

Summer 2014

Mothers'UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Manchester

Cymbal

Supporting you and your church in working with families



Hands around the world

Warm Kenyan welcome
Just up your street



www.MothersUnionManchester.org

Diary Dates

August 7th - Trustee training : Church House

August 11th to 26th - Office and Shop closed (re-open August 26)

Sept 2nd - Finances and Administration meeting : Church House 2pm

September 5th to 7th - Foxhill Residential Retreat.

September 10th - Diocesan Festival, Cathedral 7.30. Preacher Bishop of Manchester

Sept 10th - 12th - Making up of Welcome Bags at Chaplaincy

Sept 15th - 18th - Distribution of Welcome Bags

Sept 16th - 18th - Swanwick Unit Conference

Sept 22nd - F&A Meeting

Sept 29th - Board of Trustees

Oct 6th - Faith & Policy Meeting

Oct 8th - 9th - Christian Resources Exhibition, Event City, Manchester

Nov 1st - Autumn Council : St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green. 9.30am

Nov 20th - Quiet Day Cathedral 10am

Nov 24th - Board of Trustees

Nov 25th - IMPC Meeting, Church House, 2pm - 3.30pm

Dec 4th - Advent Carol Service

Dec 22nd - Shop and Office close for Christmas

Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS to all our members who celebrated special birthdays including

Muriel Hutchings of Christ Church Denton who celebrated her 90th birthday on March 9th. Muriel, a Mothers' Union member for 46 years, along with her husband Fred, also a member, attend all summer meetings and Sunday services. Muriel enjoyed her birthday with family and friends

ST. MARY'S, ECCLES MOTHERS' UNION helped member **Edith Mellor** celebrate her 90th birthday on the 25th February. Sadly Edith, a long-standing member of St. Mary's (Eccles Parish Church) Mothers' Union, a loyal member of the church and choir member died on May 30th



100 YEARS CELEBRATION

Many congratulations to **Mrs Alice Hart** who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 23rd. Alice a long standing member of the Mothers Union at St. Peter's Bury

We also remember with love **Mrs Margaret Gill** who at 100 years of age died at Easter. Margaret had been a 'Mothers' Union member for more than 60 years, first at St Luke's Benchill and then at William Temple

Anniversaries

CONGRATULATIONS to **Margaret and Alan Crossley** celebrated their **Golden Wedding** on June 6th. Married at St Andrew's Church Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston. Margaret is a member of Christ's Church Harwood Mothers' Union

CONGRATULATIONS to **Barbara and Keith Schofield** who celebrated their **Diamond Wedding** on July 12th. Barbara, a much loved and respected member of Christ Church Mothers' Union, Ashton under Lyne, has had a key role in the running of the Branch and is a member of the committee.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS to **Jean Heywood** who was presented with her 55 years certificate, and **Jenny Cornthwaite** presented with 30 years certificate. Both are members of St James' Mothers' Union Thornham, Rochdale, and the certificates were presented at the July Eucharist service.

To reach out, you need hands ...

INSPIRED by our President at Spring Council, the Branch discussed the use of our hands as committed Christians and in the Mothers' Union.

- Creating hands** - knitting for the special baby units.
- Healing hands** – Doctors and nurses.
- Befriending Hands** – Greeting others.
- Comforting Hands** – in a touch.
- Rescuing Hands** – Police, Fire fighters, paramedics.

Compare our hands with God hands. He created heaven and earth, heals us through prayer, befriends and comforts us and finally sent Jesus to rescue us.

Members cut templates of their hands, then attached them to the tree on the banner. The tree represents God and how he reaches out to us with his branches, We are the hands on the tree and on the ground around the tree.

**Giovanna, Branch Leader,
Droylsden, Ashton Deanery**



Sunflowers at St Martin's, Castleton

FOR our "Hands" project we decided to follow the "seeds we sow" theme and made a sunflower, cutting the material around our members' hands and embroidering their names on each one.

Phillip Frost, a member's grandson, carved the cross from a rough block of wood cut from a tree.

The sunflower has had two outings up to now, one at the Lady Day service at St Michael's, Tonge and the second at the Rochdale Archdeaconry Festival. Other churches have also commented on how effective it is.

We enjoyed fun and fellowship at our April meeting when we had a "Bring & Share" supper, a raffle and a 'decorate a broly' competition which resulted in some very original ideas - and we certainly had fun doing them.



Around the Archdeaonries

Rochdale Archdeaconry Festival was held on May 21st at St Stephen, Audenshaw. The service was introduced by Rev Roger Dixon, and the theme by Archdeaconry President Marion Ball.

Having visited Ghana recently, Marion explained how Christian faith and family were important to Mothers' Union members in Ghana.

Revd Maureen Thorpe gave a talk on 'Hands' and how we should use them. We prayed in six directions led by the Rev Ian Butterworth, standing and facing North, South, East and West, then looking skywards, then to earth, with a suitable prayer for each.

The Morethan Melody Singers sang spirituals and the hymns, accompanied by percussion, were uplifting. The collection was in support of 'Just up Your Street' in the Rochdale Archdeaconry.

The choir ended the service with a sung blessing. With thanks to the MU members of St Stephens - we shared fellowship with a supper of scones with cream and strawberries and a lovely cup of tea.

On the lighter side, a lasting memory will be the enthusiastic banging of a tambourine in time to the hymn Give Me Joy in My Heart by a retired vicar! He wasn't the only one with an instrument but seemed to give it more enthusiasm!!

Manchester Archdeaconry

THE worries of an Archdeaconry President.... Having not organised an Archdeaconry Festival - would members enjoy themselves, would everything go well? There was no need to worry as we all had a wonderful time. The service was held at the Church of the Resurrection in Ardwick Deanery and the outcome was a great success.

Ardwick arranged refreshments; each Deanery had a part to play in the service as well as processing their banners but the highlight of



the evening was the talk, on their trip to Kenya, given by the Diocesan President, Cath Hilton and Jennifer White. This was a humbling experience for everyone as we shared some of the exciting and also emotional events which had taken place.

Salford Archdeaconry Festival took place on June 3rd at St. Clements Church Ordsall. It was a prayerful service of celebration led by the Rev. Sandra Kearney and Archdeacon David Sharples gave a lovely talk about his knowledge of the

Mothers' Union through family ties. Deanery banners were displayed and the new St. Clements' Banner, designed and made by the Women in Stitches craft-group with the help of Mothers' Union members' "hands", was presented at the Festival.

It was a pleasure to be joined by other Arch- deaconries enjoying a chat and catch-up over tea and biscuits.



Banners, cakes and memories

Three banches celebrated 125 years of Mothers' Union - demonstrating a fantastic commitment through the years..

St Mark Worsley

St Mark's Worsley was the first to celebrate on Saturday March 8th. Members and guests attended an uplifting Thanksgiving service in the church. Diocesan President, Cath Hilton, gave the sermon. The service was followed by a superb buffet, generously hosted by the ladies of St. Mark's. The anniversary cake was shared and it tasted as good as it looked!

St Pauls Walkden

Moor were the next to celebrate on April 24th, was St Paul's Walkden Moor. During a special service of thanksgiving the Diocesan President presented Sylvia Evans with a long Service Certificate to celebrate her 50 years as a Mothers' Union member.

During her time in the branch Sylvia has served as Branch Treasurer and a Committee member. The Revd Sandra Kearney, Salford Archdeaconry Chaplain, preached at this memorable service. Following the service everybody enjoyed a delicious buffet with a beautifully



decorated anniversary cake. There are certainly some very artistic bakers in the Mothers' Union!

St Michaels and All Angels Howe Bridge

celebrated 90 years as a Mothers' Union Branch on March 11th when members got together with guests and members of the church for a celebration meal at Atherton Cricket Club. They were joined by Revd Canon Robert Buckley, retired Mothers' Union Salford Archdeaconry Chaplain, who, with Salford Archdeaconry President Carol Eyles cut the beautifully decorated anniversary cake.

The Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union 125th Anniversary Tea Towel was taken by one of the parishioners, to our link parish at Etale Namibia. This was a gift from the Mothers' Union branch at St. Michael's & All Angels and although they do not have an MU branch in Etale it was sent in friendship and as a goodwill gesture.

Bolton Archdeaconry Festival takes place on August 11th at Christ Church Walmsley Bolton at 7.30pm and will be reported in the next issue of Cymbal



Random acts of kindness

Diocesan President CATH HILTON reflects on the Belfast AGM

IN PLACE of my usual letter, I thought members would be interested to hear about the Annual General Meeting at the Waterfront, Belfast in June 2014 where the theme was **Believing, Behaving, Belonging**

The opening reflection led by the Very Revd. Raymond Ferguson, Dean of Kilmore and All Ireland Mothers' Union Chaplain, proposed that random acts of kindness increase a sense of well being in those involved.

We heard several anecdotes including an account of someone paying for coffee for the person behind them at a drive-through fast food outlet. The person who received the free coffee was so happy that he/she did the same and the next and the next and thereby a chain of generosity developed.

Jesus performed the ultimate generous act. God so loved the world that he gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. He loved us first. His action should spur us to do the same.

Lynne Tembey stated that all Mothers' Union branches should have as their tenet 'Belief, Relevance and Vibrancy' and base their work on the first two commandments - love the Lord with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself.

In 2013, the Central Trustees set out their 20:20 vision - a determination to ensure Mothers' Union continues to have a centrality of prayer; engaging with communities and challenging things that threaten family life.

We need to increase the number of

members and ensure they are actively engaged and effective. This means constant evaluation of performance and impact.

To get this point across : a conference in Wales used the acronym **EMU!** (Encourage,

Enthuse, Equip, Empower MU).

They also suggested:

☐ 'Smarties have the answer!' Mothers' Union is bright attractive - and we have communications and Fund raising to enthuse us.

☐ Mothers' Union has a strong shell - Action and Outreach and Finance and Central Services to empower and equip.

☐ Mothers' Union has a chocolate centre - Faith and Policy to energise us.

'Belonging to MU is a joy and a blessing'.

THERE were presentations from the Provincial Presidents of Ireland, York, Canterbury, Wales and Scotland.

The President of York Province even included photos from Manchester Diocese:

The 'Hands' banner from Rochdale Archdeaconry; Sian Gasson; Clothes Line; Just Up Your Street; the Zip Slide and Christine Sharp's work in HMP Prison.

She closed with 'Give thanks and share'.

The Central Trustee with responsibility for financial matters showed concern about declining membership for as membership declines so does income. It was suggested a total contribution by members should be at least £25 and ideally more.

Before becoming anxious, I think it would be wise to think about how much we already contribute as individuals.



'Smarties' have the answer!

Enthusiasm and entertainment

It was not suggested the subscription be increased to £25 but that each individual's contribution over 12 months amount to £25.

If we think about the bits and pieces we give to Mothers' Union and buy from the organisation over a year, we may find our contributions are already near that figure.

I urge us all to contemplate and reflect on the wonderful work in which the Mothers' Union is involved and its achievements nationally and internationally.

A Titanic brainwave

Before we retired for lunch we were privileged to hear from Rev Chris Bennett Chaplain of the Titanic Quarter in Belfast.

Belfast built Titanic and as the area was being developed for tourism in recent times he was inspired to try to establish a church at the heart of it.

His first idea was to get an old boat to be a church ... this proved difficult but a meeting place was developed consisting of deck chairs and a kettle!

Eventually a cafe was established and the developers used Eamonn Holmes to draw attention to the opening. It is now the Honesty Box Cafe.

It literally runs through the honesty box concept and has now been in existence for four years. It is apparent that it is a Christian enterprise and it seems there are enough 'honest' people paying a fair or generous amount to offset those who pay less than sufficient. This communicates God's grace.

Following lunch - Wave of Prayer.

Mothers' Union is at work in 600 dioceses in more than 80 overseas countries.

Each diocese in these islands has its prayer links. Since these links were set up things have changed.

Some diocese have no members. Some

have split. Some have merged. A hundred dioceses do not have a link. The Central Trustees have been working on its organisation since 2007 using feedback from members worldwide.

In 2015 ALL links will change. The Wave of Prayer groups will be doubled. Each will be allocated three days instead of five and there will be special days of prayer. It will be 10 years before a further review.

We were reminded that Mothers' Union links are not about fundraising and also that there is no need to stop communicating with previous links. We will receive necessary information and resources from September and the new calendar will operate from 1st January 2015.

Comedy and an attitude of mind

It was now time to be entertained by Andy Kind, a Christian comedian from Manchester who writes for Families First. He had our ribs aching!

As you will be aware, Bye Buy Childhood has made a huge difference to retail and media attitudes. Reg Bailey filled us in on what has happened so far and what has been put into place.

- Greater Parental Controls
- Age rating videos
- Public wifi filtering
- Parentport
- Tightening of guidelines for outdoor ads., magazines etc

If you have any complaints about the content of television advertising or magazines, a simple way to register your thoughts is through Parentport. Go to the website www.parentport.org.uk Please pass on this message.

And finally - next year's AGM will be on June 26 in Nottingham.



REFLECTIONS ON KENYA



OUR VISIT TO MASENO

Maseno West and South in Kenya - March 2014

Jennifer White and Cath Hilton visited Stella Okoyo for two weeks during which they took hundreds of photos. Here is a selection.

"We arrived laden with scarves, badges and crosses in pockets which were received with joy and thanks. We also survived the many journeys in the 'wheels' provided by Mothers' Union - which are not just necessary but absolutely essential.

"We experienced a different way of living, eating, working and the positive attitudes that pervade all aspects of the life of Christians in

straightened circumstances.

"We were treated to an amazing welcome and tremendous hospitality and were shown the many and varied projects that Mothers' Union members work so hard to establish.

"These make a significant difference to lives ranging from building financial stability to improving health and raising self esteem.

"We received various gifts including chickens and ground nuts! Sadly we were unable to bring them back!

"Our trip certainly affected our attitude to life and to the wonderful work that is being done in the name of Mary Sumner in Kenya."



Whit Walk : ‘One of the best’

IT WAS pleasing to see many MU banners and attendants taking part in the **Manchester and Salford Whit Walk** on Monday May 26th. They must have made a bit of a hit as some managed to have their photo in the Manchester Evening News!

It was one of the best walking days for weather conditions and the music and service in Albert Square was lively. Well done to those who represented the MU on this day.

The Quiet Day in Manchester Cathedral was led by Revd Canon Alma Servant – see the review in this issue of Cymbal.

Alma gave an inspiring and thoughtful direction to our time, unfortunately there were only a few persons attending.

While we are grateful for the time and thought given by people like Alma, we can't justify continuing this pattern of spirituality if only a few attend.

So I am pursuing different and more attractive avenues to develop and sustain the spiri-



tuality of members.

Archdeaconry and Deanery Leaders were invited to a taster session of **Walking with Hannah**. Those who attended were very moved by the time spent in pondering the birth story of Hannah and her son, Samuel, and seeing how this has links with the work of the MU.

Hopefully it will be coming to a venue near you either on a deanery or branch level.

COMING DATES TO NOTE:

- **Foxhill Residential Weekend Retreat** on the theme of 'The Cross': Friday 5th to Sunday 7th September.

Contact Jean Slater (tel : 0161 797 9388 or email: frankandjean@hotmail.co.uk) Cost (inc all meals) is £125 or Saturday rate £35.

- **Faith & Policy Unit** meeting: Monday 6th October, 90 Deans-gate at 1pm.

- **Quiet Day**: Thursday 20th November in Manchester Cathedral (10am to 2.30pm)

- **Advent Carol Service**: Thursday 4th December in St Ann, Manchester at 1.15pm

Revd Roy Chow
Faith and Policy Co-ordinator



The History and Memory of the Whit Walks

CANON Jim Burns has written the first ever history of Whit Walks in Manchester, tracing its roots back to origins as a church-led activity to steer child millworkers away from drink and gambling. It is available price £15.99 from Jim via email: jimburns@sky.com

He is also very enthusiastic and willing to travel to give talks to Mothers' Union branches in the Diocese.



Mothers' Union Quiet Day

A PRODIGAL LESSON OF LOVE

THE parable of the 'Prodigal Son' is known to us all, but Revd. Canon Alma Servant, leading the Quiet Day on Thursday May 22nd at Manchester Cathedral, suggested a more telling title was 'The Loving Father'.

The two sons in the well-known parable acted differently; their father gave to each according to his nature and need, and gave his love to both.

But what do we understand by love, God's love? The first and main talk of the day was an analysis of what is the Love of God.

Canon Alma analysed the meaning of the long-term love of God as three-fold :

☐ **Knowledge.** Knowing another person needs conversation and also imagination, qualities which were lacking in the elder son in the parable of the Prodigal Son - and also lacking in the Pharisee, comparing himself with the tax-collector.

☐ **Respect.** Indifference and lack of respect is shown by Dives who does not love

his neighbour poverty-stricken Lazarus.

☐ **Working for our good.** The prodigal son thinks he has lost his father's love, while the elder son is resentful of the welcome given freely to his brother as he feels he has earned his father's love.

Fairness/unfairness is not God's way, but generosity. This is shown again in the parable of the workers in the vineyard, when the late-comer receives the same wage as the day-long worker.

God wants each of his people to flourish, not to judge others but to love them.

In this Quiet Day, from familiar parables we maybe thought we knew, Canon Servant drew aspects and comparisons to stimulate and encourage the outlook of her listeners.

We thank her especially for leading the day when Archdeacon Mark was unable to attend because he had lost his voice.

**Wanda Benns,
St John the Divine, Brooklands**

Student welcome bags - can you help?

We are again welcoming students to Manchester with a 'Welcome Bag'.

As last year, the bags will have the following items : a mug containing tea bags, coffee sachets, sugar sachets, chocolate drink, Cup-a-Soup and a wrapped chocolate biscuit.

Please help by collecting the items in your Branch. The more Mugs we collect the more

Welcome Bags we can make up. .

Delivery of items collected should be made direct to the Chaplaincy on Wednesday September 10th. Lots of help is needed from



that date, in organising and then making up the bags on Wednesday Thursday and Friday (September 10th, 11th and 12th) and again from Monday September 15th to Thursday 18th when we will be distributing them with a smile as our 'Welcome to Manchester' gesture.

If you have an hour or two to spare on any of the dates to help with this

superb project please let either Angela Dand or Chris Haworth know.

Their details can be found in the Directory section (*page 14*).

‘Just Up Your Street’

in our Link Diocese of North Kivu

BISHOP Muhindu Isesomo from the Diocese of Nord Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo visited Manchester Diocese to thank Mothers’ Union for their prayers and support.

The Bishop is married to Therasa and has six children, three girls and three boys plus five grandchildren. He, his wife and the two children who are still at home, share their house with three orphans, two widows and three other people.

There is a lot of unrest in the Province - the villages are often raided, the men taken or killed, the women abused, the young women taken and there are lots of orphans. The Diocese of Nord Kivu has 64 Parishes with 21 closed due to the war.

There are many displaced persons and many refugees. The Bishop’s congregation numbers 350, mostly women and young people. There are not many old people as they do not live beyond 65-70.

There are also lots of problems - the government does not pay for teachers or nurses so the church does what it can. Mothers’ Union does a huge amount of work in the Diocese: proclaiming the gospel; befriending people; looking after the orphans, (the local orphanage has room for only 45); looking after the raped women and widows, and almost every member shares their home with orphans and widows.

They do social work, especially with the traumatised and those with broken marriages. In the prisons they teach writing and reading, they preach the gospel and teach the men and women to do manual work including sewing and knitting.

The prison has more than 400 inmates. Most of them are there for being violent and fighting. Many women die in child-birth due to complications as there is no medical help.

Fancy meeting you here!

While in Manchester the Bishop shared a meal with members and visited Church of the Saviour, Collyhurst, where he met a young mum with her baby. Amazingly, in conversation, it was found that the mother of the new mum was a member of the Bishop’s congregation.

The Bishop prayed with the mum and the baby and took back a photograph of them for the new Grandmother. In the evening he joined members of Radcliffe and Prestwich Deanery for their Deanery Festival at All Saints, Stand and was able to speak to members.



“Just up your street” (nearer home ...)

IT WAS with great alarm that the Trustees of Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union learnt that one in four areas in Greater Manchester and one in five areas in Salford fall in the top 5percent of deprivation nationally. This deprivation affects over 600,000 residents and 38percent of children in the Diocese.

Mothers' Union supports the Literacy and Financial Education Programme, the Family Life Programme and the Community Development Programme in Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Sudan and South Sudan helping families to live a better life, but what is going on ' JUST UP YOUR STREET' ?

After speaking with clergy and visiting areas of deprivation it was clear that there is a great need 'JUST UP YOUR STREET'. We are identifying projects where Mothers' Union can help. They are all different but have one thing in common, they are all desperate for support .

We are working to identify projects in your area who need help. If you know of a project in your Parish, get the details of



what it does and who it supports, give these details to your Deanery Leader/ Archdeaconry President to allow us to support the projects 'JUST UP YOUR STREET' . How does this differ from what is going on around the world and in our Link Diocese of North Kivu ?

● **The Poster Competition was won by Lauren Hoyle age 8, a member of Bury Parish Church , Lauren was presented with her prize at the Family Service in Bury Parish Church in June.**

Nord Kivu (cont.)

The Church and the Mothers' Union, together with the parents, help to build schools. They make many bricks and build mud huts with leaves for the roof.

The Bishop said 'We are very short of money. Donations from Mary Sumner House are very important and to Mothers' Union we say a huge thank you for money.

"We need transport, I have the only car in the village. It is used by Mothers Union and is always filled on any journey I make with Mothers' Union members busy doing all the good work.

"Please keep praying for us. We need your partnership and you would be very welcome to visit. We would love to see you".



Chaplain's Corner

Pack up your troubles - and smile!

**says Revd Alison Hardy,
Bolton Archdeaconry Chaplain**

I'VE just been reading the Mothers' Union Annual Review for 2013/14 and would commend it to you all as a great read. It is packed full of good news about MU and gives a great account of our wonderful organisation.

What stood out for me ... on every single page were the photographs of people - women, men, young and old - facing full on into the camera and smiling.

From our own Cath Hilton zip-wiring across the front cover (hers could be a grimace of sheer terror, but I don't think so!), to Josephine from Malawi on the back cover smiling and proud of her achievement in setting up her own micro business, the whole review is full of smiles. I found it all really heartwarming.

I don't think we smile enough. Perhaps that's a bit of a common-place thing to say. But if it is, then it's a sad indictment of our society and indeed of ourselves.

Christians are supposed to be 'joy-filled' people, glad to be alive in Jesus and happy to have been called into relationship with the living God. That knowledge should be enough to make us smile. So why don't we do more of it?

I know we can't be joyful all the time.

Sometimes life is tough and we don't feel like there is much to smile about. But I also know that we don't try hard enough.

We talk a lot in churches about being open and welcoming to newcomers and this is an area where perhaps we do make an effort - but how often do we greet each other with a warm and open smile. A smile that says, "I'm glad to see you, how are you?"

How many times do we instead, start off our conversations with those we know best with a grumble and a sigh, all too ready to talk about what's gone wrong rather than what's going right?

How many times have we shared the Peace with someone without making eye contact with them, without smiling as we offer them our hand?

I'm not encouraging us to be insincere. Sometimes what's wrong needs to be shared and when we're down, smiling isn't easy or natural.

But I'm sure that if we smiled more readily, not only would we feel better in ourselves but we'd help other people feel better too.

When you get your copy of the Annual Review I encourage you to sit down and just look at the pictures.

I feel confident that the smiles you see will make you feel like smiling too. Because, like yawning, smiling is contagious. And that can only be a good thing.



Renewing Friendship. The Bishop of Bondo together with Rev Henry Mayor visited Mothers' Union on May 30th, meeting Cath our Diocesan President, Revd Roy Chow, Faith and Policy Co-ordinator and Christine Sharpe – Trustee.



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