



Keeping in Touch – Newsletter 3

Dear fellow members,

Greetings to everyone as we continue in week 10 of this strangest of times. I keep thinking of the words to the children's worship song:

***“I'm gonna zoom, zoom, zoom, around the room, room, room,
I'm gonna zoom around the room and Praise the Lord”.***

And then I realise we should Praise the Lord for Zoom and all it is enabling us to do! My eldest son celebrated his birthday recently and we had a virtual party with a cake and candles, our granddaughters had their party dresses on to sing “Happy Birthday”. Many members are joining services and prayer times on Zoom and last week, we held our first Zoom Trustee Meeting – a challenge but a success. Do take advantage of Midday Prayers online and all the other resources from the MU website and those sent around the Leeds Diocese MU.

On a personal note, my hair has not been cut for twelve weeks, I am baking bread, clapping for the frontline workers on Thursdays, I made paper bunting for the VE Day Anniversary and enjoy going for walks. I spend time contacting church members on my pastoral list to keep in touch and working on the computer for Mothers' Union, liaising with Mary Sumner House and our own Trustees and Teams.

Thanks to all the members who have supported the NHS and key workers by making items such as scrubs bags and pairs of hearts and supported initiatives in parishes and communities. Our members always work through prayer and action.

The Need for Mothers' Union

Building Hope and Confidence is our theme this year and I am praying that we can come through the “lockdown” united in our Hope in God to see us through and Confidence to step into the future and into a “new normal”. Mothers' Union members have always been active, leading the way in supporting those in need. We are not immune to the impact of the virus and I'm sure you feel that we must ensure Mothers' Union can continue to serve God as Mary Sumner did 144 years ago. Please prayerfully consider if your branch could send a donation to the Urgent Appeal.

At this season of Pentecost, may we all know the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for all you are doing. Stay safe and well.

Love & prayers from Jean (Diocesan President)

*Come Holy Spirit.
Rest upon us as a dove;
a messenger from the Father
With joy we receive the breath of the Spirit;
the promise of God fulfilled in our lives.
Amen*



**Breath of God, inspire us. Power of God, invigorate us.
Fire of God, ignite us. God of Pentecost be our blessing. Amen**

In Lockdown - a positive message A branch member describes her feelings

When we first went into lockdown, I knew things were going to have to change. No popping out for a quick coffee, no meeting family at a local restaurant, no driving to the supermarket to pick up that one item. Little did I realise just how much would change - and how much has changed for the better. It is Mothers' Union which has made me look for the positives to those changes.



Every week, we receive a staying-in-touch email message from our branch leader. I decided to write down a few thoughts and invited her to pass them on to other members if she thought they would be interested. I made a promise to myself that I would keep things positive. It has actually been really easy to think of the plus side to much of this weird time:

- Going outside late at night and marvelling at one particularly impressive galaxy rather than sitting in glued to the TV.
- Adapting recipes to use up what we have rather than what we want, often ending with 'interesting' results.
- Searching through old photos to make a banner for the VE Day celebrations led us on a long trip down Memory Lane.
- That feeling when the neighbours ask if there is anything you need.
- When people you have never met before ask how you are doing.
- When strangers wave as they pass in their car, tractor or delivery van.

I have downloaded Zoom onto my iPad, and that allows me to still take part in my Portuguese lessons, virtually; I have used Face Time to have really engaging chats with family, friends and neighbours; Facebook has been an unending source of information.

I have re-discovered paths I haven't walked for years.

We should all accept this challenge. At the end of the week, reflect on the highlights. Yes, there will be downsides (especially when you cannot find flour of any description!!), but try to remember the positives no matter how small and seemingly insignificant.

Margaret in Hepworth, Huddersfield

**Time for Reflection
at Parcevall Hall
20th-22nd July 2020**

This has been
cancelled
due to current
circumstances
with COVID-19

**Watch for
information for 2021**

***Hilary Fielding
Prayer Team Leader***

**Something to think about from the
New Zealand MU Newsletter...**

**Church Online
Not cancelled
Quiet time with God
Not cancelled
Praying for the sick
Not cancelled
Checking on a friend
Not cancelled
Helping others
Not cancelled
Being the church
*Now more than ever***

Cakes & Campaigns in Thurstonland!



The photo shows the MU contribution to the gallery of pictures hung in St Thomas', Thurstonland from Advent to Epiphany. Every organisation in the village was invited to create a 3D picture to represent that group's interpretation of a 'Village Christmas'. Our MU branch traditionally holds a Christmas Fayre at which we sell cakes, a vast amount of chocolate goodies, and hold competitions. We wanted to stress that there is a lot more to Mothers' Union than cake-making so alongside our picture we displayed copies of the Campaigning & Social Policy booklet - hence the title of the picture, Cakes & Campaigns. We were rather proud of our effort!

Books for Hospices

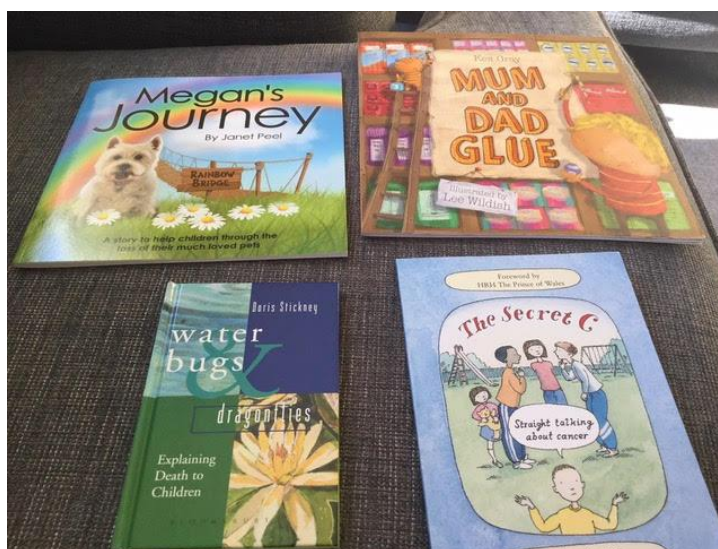
You will be familiar with the 'Books for Schools' scheme which many branches have supported over the past 18 months. A set of the four books has been presented to many schools in the Diocese including 54 in the Ripon Episcopal Area.

From that scheme another project has emerged. Two of the books, 'The Big C' and 'Water bugs and Dragonflies' have now been offered to various Hospices around our diocese. These are child friendly books dealing with difficult and heart-breaking topics. The MacMillan nurses are finding them a good resource to hand to the children they care for or for whose parent they care for. This very much follows our ethos of caring for families who have met with adversity. Funded from Outreach funds and from individual donations, I am sure you will agree that this is a good and effective use for our funds.

Yvonne Hutson (Outreach Team Leader)

Pictured above are Diocesan President, Jean Thurman and Huddersfield Area President, Elaine Swinhoe at the MacMillan Unit at HRI.

Pictured below are Ripon Area President, Josie Birley and fellow members giving "The Secret C" books to the Cancer Unit at Airedale Hospital.



Wakefield Episcopal Area- an Autumn Adventure!

The theme of the day was “Mothers’ Union Past, Present and Future” and the idea was to inform our members and also the partners whom we work with.

The Past

Dream Time Creative who is responsible for looking into the life of the ‘Forgotten Women of Wakefield’ gave an insight into their work on Mabel Norton, past Diocesan Secretary of Wakefield Diocese Mothers’ Union for many years. A blue plaque will hopefully be erected at the end of 2020. It must have been an interesting time to be an MU member 100 years ago!

The Present

Presentations from current MU projects at New Hall Prison, Barnsley Women’s Refuge and AFIA then followed. Robert Littlewood, Prison Officer, spoke of the role of MU volunteers in the prison and we heard about the cooking project recently started, the Mother and Baby Unit and the Tea Bar for visitors and how many lives we touch over a cup of tea or coffee. Mandy from Barnsley Women’s Refuge told us what our donations mean to the women in the Refuge and the future of the residents as they move on.

The Future

Our future is to encourage members to show the way forward in their own locality by Listening, Observing and Acting (MULOA) and was presented by Area President Eileen. She encouraged members to look ‘down their street’ and in their community for ways we can help.

‘Walking in Their Footsteps’ A shoe display to raise awareness of domestic abuse

This was presented by St Giles Branch, Pontefract. It not only raised awareness of domestic abuse but also sought to provide a visual opportunity for those who viewed the exhibits to be able to reflect, using a prayer leaflet and take away prayer card. This drew attention to how MU supports a call for the end of gender-based violence. Using such a display also puts Mothers’ Union out there in the community, telling people who we are and what we do. This visual display was very effective and one which other branches could create.



Thanks to Doncaster Snaith & Hatfield Project 2018 and resource material provided by Tanis Cockerham, Deanery Leader, Sheffield Diocese