

NEWSLINE



Marian giving the money she raised for the Sponsored Silence to Tanis, DASH Deanery Leader

A letter from Gill, our President

As I sit, in front of my laptop, to start this report, I can see the sun shining on trees and flowers in the gardens all around. There are still some green leaves but now there are also lots of reds, oranges and yellows which show me that autumn is certainly here.

Our Autumn Council meeting was held on 14th October. The 2 Council meetings, which are held each year, are the times when ALL members can find out what has been happening across the Diocese and make contributions to help to plan for the future. I was disappointed by the lack of people who attended the meeting. Michaela Sucking, who is a Parish Nurse, was our key speaker, telling us all about the charity and her work in Sheffield. In my report I said how proud I am to be a member of Mothers' Union and to be President of Sheffield Diocese. Together we help so many children and families in Sheffield Diocese and beyond. Also at the Council meeting Phill, our Treasurer, presented the budget for 2024. The Trustees have set a balanced budget which means that we need to fundraise for the projects/activities that we are planning. Whilst we will continue to support the appeals from Mary Sumner House, we are also encouraging members and branches to raise funds for AFIA and our Diocesan funds. Mary Sumner House has raised the subscriptions and we have increased the subscription for Sheffield and so members will be asked to pay a total of £26 from January 1st 2024. We have also made the decision to reduce the number of Newline editions to 2 each year. The cost of producing 3 Newlines each year is about £5 per member which is difficult to sustain. Newline is a wonderful magazine and we don't want to change that. I know that members enjoy reading Newline and looking at the many photographs. We would welcome anyone who would like to

join the editorial team. We proof read the articles and make some suggestions about the layout. If you, or someone you know, is interested please let me or Sarah Rogerson know.

I pray:

***Dear Lord: We hope for peace in your world.
We hope for peace in nation after nation.
We hope for peace, Lord, wherever there is trouble, wherever there is suffering.
We hope for peace. Amen***

I was one of the large group of our members who travelled to York for the Annual Gathering in September. I know that many more people, unfortunately, weren't able to attend. Bev Jullien, our CEO, commented on the large number of Sheffield members who were there. We were privileged to hear a truly inspirational talk from Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President, in the morning and then a wonderful sermon from Archbishop Stephen Cottrell at York Minster in the early evening. We also heard how we have supported over 3.4 million people worldwide. You can read Sheran's emotional address and watch the impact video on the Mothers' Union website (also available on our Sheffield website). A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts 2022 are also available on Mothers' Union website.



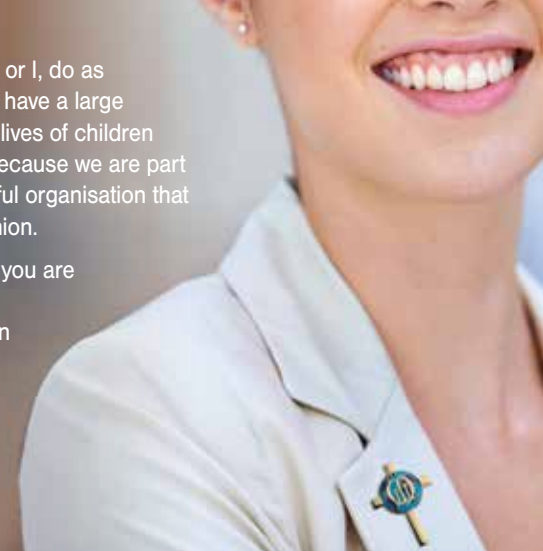
Details of RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse, which is Mothers' Union's new campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse can be found there as well.

We continue to support five Women's refuges, the Clewer Initiative, CART and other projects with knitted items and other essentials. We need to continue to raise awareness of the levels of Domestic Abuse and to give support wherever we can.

Whatever you, or I, do as individuals we have a large impact on the lives of children and families because we are part of the wonderful organisation that is Mothers' Union.

Be proud that you are a member of Mothers' Union and always wear your badge with a smile.

Love Gill x



Thank you Maureen Armes of Thurgoland Holy Trinity Branch, for raising awareness of Mothers' Union across the Diocese and beyond.

A promotional poster for 'Wear Your Faith Fortnight'. The top right corner has an orange banner with the text 'Wear Your Faith Fortnight' and '22nd Oct - 5th Nov 2023'. The background is a textured blue. On the left, there is a photograph of a man wearing a blue sweatshirt with the text 'JESUS LIEBT DICH.' and a yellow cross. In the center, there is a logo for 'ARISE SHEFFIELD' with a stylized yellow cross. On the right, there is a photograph of a smiling woman with short white hair, wearing a black jacket and a necklace. At the bottom left, there is a white cross icon and the text 'THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD'. The main text 'What will you be wearing?' is written in large white letters across the bottom.

Our Chaplain writes

Dear Friends

I write this as the autumn colours remind us of the changing seasons. We recently returned from holiday in Norway where we were able to enjoy the beautiful scenery as autumn approaches. From dramatic waterfalls and fjords to stunning glaciers and sparsely populated areas, I was struck once again by the beauty of nature, the variety of God's wonderful creation.



In conclusion as we pray we remember these words from Psalm 65:11-13

"You crown the year with your bounty; your carts overflow with richness.

The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness;

the meadows are covered with flocks; and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing."

**God bless you
Revd Hilda**

We have much to be grateful for and Harvest is a time when, traditionally, we have done this with Harvest Festival services. Having moved into a place where there are regular cattle and farmers markets, it was a joy to attend the Farmers' Harvest Festival. As we sing the traditional harvest hymns we give thanks for the beauty of the earth, and for all that God provides. And we give thanks for the farming community who work amidst the concerns and uncertainties of the weather, diseases and escalating costs.

Our garden continues to bring us joy, despite a few mishaps. The tree that was uprooted in the

snow back in March was removed and we are now creating something of a rockery. The thoughts and plans were, of course, weather dependent, but patience seems to have worked even if some plants didn't make it. What has made me smile is a range of grasses that have appeared. I suspect the birds who enjoy the bird feeds in neighbours gardens are responsible. The grasses are all rather attractive and have helped to give us something to enjoy but I'm not so sure if it's been wise to let them seed themselves though. Only time will tell!



**Grasses in our garden
(the millet is beginning to go to seed!)**

The familiar parables include the image of seed that is scattered. Mark 4:26-29 says, 'Jesus also said, 'this is what the Kingdom of God is like. A farmer scatters the seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain - first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest is come.' We continue to give thanks for the beauty and variety of creation, and the dedication of farmers who provide for us, working in some challenging circumstances. As we move towards winter and the shorter daylight hours we can look forward to Advent and

the preparations we will be making for Christmas once again. We can rejoice in the richness of God's blessing throughout the year. We can, and should, sing and shout for joy!



Diocesan news

The Annual Gathering 2023

After a welcome by the CEO Bev Jullien, Opening Prayers and a welcome to York including a talk about local projects from York Diocese, Sheran Harper Worldwide President, was then welcomed to the stage and began her Keynote Address.

It was clear she was delighted to have the opportunity to travel to meet members in Dioceses all round the world instead of by Zoom during the pandemic. She had feared she would be remembered as the virtual, computer generated WWP. Some of the stories she told were very positive about the impact of MU support on lives, regarding literacy, trauma help and domestic abuse. Others were harrowing. Two of

them in particular making me very emotional and will live on in my memory. In Uganda, she sat in a room of 40 girls aged between 12-18, all heavily pregnant due to rape, early marriage and sexual abuse. The girls were traumatized and broken but prayed in a way Sheran had never experienced before. In South Africa, she visited a project that cares for 50 children with Albinism. Their parents fear for their lives as they are often kidnapped

by witch doctors and killed as their organs, which are considered to be special, are used to make medicine.

In England, Sheran celebrated Mary Sumner Day with a service at Winchester and had knelt in prayer at the graveside of our founder, laid flowers and planted a tree.

Her speech was inspirational. She is so passionate about celebrating the joys of and supporting clergy. There was also an interactive session on different approaches to welcoming new clergy. Members of MSH staff team each spoke about their areas of work and members they had met and also feeling their pain.

After a short service and time for a quick lunch, the afternoon session began. Four MU Chaplains spoke about their work in "Building Bridges" - engaging with a review video "Impact of MU" which was shown. This was really good, as in a short time it showed MU achievements worldwide in 2022, Re-imagining which has taken place this year, Metamorphosis, Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse and discussions and pilots taking place in 2024.



Jo Anne, our VP led the march from the Gathering to York Minster, along with Bev Jullien and Sheran Harper

The Gathering closed with prayers at about 4 o'clock and we set off for Choral Evensong at York Minster. Some members marched there with placards raising awareness of Domestic Abuse. Most of us got drenched by a sudden deluge of rain as we neared the Minster and had to wait a while for the doors to open. Our spirits soon lifted by the wonderful music and singing from the choir resounding round the building. The service, although open to the public, was dedicated to the Mothers' Union as was Archbishop Stephen's vibrant sermon. A slow walk in a long crocodile took our group back to the coach park. The kindness of some York residents who stopped and asked us if we were alright encouraged us on our way. It had been a long day but a wonderful one. Many thanks to all who made it possible. The next Gathering is in 2026 when it will be the 150th anniversary of the MU. God willing, I will be there!

Susan Sayles



Feedback from York 2023

Following a wonderful and memorable day at both the Barbican Theatre and York Minster Evensong. Feedback requested to capture a little insight into the comments from the day. As we had 50 attending members, of which 25 returned comments – Thank you.

- For 12, it was their first time at an Annual Gathering, which was really encouraging.
- For those who had been to a gathering before told us about previous venues, Sheffield, Edinburgh x 2, Nottingham, Wales. Liverpool, Isle of Man, Leeds, Bradford Bath, Portsmouth, Winchester, Southwell, Ipswich, Preston, Llandudno and York were mentioned

When asked what was 'special' about the day, the highlights –

- Getting together with others from across the country Britain, Ireland and beyond.
- Meeting likeminded people and friends. Rekindles friendships! From Both near and far!
- Hearing member's laughter!
- Meeting new people, and seeing such a large hall full of MU members.
- Being together in such a large number, and having a day out to remember.
- Hearing our Worldwide President's keynote speech

and presentation. Learning about her journey and experiences as President including the oversea work (something we hear so little of today). Been so encouraged by her message. Absolutely inspirational. What a highlight to meet her in person! Touched by some of the circumstances facing those she had met – Pregnant young girls and albinism in particular.

The great warmth of greeting, and worship together. A great 'buzzing' feeling and atmosphere of 700+

- In easy reach of home, not too far to travel, and done in one day.
- Hearing about Clergy experiences including Bishop of Kensington Rt. Revd Emma Ineson and the 'Play' a sketch by York... so funny!
- Great Content and 'information', excellent speakers, including MSH staff presentation and

reports. Hearing about our Aims and objective and seeing them in action. Especially the 'Rise Up! March.

- The choral service and choir in the Minster really good, as was the Archbishop's sermon. Singing again!
- Hearing about the growing numbers and increasing membership overseas!
- Meeting other Presidents, hearing problems and challenges, yet realising what a good and supportive diocese we have!
- Thoroughly enjoyed all the day – entertaining. I can't wait for the next one. A very thought provoking day!

Lowlights and thoughts

- Saddened about time keeping and the thought of missing out on presentation that had been prepared.
- The Rain – Oh my goodness! Could we have done without that, and not getting into the Minster.
- The suitability of the venue for some members, sloping steps, no handrails. The sound, hearing speakers.

- Transport, between venues – felt we could have had more information before going on the day. A long walk.
- No coffee on arrival. Shortened lunch break. More stall holders, more space and signs, felt overcrowded.
- Much better over two days – more time to absorb and enjoy the event.

A big thank you must go to those who made the arrangements for us to share in this inspirations day!

Jo-Anne Van Levesley – Membership Development/ VP Sheffield and Rotherham

For and on behalf of Sheffield MU Trustees



We aim to play our part in combating domestic abuse through awareness, resources, and support for those affected, as well as fostering a culture of empathy and empowerment within our churches and communities.

RISE UP is an acronym for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray.

As part of the challenge branches can achieve bronze, silver or gold awards based on their involvement of the challenge. To achieve a bronze

At the Annual Gathering in York Mothers' Union launched their new campaign RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse.

award, churches or branches should:

- **Download a poster** from Mothers' Union's website about domestic abuse with details of their local domestic abuse helpline and display it in public places such as churches, community centres and public toilets.
- **Pray** for those affected by domestic abuse, including victims, survivors, perpetrators and those who work in the field of domestic abuse.
- **Make connections** are lots of resources on the MU website to give ideas for branch meetings. **www.mothersunion.org/resources/16-days-of-activism** with local domestic

abuse support organisations and offer support based on their needs.

The Global Day Against Gender Violence will be on 25 November - what is your branch doing?



Autumn Council

October 14

Autumn Council wasn't very well attended despite being moved to the daytime and it is for all members of Sheffield Diocesan MU. Reports were given and the Speaker was Michaela Sucking from the Parish Nurse Project. Michaela is a registered nurse who works out of St Matthew's Church in Carver Street, Sheffield



Michaela Sucking

The Project has a stall in the Moor Market providing health assessments, advice, a listening ear and signposting to other health professionals. Michaela and her team also patrol the streets of Sheffield looking out for the needs of the marginalised people in the community. They also hold a drop in centre in St Matthews Church providing sanctuary space as well as

mental health support and signposting.

There was a lovely display of 'Souls of Our Shoes' at Autumn Council raising

awareness of domestic abuse! If anyone would like Tanis to bring it to their branch meeting then get in touch!



Congratulations to our Vice Presidents

Vice President of Doncaster Archdeaconry, Canon Elizabeth Paver was awarded the Cross of St Augustine by Lambeth Palace.

Given for her outstanding contribution to the life of the Anglican Communion and to the Church of England as a past Vice Chair of both the Anglican Consultative Council and of the General Synod's House of Laity.



Vice President of Sheffield & Rotherham Archdeaconry, JoAnne Van Levesley was awarded the 'Connected and Dignity Champion 2023 by Sheffield County Council Adult Social Care.



Mary Sumner Day Service



1. Elizabeth King and Isobel Selby from Ecclesfield Branch were enrolled.
2. John Stones played his own composition for Mary Sumner's personal prayer.
3. Banners outside in the sunshine with Reverend Hilda Isaacson, who presided and preached.

Away From It All (AFIA)

A Letter to Angela Parker, AFIA Coordinator

Good evening Angela,

I'm just writing to thank you and The Mothers' Union for organising our holiday to Mablethorpe. We had a lovely time and we were really impressed with the caravan we stayed in.

It was my son, Daniel's, 12th Birthday while we were away and thanks to your help, we were able to treat him to lots of activities. My favourite day was a trip to the Seal and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Thanks again





300,000 Steps Completed

On Sunday the 30th July I, Sally Wood, completed the steps for The Summer of Hope.

The trainers have hung up for a rest after helping me complete 300,000 steps in 30 days. Thanks to friends in the Sheffield MU and at church, we have raised nearly £200 so far. Well done legs and Thanks Lord for keeping me going, especially up the hills.

Bondo



A group of people from Bondo in Kenya have been visiting Sheffield Diocese. On July 17, they attended a Service of Thanks for Mothers' Union in All Saints' Church, Wath.



Bishop David Kodia's wife Janepher (Jennifer) is the President of Mothers' of Bondo Mothers' Union and wears a special uniform to indicate her position. Bishop Sophie led the Eucharist Service which was followed by a delicious Faith Lunch then Question Time led by Mama Janepher.

The warm welcome we offered was much appreciated and we received letters both from Revd Dr Pete Wilcox, Bishop of Sheffield and Revd Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Doncaster thanking us for taking such good care of our guests.

Sheffield MU Subscriptions for 2024

After a Budget Meeting with the Finance and Central Services Committee the Trustees have decided to set 2024 subscription at £26.

What does the £26 deliver for members?

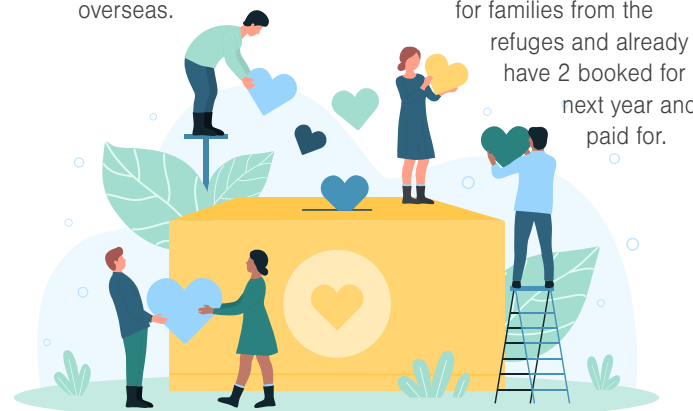
- £23 is payable to the Mothers' Union Central Charity which covers 2 connected magazines and Annual Prayer diary plus resources including website, Facebook and a whole range of faith and branch resources. As well as support and information for the governance of diocese, campaigns and global programmes and development work overseas.

- That leaves Sheffield MU with £3 per member to cover the cost of running Sheffield MU - 1 copy of Newsline alone costs us £1.85 a member!
- Our running costs are about £360 a month for hire of rooms for meetings/ secretary/ printing costs, etc. As well as our most important outreach AFIA holidays, of which we have sent 12 families away in 2023 as well as some away days for families from the refuges and already have 2 booked for next year and paid for.

Branches have not managed to do as much fundraising as they did before. This may be due to several reasons - the pandemic, ageing membership. We have had funds in our deposit account to cover this over the last few years but now we are at a point where we have had to cut Newsline down to 2 copies a year and can only afford to budget for 2 AFIA holidays a year to break even.

SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We need to fundraise - we are a charity aiming to put Faith into Action across Sheffield Diocese and beyond. Fundraising is a great way to have fellowship as well as helping others. Everyone can do their part - so have a think and speak to your Branch or Deanery Leader.



Message from Former President Margaret Cornick

I often think of my friends in Sheffield Diocese MU and send you all my love and good wishes.

I really enjoy reading your Newsline and hearing about old friends when they are mentioned in your excellent magazine.

Love Margaret

Read Aloud Project

Following her talk to the Spring Council, Nicola Ennis, South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance Programme Lead has written this article for us.

Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak and listen in such a way that enables a person to communicate effectively. In the UK 43% of adults have literacy skills that disable them from communicating effectively and we know many of these adults will be parents and carers.

Every year in England, thousands of children leave primary school without the confidence and fluency in reading that they need. The impact on their learning, life chances and engagement with reading is significant. We need to ensure that every child can read well by the age of 11.

Children from poorer backgrounds are more likely to fall behind. We know in South Yorkshire this could affect a large proportion of children, with 40% of children and young people currently living in poverty. Lacking vital literacy skills holds a person back at every stage of their life. As a child they won't be able to succeed at school, as a young adult they will be locked out of the job market, and as a parent they won't be able to support their own

child's learning.

But so do the wider community and that's where the Mothers' Union members come in! Inequalities are not inevitable, they are created. They are preventable and every child should have the support they need to ensure they have the reading skills to achieve their future ambitions. There has been an unprecedented decline in health status and a widening of inequalities nationally and in South Yorkshire. Children born into communities with the most serious literacy challenges have some of the lowest life expectancies in England.

Having the skills to navigate health and social care systems can empower people to be active partners in their own health and social care, and in the care of their children, families and communities.

Creating readers starts with talking and reading to babies. We can't wait until a child starts school and we want to

develop approaches that help every child to engage with and develop a love of reading.

With the current cost of living crisis people are much less likely to have access to books with 1 in 11 disadvantaged children in the UK saying that they don't have a book of their own.

Children who enjoy reading and writing are happier with their lives. Children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to have good mental wellbeing than children who don't enjoy it.

How can you support different neighbourhood spaces to encourage children and families to read?

- Reach out to different neighbourhood spaces where it is less likely the children will have access to books e.g. Women's refuges and refugee and asylum seeker
- Seek out opportunities to volunteer and support reading with children and their parents/carers.

- Raise the profile of the need to support children and families to read together and join local place campaigns (e.g. Rotherham Council and Rotherham Loves Reading)

- Raise funds to support the purchasing of books for local neighbourhood projects. This enables services to purchase age, stage and ethnically appropriate books

- Gather used books and pass them on to spaces/services where you know children and families will use them.

Winthrop Gardens

The wet afternoon of 14 September did not deter our members from enjoying the peace and beauty of Winthrop Gardens.

After a delicious, homemade lunch/afternoon tea, we listened to a fascinating account of the life of Richard Rolle, given by Revd Ann Walton and supported by her husband, Revd Richard Walton.

Richard Rolle, a little known figure in South Yorkshire but who deserves greater prominence, was a mystic, hermit and a spiritual writer who lived circa 1300 until 1349. He was one of the first writers to write in the English language when most authors wrote in Latin. His most

famous book, "The Fire of Love", still widely read today is one of his many books on devotional themes.

After his death the nuns of Hampole tried unsuccessfully to have him canonised, but his shrine, provided by a

benefactor, became a place of pilgrimage.

With many thanks to Ann and Richard for treating us to an insight into the life and works of Richard Rolle

Mary Williams



DASH Deanery

DASH Sponsored Silence

Wednesday 30th August saw 10 members of DASH Deanery meeting in Doncaster Minster; they came from branches across the Deanery. The event opened with singing 'Morning has broken' followed by prayers and then the silence began!

From 10-30 until 2-30 they maintained their silence in a very sophisticated manner. Many of their families had laughed and said "You won't be quiet for 4 hours!!" How wrong they were!!!! They sat around a large table, some read, some prayed, some made gift labels for the new Literacy project, some knitted, occasionally some would have a stroll around the Minster or a loo visit!!! They were able to use the new Tea Point at the Minster for coffee and tea and they all took packed lunches, which were also eaten in silence. One member moved to a pew to be silent. Visitors came around and there was a sign to let them know what they were doing and why they didn't



greet the visitors! Coins were dropped in a basket and visitors supported the MU in their venture. The silence was broken at exactly 2.30pm when Tanis took a spoon and pierced a balloon. A huge cheer went up and filled the Minster. Then everyone buzzed that they had done it and moved to the Tea point and had delicious chocolate cake and coffee, to celebrate their great achievement. Now to collect the sponsor money and use it for several of the wonderful MU projects!! Many thanks to everyone who sponsored members and to the amazing 10 who kept silence in the Minster plus those who did the event on their own at home!!!

What shall we do next year?

P.S The event raised an amazing £1,542. Brilliant!



DASH Deanery (continued)

Our 9 year old Granddaughter came to stay with us in July and we took her to Filey, with her cousin, Luke, in our caravan, for a few days.

We were chatting about the DASH Sponsored Silence and why members were doing it and about the families who may benefit from a holiday, like the one we were having, at the seaside. She was fascinated and said "Do people give you money to be quiet? Can I come and do it with you, Grandma? I've never been quiet for 4 hours?" We all laughed and said "You've never been quiet for 4 minutes!!"

She insisted that she could do it, but we told her she would be back home in France when we went to the Minster to be quiet! So she put her index finger in the air and said "I will do it now" and put her finger on her lips. We all laughed and thought she would last, maybe, 5 minutes!!!! But no, she lasted one whole hour.

We walked along Filey seafront and played with Luke on the beach and Marion stayed silent. Luke tried to make her talk, but she didn't. After one hour, we told her that was a wonderful effort and she could talk now. She then asked who would give her money for children to have a holiday like hers and we said the family would. She collected £20 and, with great excitement, gave it to Tanis at the DASH Coffee morning in the Minster.



Well done everyone who took part in the Sponsored Silence and we all hope that the families who have a holiday from the Mothers' Union, enjoy a seaside caravan holiday as much as we did!!

Pat and John Simpson



DASH Deanery (continued)

Read out Loud: A new project for DASH

Half a million children in the UK don't have a book of their own at home; A staggering statistic.

Many of us love reading, I always have a book 'on the go' and I would be lost without one. I remember as a child reading in bed at night, under the covers with a torch. Wonderful books, Enid Blyton, Beatrix Potter, Little Women and my favourite, Jane Eyre. Nowadays it is an eclectic mix of literary genius, and where would we be without The Bible to read? Reading isn't only a pleasurable experience, it inspires thinking and creativity. In children it can boost their academic abilities and life skills.

Following our Spring Council, when we heard from a Sheffield based paediatrician that there is a lack of literary skills amongst many children and their families, we were inspired to take action and resource a new project 'Read out Loud'

We have close links to the Doncaster Women's Refuge, giving them practical and prayerful support, so we intend to start there. Our aim is to encourage a love of reading for all vulnerable children in DASH Deanery,

encouraging mums to read along with their child. With that in mind we are going to install a small library for children in the Women's Refuge with books available for ages from 3 years to 14.

We constantly and earnestly raise awareness of Domestic Abuse in South Yorkshire, eg 'Walking in their footsteps' presentation; but we wanted to add to our caring by providing each child with their very own book.

With that in mind we sourced a supply of books in Doncaster (300 books donated by Re-Read) and each branch in DASH Deanery helped to support this by making gift labels, gift tags, bookmarks and donating funds for Christian books. A redundant bookcase was donated and made child friendly and attractive for the refuge.

We plan to give each child the gift of a book when they and their mums leave the safety of the refuge. We hope that this will make each child feel special, and encourage mums to read with them. Initially we will be giving books to 30 children who have left the refuge and are now living in the community; this will be done with the help of the Refuge Children's Worker. Andrea and her support team are thrilled and supportive of this proposal; the children are already given a 'Buddy bag' when they leave the refuge, so our gift will complement that.



Our plan is to have everything established by the DASH Deanery Advent service on 7th December at Doncaster Minster, when Andrea the Refuge Manager, will accept our gift.

We have sorted out books for appropriate age groups and packed them into colourful gift bags ready to be handed out with love.

Heavenly Father, give us grace to understand how our lives depend on the courage, honesty, industry and integrity of each other. We pray that every child we touch may know your love.

**Thank you everyone,
Tanis Cockerham
Deanery Leader DASH**



NB. We have been supported by Megan Humphreys from 'The Literary Trust', encouraged by Nicola Ennis from 'Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust' who was our speaker at the Spring Council, and not least our Vice President Liz Paver, my thanks to them.

A working party sorting out age appropriate books for children who have been in the Women's Refuge, and now live in the community, under the umbrella of the refuge. The children's worker and the manager of the Women's Refuge joined us. As you can see, we were blessed with sunshine and our garage was full of fun. We filled 32 gift bags and boxed up the remaining books for the refuge to use!



DASH Deanery (continued)

Bessacarr

On Thursday 13th July, St Francis MU hosted a social evening and an enrolment. Our special guests were President Gill and her husband Geoff, Deanery Leader Tanis and her husband Peter and past member of St Francis and former Diocesan President, Sarah and her husband, Dave.

There were over 40 members and friends and it was a super evening. Gill enrolled four new members... Pauline Archer, Annet Wuteron, Cindy Gaylor and Peter Cockerham (yes Tanis' husband is now a member!) Also Rev Lynn Wortley and Annette Walker were welcomed to the MU as former members in Rotherham Deanery. We sang "One More Step Along the World I Go" and then both Gill and Geoff gave us a talk, Gill about her role in MU and Geoff about his role as the President's husband. Geoff's talk was very amusing

and lots of husbands were nodding at his comments! Caterers provided a delicious supper for us all and it was a real celebration.

All this was done amidst the building work at St Francis Church, 2 portaloos, red plastic sheets from roof to floor partitioning off half the hall, disposable plates and cups but a really memorable evening.

On October 14, the Branch had a superb family Beetle Drive. Over 40 people of all ages came and there was a great buzz of excitement.



There was a Raffle and donations taken for MU Projects.

Pat Simpson



Those enrolled and welcomed to the Branch



DASH Deanery (continued)

Cantley

St Wilfrid's MU hosted a Pie & Pea supper for their September meeting and a great time was had by all!!

Jane Nadin



Hexthorpe

Enid Punter of St Jude's Branch, Hexthorpe, celebrated her 97th birthday on September 5th.

Enid still attends the branch meetings and, as a committee member, sometimes organises the readings and prayers for the meetings. Congratulations to you, Enid.

DASH Deanery (continued)

Sprotbrough

Betty Brockman, Sprotbrough Branch MU member and Lay Reader at St Mary's Church, celebrated her 90th Birthday recently.



Sprotbrough had its annual Scarecrow Festival and so MU decided to make World Wide Mary by our notice board in church. She has flags or names about her person from all the countries where MU can be found!



Tickhill

On Thursday 27 July Tickhill St Mary's Mothers' Union held an Afternoon Tea for the Summer of Hope. The weather was wonderful and we had an excellent afternoon. This was enjoyed by 50 members and friends and raised £570.

Helen Curtis (Branch Secretary)



Ecclesall and Attercliffe Deanery

All Saints

Welcome to **Joyce Crowther** who was enrolled into Ecclesall All Saints by Rev Godfrey Smallman and Joan Ridgeway who led the service.



St. John's Abbeydale

Our branch was formed 90 years ago by Mrs. Archer, the wife of the then current Vicar the Rev. T Archer. On realisation of this we decided to arrange a special Anniversary Service on 19 July to mark the occasion. One other incentive was the fact that three of our current members were also celebrating their 90th birthdays during 2023.

Our thanks go to Rev. Angie Lauener and Rev. Catherine Staziker, our President Gill and Deanery Leader Sally for their contributions. Gill gave a talk reminding everyone of all the work carried out in the name of Mothers' Union continuing Mary Sumner's vision of helping those faced

with adversity. Gill also presented long service certificates to members.

Sally received symbols from members representing causes supported eg AFIA, Women's Refuge, Buy Bye Childhood, Literacy etc.

A retiring collection of £121 was taken for the Summer of Hope Appeal.

The service concluded with refreshments including a beautiful cake made by a talented member which the 'Birthday Girls' cut for us before being presented with flowers.

An afternoon to be remembered.

Margaret Minns
Branch Co-Ordinator



Ecclesall and Attercliffe Deanery (continued)

From St John's Abbeydale Church Magazine written by Rev Brian Cranwell A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for 90 years Branch membership of the Mothers' Union

It was with pleasure that I attended the Anniversary service at St John's on July 19th.

It was not until I went to work and live in East Africa that I discovered the widespread influence and appeal of the MU and was not surprised when I returned to this country to hear a bishop describe the MU as "the biggest missionary society in this country". The Anniversary service reflected some of the reasons for this description. Those who (like myself at one time) know very little of the outreach support the MU gives to others might have been surprised to see gifts being given and hear of the cash support for organisations that support women's' refuges, holidays for destitute families, literacy projects, baby care units, and other child care projects. Gifts and symbolic donations for these were received by the Deanery leader Sally Wood. It was encouraging too to welcome members of other churches whose branches have closed, and who now enrich our branch. So congratulations to Margaret Minns and her committee for enabling St John's to continue!

The Diocesan President Mrs Gill Fellows gave an inspiring talk, congratulating the branch on our 90 years and continuing support for so many projects. As she and the bible reading pointed out, when we do these things for others we are doing them for Christ (Matthew 25:40). And this work is even more compelling overseas and has resulted in enormous growth which I have seen in the Anglican communion

in places like Kenya and Malawi. Regional MU organisers are trained in the UK and go back to train community leaders who have transformed many villages through raising standards of hygiene, childcare, introducing drought resistance crops, and teaching skills in sewing and making items for sale.

It is a common sight in many churches to see the serried ranks of MU members in their blue and white dresses occupying the front rows of seats and swaying and holding each other whilst singing the Gloria during the Eucharist.



The MU's care for hundreds of AIDS orphans in many places is phenomenal.



So, if your impression of the MU is of a sort of glorified coffee morning for a chat, think again! I see the MU support as being more effective than British Government Aid, it helps bind Christian communities and we know that our support reaches the people for whom it is intended.

We held a fundraising cream tea for AFIA on September 20, where we were pleased to welcome approx. 50 members and friends. The afternoon raised £500 for the fund which includes extra donations after the event.

A very happy occasion with fellowship and lots of the usual chatter.

Margaret Minns

St Oswald's

On 28th June the tables are ready and waiting for guests who enjoyed the scones and the Tombola and our friend Sally's Baby Basics Toy Stall. We raised £500 for AFIA. Well done to all our helpers, and thanks to everyone who came and supported us.



Ecclesfield Deanery

A Moving On basket, toiletries and sanitary items were gratefully received by Sheffield Women's Refuge. Thanks to Bradfield, High Green and St Catherine's Mothers' Union members.

On Wednesday 13th December the Ecclesfield Deanery Advent Service will be held in the Parish Church, Oughtibridge at 2pm followed by tea and cake in the adjacent parish centre.



Bradfield

Wave of Prayer.
A prayerful time together.

Rotherham and Laughton Deanery

Bramley

On Monday 10th July 2023 Bramley MU Branch held their annual fund raising event for AFIA and IMPC in St Francis Church Hall. This was a strawberry tea and silent auction.

The event was well attended and £300 was raised, £260 was sent for the AFIA fund and £40 for the IMPC fund, all members wish to thank all who attended and made this such a successful afternoon. We hope to see you all again next year.



Kiveton Park and Wales

In May, we helped celebrate the King's coronation with a tea party at Wickersley Community Hall organised by Winthrop Gardens. We were served a beautiful afternoon tea, had a royal quiz and we were proud to say that we were the winners of a bottle of fizz to share. It was a very jolly start to the coronation celebrations.

In July we visited the Chapel on the Bridge in Rotherham. We were shown round the chapel and then Margaret, a friend of the chapel gave us a very interesting talk about the history of the chapel, which dates from 1483 and has survived numerous events. The dissolution of chapels by Henry VIII, Civil war, which was fought on the bridge with its canon ball damage. As well as being, in its time, a jail and shop. It is still in use as a chapel and holds a regular Sunday service.

The talk showed the importance of Thomas Rotherham to the town and the role that Town Feoffees, who are a long standing charitable organisation, who still provide help to the students with the cost of education and help the elderly in Rotherham. This was followed by coffee and delicious cake.



Ecclesfield

St Mary's Branch had an afternoon tea which raised £250 for "The Summer of Hope". Everyone had a lovely, relaxed, afternoon whilst raising money to transform others' lives.



Rotherham and Laughton Deanery



Dorothy Stevenson celebrated her 90 birthday in July with a party and birthday cake of individual flowers.

*Living God
Jesus calls his followers
to seek first your kingdom
Renew us as we make your
love known; Release us
to share freely together in
mission; And Rejuvenate us
to be fruitful in your service.
Give us courage, wisdom and
compassion,
That strengthened with the
grace of the Holy Spirit,
we may, as the Diocese of
Sheffield, both flourish and
grow through Christ our Lord.*

Tankersley Deanery

Tankersley Deanery Festival was held at St Saviour's Thurlstone on 11 July. Rev David Hopkins took the service, Curate Jo Twigg gave the sermon about 'Who are our Neighbours' based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan and Deanery Leader Susan Rivett led the prayers.



Susan Rivett promoting The Mothers' Union to the Mayor of Penistone at St. Saviour's Church, Thurlstone

Wath Deanery

Barnburgh

At St Peter's Summer Fayre, MU members held a stall to raise funds for MU.

Barnburgh members were saddened by the death of **Mrs Yvonne Hopkinson**. Yvonne had been a valued long serving member and friend and will be missed by us all.

Janet Henshaw



Wath

Congratulations to Wath All Saints' branch members who have celebrated special birthdays recently - **Janet Hallows, Ingrid House, Jean Young, and Pauline Oldfield**.

Wath All Saints members, **Irene Ryder** and **Gill Fellows**, our Diocesan President were awarded long service certificates for 35 years membership by Deanery Leader **Mary Carr** at the first meeting after the Summer break.

On Wednesday 11th October **Denise Lancaster** was enrolled into Mothers' Union at Wath's evening meeting by Gill Fellows. She was welcomed by the members and then went on to talk about her Journey in Faith. Her journey took her from



Irene



Gill



Denise

Sarajevo to Retford and other places until she arrived at All Saints Wath.

Wath MU members visited Clifton Park Museum in

Rotherham.

After coffee, tea and scones with jam and cream, they had a look around the fascinating museum.



Sheffield IMPC

Jacque and Hylton Herbert

recently shared their 60th Wedding Anniversary with Church members with a cake made by their daughter, Mandy who also joined them at the celebration with her husband and son. Jacque is now a Sheffield IMPC member after the closure of St Paul's MU.



OOPS!

In the Summer 2023 issue, we congratulated **Sheila Dunleavy** a long serving member of the MU, for reaching her 90 birthday. However, we said she was born in April, 1233. Very many apologies to Sheila. It should of course have read 13/04/1933. Someone wrote "I must say that I take my hat off to the lady that was born in 1233 and is still supporting MU."

Indoor Members Welcome to new members

DASH Deanery

Sylvia Benyon, Maureen Taylor

Rotherham/Laughton Deanery

Pauline Middleton, Nora Smith

90+ birthdays



DASH Deanery

Francis Pepper 26/06/1927 96 years

Ecclesall/Attercliffe Deanery

Mary Wragg 25/08/1925 98 years

Patricia Allen 06/09/1933 90 years

Ecclesfield Deanery

Kathleen Bell 29/06/1931 92 years

Rotherham/Laughton Deanery

Dorothy Stevenson 10/07/1933 90 years

Dates for your diary

DECEMBER 2023

Fri 1	Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon Hosts: Trustees
Mon 4	Rotherham and Laughton Deanery Advent Service at 11.30 at St John's Church, Wales. Refreshments afterwards
Thur 7	DASH Deanery Advent Service at 2pm at Doncaster Minster
Wed 13	Ecclesfield Deanery Advent Service at 2pm at Oughtibridge Parish Church

JANUARY 2024

Fri 5	Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon Hosts: Ecclesall and Attercliffe Deanery
Fri 5	F & C Committee Meeting in the Cathedral
Tues 16	All Saint's Ecclesall Closing Service from 3pm

FEBRUARY 2024

Fri 2	Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon Hosts: Wath Deanery
Thur 8	Trustees at Sheffield Cathedral from 10am

MARCH 2024

Fri 1	Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon Hosts: Rotherham and Laughton Deanery
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APRIL 2024

Fri 5	Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon Hosts: Tankersley Deanery
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MAY 2024

Fri 3	Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon Hosts: Ecclesfield Deanery
Sat 11	Spring Council at St Peter's Church, Warmsworth at 9.30 for 10am
Tues 21	The Day Apart at St John The Baptist Church, Wadworth. Time to be confirmed

JUNE 2024

Fri 7	Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon Hosts: DASH Deanery
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JULY 2024

Fri 5	Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon Hosts: Ecclesall and Attercliffe Deanery
Thur 11	Trustees Meeting

Sheffield Diocese Mothers' Union

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Our 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, Elizabeth Dean,
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
Winter Newsline by March 23, 2024
to Sarah Rogerson, 37, The Hawthorns,
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or newsline@sheffieldmu.co.uk
(Please make sure photos are in focus).

Please also send dates, times and photos
for the website to Elizabeth Dean,
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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

www.mothersunion.org

www.mueshop.org

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.