



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Manchester

SUMMER ISSUE 2017



FABULOUS CONCERT ARRANGED BY ARIANNA GRANDE AFTER THE MANCHESTER BLAST



CYMBAL

Supporting you and your church in working with families

- 1 Acknowledgment from MU World Wide sending their prayers and thoughts to support our city
- 2 Emergency Bags made up for hospitals throughout the city by MU members containing toiletries for the blast victims
- 3 Daily prayers said worldwide for Manchester and London victims plus their families
- 4 Bishop David spoke at the vigil in Manchester

www.mothersunionmanchester.org



Dates for your Diary



AUGUST

- 1st **Annual Eucharist St Georges Mossley**
2.00pm Note change of time.
- 2-3rd **Members Day**
Mary Sumner House
- 9th **Bolton Archdeaconry Festival**
Radcliffe & Prestwich details to follow
- 10th **Office and Shop close for Summer Break**
- 29th **Office and Shop re-open**

SEPTEMBER

- 16th **Diocesan Festival**
Manchester Cathedral 1:30pm
Bishop Mark of Bolton
- 29-30th **Annual General Meeting**
Scotland

OCTOBER

- 24th **F & A**
12.00pm - 90 Deansgate

NOVEMBER

- 6th **Faith & Policy Unit Meeting**
90 Deansgate - 1.00pm
- 6th **Board of Trustees**
90 Deansgate - 6.00pm-6.30pm
- 18th **Autumn Council**
90 Deansgate
- 21st **IMPC - 3rd Floor**
90 Deansgate - 2.00pm

DECEMBER

- 7th **Advent Carol Service**
St Ann Manchester - 1.30pm
- 10th **16 Days of Activism**

Archdeacons' Visitations:
please check the website for dates throughout May 2017 for Bolton, Manchester, Rochdale & Salford, all services commence at 7:30pm

★ **Congratulations** ★

Birthday Wishes

Daphne Presland who is 90 years old on 6th August
&

Jean Kelshaw who is 80 years old on 12th October
Both ladies are from Eccles Deanry



Diamond Wedding Anniversary



Kathleen & Neil Harwood on 10th June 2017
from Christ Church Harwood



From our President Catherine Hilton

I have had some very positive experiences in the last couple of weeks. Sometimes I need something to spur me on, and usually, just when I need some encouragement, an exciting occurrence gives me the fillip necessary.

The first event was an email from someone I didn't know who asked if Mothers' Union could help. Our organisation had been suggested by clergy who thought it might be worth contacting us (This always gives me a tingle!). My next step was a reply in the positive to say that I would meet the contact at lunchtime. What a lunch it was! An Arabic mezze served by young people with learning difficulties and prepared by a volunteer who was a retired policeman but had previously been a chef at the Hotel Piccadilly! We are going to help - more information in the future!

Next, an invitation to speak to the Pakistani Christian community at St Werburgh's in Chorlton cum Hardy. The traditional music and Eucharist in Urdu was a wonderful

experience and the fellowship that followed led to a definite plan to open a branch of Mothers' Union in July. They already have a banner!

Thirdly, I met the Dream Team! Those of you who attended Spring Council will remember that there was some discussion when a member raised the question of increasing our young membership.

This was a catalyst, and our new secretary, Andrea Walsh, and Kirsten Rutherford from St Gabriel's were very helpful in giving us an insight into the perspectives they have as younger members with regards to Mothers' Union. This topic was taken up at our Trustee meeting and it was decided to arrange a meeting with MU@8 at St Michael's Flixton (Andrea's branch).

Four of the Trustees met with them and it was an enlightening and exciting evening. MU@8 is a Mothers' Union branch of committed Christian young mothers who first became friends at church and now have young families, some of whom attend the primary school. They are doing amazing work for Mothers' Union using social media and close, supportive connections at St Michael's Primary School. We were very impressed and intend to act on some of their suggestions. A dream team definition is: a team of people perceived as the perfect combination for a particular purpose. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all feel that our branches fulfilled this definition!

Watch this space!

Love and prayers,

Catherine

Don't forget - 9th August is Mary Sumner Day therefore celebrate Mothers' Union and our Founder

St Mary's Davyhulme - received £225 from AFIA for year 6 residential to the lakes

Firstly, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping our St Mary's family members with the funding for the Y6 residential. The impact of this has been huge. Enabling these children to attend the residential has given them an experience out of their usual reach.

One of the children you supported has not been out of the Manchester area and had asked me what the lake at Windermere would be like. When we arrived in Elterwater, he jumped off the coach, ran up to me and said, 'I know you told me the lake would be bigger than I expected, but it's even bigger than that!' His mind was blown. All the children you have supported were able to build close relationships with their peers and develop team skills in preparation for secondary school, experience outdoor activities that not available in their local area and develop independence. True life skills.

Thank you so much, your donation has had a positive impact on these children's lives. With kindest regards

Claire Richards

Deputy Head at St.Mary's C of E Primary School, Davyhulme

Faith in Action Festival

On Monday evening Hulme Deanery held their annual festival at the Ascension Church in Hulme, we were very lucky to have the Rev Canon Roy Chow to talk to us about Love and how it fits in with this year's theme - 'Faith in action.' If we love one another and help people we are fulfilling our theme.

Roy also showed us one of his many talents by entertaining us with a song from my and many others childhood - 'Love is something if you give it away' if you don't know this song maybe he will sing it for you!

We were also joined by the Archdeacon of York, Sarah Bullock who used to be Manchester Archdeaconry Chaplain.

After the service the members of the Ascension MU provided us with a wonderful buffet.

Sandra Bradshaw
Manchester Archdeaconry
President



Pray for all our Branches throughout the world who are suffering from war, drought, flooding and hatred. Please go to the Mothers' Union website to donate to our projects.

www.mothersunion.org

General Meeting 2017 • Edinburgh • 29th-30th September



This year's General Meeting is hosted by The Province of Scotland and will take place in Edinburgh.

The celebrations begin at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral & St John's Episcopal Church on 29th September at 5.30pm. Following this there will be "Taste of Scotland and Ceilidh band later on in the evening which will be held at the Roxburgh Hotel. We will be offering a drinks reception, 3 course meal alongside some traditional music and optional dancing! The General Meeting will be at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre at 10.30am – this is a new and modern style of venue for us and we are very much looking to welcoming our members to an excellent day of fellowship, celebration and inspiration.

Everyone is welcome - members, non-members, young and old. If you haven't been before do come along to find out more about the work of Mothers' Union. Or, if you've been many times before why not bring a friend along with you this time?

Download the information pack from:

www.mothersunion.org/content/general-meeting-2017-information-pack

Tickets will be available to purchase online from Wednesday 19th April 2017.

There are 2000 seats available, which means plenty of space for everyone.

Tickets will be priced at £15.00 per person.

You can book you ticket through the EICC by visiting the following website:

www.eicc.co.uk/whats-on/mothers-union-general-meeting/

Salford Archdeaconry Festival

Salford Archdeaconry Festival service of thanksgiving for the work of the Mothers' Union took place on Thursday July 6th at St. Philips Church Chapel Street.

The prayerful service was put together by our Archdeaconry Chaplain Rev Sandra Kearney. Some 40+ members from the deaneries of Eccles, Salford and Leigh came together for this lovely service led by Rev Gareth Robinson. Readers were Deanery Leader of Salford, Doris Eaton, Lisa Heywood from St. Clements and Intercessions Carol Eyles. Our speaker was Beatrix Bingmann. Beatrix from Germany came to Salford August 2016 as a Time for God Volunteer. Having decided to take a year out before starting University, as she did not know what she wanted to study, Beatrix applied to work in a 'hot and sunny' country; but things don't always work out as planned and Beatrix arrived in a... fairly sunny Salford... which as she said has turned into her second home!

Beatrix has been staying with Rev Andy Salmon of Sacred Trinity Church and getting involved in church and community projects. She has also been a volunteer for the homeless and at the Chaplaincy in Manchester University. Beatrix's time with us has not been wasted as she has learnt a lot about her Christian faith so much so that the Lord has led her to what she wants to study at University. When Beatrix returns home to Germany at the end of August she will be studying for a Theology Degree!

After the service we enjoyed a chat over cakes and a cuppa... something the Mothers Union is always good at. The collection of £130+ will be split between AFIA and Just up Your Street projects. Thank you for your hospitality St. Philips!

Carol Eyles

Salford Archdeaconry President



THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Mrs Alice Hart passed away in May aged 103, a long standing member of St Peter's Mothers' Union in Bury. Alice will be sadly missed.

Edna Mary Tattersall passed away in March aged 93, a member at Holy Trinity Church in Shaw. Edna will be sadly missed

St Paul's - Ramsbottom Bury Deanery Festival

In the first picture is the Rev Andy Lindop, minister St Pauls Ramsbottom, in terms forefront, Shirley Rothwell the new branch St Pauls and Julie Lancaster the Deanery Leader. Shirley was admitted to her new position at the service.

The second picture is Rev Andy, Shirley and the retired branch leader Joyce Knox. The service was well attended and everyone in good voice. After the service there were lovely refreshments of homemade cakes and hot drinks provided by the branch members.

We would like to send Shirley our love and prayers from all branches in the Deanery for taking on this new post and offer our full support for the future and wish Joyce a very happy retirement.

Shirley's branch members said how thrilled they are to have such a lovely lady in charge to follow Joyce who also was highly regarded for many years as their leader.

Very best wishes

Tricia Stokes



At our Deanery Festival our friend and much loved sister Dorothy Birtwistle, was presented by Our President Cath with a long service certificate for 67 years of loyal service

Dorothy has held numerous positions within the Mother's Union so I am sure many of you will remember her. Dorothy is still a very active member at our branch and takes part in all our fund raising efforts, and when other churches are fund raising Dorothy comes to each one, I think you would all agree that she deserves her certificate and love that she inspires. long may she continue.

Jean Johnson
Branch Leader



MU@8

We have recently started to support a charity called MASH (Manchester Action on Street Health) who are a charity who give support to women who are sex workers in Greater Manchester. They help women in sex work to operate safely in that environment and also help empower women to leave that industry and build new lives. We recently donated toiletries and underwear to be made into packages for ladies that were being sent to emergency housing. Myself and Ruth Boyd (MU@8 secretary) had a visit to the drop in centre when we dropped off the toiletries, and met with some of the volunteers. MASH do some fantastic work. It was great to see what goes on at the drop in and how MASH are working to empower these ladies to guide them to a better life.

We are still supporting TDAS sending toiletries to the refuge. Last month we received an email from TDAS asking if we could help a family who had turned up at the refuge with nothing but the clothes on their backs. By the end of that day through generous contributions from MU@8 members and school mum's the family (mum and two children one of which was a baby) were kitted out with clothes and we were able to donate a lot of baby equipment too. In the days after too we sent more supplies and nappies. In MU@8 we all have children that go to St Michael's school (the school attached to our church) and we use social media to contact Mum's in our children's year groups to appeal for donations. People are always getting rid of children's things so we tend to be quite successful in obtaining donations if situations like this arise. We have done this for TDAS before.

Nicola Stubbs

MASH Thanks

Please pass our thanks onto the members of the Mothers' Union for their kind donation of toiletries and underwear to Manchester Action on Street Health (MASH).

As you know MASH provides free and confidential support for women trapped in prostitution (sex work). The women we work with are often unable to escape their difficult situation without intensive support. We provide them with personal and practical, one-to-one support to empower and enable them to make changes.

Over the last 26 years, we've done a lot of good work in the Manchester community. But there's a lot more left to do. With your help and support we can continue our work.

Kind regards,

Helen Clayton

Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator

I saw the TV last night and this morning regarding the Manchester Bombing, where 22 or more people were killed and many injured.

My heart was filled with sadness for those families that lost their innocent loved ones; and those injured also. How could a person do such a thing. May God bless those who are helping the injured and hurt in need.

Best wishes,

Nicola Lawrence

**Mothers' Union Provincial Community Development Coordinator in
Papua New Guinea.**



Dear sisters in Christ,

As we are watching the sad news of Manchester, I can't help thinking of you all as people of the UK, but also as an organization that we are, struggling for the welfare of children.

Please remember, I sympathize with you from afar and I pray for every mourning mother and father, for them to be comforted by the peace of our Lord Jesus.

With love,

Laurette Serybano

Mothers' Union in Antsiranana, Northern Madagascar.

South Sudan Emergency Relief - Donate Now



Want to donate?

You can donate today to our Sudan Relief Project by going to our Donation Page Please donate to Mothers' Union and make a difference to families around the world Mothers' Union works tirelessly to support people through community projects, relief work, advocacy and prayer. Join with us today by making a donation to build hope and a better future for many families. You can be certain that your gift will be used where it is most needed. Please visit How We Fund Our Work to find out more.

www.mothersunion.org/southsudan

Sierra Leone Mudslides - Mothers' Union Mobilises

Mothers' Union in Sierra Leone is responding to the needs of thousands affected by the mudslides that hit the country's capital, Freetown, earlier this week. Scores of people have been killed and it is estimated that at least 600 people are missing.

Victoria Wilson, our Diocesan President of Freetown said, "We are providing food items, clothing, toiletries and water for those hospitalised."

She continued, "We need prayers for the victims, the various people working day and night to excavate the mud and search for dead bodies."

Our head of Development and Policy, Nicola Lawrence, said, "This is a terrible tragedy that has hit a country only just getting back on its feet after the Ebola crisis. We are in regular contact with Mothers' Union in Freetown and monitoring how we can support their efforts further and in the long-run. In the meantime we are praying for all those who have been affected."

We urge all our members to join us in prayer for all those affected



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Bags made up for hospital after attack



Clothesline

Mothers' Union St Paul's Branch Monton had their flagship stall for 'Clothesline' on 1st July, it was a lovely sunny day and extremely busy. Many children's items were sold, plus people asked about Mothers' Union. We explained our Christian organisation which was world wide helping poorer countries with education plus setting up Branches within their villages and help to build schools, community halls and churches.

We also explained Mothers' Union has a huge effect on projects within the UK ie 'Just up your street', AFIA etc which all help and give guidance to families plus promote Mothers' Union throughout the UK and beyond. Good day was had by all.

Thanks to Carol Eyles, Rev'd Sandra Kearney and Karin Williams for helping me on the day.



It's Goodbye From Us...

Just got home from Judith's retirement party...what a day!

The turnout was fantastic! It was lovely to see members chatting and having a laugh together. Cath did a lovely presentation of flowers and a cheque. The collection for Judith from members totalled £650! Judith and her husband Brian are going to use it for a holiday. It was lovely to meet Judith's family.

It's been a lovely afternoon with lots of laughs and some tears. Judith's had a fab send off!

Andrea Walsh

New Diocesan Secretary



...and It's Goodbye From Me

Well that's it, I am now officially retired and had a great send off.

Thank you to everyone who attended my party and especially to those who helped get everything ready. I would like to thank everyone for their gifts and cards and especially to Cath, Board of Trustees and branches for the lovely gift of a cheque. I have enjoyed the last 16 years and now I start a new adventure. I would also like to wish Andrea all the best as she takes on the position of the Diocesan Secretary for Mothers' Union in the Manchester Diocese.

I love you all very much and will miss you deeply. Hope to see you at future events in the Diocese. xxx

Judith Hilton



Items Needed For Hospitals

This is an update of the items requested by each of the Maternity units at the hospitals MU have a link with in the diocese.

Hospital Unit	Items Requested	Link Person	Contact No.
Royal Bolton (Neonatal)	Baby nests, scratch mitts, bereavement packs (blanket, beanie hat, angel pocket, 2 tiny teddies), emergency toilet bags	Jenny Murphy	01204 594539
North Manchester	Babygro, cardigan and beanie hat sets, blankets, emergency toilet bags	Lynne Longworth	01706 829062
Royal Oldham	Blankets to create 'shared love blankets' plain white cotton sheets square that will be joined together by loops and buttons/ribbon; 20cm (8") - 30cm (12") - 40cm (16") - 20 x 30cm (8 x 12") - 30 x 40cm (12 x 16"). Incubator throws, emergency toilet bags	Mary Helliwell and Margaret Fowler	0161 624 3942
St. Mary's Manchester	Beanie hats (small), neonatal hats with ribbon (not ventilator bonnets), bonding squares (pairs knitted in soft wool), incubator throws, baby nests as required	Ann Smith	0161 766 3495
Tameside	Beanie hats, blankets, cardigans, emergency toilet bags	Violet Bradshaw	0161 370 0546
Wythenshawe	Beanie hats, cardigans, tiny blankets, tiny teddies, larger blankets from knitted squares 6"/12", emergency toilet bags	Barbara Pye	0161 747 0269

Carol Eyles (Salford Archdeaconry President Tel: 0161 788 9428) collects any items from her Archdeaconry and takes them into the MU Office for me to collect.

CAMEO-Aid

Myself, Sandra Bradshaw and Carol Eyles were invited to St Peter & St Paul's Salford to the Union of Catholic Mother's Annual Rally. Canon McBride gave thanks and prayers at the service, plus a speaker from CAMEO-Aid Mr Tom Parker gave a talk plus insight on their achievements from aid and donations from UCM plus Mothers' Union.

Tom explained their projects and how the money helps to build and improve schools within the African districts, also he spoke of books and equipment given to the pupils and how enthusiastic they are on learning to read and write. He also spoke regarding the extreme difficulties of the areas with reference to civil wars etc.

It's a very worthy cause. Check out their website and please donate if you wish

www.cameo-aid.org

Thanks

Michele Evans



The Difference CAMEO-Aid Makes

The difference made is through education, we raise children up so they:

Can read and write

Do arithmetic and

Know the world in which they live

Through education they:

Believe in themselves

Transform their dreams into hopes and seek better opportunities

By building a school:

We give work to builders

We give work to teachers and support staff

We give an asset to the local community

We fulfill the dreams of children - to learn - and parents for their children to be educated

We fulfill the wishes of our donors to give something back to a needy world

We transform lives and communities

Chaplain's

● **Corner...**

I am well blessed to be able to live in beautiful countryside on the edge of the village of Crawshawbooth. As I write this piece, the fields around us are being harvested, but a few weeks ago the fields were full of lambs. Leaning over one of the many five bar gates around us, I thought of the passage in John's Gospel 10 v1-10. Jesus said in v7, "I am the gate for the sheep. All whoever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture."

Jesus is trying to explain he is the gate through which we are invited to have a relationship with God. As the gate he is far wider than the ones I see around Goodshaw, which are 7ft long. Jesus, as the gate, is wide enough to welcome all, who wish to have a relationship with God.

In the Christian tradition we often use the imagery of a shepherd and his flock. Our Christian faith though does not stand alone and distant from the world. In a world where power bases are shifting and changing, my hope is that we can experience the generosity of

God through his Son, Jesus Christ - the gate who is wide enough for all to pass through. Globally and nationally with all the changes caused by Brexit, uncertainty may currently appear to have the upper hand. But over 3000 years ago Psalm 23- The Lord is my shepherd - was written, reminding us that God's steadfast love never ceases.

Prayer is the means by which we approach the gate, by which we draw closer to God, closer to the vision God has for us, our churches, our branches of M.U. our friends and family, our towns and all the people of this beautiful but scarred world. Prayer is joining with God, through Jesus, as he works in our lives and the lives of other people. To pray for other people is the greatest expression of love we can offer. Prayer is the No 1 priority of every Christian, especially every M.U. member, whether young or old. v4 "and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." Go through the gate! Draw close, listen to the shepherd, and learn to distinguish his voice.

With every Blessing.

Reverend Denise Smith
Bolton Archdeaconry Chaplain

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Next Cymbal

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Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Manchester

www.mothersunionmanchester.org

