new project, encouraging new members. What it cannot be is resting on our laurels. The responsibility for the future of this great organisation is OURS.

“Three ladies joined online because they read Families First”

We are not alone, however.

- ✓ Have you read the recommendations of the Bailey Report? Many young parents have – tell them about the Bye Buy Childhood campaign, use to advantage the fact that local and national political leaders are supportive. Don't forget the many other resources available from Mary Sumner House.
- ✓ What do you do with Families First after you have read it? (You do all read it, I hope!) I heard this week of three ladies in a Manchester parish who joined online simply because they were impressed with what they read. Pass it on! Place it in the doctor's surgery, local library. Use the Take 10 initiative to spread the word among your congregation, the local school, the toddler group. . . .
- ✓ Has your branch heard from all our



leadership team? It is not difficult to find speakers for branch meetings; please invite those who organise projects, the unit co-ordinators, your archdeaconry president, or even the president! If you don't belong to a branch, use the website or make contact with us.

✓ So many clergy, especially our senior clergy, support us. It enables us to be present, with displays, on many occasions when otherwise we may not have the opportunity. Have you discussed with parish clergy the ways in which Mothers' Union can further the church's mission in your parish? Could you host a parenting group? Is there an outlet for the new Hand in Hand booklet? (Don't forget, the things we have been doing may no longer be necessary – regularly evaluate.)

✓ Our greatest resource in our work with families is, of course, the strength and support of our Heavenly Father and as long as we do everything in his name he will NEVER fail us.

The Mothers' Union theme for 2012 is **Your Gift? Discover and Celebrate!** In the coming year, may we each discover and celebrate our gifts, giving thanks for them, and using them to God's glory.

With my love to you all,

Barbara

A Quiet Day for the Mothers' Union

Be Still - and know that I am God

Margaret Dutton, Christ Church Walmersley

On Saturday, August 20th, a group of Mothers' Union members met at Bolton Road Methodist Church in Bury for a Day of Quiet Retreat led by Revd Alison Hardy.

There are four elements which are the essence of a good retreat: solitude, silence, simplicity and surrender. The aim of the day was to spend time in quiet and stillness with God, away from the business of our lives.

It was wonderful just to commune with God and relax in his presence. There were Bible reflections led by Alison, which I particularly enjoyed, and prayer stations with very thought provoking pictures and commentaries. There was silence for most of the day and many of us spent this time in prayer, Bible study, contemplation or reading. The day finished with a service of Holy Communion, which was very spiritual.

Mothers on the Move

Land's End to John O'Groats

Between August 9th and 16th 2012 a number of Mothers' Union members are embarking on the journey using only public transport. They will be promoting Mothers' Union both on the buses and at the places they stop. On Saturday August 11th at approx 16.40 they will be arriving in Manchester having travelled from Warrington on the number 100 bus. They have approx 1 hour 45 minutes before catching their next connection to Preston and would like as many members as possible to meet them and to have tea with them. They would also welcome any member to join them on any part of their journey. Please put the date in your diary and watch out for more information nearer the time.



by Fleur Dorrell and Marian Pope

Mothers' Union members lead very busy lives, with their church, their commitment to our organisation and family responsibilities but they also need to make time to be with God in a quiet place, on their own or with a small group.

A weekend retreat might give you the opportunity to do this. Have you read the article written in the July-December edition of Families Worldwide (pages 14-15)?

We have completed our plans to hold retreat days in locations north and south of the City centre and are now working on a more adventurous project, a weekend at Foxhill Retreat and Conference Centre, Frodsham, September 28th to 30th 2012. Leaflets and information will be available at the Autumn Council meeting on November 19th. Please put the dates in your diaries.



Welcome to Weobley Mothers' Union

by Janice Coop, Branch Leader St. James, Thornham

St James Thornham spent a day of fellowship with members of Weobley Mothers' Union, Hereford.

Arriving at Piccadilly station the visitors were welcomed and first visited St James's church for a short service followed by a talk on the 'History of the Church'.

We were joined by members from other Branches to enjoy lunch then proceeded to the home of Jean Heywood where we enjoyed tea and cakes. We returned to Manchester and the group were taken on a tour of the Cathedral before returning home.



Mission visit to Uganda

In August one of our Members, Ann Emmott from St Matthew's and St Luke's Church, Chadderton, Oldham West, was privileged to be chosen as a Volunteer to help build 5 Classrooms at a Primary School in Rukungiri, South Western Uganda.

The classrooms were originally made of mud, sticks and had a tin roof, which had been washed away by the rains, leaving the children to take their lessons either outside under trees or in dark wet classrooms.

The children are mostly orphans and walk 7 to 8 miles each day to school barefoot and surviving on one meagre meal a day. It was heartbreaking to see them, but heart warming to be with them as they gave so much more in love and affection than we could ever give them and they were so eager to learn.

Education is free, but very basic and children who are unable to pay for uniforms, books or pencils are excluded. Many end up either being abducted to beg or go on the streets in Kampala. The children who are able to stay on at the schools are mainly sponsored by members from the U.K.

Sponsorship costs £20 a month. Ann was fortunate to visit three churches in the Diocese and met the members who are so proud to be part of the Mothers' Union.

Ann said prayers with them and after having her hands washed, joined in what we would call a Faith Supper. Ann comments, 'I have had an experience which will last a lifetime'.



Ann with Revd Kenneth who is a Minister at St. Emmanuel Cathedral, Kizegi

Virtual Meeting

Jean Williamson

Here are the results from our Virtual Meeting Competition, three programmes were received and the ideas are given in the months they were suggested. Please note that these were just suggestions and are not necessarily all appropriate for a Mothers' Union meeting.

January

New Years Resolutions – are they a good idea?

Evening meal out inviting members and friends
Discussion and quiz on the theme of the year.

February

A few thoughts on Lent led by a clergy person
Marriage Week: an in-house event to discuss 'Why do so few couples want to get married?'

DVD – 'When I'm calling You' – is God calling us to do something?

March

Speaker: Revd Hayley Matthews – Media City
Annual General Meeting followed by discussion on recent events in the newspaper headlines.

Songs of Praise with stories behind the hymns

April

Speaker – Family life as a Jewish mum
Speaker - Unicef

Holy Communion followed by AGM

May

Songs of Praise – Our favourite hymns
Pottery Demonstration through
Prayer and Spirituality

Talk on Mary and Martha

June

Speaker from HM Prison Manchester – How can we support families?
Hymns and Prayers chosen by members from all the churches in the area, an inter- denominational event.

Diocesan President to give a talk on the work of Mothers' Union. Invitations to be sent

out to all parents of children in the Church school and members of the congregation.

July

Charity Lunch with all proceeds going to AFIA (Away from it all holidays) 'Pass it on'. Using plastic balls with all the Mothers' Union projects written on them, discover all we know about the various projects and if we are involved in any and if not why not.

The Calling, Training and Work of a Lay Reader

August

An evening of, 'Personal Relationships'. To include personal incidents, readings, prayers, poems etc. Members to take part.

September

Members' *'Holiday Reminiscences'*

Speaker – A Hindu Wedding

Speaker – Action and Outreach Co-ordinator

October

Speaker from the Women's Institute - How we retain and increase our membership

Speaker from Trading Standards

Talk by a CMS link missionary on HIV/AIDS in Uganda

November

Families First – Discussion of a topical article

Talk on 'Vulnerable Adults'

Discussion on the Bailey Report, The Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Children

December

Advent Service followed by sherry, mince pies.

Carol Service followed by fellowship and refreshments

Meditation, Carols and refreshments

The following Fund Raising events were also suggested:-

Ideas for Christmas Flower arrangements with wine and nibbles

Hands-on card making experience.

Easter Egg Raffle

Cake sale with proceeds to the Wheels Appeal.

What - no speaker?

by Jean Williamson

As well as the ideas on the opposite page here are a few more ideas for you to consider in your Branches.

- From Families Worldwide – Have a theme evening, focus on a country, learn about its culture, include worship and food.

- What is important to you? – Imagine there had been a fire in your home, all the members of the family and pets are safe. What three possessions would members want to save and why.

- Invite a speaker from the Women's Aid Centre or the Mustard Tree.

- Or the Booth Centre. A recent e mail from Amanda Croome says they really appreciate the support given to the centre by the Mothers' Union especially at Harvest time. Amanda is willing to speak to a Branch to talk about homelessness, it is more than feeding the homeless. Ring 0161 835 2499 e mail Amanda@boothcentre.org.uk or write to Amanda Croome, Booth Centre, Manchester Cathedral Victoria Street, Manchester m3 1SX

- Have a discussion on the origins of Mothers' Union and the life of Mary Sumner. Ask members to bring a surprising snippet about Mothers' Union from the latest edition of Families Worldwide.

- Invite someone from Granada/BBC/local radio to discuss the effects that advertising has on people's lives.

- Desert Island Tools – Ask members to bring a tool or utensil they have found to be invaluable eg kitchen utensils. DIY tools. Household gadgets. There could be a choice of a hymn in between each tool like on Desert Island Discs.

- First Real Job - Members have a huge array of experience and skills. Ask members

to talk about their jobs, their voluntary work either in church or outside. Could the skills be used to work on the Mothers' Union projects.



Theme for 2012: Your Gift? Discover and Celebrate

There are many resources you can use in your 2012 programme. Check the website, go to www.themothersunion.org

2012 Subscriptions

Jennifer White – Administration Unit Co-ordinator

The subscription to Mary Sumner House for 2012 will be £10.00 plus the Manchester Diocese subscription, which remains at £5.50 for the third year in a row, giving a total subscription of £15.50 per member for the year.

For Diocesan members the subscription will be £27.00, which includes six copies of Families First..

I know that this rise comes at a time of great financial restraint on us all. However, if we want the work of Mothers' Union to continue, it cannot be done "on the cheap".

Where else can you get so much achievement for so little cost? I am happy to answer questions to the best of my ability.

Celebrations!

Question Time

by Pat Canon and
Barbara Cox



Whilst the BBC Question Time television programme enjoyed a summer recess, Bolton Archdeaconry took up the challenge to stage a Question Time minus the television cameras.

The four panellists: Mrs Barbara Taylor, Manchester Mothers' Union President; Mrs Pat Cannon, a school Governor and Mothers' Union member; Mr Jeremy Duerden a retired District Judge and Mr Jake Berry, MP for Rossendale & Darwen, were kept in order by the Revd Alison Hardy. The varied selection of questions included:

- ***The Bye Buy Childhood campaign.*** The fourteen recommendations of the Bailey report were welcomed. It was felt that not enough thought was put into the media programming, especially during family television slot times and before the 9pm watershed.
- ***What do you think of same sex partnerships marriages taking place in church?*** Mr Jake Berry MP, spoke on the law as it stands, which allows same sex marriages to take place in premises where they are licensed by law to do so.

Mr Jeremy Duerden explained the legal reasons why marriages between same sex couples cannot take place within the Anglican Church.

- ***Are the 24 hour drinking laws working?*** Concern was expressed regarding the availability of drink, the cost and its effect on the young. The threatening and loud behaviour caused through heavy drinking, especially in certain areas in our towns and cities was a concern.

The panel were concerned with the growth in the breakdown of family life. It was generally felt that parenting was paramount in today's society.

- ***Is the use of email acceptable for important correspondence such as an invitation for a job interview?*** The panel were in agreement that whilst e-mail was an extremely useful tool, there were some matters which should whenever possible be conducted face to face.
- ***Is it acceptable to use money donated to a charity to employ a company to contact those who have donated to increase their giving?*** Among the responses it was pointed out the extremely small percentage used by Mothers' Union in administration!
- ***What two books would you recommend for a good read?*** - provoked a wide variety of responses from members of the panel.

With questions left unanswered, we should have another Question Time soon.

An Evening of Celebration for Rochdale Archdeaconry at Holy Trinity Church, Ashton -under-Lyne

by Revd Josie Partridge

I had heard about this celebration and what a treat was in store for me. I felt so proud to belong to the church, the brass shone and lighted candles added to the sense of occasion.

This was important because the occasion was both spiritually moving and full of the fun, pleasantries and realities of life, which encapsulate the spirit of the Mothers' Union.

How was this achieved? The Boarshurst Prize Band accompanied the hymns which were chosen by Mothers' Union Branches.

I liked hearing the different names: St Stephen's Audenshaw, St Gabriel's Middleton, St Lawrence Denton and St George, Mossley – to mention a few. The hymns we sang included: There's a spirit in the air; Great is thy faithfulness; How Great thou art; Jerusalem; Thine be the glory and The day thou gavest. There was a touching moment when a presentation was made to a member of the Saddleworth Branch, Mrs Joan Jones, a member of Mothers' Union for 50 years and there was much applause and congratulations in heartfelt respect for her and her faithfulness to Mothers' Union.

During a break in the hymn singing we were entertained by 'Little Mo'. We all sang lustily to songs from times past, everyone joined in with enthusiasm and a good time was had by all. At the end we were served with a Potato pie supper. It was a wonderful evening which raised £400 for Famine Relief.



And from 'Little Mo Peters'...

"Thank You" to Mary Helliwell for both considering me and for the inspiration she provided for the organisation of this wonderful event.

Her team worked extremely hard in the preparation which paid off in having over two hundred people in attendance. I was "sandwiched" between the spots of the superb and talented Boarshurst Prize Brass Band and considered it both a pleasure and a privilege to be part of the proceedings.

The warmth and friendliness shown by the audience was wonderful. My mother, in her last years, had increasingly severe dementia and when she was finally confined to a home I used to go and sing a few sing-a-longs with the people living in the home.

What a great leveller music is. I was concerned that my music was not 'church music'. There are those who think it very wrong to be singing popular music in a church, but the church is the people and the belief, not the building. My thanks to all who assisted me, you all know who you are. My love and best wishes to you all.

Maureen Moore, Stretford Deanery
AKA "Little Mo Peters" Vocalist and Entertainer



More Celebrations

Did we have Fun?

by Jean Russell – St Stephen's MU Astley

Once again two days of sorting and bagging 'goodies' for the first year students in Manchester took place at the Chaplaincy on Oxford Road.

Tables laden with such items as tea-bags, coffee, rice, pasta, cup-a-soups, toiletries and the usual wall of toilet rolls and kitchen rolls, greeted an army of volunteers. It soon became very clear that when it comes to organising the process of making up the bags, Mothers' Union members are tops and a conveyor belt of packing quickly progressed.

Many thanks to all members, friends and congregations for their very generous donations of goods which allowed us to distribute over 2000 bags. Lots of fun, food and fellowship (not forgetting the hard work) was shared by everyone and so the answer to the question "did we have fun?" Was a very positive: YES INDEED WE DID; HOORAY!



Salford Archdeaconry Summer Festival

at St Philip's Church, Salford

by Carol Eyles

It was with a mixture of happiness and sadness that we joined together for our Summer Festival.

Happiness as we celebrated the first anniversary of Salford Archdeaconry Mothers' Union and sadness because we were losing our Archdeaconry President, Jill Crofton, who is moving to Malvern.

It was a lovely service led by The Rt Revd Frank Sargeant. Canon Ted Crofton gave the Sermon.

Members from St Clements, Salford, and St Mary's, Eccles, took the readings and Jessie Higgins, from Leigh, led the intercessory prayers.

After the service everyone enjoyed the excellent buffet put on by the ladies of St Philip's.

During the Festival a raffle was held that raised £130 for the Mothers' Union 'Wheels Appeal'.



Thanks to everyone!

by Margaret Morris

Oh a loo roll! 'A mug' 'It's free!' 'Thank you!'

Just a selection of responses received from students given one of the Mothers' Union goodie bags during welcome week for new students.

Thank you to all who supplied the goods; what a magnificent effort. Thank you to everyone who transported the goods to the Chaplaincy, and to everyone involved in sorting and bagging and everyone who helped to give out the bags.

Thank you for the soup makers and those serving it, this was especially appreciated and the students couldn't believe it was free!

The final total of bags was 2120: a wonderful result.



Diocesan Branch

The Mothers' Union Diocesan Branch's summer outing was to Liverpool Cathedral for the opening of Liverpool Diocese Mothers' Union cathedral exhibition.

Gesine Hoare, a branch member married to Liverpool's former Dean, Rupert, organised our trip which included coffee in the cathedral cafe, the eucharist, a talk on the cathedral and the women celebrated in the Lady Chapel and lunch in the new refectory.

After lunch we watched the new film on the cathedral, visited the embroidery exhibition in the cathedral gallery, then up another five floors to see the impressive bells, and then a final 108 steps to the very top of the tower.

The weather was very good and we had a magnificent view for miles around. After looking round the excellent Mothers' Union exhibition in the nave we enjoyed afternoon tea in the cafe before leaving.

Val Jackson, the cathedral Archivist met us at the start of the day and stayed with us all day. It was a day we will always remember.

If you would like to be a Mothers' Union member but your church has no branch, consider joining the Diocesan Branch.

For your annual subscription you are sent Mothers' Union literature by post throughout the year. There are four branch meetings a year at 90 Deansgate and additional outings of interest are also arranged throughout the year; something to take part in every month.

You can also be a Diocesan Branch indoor member. Find out more by phoning Barbara, Baynham, the Branch Leader, on 0161 861 0477.

Visit to Gorton Monastery

by Jill Kennaugh, St Mary Droylsden

Members and friends from St Mary's Mothers' Union in Droylsden visited Gorton Monastery in June.

We were given a short tour and a very interesting illustrated talk on the History of the Monastery up to date, followed by enjoyable refreshments, all within the church itself. We learned that the Monastery was built as a Friary, but the local people mistook the Franciscans brown robes for monks' habits – so it was mistakenly called a Monastery.

The building, designed by E.W. Pugin, was not conventionally orientated East-West, but planned so particular statues and chapels were illuminated by the sun at specific times.

The Friary served the local people from 1861 until its deconsecration in 1989. Developers stripped the church to convert into apartments but this project failed. The building fell into disrepair; lead, marble and anything that could be was stolen.

In 1996 a group of volunteers formed the 'Monastery of St Francis and Gorton Trust' who raised funds to obtain grants and at last in 2005 Restoration began.

The roof was repaired and the interior cleared up. Several artefacts have been returned and the search for others still goes on. You may have seen the Monastery on BBC2 'Passion for Churches' documentary or 'Songs of Praise' with Aled Jones. It opened for business in June 2007 and regularly hosts wedding receptions, concerts, plays and community celebrations.

Only the enormous Church could be saved; with some of its original artefacts already reinstated. It has a very peaceful feel and gives a sense of wonder as you enter it.

We all enjoyed the evening and felt very pleased to have helped a little with the raising of funds to continue the renovation of this wonderful Grade 2 listed building.

Heywood & Middleton

Deanery Festival

by Joyce Robinson, Deanery Leader

and Commissioning of Revd Ian Butterworth as Rochdale Archdeaconry Chaplain



Bishop Mark commissioned the Revd Ian Butterworth as Rochdale Archdeaconry Chaplain during the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Festival.

I had the great honour of being commissioned on Wednesday 7th September at our Deanery Festival Service at All Saints and Martyrs, Langley, Middleton as Deanery Leader and Revd. Ian Butterworth was commissioned as Rochdale Archdeaconry Chaplain.

I found it a most powerful Service as I stood in front of our Area Dean, Canon Philip Miller, making my promises with Bishop Mark looking on. I was strongly supported by members of my own Branch and congregation as well as many members of Mothers' Union from throughout the Diocese.

I was asked to take on the position some two years ago but with family commitments was unable to say yes. Things just happen and we have to deal with them. But the question posed to me 2 years ago never went away and I believe that our loving Heavenly Father had the patience and understanding to quietly guide me through the minefield of my life; understanding that I needed to be sure that any decision I made for my future in no way compromised the important work

I was already doing at St. Michael's, as I have always had the love and support of the members of our Parish.

Over the past 2 years, throughout many quiet conversations the Deanery Leadership question would quietly pop up. Marion Ball, who was our Leader for 5 years quietly sat back but also encouraged.

My Vicar Maureen also, perhaps without really realising it, gently led me to make the decision this year to say yes. I pray that with the strength of the Holy Spirit and the support of the members of the Deanery we can look forward to getting to know one another better to try to find ways of strengthening our Deanery.

I truly believe in the wonderful work Mothers' Union do, not only in this country but also abroad and I look forward to meeting members of the different branches to discover what they are doing. Wednesday 7th September was the start of a new and exciting chapter in my life.

With love and prayers

HOWEVER YOU DRESS IT UP



CHRISTMAS
STARTS
WITH
CHRIST

'Are you ready?'

A reflection for Advent by Revd Ian Butterworth,
Rochdale Archdeaconry Chaplain



If you've had anything to do with children this will be a question you've asked hundreds of times – usually with the answer 'In a minute!' - but it's also a question asked in church not just hundreds but thousands of times in countless Advent seasons. 'Are you ready for the Second Coming, for Judgement Day, for the day when God will wind up this universe and bring us all face to face with him?'

I suppose for most of us the best answer we can give is 'I hope so' because we are all too well aware of how far we fall short of the example shown to us in Jesus and we know that we have to rely on God's love and not on the record of our lives. We are uncomfortable

both with those who are certain they are ready and with those who, knowing they are not, set themselves impossible standards to try to ensure they are holy enough to meet God.

For us holiness is a work in progress, our relationship with God is a series of ups and downs and we know that being ready to meet him cannot be a matter of ticking all the items on a checklist.

I believe firmly that God is not expecting to meet saints when he comes again into the world but sinners, not perfect people but very imperfect people who have simply tried to live in his love and share that love with those they have met; ordinary people who have struggled with the pull of fallen human nature and have sometimes risen above it but sometimes been dragged down by it, yet have picked themselves up again and continued, in Paul's words, to run the race set before them with their eyes fixed on Jesus.

God is not expecting any of us to be perfect but is hoping that so much of his love will have rooted itself in our lives that when we see his love in all its fullness we shall understand what it was that stirred our hearts and kept us going on when loving seemed an almost impossible thing to do, we shall know we are home.

There will be no checklists on Judgment Day, no ledgers with lists of good and bad deeds, just God looking at us with love, and hoping to see our faces light up as our love and his love intermingle and we begin to shine brightly with his light.

Visit of York Provincial President

As the visit of Lynne Tembey was too late to be included in this issue in detail, look out for a full report in the Spring 2012 edition of Cymbal



Your Gift?

Discover and Celebrate!



Mothers' Union Weekend Retreat

Friday 28 - Sunday 30 September 2012

Foxhill Spiritual Retreat
and Conference Centre
Frodsham, Cheshire

led by the Revd Alison Hardy
and the Revd Denise Smith

Foxhill

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Manchester

For more information
or to book a place
ring Lily on 01663 741070
or e-mail lilycritten@gmail.com