

Keeping in Touch - MU News (2)

Hello fellow members,
I hope that you are all keeping safe and well as we continue to stay at home. As I write this, it remains uncertain when we will hold meetings and be able to attend church services again. I have cancelled our June Council Meeting and the Trustee Board will be holding their first meeting via Zoom on 15th May. Many of you will be keeping in touch with your churches in this way. I have already experienced two Zoom meetings with other Diocesan Presidents and staff at Mary Sumner House. This is new to me but how grateful we are for modern technology. Life will be different for months to come so it is difficult to plan. My prayer is that through our branches, we keep all members, including Indoor members, connected and cared for. We want to emerge from this crisis strong and committed to MU work in the future. I encourage you to consider giving as you feel able to the Urgent Appeal sent to all members.



A Greeting from Sheran Harper, MU Worldwide President in response to an Easter message I sent to her:

Keep safe! and please let your members know that I pray for their safety and the safety of their loved ones ... I pray for all who live alone and miss their friends and family ... I pray for all who are hungry that God would bless them with food ... I pray for all MU leaders in the Diocese of Leeds who continue to reach out as God's hands and feet in so many ways. I send you all my love and lots of virtual hugs and kisses. Remember this too shall pass ... "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57 With my love and prayers as always xxx Sheran



Elizabeth Holleran

Sadly, I report the recent death of Elizabeth Holleran, a very active former Diocesan Secretary for Ripon & Leeds. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers.

I know you will continue to pray for all those touched in any way by Coronavirus. We have had several specific prayer requests for families distressed because of current funeral arrangements. If anyone knows someone who would like prayer support **at the time of a funeral - a wave of funeral prayer** -in addition to any more general request for prayer for the bereaved and family, the MU Prayer Network would be happy to circulate a request for that support asking members to pray at the time of the funeral.

MUe - please order direct at this time and do remember to tick LEEDS Diocese.

FAMILIES WORLDWIDE - please contact your Area President if you have not received your own copy in the post.

A closing thought:

The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts
The safest place to be is in someone's prayers
And the best place to be is in the hands of God.

Enjoy the rest of the news from 2019 which follows. Thank you for all you are doing. Stay safe and well. **Love & prayers from Jean (Diocesan President)**

Branch News

90th Birthday Celebration at Swinnow



Dorothy Norfolk, seated in blue top, was MU Diocesan Secretary from 1974-1987 and was also on the MU Central Executive in 1987. Swinnow branch celebrated her 90th birthday in her garden in April 2019 on a glorious afternoon. The day now holds precious memories for the branch as Margaret (second from the left at the front) sadly passed away soon after that. Three ladies at the front have been MU members for 60 years. Congratulations indeed!

Yorkshire Day at Northowram



On 1st August, Northowram branch organised a two course meal, roast beef and Yorkshire puddings, with rhubarb crumble for pudding. Monies raised went to the Summer of Hope Appeal. A fantastic evening and a great effort by all involved.

66 years of Marriage for Hepworth couple

On March 28th 2019, their 66th Wedding Anniversary, Gwen and Arnold Holmes received a special card from the Queen. They were married in Hepworth church and the day of the wedding was the first day in the church for Gwen where she has been a member of the congregation ever since. She has been a Mothers' Union member for over 50 years. They have 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Congratulations from us all at Hepworth branch of MU and Leeds Diocese.



St Mary's, Garforth

At the meeting on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 one of our much-loved members, Brenda Law, celebrated her 90th birthday. At this meeting, the Growing Zone, a Special Needs Gardening group of young people in Kippax joined in to sing Happy Birthday to Brenda. The Growing Zone was visited by Princess Anne the following day.



Middleton Branch raised £1025!

A 60's-70's evening was a great success raising funds shared between AFIA and the MU Summer of Hope Appeal.

The food was provided by Morrisons Community Charity.

Cocktails for Cots - Boroughbridge Branch

Following a popular Pizza and Prosecco evening earlier in the year at a local pub, Boroughbridge Mothers' Union's new group called "All Saints Girls" organised a Gin tasting and Cocktail evening in October in All Saints Church.



The event was popular with younger women from the village community and we were helped along by Di's Delights, a local small business of home-made infused gins and wonderful chutneys and jams. Di gave us a very generous percentage of her sales which were popular Christmas gifts.

Apart from it being a very convivial evening, proceeds from tickets and sales of £170 enabled us to purchase two cots and

mattress bundles for Leeds Baby Bank which were very gratefully received.

Branch Leader Margaret Crawford said "This type of social evening allows us to talk to younger people about MU, give out information leaflets and show what we do both locally and world-wide".

News from St Chads, Far Headingley

We started a Knit & Natter group on an evening once a month then at a suggestion of one of our members we started evening meetings too. We met three times last year for an information meeting, a speaker from Leeds Baby Bank and then another speaker. Two new members were enrolled and we hope to enrol some more next year.

The Knit & Natter is a great social occasion - some knit, some crochet, some embroider and some just natter. We discuss all sorts of subjects both local and national and current affairs. When the speaker from Leeds Baby Bank came she went away with a car full of donations of goods we also held a fund raising raffle on the evening.

