

# NEWSLINE



## Mothers' Union Commissioning Service at Sheffield Cathedral

A publication about Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Sheffield

# Hello from Gill, our President

As I write this letter, outside the sun is shining in a blue sky with a few wispy clouds. I feel so fortunate because I can see flowers, trees and bees as well as hearing birds singing and music playing in the background. I can sit outside in the sun or sit inside in the cool shade.

There are many members who are not as lucky as I am. Sometimes it is difficult to notice the good things in life and it has been difficult during the past year. Not being able to see family and friends, unable to attend church services in the usual way and not having the usual Branch meetings have all certainly made life less enjoyable. BUT things have started to improve. I have just had a wonderful Sunday. I went to church (communion with no wine and no singing) followed by a barbecue in our garden with both sons and their families plus my sister and her family. The sun shone and conversations flowed easily without arguments or tears.

As I said I feel very lucky. Throughout this pandemic, together, we have continued to provide items for the 5 Refuges in our Diocese, for the Archer Project, for many

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**I am also aware that, belonging to Mothers' Union, I am part of a wonderful organisation that cares, prays and actively supports the lives of others.**

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Food Banks as well as keeping in touch with the isolated, vulnerable or lonely people, all with a smile on our faces.

When I became President, at the beginning of 2019, I knew that I was joining a board of Trustees who were passionate about Mothers' Union. I hadn't realised just how passionate they all are.

As we come towards the end of this Triennium there are many Trustees who will be stepping down from their roles. This means that we need volunteers to fill the vacancies.



No one is an expert but together we all support one another. I am urging everyone who is reading this to think and pray about the future of Mothers' Union in Sheffield Diocese. Does your Branch need someone to represent them at Deanery meetings? Does your Deanery need someone to represent it at Unit meetings? Does your Deanery need a new Leader? In the past some branches have closed because no-one was willing to come forward and help to organise things. There are many Branches who are organised by a committee and this could be an option. Would you be willing to step up to the mark and take on a new role? Talk with your fellow members as we need this organisation to continue its fantastic work so PLEASE think about what YOU can do.

Attercliffe, Ecclesall, Rotherham and Tankersley will be needing new Deanery Leaders. We will also be requiring new Unit Co-ordinators for: Faith & Policy and Finance & Central Services. If you think that you might be willing to take on one of these roles please speak to me or one of the Trustees.

By now all members should have received a copy of 'Connected' magazine. If you do not have a copy, please let me know because I have some spare ones.

I have also received a 'Summer of Hope' information pack which I think has been sent to each Branch. It gives ideas such as Afternoon Tea or a sponsored walk to raise funds to help vulnerable women and girls. What can you do? Remember that every little helps.



I sat on this bench and look  
who came to join me!



Enjoy the summer and remember to always wear your badge with pride as you SMILE! Take care and God Bless.

Gill x

# Diocesan Vacancies

Descriptions of two of the Diocesan Roles vacant from 2022



## Finance and Central Services Coordinator

The F&CS team meets approximately four times per year. They discuss financial matters prior to presenting these to the Trustee Board.

The duty of the F&CS co-ordinator is to arrange the venue, time and date of the meetings. To compose, print and distribute the agenda prior to the meeting to give any member of the team a chance to add anything they would like to be included for discussion at the meeting.

The Diocesan secretary takes the minutes, which after consultation with the President for

accuracy, the F&CS co-ordinator distributes via email.

The co-ordinator is there to support the team and attend to any duties given to them – this may include liaising with members, arranging advertisements for vacant posts (e.g. Secretary and Treasurer), accepting any enquires regarding the post and dealing with these as may be necessary.

This F&CS co-ordinator post will be vacant at the end of the year.

## Deanery Leaders

Sally Wood the present Deanery Leader for Ecclesall writes

As a Trustee, I attend Trustees Meetings, and when I have received the minutes, I read through them and note all the points that are going to be useful and necessary for the Branch Co-ordinators and their members. I then send them to the Deanery Committee members either by email, or printed hard copy, so that they can all read through them, and raise any questions for us to discuss.

I also attend Branch Meetings when I can, as this enables me to meet more members. If we have Deanery Services, then I will help organise the service if needed. Or put a service together with our vicar if it is being held at our church.

I forward any emails I receive from the Diocesan Secretary, or other members of the Trustees, to the Branch Co-ordinators for them to spread to their members if necessary. Again I would print these out for anyone who does not have a computer.

I have sometimes been asked to lead an enrolment Service at a branch and will do this if possible.

I also attend Diocesan Coffee Mornings once a month at the Cathedral (when they start again) especially when it is our turn to be the Host, as either Ecclesall Deanery or the Trustees. We discuss who will bake scones and serve on the day at our committee meetings.

# Commissioning Service in Sheffield Cathedral

The commissioning of Reverend Hilda Isaacson, as our Diocesan Chaplain, was planned for April 2020. However, because of the pandemic, it had to be cancelled. Hilda has spent lockdown posting thoughts, prayers and services online, as our Chaplain, but we couldn't wait to see her installed, officially, by Bishop Pete.



The extra pleasure was that, during the service, we would also enrol Bishop Pete, Hilda's husband, Alan and Gill's husband, Geoff. Bishop Pete, Hilda and I began planning this year's service in January, via Zoom. We had to have a plan A, plan B and many more alternatives before the day to ensure that we met the Covid requirements. Unfortunately, we were not able to allow all the members who wanted to be present and so we restricted the congregation to Trustees. The Cathedral was able to stream the whole service live on their YouTube and Facebook sites. The details of everyone present were taken for Track and Trace purposes.

On the day, the Cathedral staff welcomed and showed us all to our allocated seats. The service was wonderful, with readings by Moira and Liz, Intercessions by Margaret and sermon by Hilda. Although we couldn't sing we were

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**Although the numbers present were smaller than we would have liked, we had the feeling that so many people were enjoying the service from their own homes.**

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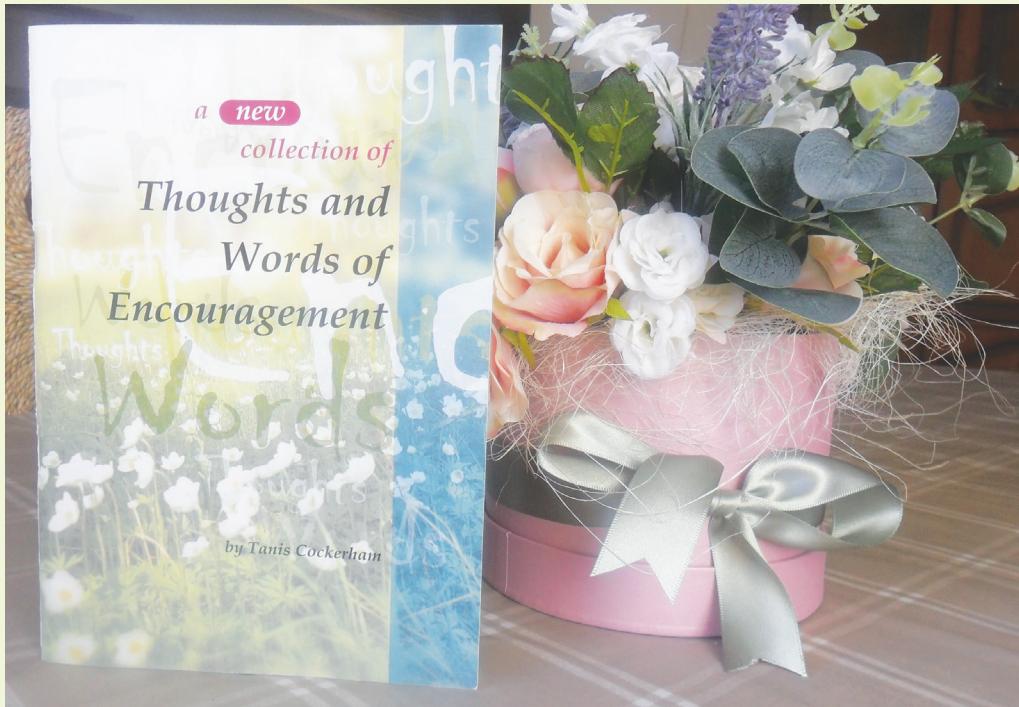
able to enjoy listening to a Cantor from the Cathedral choir who sang all the hymns for us. Everything in the service had been carefully chosen and those of us lucky enough to attend came away feeling most uplifted.

Tim very kindly took photographs including one of the entire group outside. We would like to thank everyone concerned for their contribution to the joyous, memorable afternoon.

**Gill and Moira**

# It Started with a Prayer

From Western Australia to South Yorkshire with Love



## Yes! It started with a prayer

**'Dear Heavenly Father, Help!'**

As we were challenged with our first Covid lockdown, we were all in a kind of daze, complying with the rules and wondering what to do. Even faithful Christians became afraid and felt challenged, so I simply spoke to God. Psalm 119:114 'You are my place of quiet retreat; I wait for your Word to renew me' (The Message) I had no idea what to do! As a nurse for over 40 years I found myself too old to help in hospitals. I'm not much good with a sewing machine, although I will have a go. Home baking and preserves are my forte. So I decided to

make scones for the Women's Refuge. The staff collected them from my doorstep every Thursday; at 3 dozen a week, that's currently somewhere close to 2000 scones.

This act, however, didn't seem to be enough and I thought about the Mothers' Union members in my deanery; lots of them were alone, isolated and vulnerable. What could I do to keep them connected during this pandemic? God doesn't ever let us down! I was inspired to write weekly letters to the Mothers' Union members, hoping to encourage and comfort them by raising a smile, whilst helping them to know that they were loved and cherished and reminding them

of God's love. Our Lord Jesus Christ said "I am with you always, until the end of time".

After many weeks and many letters a member suggested that I put them into a book. Well, I thought, why would anyone want a book of letters which they have already read? Never doubt God's purpose! Before I knew it, my son who lives in Western Australia and is a graphic designer, working in Karnet Prison, offered to produce a book for me. He did the artwork and liaised with a colleague at Casuarina Supermax Prison and 200 copies were printed.

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### **Words of faith and encouragement can sometimes come from the most unexpected places.**

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I have to say that it wasn't that simple; the artwork was put onto a USB pen, (THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED IN PRISONS WITHOUT PRIOR HIGH LEVEL APPROVAL). Eventually, after a great deal of stress, the problem was resolved, the books were printed, packaged, and sent on their way to the UK by an expensive, supposedly 3 day delivery service, at no cost to us, a generous donation to Mothers' Union.

The journey to the UK is another story. Having left Australia, the package went to Singapore, China, Thailand, New Delhi in India, and then on to Cologne in Germany, finally arriving in Tamworth in England, and onwards to Doncaster in South Yorkshire.

The package was sent on the 26th October 2020 (3 day service), it arrived on the 9th November, 14 days later. However, with God's guiding hand they arrived safely and intact. We very quickly sold 200 copies of the first book, and raised £500 for Mothers' Union projects.

What a wonderful connection we now have with our friends in Western Australia. On my last

trip over, I met the Mothers' Union Branch in Mandurah and they are a lovely group of ladies; they invited me to their branch lunch, which was wonderful.

Well, we are still being challenged by this pandemic, but as we all receive our vaccinations, we are more optimistic. God is working His purpose out. So as I continue to write weekly letters, (and I am no literary genius), I enjoy reliving some of my own memories whilst thanking God for giving me the help and inspiration I needed to carry on.

My husband, Peter, persuaded me to get a second book printed, this time in the UK. No sooner said than done. However we soon discovered that it would be expensive, until my son suggested that we contact the local Prison (HMP Doncaster) in South Yorkshire. The print shop officer agreed to print 300 copies, at a reasonable price, with the help of my son's new artwork. So, with the collaboration of 3 prisons, two books of Letters of Encouragement were published, and the 2nd one is now hot off the press.

It hasn't always been easy writing cheery, comforting words. Many people have endured loneliness, isolation, grief and loss, so have Peter and I, but we both have our faith, if not our youth, and we are thankful for our longevity. Our thoughts and prayers are for everyone, including the young, who will bounce back to life, and hopefully live long and happy lives. And, looking back at history, will say 'phew we survived'. How lucky I have been, enabled by God, to spread words of comfort and encouragement. So asking for God's help has connected so many of us, may He continue to give us patience and hope in this challenging time, reminding us that there is a brighter new beginning to look forward to, as we...

Keep smiling and rebuilding Hope and Confidence.

**Tanis Cockerham,  
DASH Deanery**

# A letter from our Chaplain

Dear Friends

*'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path'. (Psalm 119 v.105)*

These words remind me of how we have God's word to guide us and sustain us through the ups and downs in life. The past 15 months or so have been challenging but we have been guided and sustained. Not everything has been easy and we mourn the loss of life and the effects that Covid-19 has left.

As we move onwards out of lockdown we continue to find ourselves in a time of uncertainty and are probably contemplating the effects of the past year. Like many people I had to reorganise my plans for 2020, one of which was to go to Oberammergau to see the Passion Play. It's been rearranged for 2022, so I've something to look forward to in my diary for next year!

Markers in the diary give us hope, things to look forward to in the midst of the normal day to day activities. Being aware of the things we have missed or lost over the past months reminds us of how things were, but as we look forward we are given the opportunity to look at the future with renewed vision. We will discover both opportunities and challenges as we move forward.



Let us embrace the future as we look ahead to all that the Mothers' Union can and will do. Let us approach each opportunity or challenge with a renewed joy and recognising that there will be a change of pace as we reimagine the future in the light of the past.

We have God's promise to us in Psalm 119 v.105 that he will be with us, sustaining and guiding us day by day. This is my prayer for the MU.

With every blessing  
**Hilda Isaacson**

# Mothers' Union on Safeguarding

Many of you will already know that the Central Mothers' Union have produced safeguarding documents for use in the Diocese and MU branches. Safeguarding is all about the protection of children, young people and adults at risk (sometimes referred to as vulnerable adults).

I have been nominated by our Trustees to be the Safeguarding Contact for the MU in Sheffield Diocese and on the Mothers' Union Safeguarding Community of Interest.

Amongst the tasks I have been asked to do is to gain an accurate picture of all Mothers' Union activities in the Diocese involving children and adults at risk. This includes keeping a record of all these activities and where the responsibility for safeguarding lies. Some activities will be managed and delivered in conjunction with the local church, some with an external organisation such as a prison or school but some will be the sole responsibility of the Mothers' Union.

Through Deanery leaders and our recent newsletters I asked for specific details. I have heard from 11 Branches in all, though most people talked about DBS checks, some about safeguarding training and a few about activities. In order to get a complete picture



I need to hear from every branch about their actual activities, not just branch meetings but including visits to the sick and IMPC members or to collect money, especially when visits are made by one person on their own.

All our members need to feel and be safe.

We need to raise awareness of safeguarding with all Mothers' Union members as

**Safeguarding is everyone's business.**

Written replies or emails will be very much appreciated as soon as possible. Please contact

**Moira Leach**

Safeguarding Contact in Sheffield Diocese  
6 Sawn Moor Avenue, Thurcroft,  
Rotherham S66 9DQ  
[safeguarding@sheffieldmu.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sheffieldmu.co.uk)

# What have you done over Lockdown?

Jo-Anne Levesley, Training Officer writes

Saturday 22nd May 2021 - Jo-Anne visits Lilian Beasley



I had the pleasure of pinning on my MU Badge for the first time in months... in preparation for going to do a doorstep collection - outside - Covid safe!

Knocking on the door, and retiring to the gate, only to be greeted with a fabulous donation of fifteen knitted, embroidered and decorated Twiddlemuffs. Each unique, and tenderly prepared as a gift and donation to support clients and carers with Dementia.

(These will be used in our sessions, cafes and allotment work as we are preparing to reopen and venture out to meet face to face once Lockdown is lifted).

Thank you to **Lilian Beasley**, from Wath branch of the MU, who has beavered away creating these for us - Lilian informed me that, "they have been a real help and a project that has been ongoing for me through times of isolating and not been able to get out in the time of Lockdown. I have missed my groups and church and am looking forward to connecting with family and friends again".

We know only too well the impact this has had on the wellbeing of the community and our members... we would love to hear what you have been up to... photos and a few words gratefully received by the Editor.

The impact of isolation and lack of contact, learning new skills and tricks, like Zoom and Teams for meetings. Working out of a bedroom, engage with clients, carers and community, was a part of 2020 that I never saw coming... or had a plan how this would or could work. (On top of caring for Steven, my husband, who became seriously ill too) It all felt a little overwhelming.



I needed something to do that didn't need much thinking about... So I set about looking at my resources and crafting and came up with embroidery (well chain and running stitching as taught in school) cushion covers in readiness for when we can hopefully all get back together in the garden, in the sun!

**Sheila (Wood)** passed on a paper mask pattern and I set about with the sewing machine making 300 masks that went to local schools and my work site at Darnall Well Being. (until I ran out of elastic!)

Joking apart, I am only too aware how hard this time has been for us all, everyone has a story. As I write my hope to all members is it won't be too long now till we are able to see loved ones and friends and meet in person at our meetings. The community spirit and feeling of support has been enormous and as we go forward we recall with a grateful and thankful heart just one step at a time - just like each stitch - Peace and blessings

# What did we do during lockdown?

2 members of St Francis MU write...

**St Francis Church in West Bessacarr decided, at the start of lockdown, to begin a project to help the local Community, with the support of Doncaster Council.**

We were asked by our vicar, Richard, if we would be the joint coordinators for the project. We have enjoyed organising many activities together in the past and are good friends, so immediately said we would take this project on together.

Our main role was talking to people who had made a request (we are both quite good at talking!) Then we found a volunteer and we organised the job.

On completion of the job, we checked it had been done by getting photographic evidence from the volunteers and we kept records for both the Church and the Council. All of these tasks were done by phone and from the comfort of our homes. Some weeks we handled as many as 25 requests and, of course, we had to

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**The messages of love, thanks and hope were wonderful to hear and the whole project from start to finish has been a pleasure to do**

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have lots of phone conversations to each other to discuss our project. We have made many new friends, both of the brilliant volunteers and the people who made the requests and the whole project has been so rewarding. We aren't mentioning any names, but want you all to know that our new MU Diocesan Treasurer was one of our star volunteers who walked miles and miles collecting and delivering prescriptions.



We are now at the end of our third lockdown and some people are still relying on our project for their prescriptions and shopping, although requests are down to about 1 or 2 a week now. At Christmas the project delivered 'Bags of Blessings' to many of our lonely people in the community. In December we organised hampers for free school meal families in the area and in January and February the same families were given food parcels. These were donated by, filled and delivered by many of our volunteers and church members. The messages of love, thanks and hope were wonderful to hear and the whole project from start to finish has been a pleasure to do and we feel we are the ones who benefitted!!.

We look forward now to starting our JOY (Just Older Youngsters) Monday meetings after all restrictions are lifted. These are Monday events for older people in the Community in our Café, Meet and Eat, Puzzle Corner, Chit Chat and the MU Soup Lunch. How blessed are we to be able to help so many people through lockdown.

### Fundraising and Communications Unit

What has the F & C Unit been doing these last few months?

Meeting by Zoom to keep connected, discussing how the Website, Facebook and Directory of Members are going on, making suggestions for Newsline and planning fundraising events.



#### DASH Deanery

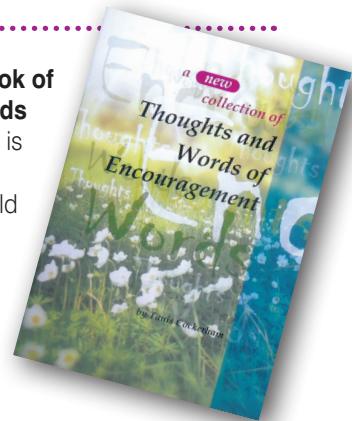
We have been busy organising a Summer Fayre to be held in the grounds of Doncaster Minster on Saturday 31 July 10.30am to 3.30pm. Volunteers for the event are invited to contact DASH Deanery leader, Tanis Cockerham. There will be refreshments, a cake stall (donations of cakes will be welcome), children's activities, tombola, MU displays, MU stall and a raffle with many prizes -1st prize £100.

**Raffle tickets are available for members from Pat Simpson now.**

Any additions and amendments to the **Directory of Members** should be sent to Elizabeth Dean. This is important to keep membership information current and so that members only receive correspondence from Mary Sumner House which they require. Facebook reaches members and non members across the world and is liked by many.

The Bishop's Garden Party, in which Sheffield MU Archdeanery will take part, has now been postponed to 2022.

**Tanis's second Book of Thoughts and Words of Encouragement** is now available, price £4. The first book sold out quickly so act now if you would like to order copies. Money raised is for the MU.



**The website** always needs contributions and photos please from branches and Deaneries to keep it current and vibrant. Please send to webmaster Pat Simpson. The same applies for Newsline. Please send news to Editor Sarah Rogerson. Branch coordinators and Deanery Leaders have all contact details.

Members will be receiving information through the post from MSH about the **Summer of Hope Appeal**. Please let your F & C representative know if you are planning any event for this appeal as and when Covid restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so. It is good to share ideas and get inspiration from each other.

## Fundraising and Communications Unit

### Data & Media: Elizabeth Dean

If there are any Diocesan members who have an email address and would like to save Sheffield MU money by receiving information via email rather than post, please email your address to [data@sheffieldmu.co.uk](mailto:data@sheffieldmu.co.uk).

At the moment ALL members will receive mail by post from Mary Sumner House about Gaming (lotteries raffles etc), Campaigning & Resources (Connected magazine, Summer of Hope Appeal etc) and Mothers' Union matters

You can OPT OUT of any of these by letting your Branch Coordinator or me know. You can also OPT IN to receive communication by All Email Communication, All Phone Communication or All text Communication. Any members wishing to update these contact preferences from Mary



*President, Gill, gave Elizabeth Dean, a bouquet of flowers as a thank you for her work producing the Annual report*

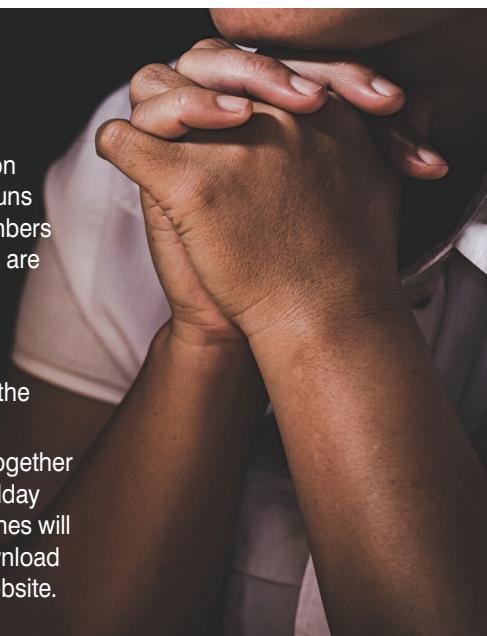
Sumner House then also email [data@sheffieldmu.co.uk](mailto:data@sheffieldmu.co.uk) or let your Branch Coordinator know.

## Wave of Prayer

Our 'Wave of Prayer' is a continuous expression of our commitment in prayer to each other. It runs throughout the year, so that the work and members of every area in which Mothers' Union is active are prayed for at some point.

Sheffield Diocese is linked to the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe, Lango in Uganda, Kebbi in Nigeria, Tamale in Ghana and Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands

On August 20, 21 and 22, Sheffield Diocese, together with our linked Dioceses is at the centre of Midday Prayers across the world. It is hoped all Branches will celebrate this and a service is available to download from the Resources Page on our Diocesan Website.



### Attercliffe Deanery



Thanks to a generous donation from a Wath parishioner, **St Catherine of Siena Mothers' Union** was able to buy and deliver outdoor toys for the Sheffield Women's Refuges.

**Susan Sayles**

### Doncaster, Adwick, Snaith and Hatfield Deanery (DASH)



**Helen Curtis of Tickhill Branch** delivering baskets to Tanis Cockerham for Women's Refuge.

### Barnby Dun Branch



We have had 3 meetings following a short service in church, socially distanced and wearing masks. In April, everyone took home a small carrier bag, with a list of suggested items to make up a 'Pamper Bag'. We handed over 30 'Pamper Bags' to the Women's Refuge in May, and continue to donate home baking and

food items. We have 3 potential new members who have enjoyed our fellowship, and have requested copies of the Midday Prayers. What a joy to meet and greet our friends.

**Love and God Bless  
TANIS**

## St Wilfrid's, Cantley

### First Open MU Meeting on Wednesday 19th May

We'll meet again, sang Vera Lynn and indeed we did, after a long, long break. The members of St Wilfrid's MU met on Wednesday May 19th after many months – all suitably masked and socially distanced! We met to enjoy an evening of music provided by Dave Binnington, who brought along 20 plus instruments from his collection to show and play for us – from a Jew's Harp up to a Steel guitar.

Dave has collected his instruments over many years and taught himself to play each one. It was great to hum under our masks to the tunes of the 60's. Sorry folks, Dave came out of retirement just for us! Everyone left Church on a high note (pardon the pun) humming the tunes and having thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship of being together again... hopefully, this is the future for us all!



Now you may be wondering, after re-calling our colourful, modern banner, there is this photograph of a banner. During the long break, we have been having a new Sacristy built, which meant that the old one had to be emptied prior to demolition.

In a bottom drawer, this 100 year old Mothers' Union banner was found. Following a trip to the dry cleaners, we have a beautiful antique banner to go alongside our modern one in the Lady Chapel – a great find! We would love to know more about the history of our new found Banner.

If any member anywhere can help, they can get in touch with **Liz Paver** either by phone on **01302 530766** or by e mail **vp.donc@sheffieldmu.co.uk**.

**Jane Nadin**

### Sprotbrough Branch



One of our members, **Mary Parkin** sadly passed away on the 3rd April 2021 aged 87. Mary was a founder member of Sprotbrough Mother's Union, former branch leader, and a much loved member. To honour her, and at the request of her husband Philip, our banner was processed at her Thanksgiving Service. Mary had painted, on silk, the Madonna and Child for the central part of St Mary's Sprotbrough MU banner, which is over twenty five years old. She will be sadly missed.

**Helen Harwood**

### Ecclesall Deanery

#### St Oswald's, Millhouses

I delivered this bike to Sheffield Refuge Our branch member Nicola also gave me a helmet for the rider. She can no longer ride it as she has issues with her balance, but was happy to give it to the Refuge for someone else to enjoy it. We also took some yogurt pots and paint to be upcycled into indoor plant pots nd some wool and knitting needles

**Sally Wood.**

### Ecclesfield Deanery

#### Topic for Branch Meetings

Just supposing (hopefully and passionately) that we can begin our branch meetings in the autumn I have a new talk which I have called 'The Art of Lockdown' so if any branch is looking for a speaker I would be happy to do this.

**Sylvia Charles  
Chapeltown Branch**



## Rotherham and Laughton Deanery

### Whiston Branch

Margaret Tupling says: I found this photo during a Lockdown clear out. It was taken in the mid 1970s after a Deanery Festival at St Stephen's Church, Eastwood, Rotherham. I am the person right of centre wearing a bright red coat and with dark hair! I carried the Whiston Banner, the other ladies with me being Phyllis Lloyd and Ruth Knott.

I have managed to make out the church names on most of the banners. From left to right they are: Maltby Parish Church, Thrybergh?, Whiston, St Paul's Masbrough, Rotherham Parish Church and St Albans, Wickersley.

Only Whiston still has a branch.

I think it is interesting that almost 50 years ago, the Mothers' Union was evidently an organisation of older women. At that time, Whiston had two groups. The afternoon (original) group was attended by women of 'a certain age'. Margaret Cook started an evening group (EMU) for young mums. Most of us would have been in our thirties. This is the group still going today with just two of us from the original 'get-together'. Sadly, some have passed away and others, like Margaret, are living in other parts of the country.



# Rotherham and Laughton Deanery

### St Nicholas, Ryecroft

Gill Fellows made a surprise visit to Jean Goodall to present her with a certificate to celebrate her being a member for 40 years.



It is with sadness that the death, on May 7th 2021, was announced of Betty Winks aged 93 years, of Dinnington and formerly of Wickersley. Betty was a faithful, long term MU member of St Albans branch, where she was renowned for her excellent coffee mornings and delicious homemade cakes.

I first met Betty in 2011, when she became an IMPC member when I was Laughton Deanery leader. Betty really appreciated all the cards, letters and information that she received as an IMPC member. I was honoured to become a friend, enjoying our many chats invariably accompanied by a cuppa and cake! - Memories that I will always treasure.

Betty will be greatly missed by her beloved family and her many friends.

**Rest in Peace Betty  
Moira Leach**

## Wath Deanery



### Wath All Saints' Branch

Wath All Saints' Branch began meeting again in May, and were very pleased to welcome some of the 11 members who have transferred to us from Brampton. We soon got to know each other and look forward to many more meetings.

We have heard from Mary DeVries in Brisbane, who said that she was very pleased to receive the copy of 'Connected' sent to her and also the second copy of Tanis's book. She sends her best wishes from her members to everyone in the Sheffield Diocese.

### Special Birthday celebrations

Joyce Maleham

Janet Gillies

Dawn Clark

Greta Hewitt



### Regrets and blessings

We have sadly lost 3 members this year.

**Ruth Mangham** who came to us from Wentworth, died in January and she was well known to many branches, giving talks about her links with M.U. members in other countries.

**Audrey Warren** died in March and had been a member for 20 years. She was previously Deanery Treasurer and Diocesan Action and Outreach Secretary

**Margaret Sharp** died in May. She was a friend to all.

Three very loyal supporters in our Branch who will all be missed very much.

### Long Service certificates

Mary Carr - 40 years

Lilian Beasley - 40 years

Eileen McLoughlin - 40 years

# Background and history of the Indoor

The Indoor Members' Prayer Circle was started in 1921 by Mrs. Edith Lucy Mosse, originally for any member who, for any reason, was prevented from taking part in the activities of their local branch but wanted to support and pray for the leaders and the work of the organisation.

Originally it was known as the Invalid Members' Prayer Circle and Edith was its first Central Correspondent. The Circle grew out of Edith's own experiences and needs. Edith was born in 1870 and when she was 9, the family moved to Heage in Derbyshire where her father became curate to the vicar, the Rev. Henry Mosse. Her mother taught Edith and her sister, Annie privately at home until she was 14 when they were both sent to boarding school in

Birmingham. Her father later became vicar of Heath in Devon and it was there, when she was 21, that she married the Rev. William Mosse, the son of the vicar of Heage and they moved to their first parish in Redditch, Worcestershire. Two years later they moved to The Lickey in Birmingham diocese where, for over 20 years, Edith was kept busy looking after their 5 children and supporting her husband in his large country parish.

## Unfortunate developments

In 1914 the family moved to Moseley, a suburb of Birmingham but before long, Edith suffered a severe nervous breakdown and developed abdominal ulcers. The discovery that she had a weak heart ruled out any possibility of surgery so, from being a very active person, Edith became more of an invalid, eventually being confined to a wheelchair. A few years later she and her husband suffered what Edith described as their 'great sorrow' when Mary, their 23 year old daughter died and another daughter, Kathleen was diagnosed with a mental illness. Her husband's health was also deteriorating and his increasing deafness made communication difficult and led to problems with his work.

The outlook was bleak but it was at this time in her life that Edith really became aware of the importance of prayer. Whenever possible, William would take Edith to visit a neighbour who was crippled with arthritis and they prayed together and received Communion together. Edith realised that as she prayed for others, it helped her with her own suffering and this gave her great comfort.

## Finding power in prayer

She then put together a scheme which she submitted to MU Head Office suggesting that this idea of praying together might prove worthwhile and in 1918 an experimental group was set up in Birmingham diocese under the title 'Prisoners of God'. From then on, it spread

## In 1921 it was officially incorporated in the MU as the Invalid Members' Prayer Circle

to other dioceses and in 1921 it was officially incorporated in the MU as the Invalid Members' Prayer Circle. William Mosse retired in 1927 and the family moved to Mitcham in Surrey where the first IMPC Conference was held the following year. By then there were over 1,000 members in 41 dioceses. Edith continued to suffer personal sadness: her husband died in 1929 and another daughter and a grandson died in 1940 but she continued to write to IMPC members until her death in 1943.

# Members Prayer Circle

## Progress through the years

By the 1960's there was a growing dislike of the word 'Invalid' in the title. As medical treatment had improved fewer people were confined to bed but there were still many who were housebound, so in 1971 the title was changed to the Indoor Members' Prayer Circle. Its purpose was 'to comfort the members and enable them to comfort others and also to pray for the work of the Mothers' Union and to support its leaders'.

In 1991 prayer leaflets were issued three times a year for IMPC members. These were in bold print and set out topics for prayers each week and were greatly appreciated by the members. The Central President (later the Worldwide President) also sent a Christmas letter to every IMPC member. The Prayer leaflets became very popular, not only with IMPC members but also the ordinary members so in 2009 it became Families Worldwide and included not only daily prayers and thoughts but also profiles of the provinces worldwide. This publication

was welcomed by ordinary members but unfortunately so many IMPC members are unable to read it because of the small, feint type.

## Present day

Mothers' Union Worldwide Trustee Jenny Barton produces monthly reflections for IMPC members, whilst the WWP writes Christmas and Easter letters to them. All these can be seen on our Website. Ideas for better serving indoor members are currently being worked upon by the at Mary Sumner House.

As members of Mothers' Union, please remember to visit your IMPC members and give them your prayer requests and we are sure they would be only too happy to include them in their daily prayers.

Our Diocesan IMPC representative is Lesley Harpham. Her email is [impc@sheffieldmu.co.uk](mailto:impc@sheffieldmu.co.uk)





## IMPC Birthdays of 90 years and over



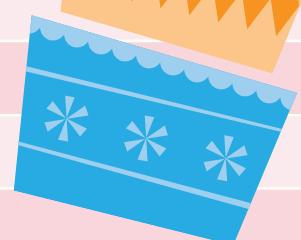
### Attercliffe Deanery

21/03/23	Kathleen Booth	98 years
12/04/27	Joan McKelvey	94 years
02/05/24	Pat Bollington	97 years
02/06/22	Joan Tolley	99 years



### Ecclesall Deanery

19/04/25	Rita Turton	96 years
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### Rotherham & Laughton Deanery

07/04/24	Ethel Smith	97 years
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### Wath Deanery

11/05/23	Betty Jones	98 years
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# Dates for your diaries



## July

Sat 31st	DASH Summer Fayre in the grounds of Doncaster Minster 10.30am to 3.30pm
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## August

Wed 4th	Barnby Dun Summer of Hope Afternoon Tea - 2:00pm
Mon 9th	Mary Sumner Day Service in Sheffield - 2.00pm

## September

Fri 3rd	The monthly Coffee Mornings at the Cathedral resume. They take place on the first Friday of each month from 10.15am to 12noon
Fri 17th & Wed 22nd	Dementia Friends Virtual Information Sessions Please contact Jo-Anne Levesley for details on training@sheffieldmu.co.uk Both from 10.00am to 11.00am
Sat 25th	The Annual Gathering, instead of being in Belfast, will be held virtually. More details to follow

## October

Tues 29th	<p><b><i>The Walk</i></b> – One little girl - one big hope event in Sheffield (Public Open Outdoor Event) For Sheffield, the Theme is Sky Dance</p> <p>Little Amal a 3.5 metre Puppet is a young refugees girl travelling 8,000Km representing all displaced children, many separated from their families with an urgent message “Don’t forget about Us!” At this time of unprecedented global change, <b><i>The Walk</i></b> is an extraordinary artistic response: a cultural odyssey transcending borders, politics and language to tell a new story of shared humanity – and to ensure the world doesn’t forget the millions of displaced children, each with their own story, who are more vulnerable than ever during the global pandemic.</p> <p>Little Amal urgently needs your help to advocate for and support young refugees. Please support <b><i>The Walk</i></b>. Details on the website <a href="http://www.walkwithamal.org">www.walkwithamal.org</a></p>
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## November

Sat 6th	The End of Triennium Service will be held in Liverpool Cathedral at 3pm. We are hoping to organise transport
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Please note that all these dates are subject to change

# Sheffield Diocese Mothers' Union

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**Provincial President:** June Houghton  
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**Our new link Dioceses in the Wave of Prayer:** Diocese of Central Zimbabwe, Lango in Uganda, Kebbi in Nigeria, Tamale in Ghana, and Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

**Newsline Editorial Team:**  
Gill Fellows, Moira Leach, Sarah Rogerson and Pat Simpson

**Editor's Note:** Please can all photos be in 'jpg' and would you send them as attachments. Scanned hard copies do not reproduce as well as 'jpg' copies.

Please submit contributions for the Summer Newsline by Friday 24 September to Sarah Rogerson, [newsline@sheffieldmu.co.uk](mailto:newsline@sheffieldmu.co.uk) (Please make sure photos are in focus)

Please also send dates, items and photos for website to Pat Simpson [webmaster@sheffieldmu.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@sheffieldmu.co.uk)



## Useful Websites

**Sheffield Mothers' Union** - Our own website

**Mothers' Union** - Everything about Mothers' Union

**MUeShop** - Fundraising for MU via

**Sheffield Diocese** - Find out what is happening locally

[www.sheffieldmu.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldmu.co.uk)

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

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

[www.sheffield.anglican.org](http://www.sheffield.anglican.org)

### **Editor's note:**

*The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Sheffield Diocese MU.*