



## Keeping in Touch - Newsletter 5 June 2021

Dear fellow members,

“Holy Spirit, we welcome you” starts a modern worship song.

At Pentecost, we celebrate the “birth of the Church” with joy. Just as the first disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit, today, we use the gifts God has given to each of us to show His love to those we meet. We are enabled through Membership of Mothers’ Union to carry out God’s work through prayer and action. We pray that, despite the Pandemic, when we have lived with restrictions, we may start afresh to appreciate the world around us, the much-valued fellowship of our friends and family and rejoice in all the little things in life which now seem to mean so much more. I hope to see many members at the Diocesan Council meeting and AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> June on Zoom and hopefully in person before the end of the year.



With love and prayers  
Jean

### Starting to meet again - some guidance

As restrictions on social mixing are gradually being relaxed and MU members are planning to meet again, there is an updated section on the group and branch resources page of the MU website (<https://www.mothersunion.org/resources/group-and-branch-resources>) called ‘Starting to meet together again 2021’. This includes guidance on keeping members safe and venue risk assessments as well as ideas for that long awaited first meeting. Mary Marshall is our Membership Development leader and she is available to not only have Zooms, but also to come to meetings, or speak to leaders on the phone or by email to help you plan how to meet up again.

Contact Mary at [mary.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.thorpe@btinternet.com)

### Mothers’ Union, Diocese of Leeds COUNCIL and AGM 2021 via Zoom



**10am - 12 noon on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
**Guest Speaker: Canon Catherine Hilton,**  
**Zonal Trustee for York Province MU**  
**“THE BIGGER PICTURE OF MU”**

**All members are welcome to join this meeting**  
**The Zoom link is below:-**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81899093155?pwd=NjhNYjFOMmJTNzY1K0FnY0Q4UVdlQT09>

Meeting ID: 818 9909 3155  
Passcode: 440085

## A Huge Thank You! - the email below was received in May in appreciation Thanks to all those members who provide emergency toiletry bags

“I have recently had to have an unexpected stay in Calderdale Hospital. As I was admitted I was unprepared with absolutely nothing with me. I would just like to say a huge thank you for the plastic bag a nurse gave me which had a toothbrush, toothpaste, comb etc which I understand is given by Mothers’ Union, Diocese of Leeds. I would like you to know how much I appreciated the contents of that little bag. Thank you!”



Members at All Saints, Halifax  
packing toiletry bags before  
Covid

## Kirkheaton Branch Plant Sale Raises £300!



### Joan Gorton reports from Kirkheaton

Rosalie Williams, Branch Treasurer was allowed to have a fundraising stall outside Kirkheaton Church. She said it was cold but it kept dry. She had grown plants and was able to sell all of these and with lots of generous donations the sum of £300 was raised. A magnificent effort! Thank you Rosalie and church members for supporting Mothers’ Union.

## Boroughbridge Mothers' Union in the Ripon Area



Margaret Crawford, Branch Leader, reports that the members have been busy. They are getting ready for selling their items for MU funds when restrictions allow. Thanks to all the lockdown knitters and sewers.

**THANK YOU for recent donations to AFIA funds!  
Every donation is appreciated and put to good use**

- The Craig Charity in Bradford £600
- Holy Trinity Church Idle £1,000
- St Thomas’s Church, Bradley £200 (divided between AFIA and Overseas work)
- A personal supporter £500



**Summer of Hope Appeal**  
**Please consider joining together to support women's empowerment worldwide with a cream tea or through MU on the Move this summer**

**Why not support the Summer of Hope appeal to celebrate 145 years of Mothers' Union by taking on a challenge - to have fun and raise funds.**

Your branch leader will have a pack which gives more details. There are lots of tips in the pack on safety, fundraising, permissions and ideas for other activities. This may be a really good way to restart your meetings after so long. (Covid restrictions permitting)

**Ideas for MU on the Move 2021**

- Have a target – maybe £14.50 or set a group target of £145
- Run or walk 5 kilometers or 5 miles - it could be in stages, alone or with a friend or involve non members



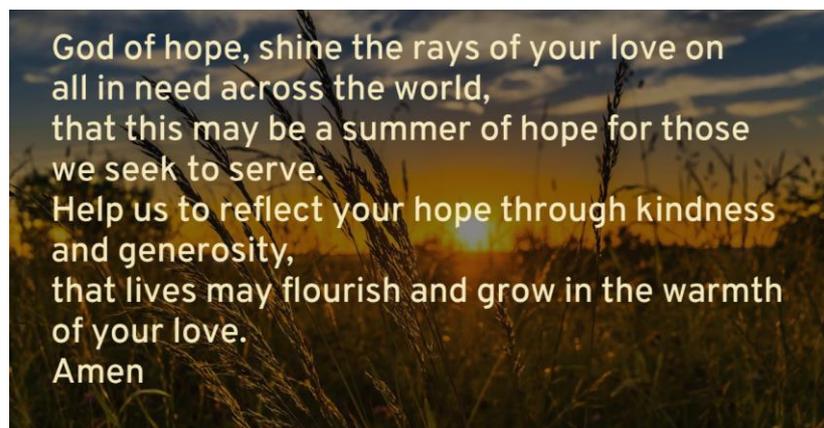
**Hold a CREAM TEA or COFFEE MORNING** - hold it in your garden or online or deliver to doorsteps for a small charge.

**Other Fundraising Ideas**

- Set up a collection jar for loose change
- Hold a quiz at your event- a quiz is provided

**Let your Diocesan President know:**

1. Your plans - If you would like publicity on social media channels just let us know
2. TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS - there is a permissions form in the pack
3. Let us know how much you have raised



## Diocesan Membership

**What is a Diocesan Member? Do I have to have email to be a Diocesan Member? Who keeps me informed about what is going on? Can I go to events and services?**

These are questions that are asked about becoming a Diocesan Member in the Diocese of Leeds Mothers' Union, and there are more myths around the subject than can be answered here.

However, the facts are that anyone who is not a Branch Member can become a Diocesan Member of the Mothers' Union, and there are many reasons why this is suitable for people who want to support the work of the Mothers' Union. It could be because of work commitments, not having a branch at a local church, or because a branch has closed.

The Membership Team in the Leeds Diocese consists of the Area Diocesan Member Representatives and these are the people who look after the Diocesan Members in their Episcopal Area, much the same as Branch Leaders do for their members. They receive information about what is happening in the Diocese from me, and their Area President will also let them know about Area events.

Diocesan Members are full members of the Mothers' Union, paying the same subscription as Branch Members, and so are welcomed at all events and services. How do they receive this information? If they are on email they will be sent everything on email. If not on email, information is posted to them. An Area group of Diocesan Members may choose to meet occasionally. If your branch is closing, when your Area President visits to discuss the closure she will bring details of the Area Representative, and forms to complete and return to them. However, as will happen, some members will miss this opportunity so if you would like to know more about Diocesan Membership, or want to join as one, please get in touch with me, Mary Marshall, at 01943 464000, email [mary.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.thorpe@btinternet.com), or write to 30 Oatlands Drive, Otley, LS21 2AY. I will then pass your details to the Area Representatives, Christine Tedder, Margaret Stears, Sue Beeken, or Pat Schofield who do great work in keeping you in touch with the Mothers' Union and the wonderful work undertaken, here in Leeds and worldwide.

**Mary Marshall, Membership Team Leader**

### Tribute to Vira Stott of St Paul's Shipley in Bradford Area



Vira was a loyal member of St Paul's Mothers' Union. She joined a very active, lively branch and hats were the order of the day and had to be worn!! They held meetings in St Paul's Church School in Shipley. At her first meeting she was told by an older member she could make the tea, so Olive said I will help you, and that was the start of their long friendship. Sylvia Gracey became a friend and they were known as the 3 girls, young ladies, probably being in their thirties at that time. MU put on shows, coffee mornings, teas at the garden party and an international visit of members from Uganda. Some of the jobs Vira held for St Paul's MU included Enrolling Member, Secretary and then Treasurer until she had to reluctantly retire on reaching the mandatory age of 80 years young. Vira could drive and she took friends to MU open days at Parcevall Hall and National Conferences. At one time she was also MU Deanery Secretary. Elvira was an active member for 55 years. She was a great supporter of the MU AFIA caravan project "Away from it All" holidays for families in need of help or a holiday break in Filey. The photo shows Vira Stott with Olive Hogg and Noreen Ryley.

## MUe News

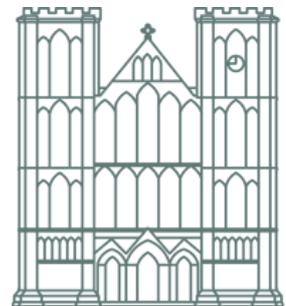
Business through the Reps is almost non-existent. I do hope this means you are all ordering on-line? MUe is an easy way of supporting the Charity which needs funds to carry on all the excellent work we do. Do show your catalogues to friends, neighbours, members and if you don't want to order yourself, please contact one of the Reps who may have what you want/need in their stock, but will order for you. Diary and Calendar Order Forms will soon be distributed to Branch Leaders when we have more details. We plan to do a Diocesan order as usual, so do watch out for these details. This is the biggest order we have, so is a very valuable source of income to the Diocese. Please support us. Thank you!

**Margaret Stears - Team Leader/Huddersfield Area Rep**  
**Margaret Bentley - Leeds Area**  
**Teddy Foster - Wakefield Area**

### Dates for your Diary

- 9<sup>th</sup> August - Mary Sumner Day service on MU Facebook
- MU Annual Gathering - virtual online event on 25<sup>th</sup> September, details will follow
- End of Triennium Service for York Province - Liverpool Cathedral on 6<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm
- The Global Day (part of 16 Days) will be 27<sup>th</sup> November Live on-line

### Golden Wedding Service at Ripon Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 at 3.30pm



Tickets available from Mrs Trina Knockton at the Cathedral Office:  
The Chapter House, Ripon Cathedral, Ripon, HG4 1QT or Tel: 01765 603462  
or email: [postmaster@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@riponcathedral.org.uk)

### Final Council Meeting of the Triennium for Leeds Diocese MU Celebration and Thanksgiving

**On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 10am for 10.30am at St Chad's Parish Centre,  
Otley Road, Far Headingley, Leeds, LS16 5JT**