

www.MothersUnionManchester.org

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place in Lancashire at Preston Guild Hall on Thursday 24 June from 10.30am until 4.00pm. Tickets are available from the office, price £7.50.

Evening

hosted by Mothers' Union

There should be plenty of car parking nearby (current charge £4.00 per day). There will also be a service on the previous evening, 23 June, at Blackburn Cathedral at 7pm, at which the Preacher will be The Rt Revd Nicholas Reade, Bishop of Blackburn.

Tickets (free) for the service are likewise available via the office. Further details will be found in Families First (page 9).

#### Next Cymbal

Articles should be sent to the editor by 30th June 2010: Canon Robin Morris, 122 Kiln Lane, Milnrow Rochdale OL16 3HA. Call Robin on 01706 642846 or email him at cymbal@mothersunionmanchester.org by Patricia Bamford Would you believe it? St. Mary's High Crompton Mothers' Union is 110 years old this year - and we nearly had to shut the branch! It would have been with a great deal of sadness if this had had to happen, but then there was light at the end of the tunnel, and it was as though our prayers had been answered.

Catherine Bottomley, a member of the church for many years, girl and woman, and a Beaver Leader to boot, came forward and said, "you cannot shut the Mothers' Union they have always been here", and followed this comment with, "I would like to be a member and take on the role of Branch Leader." Now she has also brought along 3 friends who have become members as well.

So our branch is on the up and we are delighted that we will be able to continue: hurray!

## www.MothersUnionManchester.org

# **Every home touched**

We are at the start of a new triennium in the life of Mothers' Union. We give thanks for all who served us in the past three years and pray for God's blessing on those who take on new roles or continue in post.

Reflecting, as always, the Church within which we are, some of these roles are new - as parishes come together, deanery boundaries change and a new archdeaconry is formed. A time of change but the God whom we serve is unchanging.

Manchester Diocese has a strategy by which it aims to fulfil its vision; namely that under God: churches may grow, giving increase, and communities be served. How will Mothers' Union members play their part in this? Please let us know what projects are ongoing in your parish. Share ideas with each other – what you 'have always done' may be a totally new concept in another part of the diocese.

Mothers' Union members meet and share outside their own branches – so please use that time; use our website; use deanery and unit meetings.

#### "Please let us know what projects are ongoing in your parish"

From that first meeting at Old Alresford, when Mary Sumner recognised a need among the people of her husband's parish, Mothers' Union has been incredibly successful in its work. As I often said in Kenya, its strength lies in recognising what needs to be achieved in a particular place and at a particular time. But unless we play our part in this time and in this place, it will cease to be an effective tool.The responsibility is ours!

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By The Diocesan President



Barbara Taylor

The Mothers' Union theme for this year is 'Relationship not Rules'. Jesus did not always follow the rules; often he placed relationships first. We too must give relationships their proper place: our relationships with our family and friends, with our church family, with the communities in which we live.

It is important that we continue to raise awareness of all that Mothers' Union is doing, locally and across the world. By doing so, we will attract new members. Invite the people you meet to learn more about Mothers' Union. Meet them where they are. Use the wonderful resources available to us.

Mary Sumner's hope was that 'every home may be touched by Christ'. What better way to work towards that great aim, than by following the diocesan vision to:

> "Run the race...look to Jesus; and pass on His Faith, Hope and Love"

With my love, Barbara

# Introducing our new Marketing Co-ordinator

I have been a member of All Saints Church, Stand, Whitefield, all my life and a member of the Mothers' Union since 1986.

I am a widow having been married to Alan for forty years before his death in 2005. My biggest joy is my family; we were so lucky to have twins, not expected or predicted: it was a fantastic surprise to have a ready made family, a girl and a boy - what more could anyone want?

The family has further extended, both are happily married, and we now have three Grandsons.

Before my retirement in 2004, I worked for thirty nine years for a company of Wholesale Chemists, starting my career as a Sales Ledger clerk I progressed to a managerial post, which in the later years meant long hours and many weeks away from home as I travelled to depots sited around the country.

All through my life I have taken an active role in church activities through Sunday school, Bible class, Youth Club, then as a Sunday school teacher, for many years a Guide Captain, Camp Adviser and Guider Trainer, followed by another time of running the Sunday School, a member of the PCC and now the Church Treasurer.

My hopes as I take on the role of Marketing Co-ordinator for the next Triennium are based on Relationships and Communication, to bring the aims and objects of the Mothers' Union into direct focus with as many people in the Diocese as possible, which hopefully will boost our Membership.

To achieve this is a challenge, my hope is that working together with the Deanery representatives and the membership at Branch level, by Marketing in all the ways possible - special days, weekends, displays, printed matter and communication by word of mouth, we can achieve increased



By Chris Haworth

membership so that the work of Mothers' Union will continue to grow in the Manchester Diocese.

I have given a lot of thought and prayer in taking on this position, I will do my best to achieve my aim, but I will need your help, it will need to be a joint effort, supporting each other. If each branch could increase its membership by ten per cent, what an achievement that would be.

I would be delighted to say 'Well done Manchester!' at the end of my triennium. Please let me know of anything you would like to see being done to bring the work of the Mothers' Union in the Manchester Diocese to the notice of others. My email address is marketing@mothersunionmanchester.org

Working together I know we can achieve good Marketing of the Mothers' Union in our Diocese.

# Congratulations

We congratulate Frank and Elsie Beaver who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 22 February (appropriately following our celebration of Marriage at the Cathedral).

We should also like to send our congratulations to May Whalley and Nellie Gorse, who were presented with 60 years' long service awards last year. All of the above belong to the parish of St. Michael and All Angels, Howe Bridge.

Congratulations to St. Margaret's, Prestwich, branch are also in order, for raising £650 at a Bring and Buy sale to help the victims of the Haiti earthquake.

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## **Dads Add card**

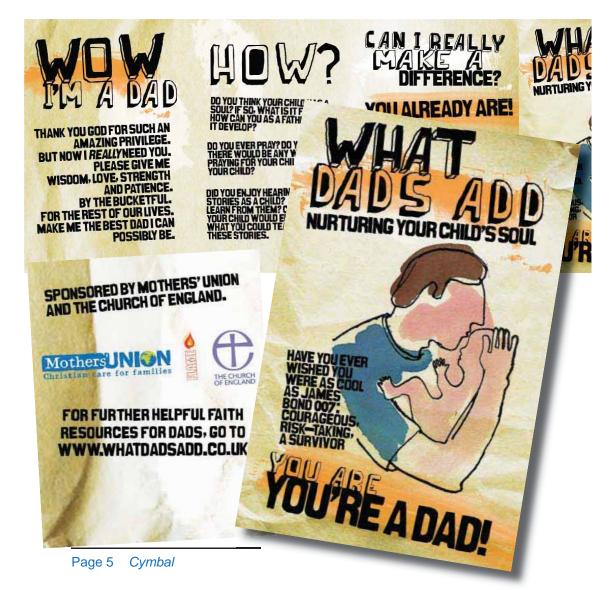
The Mothers' Union values every member of the family and encourages good family relationships. The Dads Add Card is a small card (pictured below) for dads which can be carried in a wallet and so be available at any time.

When I was shown the What Dads Add card, I thought it was a good idea to help

#### by Cheryl Coxon

Fathers to become more involved with their children. I have shown a card to our clergy at St.John the Divine, Brooklands, and they have put a card into every baptism pack, to be read by all the Dads and to help give them a sense of purpose in their babies' lives.

For more information on spiritual resources for fathers visit **www.whatdadsadd.co.uk** 



# Passionate about parenting

Being a parent can be described as the most important job that you will ever do. Parenting can be very fulfilling and enjoyable but there are times when it seems a daunting and isolated task, especially whilst coping with the pressure of trying to work through difficult situations.

We are now running Parent Survival Courses with trained facilitators and have completed three very successful programmes, with another planned for April. We have also begun Parent Support sessions for those who wish to continue meeting and discuss further topics in a friendly, informal atmosphere.

At present we use the Webster Stratton Incredible Years programme which lasts for 12 sessions. This programme has been extensively researched and field-tested and is fully recognised by the National Occupational Standards for work with parents. Feedback from parents attending the courses has been very positive.

The next course will be at St.Paul's, Monton, starting on Wednesday 21 April 7.30 – 9.30pm for Parents of 2 - 8 year olds. Let us know if you would like to join. We should also be glad to know of a church which would like to host a Parents Survival Course in September.

Christine Sharp is now sharing the role of Diocesan Parenting Co-ordinator with Andrea Young. Here are their contact details.

#### Andrea Young

Tel 0161 789 2420 email andreamyoung2@hotmail.co.uk

#### Christine Sharp

Tel 07733623501 email chrissharp.flm@googlemail.com

## Faith and by Lily Critten Policy report

At the start of the new triennium we looked at ways of extending our opportunities for prayer further afield. Our Archdeaconry Chaplains were interested in liaising with us in this respect. Those of you who were able to attend the Candlemas Service at All Saints, Stand, received a warm welcome from Alison Hardy, who had prepared a meaningful liturgy of prayers, hymns and readings, with the lighting of candles. We thank all those involved.

An Day Away has been arranged for August at a tried and tested venue – details below. By the time you read this the new Thursday Prayer schedule, under Win Hill's administration, will be well under way: numbers attending continue to be very encouraging. The Indoor Members Prayer Circle, now being run by Sue Roberts, has issued its half-yearly Prayer Diary – that for the second half of the year is being prepared. Mary Doyle, Social Policy contact, has been busy ensuring that the various questionnaires we receive, requesting our opinions, are returned quickly.

#### Events

Below is a list of events relating to Faith & Policy for your attention. There will be opportunities for you to sign up for any of these at Council or by contacting me on 01633 741070 faith@mothersunionmanchester.org

**Quiet Day.** Thurs 6 May, 10am – 2.30pm at the Cathedral, led by Tony Hardy, Canon Evangelist

**Day Retreat.** Sat 21 Aug,10am–4pm at the Marist Convent, 113 Nell Lane,Chorltoncum-Hardy, led by Alison Hardy, Bolton Archdeaconry Chaplain

**Quiet day.** Thurs 18 Nov, 10am – 2.30pm, at the cathedral, led by the Dean, The Very Revd Rogers Govender

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With over 1000 people visiting the Mothers' Union Manchester exhibition Made in Heaven, Margaret Morris looks back on the exhibition and says thanks.

The Exhibition could not have got off the ground without the combined help of so many people.

Chiefly I would like to mention the Steering Group: Irene Gould of the Jewish Ladies Guild, Teresa Burns and Kath Duggan of the Catholic Womens' League, Maureen Hurst and Iris Riley of the Union of Catholic Mothers, all of whom I would like to thank most sincerely.

It has been a rewarding time working together and a joy to involve the other traditions – Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Malaysian; we have made many new friends.

Thank you to everyone who supplied stories, artefacts and marriage certificates; thank you also to those who stewarded during the week.

Last, but not least, thank you to all who visited the Exhibition: we had over 1000 people looking round, from all over the world – USA, Australia, China and many European Countries and we had very many positive comments in the Visitors' Book showing that we had widened people's knowledge and perception of other faith traditions, which could only have been a good thing. Thank you all once again.

#### **Exhibition report feature**





# The opening ceremony

After Made in Heaven opened on the Saturday, there was an official Launch Ceremony on Monday evening 8 February.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester was introduced by the Diocesan President and in welcoming everyone spoke of the multicultural diversity of the City, reflected in the Exhibition. Margaret Morris then read "Marriage joins two people in the circle of love" after which Bishop Mark spoke movingly of the vitality and relevance of marriage to our life in community. Canon Tony McBride read from "A Gift from the Sea" and, to end, Rabbi Silverman gave his Blessing with Kosher wine and cakes and the Bishop cut the ribbon. All present partook of Jewish refreshments and dispersed to talk and look at all that was on show. The following pages give some impressions of the displays and associated events.

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"We visited the Exhibition in the Regimental Chapel of the Cathedral and thought it was charming, informative, colourful and a credit to the organisers and those warmly welcoming visitors – Thank You all!

We saw a very old brown wedding dress complete with bustle and looked at the Church of England section which recorded 3154 marriages in the Cathedral during 1834 – up to 30 couples at a time awaiting their turn. Malaysian weddings were beautiful, Hindu celebrations lasted over a number of days: Christian traditions were noted as were colourful Sikh and Islamic weddings, and the elaborate Jewish ceremonies also featured.

We learnt how Queen Victoria broke with tradition by meeting Prince Albert on the morning of the wedding!

Photographs and invitation cards told the stories of Edwardian weddings and wartime weddings from both World Wars – we were pleased to see some exhibits from our own Ramsbottom and Edenfield Team Ministry: – well done Lynne from St.Philip's! All this information about the different faiths was so uplifting, and we were impressed that the commitment to marriage was so evident. It was well worth a visit and it's a pity it couldn't go round the Archdeaconries." *Eileen Duckworth and Doris Hibbert, St.Paul's, Ramsbottom.* 

"I have just experienced a "Marriage made in Heaven" inspired by Margaret Morris, which was being displayed in Manchester Cathedral from 6th February until 14th February 2010. Set against the Fire Window in the North

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Aisle, the display showed marriages across the ages and many religions, beautifully edited and illustrated by members of the team. A board about Manchester in the 19th Century, a multitude of marriage certificates, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, and Malaysian traditions - all expertly portrayed with beautiful poetry to enhance the scene.

There were a variety of stories of different times, with veils and dresses – including an account of Queen Victoria's wedding, told in her own words. Wartime brought improvisation at weddings, with very limited supplies and money compared to the lavish weddings of today in our more prosperous times. The display attracted many visitors from all the different faiths to the Cathedral and I for one wish to thank the Steering

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#### **Exhibition report feature**

#### The Steering group

by Irene Gould-Jewish Ladies

When Margaret first approached me to become involved with the "Made in Heaven" Exhibition to be presented at Manchester Cathedral it seemed at the outset to be a very ambitious and daunting project, but it soon became apparent that with the dedicated team I had agreed to join everything would soon fit magically together.

In putting on the Exhibition we have all worked in perfect harmony, and in the course of this work have been rewarded by the many new friendships that have been forged between us, and in learning so much about each others' different faiths have once again been reminded of how very much common ground we share.

It proved to be a great experience for me personally and I would not have missed it for the world.

Group for all the hard work and attention to detail which made the visit truly remarkable." *Maureen Moore, St.Clement, Urmston* 

"I was invited to make a few comments about my visit to the "Made in Heaven" Exhibition. I was very impressed with the warmth of the welcome from the members of the Mothers' Union. The Exhibition was fascinating, in particular the differing marriage ceremonies of the various faiths represented, and the in-depth explanations of the traditions. The wedding outfits were beautifully displayed and looked stunning. All in all a wonderful experience and well worth my return visit a few days later." *Stella O'Neill, St.Thomas More Catholic Church* 

#### **Exhibition report feature**

#### Thanksgiving service

By Jill Crofton

Our week-long celebration of marriage came to a joyful conclusion, appropriately enough, on the afternoon of St. Valentine's Day in the Cathedral. It was a unique opportunity for clergy and Mothers' Union members from across the Diocese to praise God together for the institution of marriage in an act of worship, in the presence of friends and guests from other faith traditions.

In his opening remarks, having described the valentines they had exchanged that morning, Bishop Nigel told us how his own wedding had been filmed for some Church publicity, and how Celia's adoring gaze was clearly to be seen, whereas his was masked by very long "seventies" hair!

The service proceeded with rousing hymns, interspersed with readings and reflections brought by those from Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions, and prayers led by Fr John Hitchen: a Jewish Blessing was pronounced by Rabbi Silverman.

There was a very telling and humorous interview with Tony and Anne Hobbs, Christian marriage counsellors, who revealed how their own marriage had been slowly and painfully rebuilt: after long months of separation they had been reunited through the grace, love and power of God.

We were then treated to a wonderfully joyful and exuberant display by The Pushpanjali Dance Company of traditional Hindu celebration dancing, such as would happen at weddings: eight smiling girls in gloriously coloured costumes filled the podium area.

After the Bishop's Blessing there was a last-minute alteration to the programme: instead of a formal ceremonial procession of clergy and dignitaries a very young and highly accomplished Sikh drummer took centre stage, delighting us all. We all then informally adjourned for refreshments and conversation.



All this could not have happened at all without an enormous amount of work behind the scenes; warm thanks to everyone, including Bishops, Archdeacons, Dean and Canons, all the guest contributors, and again to our indefatigable Margaret Morris!

## The Panel By Lily Critten

The discussion panel, which took place as part of the week, consisted of The Ven David Bailey, Archdeacon of Bolton (Chair), Rochdale's Lib Dem MP Paul Rowen, Prospective Conservative Candidate for Bury North David Nuttall, The Revd Jan Harney and Mrs Mary Doyle.

Archdeacon David invited members of the Panel and the audience to respond to questions on marriage and family life. Here is a summary of what was said. A stable marriage depends on two people committing themselves to each other and to their children. Good parenting is essential and relationships with extended families and neighbours are needed.

Children benefit from good role models, security and opportunities to socialise. Couples who are not married can also form successful units given good parenting, but marriage provides a public declaration of commitment.

Marriages need support and the State can have a part to play, for example Sure Start and well funded schools – the area of tax concessions was explored. The Mothers' Union could offer preparation and parenting courses as part of their involvement. Marriage is above all worth celebrating – as the interest shown by all visiting the Exhibition proves.

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### Serving the community

by Jennifer White

At the time of writing this item the Action and Outreach Unit still does not have a coordinator. We have an excellent team and just need someone to coordinate the work. You don't need to have any qualifications to do the job – just an enthusiasm for the work of Mothers' Union. In the meantime the team members continue in their roles – their responsibilities are:

Parenting - Andrea Young

Hospital knitting and sewing - Lynne Longworth

Hostels for homeless (Christmas presents) - Marion Ball

Wave of Prayer - Jean Williamson and Lily Critten.

Freshers' Project - Margaret Morris

Virtual Baby Project - Jennifer White

AFIA - Rosemary Taylor

Links to hospitals (members can take items individually):

Royal Bolton – Jenny Murphy

Fairfield Hospital & St Mary's - Ann Smith

Hope Hospital – May Cavanagh

North Manchester - Freda Horrocks and Barbara Hill

Royal Oldham and Rochdale Infirmary - Marion Ball.



At the moment, I am still sending and receiving correspondence with our link branches in Africa and passing on information but this will be part of the duties of the new coordinator. There is also a small but enthusiastic committee of Deanery representatives which has been meeting three times a year. Thank you to everyone who is working in the team.

#### Is it you-Action & Outreach Coordinator?

If you feel that you could coordinate the work of these members, please get in touch with Judith in the office. You will receive training and will get far more out of it than you put in.

#### Dates for your diary

6 May	Quiet Day at the Cathedral (See page 6)
26 May	Evening of Celebration at the Bridgewater Hall (See back page)
12 June	Launch of Salford Archdeaconry: St.Paul, Walkden
23 June	Service in Blackburn Cathedral
24 June	Annual General Meeting at Preston Guild Hall (See page 2)
19 July	Provincial Service in York Minster
3 August	Diocesan Eucharist at St.George, Mossley
9-19 August	Shop and Office closed
21 August	Retreat at Mill Lane Convent (See page 6)
16 September	Diocesan Festival at the Cathedral
13 November	Autumn Council at Ardwick
18 November	Quiet day at the Cathedral (See page 6)

18 playemper Cynglight day at the Cathedral (See page 6)

30 November Advent Carol Service at St.Ann, Manchester

# Chaplain's corner

by Robert Buckley

A bracing winter walk took us to Crosby. The beach seemed deserted, but far from empty. On the of sand were 100 cast iron statues, life-sized images of the artist Anthony Gormley.

They were scattered over the length and breadth of the beach. Some were partly submerged with waves breaking over them. Others were buried up to their knees in sand. All stared out to sea, to "Another Place", the name of the installation.

Each of the 100 statues had been cast in the same mould, and faced the same direction. In this respect, they shared an identity. As you visit one after the other you confirm that they are identical but then you notice the differences. Barnacles cling to some, but in different patterns. Seaweed hangs from some, but from different places.

The salt sea has etched different patterns of rust in the passive figures. They are made in the same image but the changing wind, the shifting waves, the moving sand, the sun, the rain - and people, have worked on each one differently.

They have become recognizable as individuals. Each statue has existed in a unique environment and each has become unique. So what was going to be a brief visit ends up occupying a couple of hours. For us, created in the image of God, there is much here for us to think about.



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Life does not deal with any two people in the same way. Parents know that they love their children equally but sometimes very differently. How can we judge each other, knowing we are cast in the same image? How can we argue with God, who has placed us somewhere in the sand, where he chooses?

We might be a long way out, often in deep and turbulent waters that sometimes break over our heads. We might look back at those who are further up the beach - closer to home where the waves are more benign and gentle, and wonder why things cannot be easier for us. Christ was making this point when he shared the parable of the workers in the vineyard, in Matthew 20.

# *'Life does not deal with any two people in the same way.'*

The wife of Zebedee tried to organise things so that her sons had the best place on the beach. She asked that they might sit on either side of Christ, in his kingdom. 'You do not know what you are asking', was Christ's response.

His own right to sit on that throne was to be earned through incredible suffering-Christ being a long way out at sea, with little visible protection, where faith is the only weapon.

Whatever our situation, we are being formed by what is around us as well as what is within; by the experiences we have. Each one leaves its mark on us even the seagulls and dogs.

Can we look back to someone in a safer spot, that we would rather inhabit and say to God, 'Lord what about him?' Christ's answer will probably be similar to the answer he gave Peter when he asked that question -'What is that to you? You must follow me'.

# **Gotta Sing?**

Singing Saturdays are fun, informal and everyone is welcome!

Girls and boys aged 7 - 15 Experienced singers or those wanting to give it a go for the first time



Find out more or book a place contact Katy Leese on 0161 833 2220 ext 238 or katy.leese@manchestercathedral.org places limited to 100 - so act now!



This Project is part of a nationwide outreach scheme organised by the Choir Schools Association and supported by the Music and Dance Scheme. It is a major strand of the music Manifesto's National Singing Programme.

www.manchestercathedral.org

#### November Quiet

Day

by Wendy Benns & Cheryl Coxon

Hild? Who's that? Many of us call her Abbess Hilda of Whitby, but Hild is her original Anglo-Saxon name and her day is 19 November, when nearly 30 members attended a Quiet Day at the Cathedral led by Canon Gilly Myers. There were three talks, each followed by a period of reflection – thinking, discussing or praying – in the special atmosphere of the Cathedral, with a service of Holy Communion half way through the day. Hilda was the springboard of the day's thoughts.

Hilda was renowned for her work in monasteries (both men and women in those days), first at Hartlepool and then at Whitby. The original Abbey at Whitby was built of wood, so little is left now. As Abbess Hilda was famous as a leader and a teacher; she was headmistress of the school she founded and which was attached to the monastery; she looked for opportunities and grasped them. She was born in 614 AD, great niece of King Edwin and well educated.

When Edwin died Hild was 19 and she left York for Kent where she lived until she was 33, when she became a nun with Aidan, later to be based on the island of Lindisfarne, as her teacher. She died at the age of 66 after 6 years of illness. Her famous contemporaries included Wilfred, Paulinus, Cuthbert and Bede.

The Synod of Whitby took place in 664 AD, an important meeting at which the different approaches of Celtic and Roman Christianity were addressed, together with discussions about the date of Easter, baptism and the method of tonsures. Whitby is well known for its seascapes, and for its jets and fossils, which provided the theme for the first period of reflection. Gilly had us each pick a pebble to hold as a focus for thought instead of a candle, for God to speak to us. In the cathedral we were to reflect on what we had heard about Hilda's life and pray for new gifts. In the second session Gilly guided us through one of Janet Morley's poems, with words like silver sheen, clouds, buoyancy, silence, arms, content. Hild was wise, full of good sense, her advice sought by all, including kings, full of energy.

She was holy and open to God's stirring in others, Caedmon being a prime example: he was a cowherd so did not sing or play the harp but dreamt of singing about God's creation; Hild helped him to sing songs of the Gospel story in the vernacular and he became a monk.

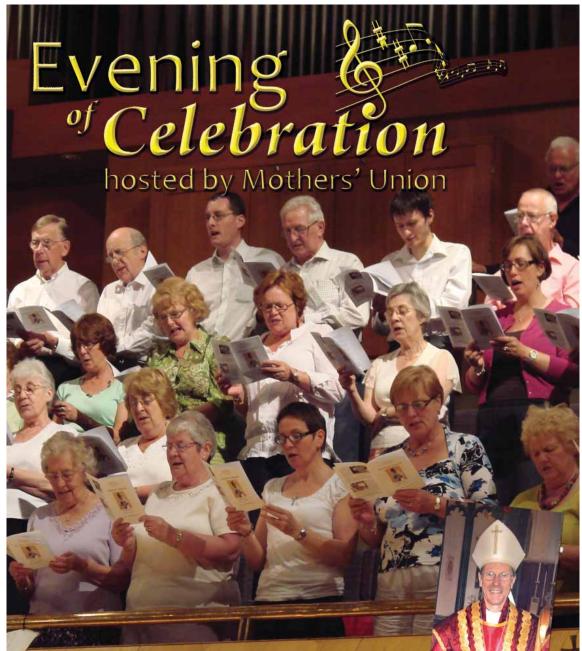
To bring out the idea of encouraging, not criticizing, other people, Gilly cited making coffee or washing up, done creatively, not just " in the right way". The requirement for the following time of reflection was to write -a poem or a prayer or perhaps prose, thinking about creation and pebbles and the beach.

The third period of reflection encouraged us to take advantage of the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts Exhibition in the Regimental Chapel, and to explore the newly introduced five Prayer Stations in the cathedral. A 2009 book suggested for further reading about the time of St.Hild was "The Story of Holy Island" by Kate Tristram.

Members present thanked Gilly for sharing her knowledge and for the opportunities she opened up for us.

#### Quiet day poem

Down through the centuries these pebbles Have been tossed about, swept back and forth By tides, linked with many other shores. The story they tell is enduring, Continuing down through the years: Do we still listen? Do we still hear the tides bringing them Stony to our feet on the shore? Pick up a pebble, Look and feel! Pray!



### Wednesday 26 May 7.30pm

Bridgewater Hall with Bishop Richard Inwood & Sticks 'n' Tones

#### Tickets £6

from Judith on 0161 828 1427 info@mothersunionmanchester.org or through your local Mothers' Union branch Designed by Diocese of Manchester Communications Department @ Manchester Dicoesan Mothers' Union - a registered charity No. 250086

Mothers' NON Christian care for families **Diocese of Manchester**