

**Mothers' UNION**

Christian care for families

**Diocese of Manchester**

**SPRING ISSUE 2015**



# CYMBAL

Supporting you and your church in working with families

- 3 Honorary Canon
- 8 New Members
- 9 Supporting the Young.
- 10 Just Up your Street

[www.mothersunionmanchester.org](http://www.mothersunionmanchester.org)





## Dates for your Diary



**May 7th** – Quiet Day at the Cathedral  
10am to 2.30pm

**May 13th** – Diocesan Festival  
Manchester Cathedral 7.30pm  
Preacher The Bishop of Bolton

**May 20th** – Rochdale Archdeaconry  
Festival at St Matthew Chadderton

**May 25th** – Whit Walk, meet  
Manchester Cathedral 10.00am

**June 23rd** – Salford  
Archdeaconry Festival – St Mark's  
Church, Worsley 7.30pm

**June 26th** – Mothers' Union  
General Meeting, Royal Concert  
Hall Nottingham

**August 4th** – Annual Diocesan  
Festival at St George's Mossley

2.20pm Preacher Cath Hilton  
Manchester Diocese President A  
Special Invitation to the Annual  
Diocesan Mothers' Union Festival at St  
George's Mossley, from Fr, Lindsey.

**September 5th** – Day Retreat – The  
Schoenstatt Shrine, Kearsley Bolton  
9.30am to 4.00pm

**Sept 30th** – Evening of Celebration,  
Royal Northern College of Music,  
Tickets £8

**November 10th** – York Provincial  
Service, Chester Cathedral 2pm

**November 28th** – Quiet Morning  
Manchester Cathedral 10am to  
12.30pm



### **Celebrating the lives of two members from Goodshaw MU** Rev'd Denise Smith – Deanery Leader

**Edith Ellison.** A much loved long serving member of the Goodshaw Branch of the Mothers' Union. She loved Mothers' Union and was an active member until the last few years of her life when she became an Indoor Member. She was always interested and supportive of our projects. She lived independently well into her 90's and remained a faithful prayer warrior till the end of her days. Edith will be very much missed by her fellow members.

**Mary Partington,** who died peacefully at home on Christmas morning at the age of 94 years. In May, Mary would have been a Mothers' Union member for 70 years. For the last 6 years, whilst living with her daughter Denise, she had been a member of the Goodshaw Branch in Rossendale. She never became an indoor member and insisted on struggling to meetings even when her health was failing. She is pictured in her wheelchair at the September retreat in our Autumn Cymbal. A faithful member, who will be much missed by the Goodshaw branch and her previous branch in Nelson.

**See page 7 for all the very special birthdays and anniversaries of our members**



## From our President

Cath Hilton

**Please pray about your commitment to Mothers' Union and what you might contribute.**

**Life is uncertain. God is not.**

**We don't know what tomorrow holds but we know who holds tomorrow.**

**Here we find ourselves part of the way through the final year of the Triennium. How time flies!**

We look forward with hope and expectation towards the next Triennium when we will have members holding new positions throughout the organisation.

What does the future hold? We really need you to consider fulfilling one of the roles -

Unit Coordinator for Action and Outreach, Administration, or Fundraising and Communication. Or could you be a Deanery Leader?

All those who are relinquishing their roles will have stories about how much they have enjoyed their time even though they may have met with challenges. It is not difficult to find the work of Mothers' Union rewarding.

## Honorary Lay Canon

Many congratulations from Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union to our past President Barbara Taylor who was installed as a Lay Canon of Manchester Cathedral - 'in recognition of her significant ministry in the Diocese and beyond'. Many members were able to join in support at the service of Evensong on Sunday February 1st. Barbara said that she sees this as an honour for Mothers' Union and recognition of its place within the church.

God is a worker - he created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 111:2 Great are the works of the Lord, they are pondered by all who delight in them.

We are God's co-workers. In Genesis Adam was placed in the garden to work and take care of it.

The partnership continues. God gives to us and we manage what we have been given.

Our challenge is to recognise that although work can be hard and challenging we are working in tandem with God.

I ask you to consider how you might give of your time to contribute to God's work through Mothers' Union. There is a deep satisfaction in knowing that you are participating in God's priorities. Giving to someone in need is giving a gift from God through your hands.

Many of the happiest people you and I know are those who are generous givers in all aspects of their lives.

## Have Your Say...

We would like to introduce a 'Have your say' page in our next Cymbal. What do you think about Cymbal? Send your thoughts and comments to Judith in the office, the address is on page 14 or preferably by e mail to [cymbal@mothersunionmanchester.org](mailto:cymbal@mothersunionmanchester.org)



## Mothers' Union Relief Work Update: Iraq

**In November 2014 the Mothers' Union's Relief Fund was able to contribute to the coordinated efforts of the network of Kurdish churches in Iraq to bring refuge and safety to displaced families and refugees from towns that have become war-zones due to IS aggression – Mosul, Qaraqash, and more.**

The money and resources we have given through The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf have helped the local church make a huge difference to these families, restoring some sense of stability and community. Without the presence of international relief agencies in the most desperate of areas, the Church network has enabled families to have shelter, fresh water, food, clothing and medicine.

Bishop Michael, and Father Faiz, from Mothers' Union's home in Iraq, St George's Baghdad, have written to thank all who contributed, the support shown by our members around the world has made life on the ground more bearable for these struggling communities.

Support for these refugees has enabled the church network to establish complexes across the city of Erbil, each of which house 650 refugees. In total nearly 15,000 have to date been sheltered. Thirty enormous water tanks provide the fresh water and over 1,000 blankets have also been distributed.

The pictures shared with us demonstrate that, whilst not ideal, families are today being cared for. However the situation is still critical – keeping the water clean is a major problem, and the electricity supply is often interrupted as the price of fuel soars out of reach.

The need to help these displaced communities rebuild their lives remains – the need for housing, schooling and of

course employment. Rather than simply continue to provide relief, therefore, Mothers' Union will continue to build a close relationship with Iraq through the Diocese in order to do all we can to contribute to the rebuilding of safe communities in Iraq.



# Salisbury Link – End of an Era

Molly Marsh (a now redundant Link Correspondent)

Each alternate year for twenty five years groups of members from Manchester Diocese and Salisbury Diocese have exchanged hospitality, this has led to many firm friendships being made. It is sad that this has come to an end but the fun times we have had together will be talked about for many years to come. For twenty five years we have prayed together and that will not change, we will continue to remember Salisbury Mothers' Union in our prayers and thank God for all the good times we have shared.

## 1988 - 2013



# Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting

Nottingham 25th-26th June 2015

Members in Southwell and Nottingham are looking forward to the General Meeting on Friday June 26th 2015 at the Royal Concert Hall Nottingham.

## Roadshows Give us a KISS!!



Following very successful Roadshows for Branch Leaders in 2013, we decided to give leaders another opportunity to meet together, share ideas and maybe pick up a few pointers/new ideas for leading branches. They took place in March in each of the Archdeaconries.

We looked at what Mothers' Union is doing in a broad sense throughout the organisation and we learned a little about our new prayer links in a session entitled 'Where in the World?'

It had come to our notice that some smaller branches are beginning to struggle to find members willing to take on roles such as secretary and treasurer so this is where 'KISS'ing came into our presentation!

*Kiss me, honey, honey, kiss me, thrill me, honey, honey, thrill me. Don't care even if I blow my top but honey, honey, don't stop!!*

It is the first time the General Meeting has been held there. Nottingham is famous for Notts. County (the oldest football club in the league), Nottingham Forest, Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Players cigarettes, Raleigh bicycles, Torvill and Dean, not to mention Robin Hood! On Thursday evening there will be 2 services - one at Southwell Minster and one at St. Mary's in the Lace Market in Nottingham City Centre

The planning group had not come across the acronym KISS before but it stands for Keep It Short and Simple OR Keep It Simple and Straightforward.

Chris Haworth shared ideas about how to share the workload empower others and enthuse members.

So, hopefully, now we have have branches kissing, thrilling and not stopping!!

### Thought for the Year.

## Occam's Razor! - What is Occam's Razor?

Occam's (or Ockham's) razor is a principle attributed to the 14th century logician and Franciscan friar William of Ockham. Ockham was the village in the English county of Surrey where he was born. "If you have two equally likely solutions to a problem, choose the simplest." or in the only form that takes its own advice. . . "Keep things simple!"

## A SAD FAREWELL from Bryan Goodall (now retired) Manchester Diocesan Treasurer

I have had the privilege of serving you as the Diocesan Treasurer for the last 12 years but the time has come for me to hand over the reins to someone else.

During this period I have met or spoken to many of you and it has been such a wonderful experience one which I will never forget.

When mentioning the "blue" forms I hope I have not filled you with dread.

Working on the Finance and Advisory committee and supporting the Trustees has been an eye opener on how much is achieved behind the scenes in order that the Manchester Mothers' Union operates

smoothly and efficiently.

I have to say a special thanks to my "team mate" Judith who has assisted me over the years.

I would also give my heartfelt thanks to all who supported me with prayers and cards during my wife's illness.

While still being a member of the MU it will now be nice to take a back seat.

I wish you all, especially the treasurers, continued success and I am sure you will support the new Diocesan Treasurer as much as you have me.

# Congratulations

to all our members with  
**Special Anniversaries and Birthdays**

## Golden Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Joyce and Peter Laundon** who celebrated their special day on March 13th 2015. Joyce is a member of Mothers' Union, All Saints Church, Stand.

Congratulations to **Liz and Carson Hardman** on their Golden Wedding, April 24th 2015. Liz is a member of Mothers' Union and of the choir at St Lawrence Denton. Along with other members of the Branch, Liz is also active with SSAFA the charity who help servicemen

## Diamond Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Joan and Fred Nicholson** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with their family in Indonesia in April. Joan is the longest serving member of All Saints Church, Stand Mothers' Union.

## 102 years young!

**Alice McMinn** celebrated her 102nd birthday on January 24th with members of St Lawrence's Mothers' Union who all send love and best wishes to a very special member who still attends Branch meetings. We add our love and congratulations from Cymbal.

## 100 years young!

**Lily Harding.** On January 3rd our oldest member, Mrs Lily Harding celebrated her 100th birthday. Lily is a long and faithful member of St Margaret's Prestwich Branch, joining when her children were young. She has almost 70 years of service to the M.U., a fact of which she is very proud and she still has the blue veil that the mothers used to wear in days gone by. The branch celebrated with Lily at the annual Christmas dinner. Her daughter brought a cake and each member received a chocolate lollypop with Lily's 100th Birthday iced on it (very indulgent as they were made by Slattery's!). On her actual birth date Lily celebrated by having a meal at a local restaurant with her

family and her long time friend Dorothy Birtwhistle. Over the next two weeks members went in small numbers to see the lovely decorations that her family had put up and there we were treated to sherry and cake.

Lily received many cards, too many to count, but in pride of place was the Queen's card. Lily attended meetings until a couple of years ago, and still takes an active interest not only in all we do here at St Margaret's branch. Regretfully Lily a much loved member of our branch and Church family died on Palm Sunday, March 29th. We will miss her. In faith and fellowship

**Jean Johnson Branch Leader**



## 100 years young!

**Mrs Annie Miguel** (above photo) celebrated her 100th birthday on Thursday 28th November (2014). An indoor member at St George's Mossley branch Annie celebrated with a party at home. Dressed in pink she was certainly 'in the pink' as she made a lovely speech truly reflecting her faith. The lovely cake was made by MU member Lilian Taylor and Annie received a birthday card from the Queen. Both the Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside were present, along with family and friends including Father Lindsay and members of the Branch. A lovely memorable occasion enjoyed by everyone, especially Annie.

## 90th Birthday congratulations

Congratulations to **Maud Waters** a long serving member of Christ Church, Heaton. Maud has been a member for 60 years and will be celebrating her 90th birthday on May 4th.

## Congratulations from the Archbishop of York...



Look who is having lunch with the Archbishop?

**Oldham Parish Church Mothers' Union Branch Leader, Susan Fozard, chatted with Archbishop John Sentamu, during his visit to the Oldham town centre Street Angels Project. Susan is also a team leader with the Street Angels.**

As part of his two-day visit to the Manchester Diocese, Archbishop Dr John Sentamu is seeing first-hand Oldham projects meeting the social needs of the community.

Last night he sat with the volunteers who work in Oldham's night economy on Saturdays to help keep people safe. He surprised the locals when he popped in to the Up Steps Inn before pulling a pint of Bishop's Finger ale while chatting to staff. Then he visited Liquid Envy to meet licensees, town centre police and staff. Dr Sentamu said of the Angels: "I think anybody who goes out to help people must be congratulated. They've been going for three years, which is wonderful. They rescue people from difficult situations." (*The above report copied from the Oldham Evening Chronicle*) The Oldham Street Angels Team includes six members of the Mothers' Union.

## Welcome to all new members

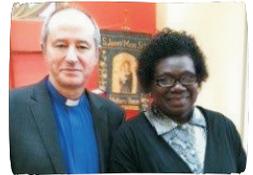
At the Advent service in December our President Cath enrolled the **Revd Chris Fallone and Revd Sian Gasson** from St Saviours Church Collyhurst. around the Diocese have been working at St Saviours as part of our Just Up Your Street project.

Lots of new friends have been made and an enormous lot of fun.



### New members in Moss Side

**Sandra Bradshaw**  
Manchester Archdeaconry President



On Sunday 1st March I had the pleasure of enrolling two new members into St James Moss Side, Mothers' Union. Branch Leader Jean Wheale, invited me to join them in their Sunday morning worship and at the end of the service we enrolled Joyce Denny and Rector Tony Hardy into the Mothers' Union. It is always a privilege to be able to welcome new members and hope they will continue to support their Branch and the work of the Mothers' Union.

### Celebrating 60 years membership

Enid Leach and Jean Roseby celebrated 60 years membership. Barbara Tuke and Brenda Leadbeater celebrated over 40 years all members of St Michaels, Tonge-cum-Alkrington who received their certificates on Mothering Sunday.

## Congratulations ... Congratulations ... Congratulations



### Wedding Congratulations to Ruth and Adam

(the first the Editor has had the pleasure of including in Cymbal)

**Congratulations from Christ Church Heaton and all Cymbal readers to their youngest member Ruth (nee Morley) who married Adam Syddall on December 30th 2014 at Christ Church, Heaton. Adam also attends MU meetings regularly. Wishing you both a long healthy and happy life together.**

# An Evening of Fun & Entertainment.

The fruits of....  
Oh what a night!

Some of you may remember an article that was printed in the last Autumn Cymbal relating an Evening of Entertainment, combining three organisations – The Union of Catholic Mothers, the Catholic Women's League and The Mothers' Union in the Manchester Diocese.

Following on from this event, the Leaders and Organisers met up with Howard Newhall from The Christie Charity to have a photo shoot with a large cheque showing the amount that had been raised. Whilst our Marketing Unit Co-ordinator, Chris Haworth was very much present and instrumental in organising the printing of the tickets and many other areas of administration, she chose not to be in the photograph, in favour of taking the pictures!! Prior to the taking of the photographs, Howard took us through The Christie hospital corridors, showing especially the brand new Young People's Oncology Unit – a massive unit which enables the youngsters up until the age of 22 years of age, to have a “normal”



Cheque presentation at Christies – November 2014  
from L to R. Maureen Woodward Iris Riley (UCM).  
Gaye Casey Anne Fox (CWL) Maureen Moore MU  
General Trustee, Cath Hilton President, Shirley  
Handley (UCM)

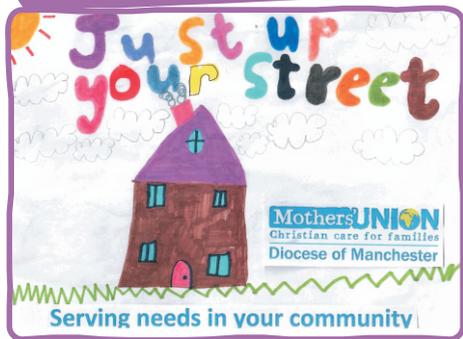
existence whilst undergoing treatment, providing rooms for them to get together socially and have their parents stay with them when necessary. (We, as a charity, are unable to donate to other charities because of our Constitution, unless it supports our own aims and objectives. Because of this, at the outset, the area of The Christie to which we could donate had to be that of young people.) He also showed us many areas of Fund Raising that is undertaken to provide all of the improvements to the hospital very much needed in today's society with increasing numbers needing treatment. These activities were very similar to those which we have for our own Charity, which shows how generous people are with their time and expertise in many areas. It proved to be an interesting afternoon, finalising what had been an excellent event in the summer – the other organisations are looking forward to meeting up with us again this year for future get-togethers.

Maureen Moore  
General Trustee and  
joint Co-ordinator of the Event.



**The Christie**  
TOWARDS A FUTURE WITHOUT CANCER

## Just up your Street



### A Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union Project

#### Supporting the Rough Sleepers in Bury

Romey Simpson  
Deanery Leader Bury

Last summer I was invited, along with our Diocesan President and Deanery Secretary to a Mothers' Union meeting at St. Peter's Church, Bury. The branch leader Julie Lancaster had invited a speaker to talk about the homeless and rough sleepers within the borough. Julie had thought that it would be a project for her branch to support, however it soon became apparent that this was too big for one branch.

A meeting was arranged with Calico, who run the rough sleepers drop in, to discuss their

needs and so because of Julie's thoughtful idea a "Just up your street" campaign was started. The deanery has been very generous and has donated sleeping bags, warm clothing, boots and much more. Some branches have had a fund raiser to buy hats, gloves, scarves and sleeping bags

Calico started up in Bury in August 2013. In their first year the service helped 52 clients, many more than was originally predicted, since August of last year there has been a further 26 referrals. Because of our involvement, extra socks and clothing has been given out to individuals, something that could not have been done before. Extra storage space has been allocated to them at the Town Hall.

The rough sleepers drop ins are only open for a few hours each week at the Mosses Centre and Humphrey House in Bury. They are manned by one dedicated salaried worker and one committed volunteer; two more volunteers have just been appointed and are currently undergoing induction. This will further expand the capacity of the service to provide more assertive outreach and promote the service more effectively throughout Bury and the surrounding towns.

When Julie has a day off I know that she visits the Mosses Centre to see how her idea is progressing and taking with her a bag of goodies. There are three of us who go in, myself, Tricia Stokes and Julie, we are known as the bag ladies. Now that conjures up some thoughts!



## And the President went too

Trish Stokes

Christ Church Walmersley

Raising money in support of Just up Your Street the Mothers Union Branch of the Church of the 7 Saints held an afternoon tea at St Catherine's Farnworth which made for a lovely afternoon out. Food and fellowship was wonderful and a small raffle raised £25 for Just Up Your Street. Thank you ladies for inviting Cath our Diocesan President who invited me. This is to take place each month.



## House Project

supported by just up Your Street

**A Rochdale Archdeaconry project.**

The Burnside Centre on Langley part of All Saints & Martyrs Parish has been supported by Just up your Street with funding for the purchase of a digital camera so they can take pictures which will be used in the publication of a monthly magazine showing what happens in the centre. Like many centres they would welcome volunteers to help with cooking and serving lunches. Do you live close by? Can you help?

**Another project supported by Just up Your Street...**

## The House Project – Building the Community

Carol Schofield

**The House Project was initially conceived by the Mission Committee at the church with a view to providing a place for both the congregation and the local community of all ages to meet enjoy fellowship, get something to eat and join in worship**

Trialled over the school summer holidays for one evening a week, the kitchen was opened craft and game sessions were organised together with children's activities and we opened a charity shop. A listening team was available for anyone who needed to talk or just have the opportunity to sit and have a coffee and chat. At the end of the evening a variety of forms of worship from members of the Mission team with Father Graham for about twenty minute were offered. Having reviewed how it went, we found people particularly appreciated the fellowship, the food and the variety of worship with a good number of the visitors who did not usually attend the church. We will resume our activities and with some extra advertising and promotion hope to build upon the success even further.

# Faith & Policy – Revd Roy Chow

Faith & Policy Co-ordinator

## ‘Walking with Hannah’

At its heart is the Old Testament story of a Hannah and how she prayed to God for a son. Her wish was granted on the basis that she would give him back to the Lord. His name is Samuel. We 'walk' with Hannah through seven different prayer stations which enable us to discover how God is calling us to work with him in the Mothers' Union. There may be an opportunity to experience this 'Walk' at a venue near you.

## Whit Walk in Manchester

This takes place on Monday 25th May, assembling on Fennel Street and Long Millgate on the Chethams School side of Manchester Cathedral. The Procession starts off at 10.00am prompt. We will walk along Victoria Street and Deansgate to Albert Square where the mayors of Manchester and Salford meet us for a service led from the Town Hall steps at 10.45am. Afterwards, we walk back to the Cathedral led by the mayors. The MU group follow after the Cathedral contingent. Bring your banners and as many of your members as possible.

## Quiet Days:

Responding to the suggestion for a Saturday time of quiet and reflection, this I have arranged for Saturday 28th November. The Cathedral day begins with Morning Prayer/Eucharist at 9.00am. The Quiet Morning is in the Cathedral Library at 10.00am until 12.30pm. Attending the Morning Prayer/ Eucharist is totally voluntary. Tea and Coffee will be provided at the beginning only.

However, we shall be holding our usual May date on Thursday 7th May (10am – 2.30pm).

The Saturday Day Retreat in September is being held at a new venue for us in Kearsley. Who would have thought that such a peaceful and beautiful site is available in the urban area of Salford. However, it is there for you to experience and enjoy. All are welcome (including non-members) to attend all or one of these.

## Media City

A small group are looking into the possibility of holding a day of reflection and creativity at this venue in 2016. Planning is still at a very early stage, but it is hoped that it will involve a Prayer Walk, time for reflection and expressing this through the arts, such as photography, drawing and painting, sculpture, needlework etc. If you believe that you have or know of someone who has an appropriate creative skill to offer on the day, then please let me know.

## Dates to note:

- 1. Quiet Day:**  
Thursday 7th May in Manchester Cathedral (10am - 2.30pm)
- 2. Faith & Policy Unit meeting:**  
Monday 6th July and  
19th October (1-3pm)
- 3. Whit Walk:** Monday 25th May  
at 10.00am prompt
- 4. Saturday Day Retreat:**  
Saturday 5th September at  
Shoenstatt Centre, Kearsley.
- 5. Quiet Morning:** Saturday 28th  
November (10am - 12.30)

## Around the Archdeaonries

### Walking with Hannah

**Dorothy Ford** St Anne's Royton

**This was held at St James' Church, Thornham who hosted the evening for Oldham West Deanery. When we were asked to take part in this I had no idea of the theme of the evening.**

First of all Cheryl, Barbara Val and myself read the story of Hannah who was unhappy and had been treated badly because she had no children and was taunted by the second wife of Elkanah who had many children. Then we read 'Hannah's Prayer'. She desperately wanted a son and if and when that came to fruition she promised to give that son to God. Hannah must have been heartbroken but she still kept her promise. Hannah rejoiced which is shown in her prayer 'I am dancing with God News' After that we had many questions which we had to think about which were placed on special tables and used different coloured ribbons which we tied on a bookmark when we had thought about our answers and completed our individual activities.

What did we expect of future generations who were in the Mothers' Union? How should the rich help the poor in present

times? How should we promote Mothers' Union? Hannah's prayer was represented in the bookmark - 'God brings hope' - 'God puts poor people on their feet again' - 'God protectively cares for his faithful friends'

Hannah's prayer was adapted from the first book of Samuel 1 – 10, the middle letters of Samuel being MU. Everyone present participated in the evening and were kept extremely busy concentrating on their activities. The evening was very different from our usual get togethers but extremely worthwhile and thought provoking and had a calming influence on us all. Thanks to Cheryl and Lone who organised everything for us.

### Celebrating 50 Years



**St Andrews Bromley Cross Mothers Union** celebrated 50 years with a special service and a very special cake. Congratulations to all your members

## Salford Archdeaconry



2015 had hardly dawned when St. Paul Peel, Little Hulton, celebrated their 125th Anniversary. The beautifully arranged service

of celebration took place on Wednesday January 7th. As part of the service we looked back at when the branch opened. On the 8th January 1890, 62 ladies became members of the Mothers' Union and at their first Festival in September, of the same year, the branch had grown to 100 members. A lot of changes have taken place within the Mothers' Union since 1890 but our Christian ethos of supporting families and family life still remains. Today St. Paul Peel, is a robust group, led by Michelle Coghlin, with over 35

members and at the service two new members, Olwen Cropley and Eileen Carr were enrolled and Grace Jarvis was readmitted into the group. The Ven David Sharples, Archdeacon of Salford, preached at this memorable service. After the service everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet with a beautifully decorated anniversary cake baked by my members, mother and daughter Margaret Thorpe and Andrea Oliver. We are certainly a 'talented lot' in the Mothers' Union!

## Revd Ian Butterworth

### Rochdale Archdeaconry Chaplain

**Like many of us, I read so much in the newspapers these days about what seems to be mindless vandalism. I see it in so many smashed bus shelters and in so much graffiti and I see its consequences in the shuttered shops I pass every night as I drive home. I often find myself listening to comments on the lines of 'jobs who have nothing better to do than destroy public property' or 'they should bring back National Service.' There is a very commonly held view that some people are out to destroy Society and that they need discipline to bring them to heel.**

Yet the reality is that, when you struggle with life but have adverts for things you cannot afford thrust under your nose at every turn, it is hard not to feel that you are deliberately being pushed out and deprived. Some people react to this feeling by hitting out at 'Society'. 'They' – the people in authority who represent all that grinds them down – will have to spend money and time in repairing smashed bus shelters or cleaning off the graffiti and that is somehow a victory for the underdog.

In recent years Society has allowed a huge gap to open up between haves and have nots, and as Christians we have colluded with that process. We have been happy to buy the latest TV or the newest bit of technology, or to buy a new car and in so doing we have

forgotten that fundamental bit of Jesus' teaching – that we are called to live simply so that others may simply live. Someone once said to me 'When you go in a shop or a supermarket and something catches your eye, ask yourself if you need it or just want it.' I have to confess I find that hard advice but it is good advice, and for those of us who profess and call ourselves Christians it is a very helpful mantra to recite every time we see an advert which attracts us, or when we wander round the shops.

We are those who must set an example of godly living, as the Prayer Book puts it. In other words, we are those who must show by the way we live that God can and will fill the empty spaces in life far better than anything in a shop or a catalogue. We can counter the prevailing feeling that we need possessions and luxuries to be happy by showing that looking outside ourselves, giving our time and energy away, thinking much more of others needs than of our own, are a far better recipe for happiness than a house filled with technology or a life filled with self-pity.

I have to admit that I don't find that easy on my own, I need other people to support me – which is why I am in The Mothers' Union and proud of it. This is an organisation which has other people and their needs at its heart. **Long may it continue!**

# End of Triennium Celebration

at the  
Royal College of Music  
Oxford Street, Manchester  
on **September 30th 2015**



**Speaker:**  
**Worldwide**  
**President**  
**Lynne Tembey**

**Tickets £8**

*There are 650 seats for this extra special event - make sure you have one of them!*

---

**PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW**

*and be part of Manchester Diocese  
Mothers' Union Celebration of  
three more years supporting  
and enabling families both  
here and around the world*