

Summer 2011

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Manchester

Cymbal

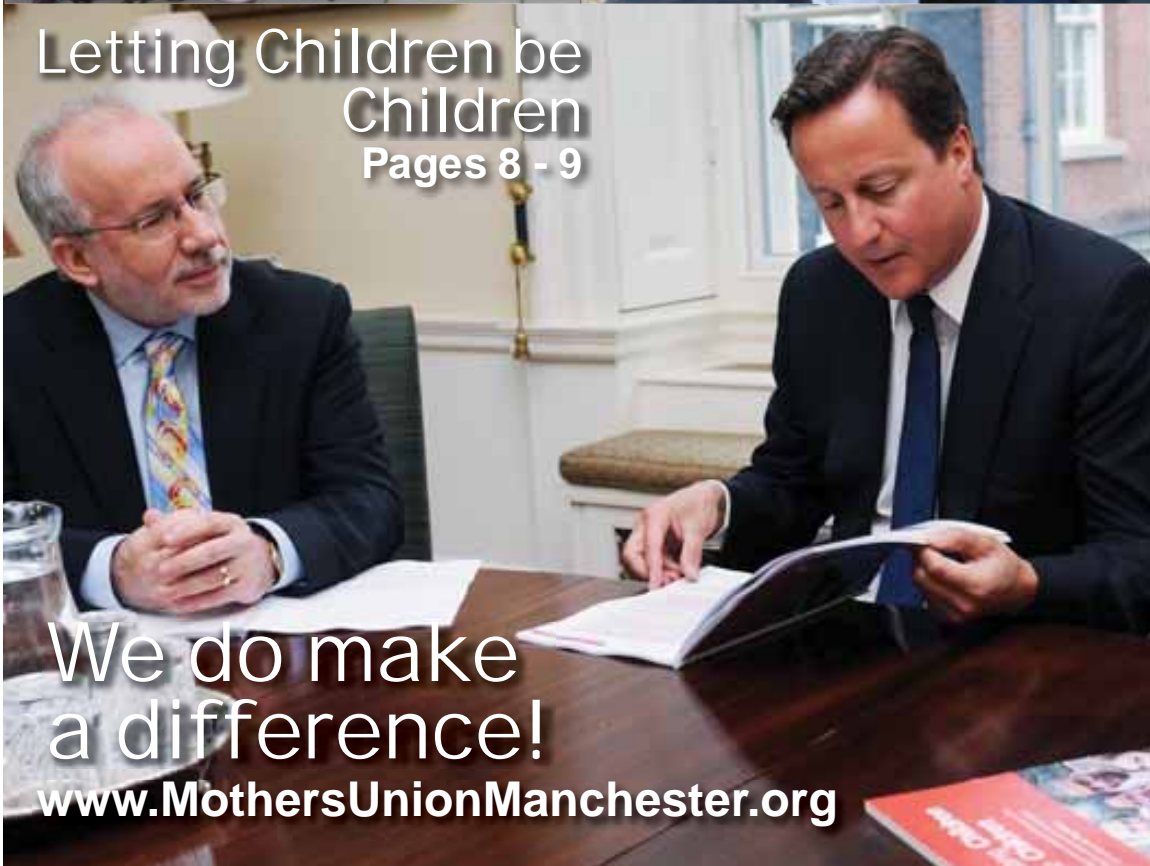
Supporting you and your church in working with families



General Meeting
Page 10



Salisbury Visit
Page 4



Letting Children be
Children
Pages 8 - 9

We do make
a difference!

www.MothersUnionManchester.org

Forthcoming Events

Our Provincial President, Lynne Tembey, will be visiting the Diocese from Monday October 3rd to Wednesday October 5th.

She will be visiting Status4All where our virtual babies are being used to good effect with the young people and the university soup project, culminating with the Diocesan Festival in the Cathedral, where she will be the preacher. During her time with us she hopes to meet as many members as possible, so please keep the dates in your diary and look out for more information on our web site.

St Michael's Flixton Mothers' Union are planning a celebration of Mary Sumner Day on August 9th 2011 with a service of Holy Communion in St Michaels church at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments in the hall.

Dates for your diary

- Aug 5 - 19 Office and Shop Closed
- Aug 9 Faithful in Prayer – a Worldwide Day of Prayer
- Aug 9 Bolton Archdeaconry Festival
St Anne Edgeside
- Aug 20 Day Retreat: Be still and know...
- Sept 7 Heywood & Middleton Deanery Service at All Saints & Martyrs Langley and commissioning of the Revd Ian Butterworth as Rochdale Archdeaconry Chaplain
- Sept 15 - 16 Sort and Bag Welcome Bags
- Sept 17 Beni ati vevit:
Welcome to International Students
- Sept 19 - 23 Students Welcome and Distribution of Bags
- Sept 21 Bolton Deanery Conference
- Oct 5 Diocesan Festival Cathedral 7.30pm
- Oct 12 Walmsley Deanery Autumn Meeting
- Oct 18 Eccles Deanery Rally
7.30pm St. John the Baptist, Walkden
- Nov 19 Autumn Council
- Nov 24 Quiet Day
- Dec 1 Advent Carol Service, St Ann Manchester

Main Cover picture: Reg Bailey discusses the findings of his recent Review with Prime Minister, David Cameron p.9



Members of other branches in Stretford Deanery have been invited and they are hoping for a memorable day of celebration.

Congratulations: 100 years' young!

Many congratulations to Mrs Flo Dowling from St Michaels Church Flixton (Stretford Deanery) who celebrated this special birthday on March 5th. A faithful Mothers' Union member for many years, Flo still attends most Branch meetings.

And at 90 years young!...

Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Yates, a member of St Mary's Davyhulme Mothers' Union, who was 90 years old on the 20 May 2011. Margaret who is an indoor member, joined the Branch in 1996.

Form Filling - Update

by Jean Williamson – Training Officer

Our treasurer, Bryan, has had difficulty this year in getting our accounts ready for the auditor because of the lateness of some of the forms being returned.

At the Spring Council, a number of people signed up expressing a wish for training on filling in these forms. Bryan has decided that it would be more beneficial if this is later in the year, to be fresher in people's minds when the forms arrive. There may be others taking up office in the new year who would also like training.

Two sessions are planned, one possibly in Bolton and the other more central to Manchester. If you would like to be included, please send your name, branch and deanery to the office. Times will be given later.

www.MothersUnionManchester.org

Part of Something Bigger

“The train now standing at Platform 14 is the 12.14 to Edinburgh” – a quiet journey as the rest of the ‘gang’ travelled a day earlier!

by The Diocesan President

But it is good to meet friends and the greetings to fellow Mancunians were just as warm as those to friends from other dioceses. Read elsewhere of the fun, the fellowship, the service in St Mary’s Cathedral and the Meeting in the Usher Hall – with piper to welcome and to send us forth afterwards. I relish such occasions when we are reminded of the worldwide nature of our work and witness.

Our strength lies primarily in ‘grass roots’ members (all 4 million of them) who work as is appropriate at the time and in the place where they find themselves. In Manchester so much goes on, much of it very quietly. I thank you all for the knitting, sewing, collecting, serving, baking, and so much more. Thank you, too, for the work in your parish – running toddler groups, involvement in baptisms and weddings, arranging support for parents, etc. Angela is attempting a comprehensive list – please let her know what your branch does (even if you think it is only a small project).



Mothers’ Union members gather at Edinburgh

opportunity for members to enlighten others about the organisation and maybe to form new groups to complement the old, perhaps an evening group in addition to an existing afternoon one.

A Great Opportunity

I enjoy reading newsletters from other dioceses in York Province (postage saved by handing out some here in the Usher Hall!) and it is interesting to find what others are doing. I know also that others take ideas they read in Cymbal and adapt them to their local needs. Again, this is one of the real benefits of being part of something so much bigger than a parochial group.

We are beginning to reap benefits from pastoral reorganisation. I encouraged you to be proactive if your branch was becoming part of a larger team, or to take the lead when the parish ‘moved’ to another deanery or archdeaconry. I am delighted that very many of you have been doing just that – thank you! There are clear signs that these new groupings give a great

“Our strength lies in ‘grass roots’ members”

It is so important that we “pass it on” (as we were instructed at the Bridgewater Hall last year) to pass on information about the projects, pass on the importance we place on prayer. Let us never forget that first and foremost we are Christians, with the great commission to go out into all the world and pass on the Good News of Jesus to all we meet.

With my love and prayers,

Barbara

PS – there are still branches I have not had the opportunity to visit whilst I have been president – I would love to come and share fellowship with you in the coming 18 months!

Salisbury – May 12th to 15th

A Weekend to Remember

The Invitation....

Jean Driver - Ashton Deanery Leader

Last year I received an invitation from Devizes Deanery for members of Ashton Deanery to visit them. Barbara Hill had a similar invitation from Bradford-upon-Avon Deanery. A coach containing 44 members travelled to Wiltshire to a warm welcome and a never-ending supply of tea, coffee and cakes. Many of us were renewing friendships, while others were eagerly looking for the person they were hosting for the first time. Those who stayed in Devizes Deanery had a free Friday morning. I stayed in Urchfont and had a guided walk around the village, visited the church and the well-stocked community shop. I also visited a Mothers' Union member for morning coffee.

In the afternoon we were all invited to the Vicarage at Potterne, the home of Mrs Ann Howard, one of the Salisbury Diocesan Presidents. We were served with a delicious afternoon tea of strawberries and cake. An evening meal in St. James' church hall, Trowbridge was followed by a concert of songs from the shows. Saturday, we visited Tyntesfield, a Victorian estate with a country house, chapel, gardens and woodland, a restaurant and shop. Sunday morning we went to church with our hostesses and in the afternoon to St. John's Church, Devizes, for a service of hymns, readings and a sermon from Bishop Bill Ind (formerly Bishop of Truro).

As one would expect with Mothers' Union, our visit was not only full of laughter, fellowship and food, but also worship and prayer. Our thanks go to our driver Charlie Curtis of Swans Travel, who was most courteous and obliging and looked after us all. We are now looking forward to the return visit of Salisbury to Manchester in 2013.

Marion Ball, Lily Critton and Molly Marsh reflect on the visit

Our trip to the Salisbury Diocese was again a huge success. A little different than some of the other visits in that we had free time with our individual hostesses. Friday our free day, we had a visit to Bath. We opted for a guided bus tour of the city, which was most informative and we learnt that Bath was the first place in the country to open a department store. Its name was Jollys and it is still a prosperous business today.

Bath Abbey held many wonders: wonderful lime wood carving of angels over the organ; an exhibition of 35 diptych panels telling the story from Mary's visit from the Angel to the Resurrection, taking over 3,000 hours to complete. One half was calligraphy describing the gospel passage and the other needlecraft illustrating the passages. Another member tells that she went to Caen Hill locks on the Kent and Avon Canal and watched narrow-boats come through some of the 29 flight of locks at Devizes.

Another visit was to Stourhead with the most beautiful azaleas and rhododendrons on display. In the evening there was supper and a concert in St James' Church Hall. Members of the Music and Mirth Concert took us back in time, appearing in period dress. They sang their hearts out, and encouraged us to join in with many songs from the shows.

On Saturday we went to Tyntesfield, around the house, chapel and gardens. On Sunday morning, we joined our hostesses at their churches, had our lunch before getting together for an afternoon service in St John's Church, Devizes. All lovely experiences.

Everyone had a good time seeing old friends and making new ones. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make such a memorable trip.

Another members' memories

Julie Salam

It hardly seems two years since we said our fond and sometimes tearful goodbyes to our friends from the Salisbury Diocese.

On May 12th, members and friends of the MU in Manchester boarded a coach for our return visit. We were met with hugs and smiles. The evening was spent catching up with news of families and branches. Friday was a free day spent with our hosts. Jean and I were taken by - Chris our hostess - to the magnificent house and gardens of Stourhead. There Jean realised a lifetime dream of playing a Steinway piano. I will never hear Blue Moon again without seeing her 'cat got the cream' face. In the evening we were driven to St. James, Trowbrige for supper and a splendid concert of "songs from the shows" and lighthearted humour.

Saturday, we were off to Tyntesfield, a Victorian estate, described as "shabby chic", felt by some that the emphasis was on "shabby", but the chapel was glorious with its incredible rose window and family crosses.

Sunday morning we attended worship with our host, we met for lunch in a local hotel, swapping tales of places seen - laughter shared. We all met for a final service at St. John, Devizes where the preacher was Bishop Bill Ind (of *Island Parish* fame). He spoke of the concern that Christ has for each one of us and how we are called upon to show that same concern for others. At the end of the service he walked around with a virtual baby on his shoulder - patting it now and again to keep it quiet (though I suspect it had been switched off). Barbara, gave a vote of thanks on our behalf, then it was time to say our goodbyes, never easy when you have grown to love the people you have been with.



The whole weekend was filled with fun, friendship and fellowship. It would be remiss of me not to mention the tremendous amount of work involved in organizing our visit, both here and in our host deaneries - so thank you to all who made sure it went smoothly and that we had such a great time.

Welcome to Manchester!

Make a difference.

Can you help to make the welcome very special? You could help in two ways...

First, by your Branch collecting the items that are put into the welcome bags – tea bags, small jars of coffee, drink sachets, packets of soup, rice, pasta, toilet rolls, kitchen rolls, toothpaste, tooth brushes, tins of beans, spaghetti or tuna etc.

And secondly, by volunteering to help, if only for an hour.

The dates for sorting and bagging the items are Thursday and Friday September 15th and 16th and the distribution of the welcome bags to the students is from 19th - 23rd September, 2011.

It is such an experience welcoming the students if you have not volunteered before

Experience Easter

Carol Eyles, Branch Leader at St. Paul's, Monton

Experience Easter is an interactive resource for churches and schools to use with children of primary school age to explore events in Holy Week.

The stations are: **1.** Palm Sunday '*Hopes & Dreams*', **2.** Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet '*Servant King*', **3.** Last Supper '*Remember Me*', **4.** Garden of Gethsemane '*Alone*', **5.** Crucifixion '*Sharing Our Sorrows*', **6.** Empty Tomb '*Resurrection*'.

On Tuesday April 19th, St. Paul's Church Monton and Monton Methodist Church staged 'Experience Easter' in the Methodist Hall, for Years 3 and 4 of Monton Primary. The Mothers' Union branch at St. Paul's was delighted to be asked to take part and we chose '*Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet*'.

Using the printed resource and photograph I set up our stand, placing blankets on the floor for the children to sit on. So that we could accommodate all the children we split the activity into two sessions – one in

please think about it, you will meet students from all over the world, they are here in Manchester to study and many are missing their families already. So a welcome with a smile goes a long way!

It is planned to welcome the International students (as last year) on Saturday 17th September and we have been asked to make soup again, so more volunteers are needed.

It all happens in the Chaplaincy on Oxford Road, Manchester and you being there would 'Make a Difference'. Volunteers are needed, please let Margaret Morris know if you can help on 01706 642846 and if you have any problems getting your gifts to the Chaplaincy please ring Margaret.



the morning and the other after lunch. The children were then split into 5 groups of 7 to 8 children and progressed from stages 1 to 5. At each stage they were told the story of that particular event. When they came to our stage, the children were invited to sit on the blankets provided and were then read extracts from the Bible '*Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet*', and whilst pouring a small amount of water into a basin we explained what Jesus meant when he said to his disciples, 'I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you'.

Afterwards, the children were asked questions, for example '*What do you think the difference is between a servant and a*

Faith and Policy

King?’ and ‘Did they understand why Jesus had washed the disciple’s feet?’ Concluding their time at this station we invited the children to stand up and dip their fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross on the palm of the hand of the child next to them and as they did so, to say a prayer for someone who was unwell or needed help. I have to say it was a joy to see the children so engrossed with the story and they were very quick in answering the questions.

As they left this stage, we gave each child a small tablet of soap to remind them of the story of the ‘Servant King’. When all the groups had progressed around stages 1 – 5 they came together at stage 6, ‘Resurrection’ and Vicar Andrew Young told them the story of the resurrection and they were again asked questions about their ‘Experience Easter’. To the delight of the children they were given a small chocolate Easter egg as they left to return to school.

It was a lovely and enjoyable Experience Easter for the children and adults alike.

Was it worth all the preparation...Yes.

Would we do it again - YES!

Quiet Day - 26 May 2011

by Barbara Baynham – Diocesan Branch

We gathered in the Cathedral Library for a Quiet Day led by Rev Nigel Ashworth, Rector of St Ann’s church, Manchester.

We started with prayer. Nigel mentioned a window in Gloucester cathedral which says ‘Study to be Quiet’. We were asked to think what we really feel is good about quiet and silence and to think where we find silence in our own lives and what we like about it.

This was a really useful exercise where we talked in small groups (which could be done in a Branch as a topic for a meeting). Nigel read from John Chapter 10 about the sheep following the shepherd because they know his voice and he explained that having been brought up in an area where there were sheep it is true that sheep recognise the

voice of the person who looks after them. So when we were quiet we may hear the voice of Jesus who said, ‘I am the Good Shepherd’.

It was mentioned that some churches hold a quiet time, some once a month, some once a week and some nearly every day when the church is open and there is no service. It may be only half an hour but can be longer and may start with a reading to help focus on a meditation. We use silence to listen to God or Jesus.

Sometimes when we pray it is like a shopping list of requests but silence opens us up to listen. As usual we spent time in the cathedral alone, then met for mid-day prayers and then lunch. Following this, Nigel spoke about how often hearing and listening comes up in the gospels.

We ended with quiet reflection, with eyes closed and then Nigel asked us to say the grace together very slowly, which made it much more meaningful.

If you feel inspired by this to hold a ‘Quiet’ branch meeting the hymns were ‘I heard the voice of Jesus say, ‘Come unto me and rest’ and ‘Take it to the Lord in prayer’.

Quiet Days and Retreats 2011

by Lily Critten

August 20, Retreat Day at Bolton Road Methodist Church, Bury, 10am to 4pm.

Leader Revd Alison Hardy, Bolton Archdeaconry Chaplain. Please bring a packed lunch - Cost £5. Those planning to come, please complete a registration form from your Branch Leader and forward to me.

November 24, Quiet Day, Manchester Cathedral 10am to 2.30pm, with Canon Dr R Buckley, Salford Archdeaconry Chaplain. Gather in the library for coffee and 10.30am start. Bring a packed lunch - Cost £2.50.

Each of these events offers a quiet period of time for worship and reflection away from the turmoil of our daily lives. If you have not already attended one, please take this opportunity to do so.

Email lilycritten@gmail.com

Letting Children be Children: Mothers' Union response to the Bailey Review.

The response from Mothers' Union to the Bailey Review Letting Children be Children, published Monday 6th June 2011:

Rosemary Kempself, Worldwide President of Mothers' Union said that the organisation "welcomed the 14 recommendations made in the Review, in particular the focus on parents concerns about the issues." In particular, Mothers' Union welcomes the recommendations to: introduce age ratings on music videos; ensure the Watershed is not pushed to the limits; and the requirement that retailers of internet enabled devices will ask customers to opt in to adult rated content at point of sale.

These measures will go a long way to empowering parents to make informed decisions about what their children access online, and how. We would also like to see consideration of the content and placement of on-street advertising given well before adverts are placed and compliance not reliant on a complaint having been made first."

However, Mothers' Union would like more robust action from the Government than has been recommended. Rosemary Kempself said: "We cannot agree with the Review that a purely consensual approach will be the most effective, and that further regulation or legislation would necessarily disempower parents. As the Review points out several times, parents want help and support to address the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood; and Government intervention is one way of achieving this.

We should not be afraid to challenge industry when the welfare of our children, and their future, is at stake. "Mothers' Union embraces the challenge set in the Review to hold to account those to whom the recommendations are addressed and will do so through the continuation of our Bye Buy Childhood campaign."



Bailey Review Recommendations

1. Ensuring that magazines and newspapers with sexualised images on their covers are not in easy sight of children.
2. Reducing the amount of on-street advertising containing sexualised imagery in locations where children are likely to see it.
3. Ensuring the content of pre-watershed television programming better meets parents' expectations.
4. Introducing Age Rating for Music Videos.
5. Making it easier for parents to block adult and age-restricted material from the Internet.
6. Developing a retail code of good practice on retailing to children.
7. Ensuring that the regulation of advertising reflects more closely parents' and children's views.
8. Prohibiting the employment of children as brand ambassadors and in peer-to-peer marketing.
9. Defining a child as under the age of 16 in all types of advertising regulation.
10. Raising parental awareness of marketing and advertising techniques.
11. Quality assurance for media and commercial literacy resources and education for children.
12. Ensuring greater transparency in the regulatory framework by creating a single website for regulators.
13. Making it easier for parents to express their views to businesses about goods and services.
14. Ensuring that businesses and others take action on these recommendations.

Mothers' Union influences Government

In the course of his review Reg Bailey our Chief Executive, met representatives from retailing, advertising, marketing, broadcasting and internet service providers, their trade associations and their regulators.

He also met experts in child protection, parenting champions and a range of academic and other experts in this field. The voices of parents and children come through strongly in the four key themes identified in his report.

Children and young people today are surrounded by sexualised imagery that has become an all-pervasive, ever-present backdrop to their lives, whether on television, the internet, in shops or public spaces. Parents find that goods and services for children in reputable high street shops are sometimes overly sexualised or needlessly gendered.

Businesses in the children's market too often treat children only as consumers and not as children. Parents find it hard to voice their concerns or make a complaint and fear they will not be listened to if they do.

Reg said that he has listened to the concerns of parents and takes them seriously. He understands that they want to set the standards and values their children live by and that they want support from businesses and others in doing this. He believes that their views have a special status as they speak for children, not just for themselves.

That is why, in making his recommendations, Reg is seeking ways to make businesses and regulators more responsive to the views of parents and to give parents more direct influence on how the decisions affecting children are made.

Reg said, "I wanted to understand the nature of these pressures on our children and young people. I hope that parents would

feel that I have listened to their concerns and that they will be taken seriously. I hope that our regulators will work consistently to connect with parents, recognising that they should have a much larger say in what is appropriate or desirable for their children to see and hear."

Reg recommends in his review that, the Government take stock of progress in 18 months' time and consider what further measures may need to be taken to achieve the recommended outcomes. Reg Bailey who had met with the Prime Minister, who had been impressed with the review and had felt that 18 months was too long to wait, so he was keen to come back to these issues in October, in just 4 months time.

Reg has paid tribute to his colleagues at Mothers' Union and the Buy Bye Childhood campaign launched by MU in the autumn, which prompted his being asked to undertake the government independent review. Mothers' Union wishes to see the end of childhood being treated as a marketing opportunity and children being targeted with or exposed to the 'sex sells' approach.

Two years ago, MU members were asked their views on this subject - many of our members here, at local level, responded - and this prompted independent research which led to the Bye Buy Childhood campaign. Mothers' Union welcomes the recommendations made in the Review.

In particular we appreciate the focus on parents' concerns, building upon previous research into the issues. Whilst rigorous research is important, we do welcome the 'common sense' approach adopted in the Review and we will continue to campaign to ensure that the Government takes steps to carry out these recommendations.

This is just one example of how being a member of Mothers' Union can help influence government policy.

General Meeting Edinburgh

by Margaret Shewring, Deanery Leader Rochdale

For me once again our General Meeting lived up to all my expectations.

In our group we had many members who have attended these meetings, year after year, and also members who went for the first time, and they were all very impressed. Listening to Worldwide President, Mrs Rosemary Kempell's presentation helps us feel more in touch with what is happening in the world outside our own little branch/deanery/diocese.

The keynote speaker Clinician/Journalist/Author and Broadcaster, Professor Tanya Byron, was both impressive and entertaining. She was very interested in all aspects of our Mothers' Union projects i.e. Bye Buy Childhood and the Bailey Report. One of her theories is, 'Is a child happy; are they relaxed; do they laugh?'

After lunch, the Unit Co-ordinators from Mary Sumner House gave their presentations. The one thing that struck me was, 'What do we offer new young members?'

We then had a presentation from Nicola Lawrence – Action and Outreach about the Democratic Republic of Congo. War has had a devastating affect on communities and on the work of Mothers' Union. However Mothers' Union has continued to work hard amid difficult situations in very practical ways to show God's love.

The most talked about topic was the report which Reg Bailey has been involved with - Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood, and Fleur Dorrell interviewed Reg about all aspects of his involvement. It's good to know that Mothers Union is recognised by the government for all the work it does.

Finally the meeting closed with worship. It left us feeling uplifted and looking forward to getting back to our branches to pass on all the friendship, fellowship and new ideas to all our members.

Page 10 *Cymbal*

The Celebration Eucharist

by Jean and Michael Williamson

On the evening of the General Meeting; the Eve of St. Columba's Day, we gathered for a service at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral.

The Celebration Eucharist followed this year's theme; "faithful relationship" and celebrated the life and witness of St. Columba; Abbot of Iona and one of the most influential of the early Christian missionaries in Scotland.

The Cathedral is a large building in the gothic style. It seats about 1000 people. Money was donated for its building by two sisters, after whom the two western spires were named. Today its 3 spires stand proud on the Edinburgh skyline. It is just one of Edinburgh's many beautiful church buildings and, to accommodate our large numbers, a simultaneous church service was held nearby.

The Bishop of Edinburgh led the Service and the preacher at the service was Bishop Robert Gillies, of Aberdeen and Orkney. Members of Manchester Mothers' Union were at the Cathedral. There was a deluge just before the service so some of us arrived "dripping". The Bishop of Edinburgh led the service and the Most Revd David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; who told us he is an Irishman! He joked about his accent but preached a warm and valuable sermon.

It was truly inspiring to see so many people packing into every available space and to watch the Provincial banners processed during the singing of the first hymn, "Be thou my vision" The service ended with the hymn "Amazing Grace" and was fittingly followed by a piper playing a pipe voluntary.

The festival service set the scene for an excellent General Meeting, which we all thoroughly enjoyed.



Memory of Eileen Chow

by Barbara Hill



On being asked to write about Eileen I didn't at first realise how far back I had to go, so I asked Alda a member of her Mothers' Union branch to help me.

I knew Eileen for quite a long time, before she became a member of Mothers' Union. Just a young mum, she came to my church with Roy when he became Rector of St. Paul's Blackley. She didn't feel she could fill the traditional role of enrolling member being the Rector's wife. In those far off days the Rectory however, was the hub of the parish and Eileen was always part of the action, at

Roy's side, sharing the ups and downs of parish life.

After a few years the family went to work in other parishes in the diocese and the next time I really saw much of Eileen was when she had become a member in the branch of Church of the Resurrection in the 1990's. She quickly became branch leader, then Deanery leader and finally in 2009 she became Archdeaconsy President for Manchester.

"She put her heart and soul into each of the jobs she took"

Meetings of Archdeaconsy were always so well prepared and welcoming, Eileen always happy to be meeting and working with people, such as times of preparing for Freshers' Week at the University. She put her heart and soul into each of the jobs she took, (including all she did within the local community and the City of Manchester) never doing anything by half measures. She also found time to help Roy, supporting him, not forgetting the love and care she gave to all her family, whom she loved so much, and having time for anyone who needed her help and advice.

When we met her socially in the last few months we were sure her positive attitude and her strong faith would bring her through, but it was not to be. The last time, as we parted, she turned, waved to us saying "Cheerio, see you soon".

Alda finished her memories by saying, "The only thing about all this, Eileen will never walk through the door of our new church, but I'm sure she will be with us".

I'm sure she will be with all who remember her and her presence among us".

Rest in Peace Eileen, in the presence of God.

St Mark's Mothers' Union link with Jamaica



Mrs Jean Prince, a member of St Mark's MU, Worsley, has been visiting Jamaica, and in particular, St Mark's Anglican Church at Brown's Town, for 22 years.

During this time, a strong link has been forged between the Mothers' Union branch in Brown's Town and our branch in Worsley.

Over the years, Jean has attended the island-wide AGM and branch meetings. Last year, she went to help at the post natal clinic where MU members provide lunches for the medical staff on their visiting day, water for the mothers and plastic bags for the babies medical cards.

This year, Jean was invited to the home of the eldest member, Mrs Rose McGhie (aged 98), who is now a 'shut in' (indoor member). Refreshments, including a wonderfully decorated cake, were provided to celebrate the link with St Mark's, Worsley. Jean was presented with 'Jamaican' tea towels for us to use at our meetings.

News of events and happenings are exchanged between our branches throughout the year and Jean sends copies of Families First. St Mark's, Worsley are very proud of our Jamaican link and are very grateful to Jean for her hard work and enthusiasm in keeping the link so strong. Long may it continue.



Cakes for Brakes

Carol Eyles - Branch Leader

St Paul's Monton, Mothers' Union support the Wheels Appeal – to keep the Mothers' Union transport around the world running.

After the service on Palm Sunday the Mothers' Union held a cake stall in the Community Room, and £49 was taken. A further £9 was added from the raffle of a donated crocheted blanket, making a total of £58 towards the Wheels Appeal. Thank you to everyone who either baked or bought the cakes for this appeal!



THE WORD REVEALED

A diocesan service to commemorate the
400th anniversary of the King James Bible

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

with Prof. Alister McGrath
Riding Lights Theatre Company
and Manchester Cathedral Choir

Dramatic narrative interwoven with music
will trace the Bible's story through the
history of our church and nation.

Sunday 23 October
3pm

*Manchester Cathedral will also be
hosting an exhibition,
Telling Tales of King James' Bible
1611 – 2011*



Manchester 
Cathedral

Tickets are free but must be requested in advance
from 0161 792 2096 or Sec@bishops court.manchester.anglican.org

Summertime

by Canon Roy Chow

*Summertime,
And the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin'
And the cotton is high*

*Your daddy's rich
And your mamma's good lookin'
So hush little baby
Don't you cry*

*One of these mornings
You're going to rise up singing
Then you'll spread your wings
And you'll take to the sky*

*But till that morning
There's a'nothing can harm you
With daddy and mamma standing by...*

The above words are from the song 'Summertime' of the musical/opera 'Porgy and Bess'. The song is a lullaby sung by a young mother, Clara, to her baby. Both parents live amongst a poor fishing community in which all are struggling to survive.

In this summer of 2011 can we claim that 'the livin' is easy'? For many families there is going to be greater financial pressure to face because of the financial restraints and cutbacks planned during this summer and for the next twelve months.

Perhaps this summertime will be a test of the Christian family values as espoused by the Mothers' Union and its members. How can we support families who are finding life difficult because of financial pressures? Perhaps the act of standing by such families and sharing their pain and praying with and for them is where we should start?

We need to remember that such families are not only to be found in our own congregations and communities. Many of

Chaplain's corner



you, the readers of this article, have near and extended families. Do you know how they are coping? Oh yes! They may seem to be coping well on the surface, but how well do you actually know them?

Do you know of any family which is cutting back on their summer holiday this year? Do you know a family where someone has lost their job? Have some or all of the children's activities been reduced or stopped altogether? Are not these, and many others, signs for us to be available with a listening ear or in prayer?

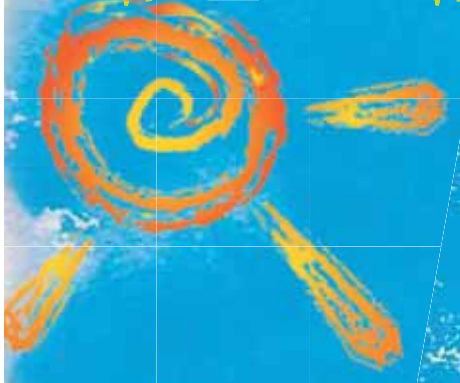
A Prayer for those whose family life is difficult:

**Father,
we pray for all unhappy families;
give healing where children
or parents are ill or in hospital;
strengthen mothers and fathers who
cannot provide for their children;
give comfort
where parents are separated
or children have run away
or are in trouble;
be with all who are alone or lonely;
we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

(United in Prayer and Worship p.66 MU Publication)

Next Cymbal

Articles should be sent, preferably by email to cymbal@mothersunionmanchester.org or to Chris Haworth, 15, Wardle Close, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 4QJ, or Carol Eyles, 8, Guilford Road, Manchester M30 7JF, by September 12, 2011.



Mothers' Union has produced a fantastic new resource called "Hand in Hand", which has been created to help families enjoy their faith together.

This resource is meant both for parents who are already strong in their faith and desire to nurture this in their children, and for those who feel less certain

Enjoying faith as a family

The booklet includes practical ways to share family spirituality and celebrate the wonder of life in good times and bad, and ways to develop personal and family faith.

Each copy costs £2 (with discounts available for bulk orders) and can be obtained from central services via email at centralservices@themothersunion.org or telephone on 020 7222 5533.



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

www.themothersunion.org