

Sheffield Diocese Mothers' Union Newsletter March 2021

A letter from the President

I thought that it was about time that I put pen to paper (or rather fingers to keyboard!) As the saying goes 'Time flies when you are enjoying yourself.' Unfortunately, I can't say that I am enjoying myself all of the time. Time seems to go very slowly during part of each day. However, God is good and I am very fortunate. I have a home which is warm and dry. I have food in my cupboards and I have the use of phones and technology so that I can speak to or contact family and friends.

Our theme for this year is 'Rebuilding Hope and Confidence.' We need to stay optimistic, looking forward to the time when we can meet again in person. During this last strange 12 months, we have managed to keep in touch with Mothers' Union members, using the latest technology as well as the more familiar, letters and phone calls. It has made meetings and services very different but giving flexibility to the way we interact. Mothers' Union has become different. The numbers of staff at Mary Sumner House has been drastically reduced. However, the important work that Mothers' Union members are involved in Worldwide has continued. In Sheffield Diocese, we have continued to support 5 Women's Refuges with much needed items. Food Banks, Baby Basics and the Archer Project have also been the recipients of items donated by Mothers' Union members. We have AFIA holidays booked for this year and money set aside for any further ones. Thank you to everyone who has helped, in any way, to keep our members informed and thank you for paying your subscriptions. Most of the money has now been collected and sent to Phill, our Treasurer.

On Thursday 29th April at 1.30pm in Sheffield Cathedral there will be a Service to Commission Reverend Hilda Isaacson as our Chaplain. This was planned for last year but better late than never! We are also hoping to enrol Bishop Pete. Although numbers are limited, the whole service will be Live Streamed on the Cathedral Site.

Our AGM and Spring Council will be at 10am via Zoom on May 19th. This year sees the end of this Triennium. Branch Co-ordinators and Trustees are elected for 3 years so now is the time to think about possible successors and elections. In the meantime keep smiling as you proudly wear your badge.

Happy Easter to you all

Love Gill x

Subscriptions 2021

Thank You from the Trustees!

As we remain in lockdown, we know that branches have been unable to meet in person. The Trustee Board want to say Thank You for working hard to collect and submit annual subscriptions, this year of £23. Your continuing support for Mothers' Union is appreciated and ensures the work continues.

Elizabeth Dean has been contacting Deanery Leaders and Branch Co-ordinators to try to ensure that all the information on the Sheffield Diocese members is accurate and up to date. The first edition of the new magazine 'Connected' is due to be delivered to all members on April 9th. If our data is not accurate then some members will not receive the magazine and we won't be able to pass on any information

Gift Aid

I would like to say thank you to all those taxpayers who gift aid their subscriptions or fill in gift aid envelopes. The last three claims have resulted in £3,518 for the Diocese and we have just put in another claim for £1,225. I check each year with branch co-ordinators to see who is still eligible for gift aid so

please let her know if your circumstance change. If you do not belong to a branch then please let me know. Please take care when filling in envelopes, if post codes are not clear they can be checked but if the name is illegible which they sometimes are then it is impossible to claim. If anyone would like a gift aid form you can ring me. Maureen Moore 01709 548019

Safeguarding reminder from Moira Leach

A few people have already been in touch to let me know about members who have had DBS checks and received safeguarding training, as requested by Mary Sumner House. I would be pleased to hear from all branches to enable us to have a more complete picture about the way we look at the safeguarding of MU members in our branches, especially our more elderly and possibly vulnerable ones including our IMPC members. Please feel free to contact me with any questions either by email at vp.sheffroth@sheffieldmu.co.uk or by phone on 01709 701263

For those of you using the latest catalogue to buy MU cards etc, please note there is a mistake. On Page 19, Anniversary Garden CCO527 should read that there are 5 cards in the pack which costs £5.25

Indoor Members Prayer Circle

Welcome to our new members

DASH DEANERY - GOOLE

Marion Lumley, Sylvia Andrews, Wendy Shand, Margaret Basing,
Judy Backhouse

ECCLESALL DEANERY

Olive McDonough, Patricia Hardman, Joan Wragg, Anne Brown,
Cheryl Mercer, Deidre Doman

ATTERCLIFFE DEANERY

IMPC REGRETS & BLESSINGS

DASH DEANERY-GOOLE

Pat Evans

WATH UPON DEARNE DEANERY

Ruth Mangham, Doreen Randerson

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| Greta Hewitt | Wath Deanery | 90 years | 17/01/31 |
| Katherine Barnaby | Ecclesfield Deanery | 91 years | 04/02/30 |
| Margaret Boor | Wath Deanery | 92 years | 12/02/29 |
| Joan Wragg | Ecclesall Deanery | 91 years | 14/02/30 |
| Helen Shepard | Rotherham/Laughton | 95 years | 16/02/26 |
| Beryl Hopkinson | Ecclesall Deanery | 98 years | 27/02/23 |
| Irene Smith | Ecclesfield Deanery | 98 years | 04/03/23 |

IMPC NEWS

Some of you will remember Olive McDonough from Sheffield and the news that she has relocated to Cheltenham to be closer to her family. She has settled very well in her new flat and is looking forward to meeting with the other residents, and enjoying the many social aspects that they enjoy, when it is a little safer to do.



She became an Indoor member and I telephoned her to see how she was adjusting to life in Gloucester.

Olive was as happy as she could be, under the restrictions that covid has brought about, and had been very busy knitting small dolls and Easter chicks. Because there were no fund-raising events etc., she had been wondering what she could do with them and asked me what we did with all our knitting. I explained that we were busy just now with supplying Doncaster Refuge with the usual toiletries but also the Easter chicks and knitted items for the children. She very kindly posted them to me for

inclusion with our parcels for the Refuge and here is a photograph of them all. We thank Olive for her kindness and wish her all the best in her new life.

Lesley Harpham

News from the Deaneries

Some members in **Ecclesall & Attercliffe Deaneries** raised funds, to buy Midi sized Easter Eggs for children and grownups, in our 2 Women's Refuges. Susan Sayles and Sally Wood will deliver the treats, which also have a poster telling the story and an activity to do, nearer the time.



The photograph is of Joan Wragg giving Sally Wood £60 raised by selling books, with help from the Manager at her apartment block. The money is for the Sheffield Women's Refuge. The residents paid what they could and a friend of Joan's gave a donation making the total £160. She hopes to do more selling in the next few months. Good luck Joan.

In **DASH Deanery**, 2 young people Bella Nagy & Harry Baigent (Aged 10) decided to make their own songbook and go Carolling in aid of MU funds!!



News From The Branches

Wath All Saints Branch

One of our church parishioners, who is not a Mothers' Union member, gave me some money to share between Wath Foodbank and Mothers' Union projects. So, I decided to buy some toys needed by Barnsley Women's Refuge so that the children can play outside as the weather improves. I also bought food essentials (plus some extra treats!) for Rotherham Women's Refuge. People are really generous. Gill Fellows



Ecclesall All Saints Branch.

We delivered posies to all its members in the few days before Mothering Sunday. We also keep in touch with each other by sending cards and making phone calls

Bradfield St Nicholas Branch

I always believe that thankyou is a very important word, indeed it is usually one of the first words that we teach our children. I wrote to thank our members for paying their subs along with a thought. St Nicholas usually met at Candlemas for lunch, so I suggested that we sit at the time we usually meet and imagine that we are dining together and visualise and pray for all who are there especially our guests and to give thanks for all our members, past members and all our Church family. Pauline Reynolds

Bessacarr St Francis Church Branch



Sprotbrough St Mary's Branch

Spreading the Love



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
St Mary's Sprotbrough



Sprotbrough Mothers' Union Branch, continuing to keep in touch regularly with members during lockdown, delivered homemade shortbread hearts and a prayer around Valentines Day as part of their monthly contact initiative. Helen and Issy had been busy baking and were rewarded by favourable comments as they delivered.

Helping others, members and supporters have been collecting various items for Sprotbrough Methodist Church's Baby Basics initiative and a number have knitted angels for dementia patients in hospital.



Chapelton St John's Branch

I was pleased to receive the Mothering Sunday Together at home Resources and Prayer Pack. I was even more pleased to note that on the second page there was an article about keeping connected in our Branches; one way was via a WhatsApp group. Now I do use this as I am already in 2 small groups on WA and I love it, if anyone is hard of hearing (which I am) and is not a fan of Zoom (which I am not) then WA is perfect. What I didn't know was that you can have up to a 100 people in the group. I am certainly going to try and link all our branch members in to such a group. A lovely way to be able to keep members up to date and chat in general. Hoping by the end of the year branch meetings will be reinstated. Sylvia Charles

Dore Christchurch Branch

At end of November, whilst we couldn't hold our Christmas Market, we still had the Hamper Raffle, and members were very generous in their donations of festive fayre. (see photo) Money was taken by cash, cheque or bank transfer and the coordinator wrote donors 'names onto raffle tickets as the money came in. The draw was done at the start of Sunday's zoom church service on 6th December Sale of tickets and associated donations have raised £250 for MU Literacy programmes Rosemary Kirkman



Blessings and Regrets

Blessings

All Saints Ecclesall . Mary Wragg, Mic Pilling, Dorothy Sinett and Bridget Williams have all had special birthdays recently.

All Saints Wath Branch. Jean Lax was 90 in January

Doncaster Minster . Congratulations to Judith Hilton on her 85th Birthday and Ivy Harkin on her 97th birthday, both in January,

Regrets

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Elizabeth Coyne**, Branch Coordinator of St Jude's Hexthorpe. Elizabeth was in church on Sunday as usual doing MU business with members and died on Tuesday 2nd March. She was a diligent supporter of the Mothers' Union for a great many years and attended every Deanery Meeting, Festival and event as well as travelling to the Cathedral by public transport, sometimes on her own, every month for the Diocesan Coffee Mornings. Elizabeth will be great missed by her branch, Deanery and the Diocese. "Well done thou good and faithful servant".

Ruth Mangham sadly passed away on Saturday 9th January aged 79 years, she and her husband Peter had been married for 57 years. Ruth joined the Mothers' Union at Wentworth + Harley when the Branch reformed in 2000. She was an active member and a very conscientious treasurer. She became the Diocesan Overseas representative and visited Branches throughout the diocese. Ruth joined the Wath Branch as an IMPC member when the Wentworth + Harley Branch closed due to health problems. Ruth was a much loved member who supported activities throughout the Deanery, Diocese and Province and will be sadly missed

Betty Howells, a longtime member of Barnburgh Branch, has sadly died and will be very much missed.

It is with great sadness that Grenoside Branch announce the death of our much-loved member, **Ivy Lee**. She has been a member since 1970 and will be missed greatly. She always had a ready smile and a deep faith throughout her 93 years. God bless you Ivy.

Some Dates for your Diary

Friday April 16th 10 am Fundraising and Communications Zoom meeting

Wednesday April 21st 10am Trustees Zoom meeting

Thursday April 29th 1.30pm Commissioning Service –Sheffield Cathedral (invite only)

Wednesday May 19th 10am Diocesan AGM by Zoom

Wednesday June 23rd 10am Finance and Central Services Zoom meeting

Saturday July 10.30am to 3pm DASH Deanery Summer Fayre–Doncaster Minster

Monday August 9th 2pm Mary Sumner Day Service- Sheffield Cathedral

Saturday September 4th Bishop's Garden Party- Bishopscoft

Saturday September 25th MU Annual Gathering – Virtual event

Saturday November 6th 3pm Provincial End of Triennium Service- Liverpool

Please note that any or all of these dates may be altered or cancelled. Trustees and Branch Co-ordinators will be informed of any changes as soon as possible

And to finish with an uplifting message from our President

Gill saw this in the Durham MU Newsletter and has altered it a little.

Not everything is Cancelled

Sunshine is not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Reading, sewing, knitting, crochet and gardening are not cancelled

Naps are not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music, dancing and singing are not cancelled

A bird singing is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled

HOPE IS NOT CANCELLED.

