



**Keeping in Touch - Newsletter 4
 April 2021**

Dear fellow members,

I hope you are all enjoying reading our new magazine CONNECTED. A copy of the first edition should have been delivered to your door but if you haven't received a copy, contact Jo Sarkar, our secretary, and she will make sure you get one. In our Annual Prayer Diary (page 20) Kathleen Snow writes words which I reflect on at this time about The Power of Prayer:

"It's all about Jesus.

Jesus is large and in charge and He hasn't left the building".

There are three things we need to do:

Pray for direction, Wait for direction, Follow direction."

I was on a Zoom call recently with all Diocesan Presidents in Britain and Ireland when our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, gave an address. I pass on here her *message to each and every member*:

" Thank you for your commitment, loyalty and versatility in adapting to the challenges tossed our way, Be strong."



We look to the future when we can surely look forward to being able to start to resume Mothers' Union activities gradually. Thank you for your wonderful support since March 2020. It has shown how much MU means to all of us.

With love and prayers

Jean

Bishop Toby's encouraging Sermon on Lady Day 2021 (An Extract)

Mothers' Union worldwide is involved in battling COVID. Members in places like the DRC in Africa are on the frontline. Here in the Diocese of Leeds and in this country MU members have been doing what they can in their communities. Today's reading from St Luke's gospel tells of the calling of Mary and this brings to mind the calling of Mary Sumner who faced obstacles in starting our organisation. This is a spectacular example of what the call of God can achieve. Locally, an incredible team pioneered the setting up of the young Diocese of Leeds MU from the three previous dioceses.

New members and new officers are now needed to step up. As we hear the call, remember where it began - at the foot of the cross - was this the birthday of the church, rather than Pentecost? At the moment of Jesus' death, a new family is born of God.



**Diocese of Leeds Mothers' Union
 COUNCIL and AGM 2021**

**10am - 12 noon on Thursday 10th June 2021
 via Zoom**

**Guest Speaker: Canon Catherine Hilton,
 Zonal Trustee for York Province MU**

**All are welcome and
 a link will be sent nearer the date**



Congratulations Eileen! We are delighted to share the good news that Eileen Warburton (Area President of Wakefield) has been a recipient of this year's Maundy Money from the Queen. The presentation would have been at Westminster Abbey this year but the two beautiful purses arrived by post. Eileen was nominated for her work at Wakefield Cathedral including leading the MU branch there. Congratulations to Eileen!



AN INVITATION FROM THE PRAYER TEAM

All members are warmly invited to come and share in a 'Conversation about Prayer' session at 1.45 pm on ZOOM on Tuesday 11th May. This is a second Conversation session as the first one in March was fully booked!

What is the one major difference between the Mothers' Union and other organisations? It is that our actions, beliefs, and care for others are grounded in prayer and love for GOD. During the afternoon we will look at some different ways to pray. This is not just how to pray as individuals, but within groups, and when we are leading groups. There is no one right way! So the session is a conversation, and an opportunity to share ideas with each other. It will also give all members the chance to explore the various resources about prayer on the MU website and, alongside each other we can explore how these ideas can be applied to issues that give us cause for concern.

How to register: contact Mary Marshall on mary.thorpe@btinternet.com

From Middleton Branch - Peggy's 90th Birthday



Peggy Aldcroft was 90 years old on 12th April 2021. She was born and brought up in Leeds, moving to Middleton when she was eighteen months old. She is the fourth oldest from a family of nine children and spent many years bringing up her younger siblings following the death of her mother when all the children were still young. Peggy became a member of St Mary's Church in Middleton, singing in the choir since she was in her 40s. She has been a loyal Mothers' Union member for many years receiving a long service award from Jean Thurman, Diocesan President in 2019.

Remembering "Auntie Adrienne" at Beeston St Mary's

Adrienne Laycock, known as Auntie Adrienne to many of us here, died recently at the age of 93. She had been an MU member since 1963 and for many years Enrolling Member of the branch. She was very supportive to all subsequent enrolling members. She had to go to a nursing home 12 years ago and in recent years suffered from dementia. Her Christian faith had been her main stay right till the end and she will be missed and remembered by us in Beeston. May she rest in peace. Amen

Keeping up the Mothers' Day Tradition at Heaton St. Barnabas

Traditionally, at the Mothering Sunday Service at Heaton St. Barnabas' Church, MU members sit together. Sometimes, new members are enrolled and the MU Prayer is always incorporated into the service. Whether they are mothers or not, all members of the congregation are invited to go forward to light a candle and receive a primula. They are also encouraged to take a



primula for housebound members and those who are sick. However in 2020, the church was closed on March 20th so the service had to be online and handing out flowers was impossible. By Mothers' Day 2021, many of our members had been shielding or isolating and had not been to church for almost a year. Many live outside our parish so the main contact we had had was either through our email and telephone networks or at the weekly phone-in Morning Service. This year, the church was still not open and one of our members felt that we all needed a bit of colour in our lives. Three MU members kept up the tradition by taking a card and a primula to every member of the congregation – 45 homes in all. They knew that the plants would give pleasure to

the recipients (one said it was a blessing) but were surprised to find that it was a really rewarding experience for them too when they saw smiles on every doorstep as folks realised that they had not been forgotten as part of the St. Barnabas' family. This act of kindness proved that out of sight was definitely NOT out of mind and it may have been better to give than receive!

Spreading God's love through MU projects

Rastrick branch in the Huddersfield Area have been very busy for the past twelve months continuing to use their baking and craft skills to support members, church members and those in prison and hospitals.

They have made at least 200 emergency hospital toiletry packs for local hospitals, baked many cakes to give away and knitted prayer squares.

The prayer squares were not just made by MU members but by friends from other churches and a craft class who donated their squares. This enabled knowledge of MU to be spread to non members. The squares were made into a prayer shawl which was blessed by the Vicar, Rev'd Michelle Petch, who has been named "the Guardian of the Shawl" and it will be used to bless someone who needs comfort.



Thy Kingdom Come

Unfortunately, the MU Connected magazine carried the wrong date for the Thy Kingdom Come live service on its inside front page. It is taking place on 14th May, not 15th May as stated. The service will start at 2pm. You can access a recording of the service on the Mothers' Union YouTube channel after the 14th if you wish to. Thy Kingdom Come runs from 13-23 May.

See the MSH website for more details:



<https://www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/whats-on/thy-kingdom-come-2021>