

A letter from your President

I am writing this at the end of Prison's Week and have just read the prayer "Praying With Workers" which finishes with the sentence "Tune us in to the surprising movement of your Spirit." Unbelievably, last night I received an email from Mary Sumner House asking for help for a family from Staffordshire who are waiting for news about a relative recently sent to HMP Manchester. Fortunately, our relationship with the prison has meant we were able to get a prompt response within 24 hours. Building relationships with other organisations, our churches, our clergy and with each other, is a vital part of what we must do in Mothers' Union in order to move forward. We have been, and are exploring MULO (Mothers' Union, Listening, Observing and Acting) to see where we are as Branches, where we fit in, where we are being asked to go and what we are being asked to do. I would really encourage you to try and come to Spring Council next year, as this is where you will hear so much more about what is going on, hear from those we support and find out what we are trying to achieve in the future. Did you know that our CEO Bev Jullien was in Manchester speaking to our clergy recently and that our Worldwide President Sheran Harper is in York Province in November and will experience what we in Manchester do to support The Clewer Initiative? I wonder how many of you have remembered about our Spring Grassroots Challenge of sending in prayers and poems for a booklet "In Step with God." It would be amazing if every Branch could contribute one piece. Maybe children or grandchildren would like to write something. It's so important to include children in what we do, as was evident at our Diocesan Festival. Make sure you find out about our Autumn Grassroots Challenge! Next year's theme is "Building, Hope and Confidence" - the hope and confidence we wish to achieve for ourselves and for others. Let's continue to build on those small things we know we do well. The small things will grow, flourish and metamorphosize confidently. "Tune in to the surprising movement of His Spirit."

With my love, Christine



Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

7th 12.30pm Provincial Service, Leeds Minster with WWP.

14th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate

DECEMBER

5th Advent Carol Service, St Ann's Manchester 1.30pm

12th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate

12th Office and Shop closes

JANUARY

2nd Office and shop re-open

9th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate

9th AFIA Holiday applications deadline

GRASSROOTS CHALLENGE Autumn Council 2019



Hold a MULO meeting.
 What are our talents?
 How can we use them to move forward?

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Anne & Brian Haslam from Christ Church Heaton, Bolton who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September, also to Michael and Irene Watson from St. Michaels, Tonge cum Alkington, who celebrated 65 years of marriage in August. Birthday celebrations for Sylvia Marsh, from Eccles Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, who turned 90 years young in August, huge congratulations from your branch and all of us at Manchester MU.

Zip, Zip and away for 'Welcoming Strangers'

Barbara Silvester, a member at Christ Church Walmersley, Bury for 37 years, decided she wanted to celebrate her recent 70th Birthday in a different way. Instead of the usual gifts from friends and family at her Birthday Celebrations, she asked if they would sponsor her on a Zip wire challenge for the MU Manchester 'Welcoming Strangers'. Her husband Nigel, also a member of Mothers' Union, paid for the experience in Wales at Blaenau Ffestiniog Slate Caverns, and so on Saturday 18th May they set off to the Titan Zip accompanied by family member onlookers! After being trussed up like a Tellytubby in a red boiler suit and having all the safety equipment attached, it weighed a 'ton,' she was loaded into a mini bus that took her and eight others to the top of the Slate mines some 1,581ft above sea level. Then began the decent. The first zip line was the longest and slowest – about 25mph over gaping holes in the ground, a long way down, for about 1000 yards, a short trek down to the next zip line, which was shorter but faster at about 35 mph and then a slog up hill to the final zip which reached a speed of about 45 mph. All in all, over 1.25 miles were travelled by Zip line. Barbara says "It was brilliant, the other eight were a group of men celebrating the 50th birthday of one of them, who took me on board as an 'honorary granny' and we had a great laugh. They were interested in what the Mothers' Union were doing in 'Welcoming Strangers.' My friends and family were very generous and made donations totalling £690, which with gift aid will have added £857 to the fund. Was I scared? Not at all, I knew I was in safe hands! (Jesus') and compared to what the people from Syria have been through to escape it was a doddle." What a fantastic achievement, Well done Barbara!



Celebrating the Family, Manchester Diocesan Annual Festival

On 28th September at St Ann's Church Manchester, the Annual Diocesan Festival was held with Archdeacon David Sharples presiding. The theme was a celebration of the Family, in all its shapes, and sizes. Archdeacon David talked about treating each person as if they were our own. It was a fabulous celebration of the work we do as Mothers' Union in sharing God's love in the support we give to families, our own, our church families and families across the world. Many members from across the diocese were involved in the service, introducing the sections of the service, reading scripture, poems and prayers. A wonderful inclusion to the service was the involvement of members' children, who brought a real sense of family to the service, they were all fantastic! A very moving section was from a group of men who had been trafficked, but are now receiving support from Alan Beck and St Chrysostoms, Manchester. They have started to learn English and read a poem in the service.



Bolton Archdeaconry Festival and News from St Anne's Tooting

St. Anne's was invited to host the Bolton Archdeaconry Festival on the 9th August, which is our Founder Mary Sumner's Day. In spite of awful weather the Special Communion Service was very well attended and our guests included Christine Sharp our Diocesan President and The Reverend Jean Burgess, Archdeacon of Bolton. Following a warm welcome from Hugh our Vicar, the Service opened with a Hymn during which MU Banners were paraded. The Archdeaconry Banner will now remain at St. Anne's for the coming year. During the Service, Archdeacon Burgess commissioned the new MU Bolton Archdeaconry President Ruth Taylor and Walmsley Deanery Leader Pauline Greenhalgh. Following the Service everyone retired to the Hall for refreshments. Barbara Taylor had brought along an exhibition of MU Literature and our Branch set out a small display including albums showing our activities down the years with photographs. Frances Brough came along with the MU travelling shop and was delighted with her sales. A very pleasant evening for everyone which went smoothly thanks to the Vicar, Ruth Taylor and everyone from the Archdeaconry and Deaneries who participated in the Service and our Branch members who helped before and on the night in Church and Hall.



This event was followed on the 20th August with a Canapes, Cakes and Comedy Evening preceded by a walk led by Mavis Jolley. The weather was kind and the walk was thoroughly enjoyed by all. As well as the Canapes provided by "Delicious" of Tooting, we were treated to individual cakes, courtesy of Mavis Jolley (and Peter) and Joan Feeley (and Laurie) who celebrated their Golden Weddings in August. Many Congratulations! Our evening was rounded off with entertainment provided by Ian Kenyon, alias the "Huyton Poet" ----a mixture of observational comedy, in which his wife Maureen featured prominently and humorous poems he had written, inspired by everyday happenings. We ladies were able to identify closely with Maureen's sometimes OCD traits and frustration with some sympathy, but could also see why we mystify the male population a lot of the time!



120th Anniversary for Bury Parish Church

2019 is a very special year for St Mary the Virgin, Bury Parish Church Mothers' Union as they celebrated their 120th Anniversary this Summer. To share this special occasion with other Branches they hosted the Bury Deanery Festival in September. Following the Service refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed a piece of the special anniversary cake.



Vacancy We are still praying and searching for an MU Archdeaconry President for Salford. Please do pray and consider if this is a role you could take. Please contact the office for more details.

Don't forget to get your Christmas Orders in at the MU shop.



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Mothers' Union Manchester



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Thoughts and Prayers 🙏

We remember Joyce Cartwright who died in September, we give thanks for her long standing membership of over 40 years from St Lawrence, Denton, also we remember Indoor Member Dorothy Virgo from St Anne's Tottington ,who has died after recently celebrating her 99th Birthday.

Rochdale Archdeaconry has lost two longstanding members recently. Mary Helliwell, who had been a member for 40 years. Mary's branch was originally in the Saddleworth Deanery, later Oldham East. She served as Branch Leader, Deanery Leader, and Archdeaconry Leader and on the Trustee Board. Mary was a lady of many talents which she shared in and around the community. She was an accomplished organist and played for services at St Barnabas; St Matthews & Aiden Roundthorn; St Anne's Lydgate; St James Ashton. Many members will remember soup at the Chaplaincy. Mary made sure that her soup was made with fresh vegetables, no packet in sight. She made celebration cakes for all occasions and wonderful buffets for many MU get togethers, especially when our members from Salisbury came to visit us. She was also co-ordinating taking items into Royal Oldham Hospital to the neo natal and children's wards. Her commitment and loyal service to Mothers' Union will be greatly missed.

Enid Leach was a member for 70 years, first at St. Chads and then at St. Michaels, Tonge. She served as branch leader at both branches. She was also a well known MU speaker and was Speaker's Trainer for the Manchester Diocese. She was at one time on the MU Manchester Executive Council and on Central Council. She had a great interest in our Overseas links and was always keen that the correspondence should be kept up. Enid was an accomplished needlewoman and was an expert on church linen and banners . Her advice was sought on many occasions when repairs and refurbishment were needed. The MU members and ladies at St. Michaels Sewing group were always kept busy. After conversations with a local undertaker Enid, was instrumental in beginning our project with local hospitals particularly in providing items for the neo-natal units. She had an undimmed interest in and commitment to MU and her input and wise counsel will be sadly missed.

Manchester MU Display Board

Please contact the office if you would like to use the Manchester MU Display Board for an event or service at church or in the community. Thank you to Barbara Taylor for reinvigorating the display board. It looks fantastic!



News from Overseas, The Diocese of Popondota, PNG

MU member Cecilia from Erero, Diocese of Popondota, dressed beautifully in the traditional style as she waits to welcome Lydia Gladwin from Mary Sumner House visiting Mothers' Union members in ACPNG (Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea) around 2000. Her headband has 4 birds of paradise incorporated in it, flowers tucked in behind armbands, long necklaces of shells and seeds, and a pig tusks ornament.



The Cathedral of the Resurrection was built about 1977 when the Diocese of Papua New Guinea became a separate Anglican Province, divided into 5 Dioceses as shown on the map. The church grounds are on the outskirts of Popondetta which is the Provincial capital of Oro Province. Papua New Guinea is divided into 22 Government Provinces. Notice the low walls - when there is a big celebration, the congregation numbers are boosted by those standing outside and looking in.



A village less than 20 miles from Popondetta, with traditional houses at extreme R and L and in the distance, and a more modern one with an iron roof in the centre (though the timber with which it is constructed is fairly roughly sawn). The low long building behind the van is probably the village church, note the half walls too. The van is likely to be a PMV - public motor vehicle, owned by a family here, which takes passengers and cargo to and from Popondetta. A garden of healthy looking Taro (favourite staple in Oro lowlands) is front left. Main gardens are outside the village. There are 29 different languages in Oro Province, and the one spoken in this area is Orokaiva which is the largest. There are at least 850 different languages in the whole country of PNG. You would recognise the banana and coconut trees, and I think the tallest tree is a breadfruit, which they cook and eat.



This river is not far from the village above, and women are washing clothes (and bodies) and making it a sociable time. Men would wash in a separate section of the river. The climate in this area has 2 seasons, hot and wet, and hot and wetter!