

Diocesan President Report

I have just had the privilege of spending three weeks holiday in South Africa. We spent a week in Johannesburg and whilst there I met Mothers' Union members in churches we visited. As you can imagine I had a wonderful reception. Here are some photos to give you a flavour of what I experienced at the Church of the Holy Cross in Soweto and at St Mary's Cathedral Johannesburg.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Ethel Cunliffe from St Paul's Church Walkden who was 100yrs old in September and also celebrated 50 years as a Mother's Union member, together with Barbara Tonge who had also celebrated 50 years membership. Wyn Steel celebrated her 90th Birthday in September enjoying a surprise party with fellow members of Christ Church Ainsworth. Congratulations to Mary Heaton, a member of St Mark's MU, Worsley, who joined MU on 15th October 1958 and has been a member of St Mark's branch for 60 years. And finally, Congratulations to Betty and Arthur Lamb who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary in October.

Welcoming Strangers

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) is a government sponsored scheme to offer a new start to a Syrian Family – one of the most vulnerable families currently living in Refugee Camps in Jordan or Lebanon.



Community groups can sponsor and support a family, and **Manchester Mothers' Union will be the first Mothers' Union to do so.**

We have a small team and a 4 bedroom house offered and available in Bury. We have been linked with a family through the Home Office. It is an opportunity to offer a family who have lost everything in the war in Syria, and who cannot go back, a new start, and a new home where they can rebuild their lives.

We are launching a fund in order to support groups across the Diocese of Manchester who are working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Lots of our churches are already offering help and hospitality and we would like to be able to give particular help where it is most needed. Schools are being encouraged to participate in fundraising events. Use your imagination to raise funds and awareness in your community. Copies of our information leaflet are available from the Mothers' Union Office at 90 Deansgate or can be downloaded at www.mothersunionmanchester.org/welcoming-strangers

Evening of Celebration

On Monday 29th Oct Manchester MU celebrated the end of the Triennium at the amazing Stoller Hall with members, invited speakers, guests, St John's Thornham Church Band and the brilliant Encore Children's Choir. It was a fabulous evening of prayer, reflection, and celebration of the work and support that Manchester MU offers. We also heard the official launch of the Welcoming Strangers project.



Action & Outreach by Christine Sharp

It was a great privilege for me to be invited to the Service of Thanksgiving for the 150th Anniversary of HMP Manchester. It was a very memorable event with the sermon by The Right Reverend David Walker, testimonies from Mr. David Fredericks and Senior Officer Martin Rogers and the moving poem "Piece by Peace" written by John a current inmate. There were some wonderful paintings on display with kind permission from Henry Martin, Chaplain at HMP Manchester 2010 – 2017.



5Km Challenge

Holy Trinity, Shaw members rose to the MU 5km challenge on a cold and blustery day and walked twice around Hollingworth Lake. Well done everyone!

Release Packs

We are now providing prison release packs for those men who leave HMP Manchester and Forest Bank without a family to meet them. They may end up homeless or, if more fortunate, find a place in a hostel. If any Branch wishes to make up their own backpack, a list of suitable items to include can be found on our website.

Sponsored Swim

Cath Hilton is swimming 100 lengths on the 14th Nov in aid of the Welcoming Strangers Fund. Please do sponsor her, contact the office for more details

NIGHTSTOP

Preventing homelessness through community hosting

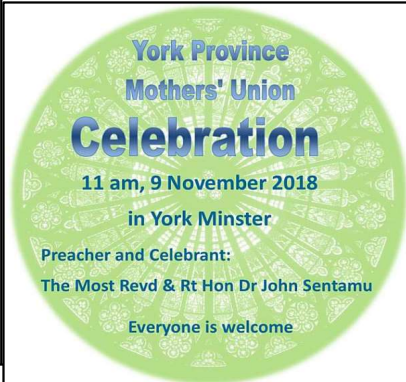


Rosemary from St. Paul's, Monton has become a Nightstop host. Her first guest came back a few days later with a home baked and iced "Thank You" cake. Rosemary is intending to speak at local churches to encourage more volunteers.

Nightstop are having a special evening at St. Peter's Chaplaincy on December 5th, 7pm-9pm, for volunteers, supporters, or anyone wishing to know more.

Outstanding Service

Barbara Taylor, Provincial President of York, receiving one of her gifts at the October conference at Waddow Hall in appreciation of her six years of outstanding service. Thank you, Barbara.



Prayers

We have received the sad news that Dorothy Heeny a long standing Mothers' Union member in Hulme Deanery and of St Werburgh Church has passed away. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

Calendar of Events

November

- 8th - Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate
- 9th - York Province MU Celebration, 11am, York Minster
- 10th - Autumn Council - 90 Deansgate 3rd Floor
- 14th - Cath's Sponsored Swim in aid of Welcoming Strangers

December

- 6th Advent Carol Service - St Ann's Manchester 1.30pm
- 13th - Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate
- 13th - 2nd Jan MU Office and Shop Close for Christmas break

News articles to be sent to the office by 10th Dec for the next newsletter.



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