



Charity number 1164024
Keeping in Touch - Newsletter 7
September 2021

Dear fellow members,

The photograph below, which I took on 30th August, is GAIA which floated above the nave at Wakefield Cathedral as part of Wakefield's "Festival of the Earth" - What an amazing sight! Gaia measures 7 metres in diameter and features detailed NASA imagery of the earth's surface. It is 1.8 million times smaller than the real earth!!



It reminded me that the community of MU members worldwide is truly wonderful. Mary Sumner had no idea how our organisation would spread as it has over the past 145 years.

During my time as Diocesan President, I have tried my best to open up that worldwide vision to everyone. As a member, you belong to a Worldwide family of millions of like-minded Christian people who pray and who stand up for the rights of women and the transformation of communities.

Helping the fleeing Afghan families who have arrived in the north of England is just one example of how we can support those in a situation we have never had to contemplate. Thanks to all members who have helped in some way towards our appeal for coats for the Afghan children.

I hope many members are now able to meet safely and catch up on 18 months of news. I am looking forward to seeing as many members as possible at the November Council Meeting, when we will worship together and give thanks for all we have achieved.

With love and prayers
Jean

**An important message about Annual
Subscription Payments
Direct Debit new for 2022**



In early October, each member will receive their second copy of "Connected" magazine. This will include a letter from myself and President Elect, Elaine, inviting you to pay your MU subscription by **Direct Debit** from 2022. I hope you will consider taking advantage of this payment method which will strengthen our organisation and save on administration at Branch and Diocesan level for the future. There will be more information at the upcoming MU Area meetings.



Our new Trustee Board 2022-24 - Update

Since our last newsletter, some more appointments to the new Trustee Board can be announced. Congratulations, Prayers and best wishes to:
Sue Atherton - Area President for Wakefield Episcopal Area
Barbara Vaughan - General Trustee elected by members in the Ripon Episcopal Area

MUe News



Thank you to all who have sent in orders for diaries and calendars. Numbers are much lower than previous years but probably to be expected. However, I must apologise for the delay in your receiving your orders, but the diaries still haven't arrived at MSH! The latest expected delivery date is mid-September.

Christmas cards are available as is the new selection of greetings cards and I have a good stock of everything - I just await your orders!

Finally - the VERY good news. Once again Leeds Diocese came second in the list of Turnover Related Grants. We received £1.207-31, a very welcome (and surprise) donation to Diocesan Funds. This means that you must have been dealing with MSH direct during lockdowns as we, as Reps, have had very few sales for 18 months. Thank you all so much for continuing to support the Charity in this way.

Margaret Stears, MUe Team Leader (Pictured recently with her vast stock of cards and resources)

Children's Christmas Card Competition! **Reminder - The deadline for entries is 15th October!**

- We invite children in school years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to design a Christmas card in A4 landscape using paints or felt tip pens.
- Three winners will have their designs professionally printed as Christmas cards and receive a gift of a book token.
- MU works in many local prisons and the cards will be for prisoners to send to their children or grandchildren.
- Information and a flyer have been sent to all Branch Leaders and Contacts by email. Please give to members, clergy and Sunday School Leaders.



Thank you for helping to support those in prisons in the Diocese in this way.
If you have any questions, please contact me.

Mary Marshall, Member Development mary.thorpe@btinternet.com

Important Banking Update - Correct Wording for Cheques



Banks are currently increasing their security so please always ensure that all your cheques for subscriptions and donations are made payable to **Diocese of Leeds Mothers' Union** - the correct wording is very important otherwise the cheque will be returned. If your cheque is for AFIA, Summer of Hope, Caravan Replacement Fund etc please still make you cheque payable to **Diocese of Leeds Mothers' Union** but add a note in with the cheque stating what it is for so Paul, our Treasurer, can allocate it to the correct fund. *Many thanks for your help with this!*



“Re-imagining Mothers' Union”

Look out for an invitation to join a Coffee Morning. This may be with your Area or your Branch, on Zoom or in person. It will be your chance to share ideas about the shaping of MU in the future. As many members as possible can be part of a transformational process that will re-imagine Mothers' Union, building on our strengths and moving forward with confidence. **Yes, YOU can make a difference!”**

Mothers' Union On the Move in Holmfirth



This is part of the Summer of Hope Appeal, which aims to raise money for the work of Mothers' Union worldwide supporting families and communities. All around the world women are growing their leadership skills, supporting one another and making a difference.

This group of members met in Hade Edge, Holmfirth to start our Mothers' Union on the Move 5k walk. David Dalton ably led us through brambles and grass almost up to chest height, through farmyards and up many slopes. We gazed with wonder at our beautiful countryside, admired a piece of land full of poppies and wild flowers and enjoyed the company of our fellow walkers. It was a lovely walk, along footpaths which most of us had never traversed before. Thank you to David and also to everyone who has supported our Just Giving page. We have raised £205 for this Summer of Hope Appeal.



Holmfirth MU Fundraising for AFIA holidays



A group of us managed to get together for a Cream Tea. The weather was a bonus and we raised £135.50. It was a lovely afternoon not just because of the cake but so lovely to see each other in person and chat face-to-face. Prior to this event we had been having Coffee and Chat over video calls. We all put money in a pot and this raised £59. Proceeds from these events were for AFIA.

Welcome to 5 new members at Northowram!!

In early September, five new members were enrolled at Northowram branch in Halifax, in the Huddersfield Area including Canon James Allison and curate Rev'd Lyndsey Fox.



Garden Party at St Mark's Harrogate

In July members of the Mothers' Union Branch at St Mark's, Harrogate were joined by members from Pannal Branch and other friends at a Garden Party. For most of us, this was the first time of face-to-face meeting in sixteen months; as you can imagine, there was a lot of joy, talk and fellowship. As one member commented, 'What a delightful afternoon we spent with old and new friends; all our senses were catered for as we were surrounded by the colours and perfumes of the garden, the buzz of lively conversation and of course our tastebuds were tickled by such 'fancy' cakes.....it was bliss!' Our very grateful thanks go to all who helped set up and clear away, provide and serve the refreshments, give lifts to those who needed it, and most of all, to Jose who so willingly opened her garden to us.



To top everything, generous donations were made to AFIA, to a total of over £270. We are fortunate to be able to take holidays, Covid permitting, when we wish, but many are not so blessed. This will help many families to enjoy a seaside holiday, who otherwise would not be able to have that time away.



St James, Ryhill – joy at meeting up once again!

We had our first meeting here at St James, Ryhill in July and most of our members are here in the photo. We each made a prayer plait and hung them on our prayer tree. Everyone went home with a jam jar to put their change in for August for the Summer of Hope Appeal. It was good to meet up again and share our experience of lockdown and to enjoy the chance to pray together again.





Commissioning Service 2022 Diocese of Leeds Mothers' Union Led by the Bishop of Leeds

On Saturday 22nd January 2022 at Wakefield Cathedral at 2pm, Elaine Swinhoe will be commissioned as Diocesan President along with Trustees, Team Leaders and Chaplains. Please encourage as many members as possible to attend - this is a time to unite across the Diocese and welcome our new leaders for the 2022-24 Triennium.

A prayer for Afghanistan and its people

Lord, we lift up the people of Afghanistan to you right now. We pray that you would take hold of them and help them walk through this fearful time. Protect them under your wing and help them feel the comfort and peace that only comes from your powerful presence. Give courage and hope to any Christian believers who are especially vulnerable. Show us in the UK how to welcome the families who have gone through so much stress and fear in recent weeks.

In Jesus' name Amen

Dates for your Diary



- **MU Annual Gathering**
Virtual online event on Saturday 25th September 11am - 2.30pm
More information at:
www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/whats-on/general-meeting-2020
- **End of Triennium Service for York Province**
At Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 6th November at 3pm
Tickets are not required and all members are welcome
- **Final Council Meeting of the Triennium for Leeds Diocese MU**
on Thursday 18th November at 10am for 10.30am at
St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Far Headingley, Leeds, LS16 5JT
Celebration & Thanksgiving for MU and an Act of Remembrance



The Global Day (part of 16 Days) will be 27th November live on-line