



## Newsletter, (information sheet). April/May 2019.



### From the Diocesan President

Dear fellow members,

I hope many of you were able to attend an Area Lady Day Service. It was in 1897 that 25<sup>th</sup> March, the Feast of the Annunciation, was appointed as the annual day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for Mothers' Union.

We continue to observe it, acknowledging Mary's obedience to God when she knew that she was to become the Mother of Jesus.

Many Long Service Certificates have been presented recently. So much good work continues through MU in this Diocese and I thank you all for your faithful membership and for your prompt co-operation in payment of subscriptions enabling MU work to go from strength to strength.

We are aware of the challenge of caring for members of all ages. Sadly, six branches in the Diocese are closing as we begin 2019 and that is why providing support for Diocesan members is increasingly important. So too is looking at different patterns of branch meetings.

In this newsletter, you can read about several new initiatives. We are not standing still but trying to move forward with different ideas. We each have a responsibility to pray for the future of Mothers' Union and all that we stand for within the Church. Join me in this task and by God's grace, we will succeed.

Love & prayers to you all *Jean*

### Commissioning of Worldwide President at Southwark Cathedral on 26<sup>th</sup> February

The sounds of Calypso from a Steel Band reflecting Sheran Harper's Guyanese roots, greeted those who attended.

Archbishop Justin Welby conducted the service saying: *"There is only one Mothers' Union! It is the world's oldest and largest women's movement. It is one of the Anglican*

*Communion's greatest gifts to the worldwide church.*

*Mothers' Union members face challenges in their work of supporting the communities in which they live and serve but are there bringing hope and a future. So, make yourselves known."*

In reply, Sheran said *"I feel overjoyed and humbled by the outpouring of love and support I have received. I am so grateful to everyone who travelled from far and wide for this special day in the history of Mothers' Union. Thank you everyone who came and those who were unable to but were lifting me up in their prayers."*

It was a wonderful occasion at the start of Sheran's role as leader of our Worldwide organisation. *Jean Thurman*



### Concerned about Modern Slavery in the UK?

Mothers' Union are proudly working in collaboration with the *Clewer Initiative* in order to end modern slavery by 2030. Both Mothers' Union and the *Clewer Initiative* believe that the tools to end modern day slavery already exist within our local communities. We envision that the Church, which is present and at the heart of communities, has a primary responsibility in leading this effort. We can help with victim support and care. This involves working with the Church locally to identify resources already available to be utilised, developing partnerships with others and thus creating a wider network of advocates seeking to end modern slavery. Watch for more information or visit:

[www.theclewerinitiative.org](http://www.theclewerinitiative.org)

*Cynthia Osborne*  
(Campaigns Officer.)



### Want to raise an extra few £s for MU Diocese of Leeds?

Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile offer opportunities To find out more visit the websites:

**FREE £5s for The Mothers' Union - Diocese of Leeds**

"easyfundraising" -

[easyfundraising@e.easyfundraising.org.uk](mailto:easyfundraising@e.easyfundraising.org.uk)

or - [Smile.amazon.co.uk](http://Smile.amazon.co.uk) - Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice.

### MUe News

We have an exciting new range of limited edition Wedding Anniversary cards available. If you know of anyone celebrating 40, 50, 60 or 70 years of Marriage, we have just 10 of each of these cards in the Diocese, priced £1-25.

**Contact Margaret Stears or Margaret Bentley**  
*before they sell out!*

Watch this space for further limited edition ranges.

**DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY newsletter is 14th May 2019.**

## NEW INITIATIVES.

*Mothershare in Halifax do such wonderful work in helping disadvantaged families. How kind of them to take time to put the following message and photos on Facebook.*

### Mothershare is feeling thankful.



**Thank you Mothers' Union!** Today our lovely friends at Mothers' Union brought us some wonderful donations. We are so grateful to this special group of ladies who are so supportive of our service and its aims. They collect in donations for us and their members knit us some of the most beautiful baby blankets and clothing. Thank you ladies some of your donations have already gone out.



### All Saints Girls — a Mothers' Union initiative.

Last September this evening group began as an alternative to our traditional afternoon branch in Boroughbridge. It has been supported by several enthusiastic members who saw the need to pass on MU visions and principles to younger people in our churches and communities. Without exception all of this new, although still small, group has a heart for helping families and others who may be struggling in today's world. Our get togethers are relaxed, often including a glass of wine and over the last few months we have talked a lot about what MU does. Three 'girls' have become or soon will be enrolled as full MU members. In February we held a Pizza & Prosecco evening at a local pub. This turned out to be a convivial evening with friends and members coming along to support them and Mothers' Union. We raised £100 for MU funds but more importantly a few more people heard about our wonderful organisation and the different opportunities for joining us. *Margaret Crawford.*

### Books for Schools.



The 'Books for Schools' project has taken off at a pace. There have now been 60 sets distributed across the Ripon Episcopal area, and further. Some have been bought by Branches and some by individual members, but all have been well received with some feedback



already. Some have now been ordered by clergy for use in their churches following bereavement etc. For more information contact :-

**Josie Birley, Ripon Area President. 01765 692035. or email [josiebirley@gmail.com](mailto:josiebirley@gmail.com)**

### Huddersfield Area Diocesan Members

Unfortunately, Branches are closing, but many members are choosing to retain their membership by joining the Diocesan Members Group. We now have a group of over 50 members & we are hoping to become more proactive, by organising different forms of meeting, whereby members can meet up & share ideas & MU news.

The first date for your diary is *Lady Day, Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>*, when we shall hold a short Service in *Halifax Minster at 1.30pm*. This will be preceded by a Soup Lunch at 1pm. Later in the year we shall be having a Quiet Afternoon in the glorious Shibden Valley on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> between 1.30-4pm

Contact **Margaret Stears** for further details.

### Coffee at the Leeds Minster— Knit, Natter and Games!

Members in Leeds Area say midday prayers at Leeds Minster every Tuesday. They have now started providing coffee from 10.30am on the second Tuesday of the month providing opportunity to socialise - knit, natter, play games etc.— ending with midday prayers. Why not pop in, give it a try?

## Use of AFIA caravans

As has always been the case, Mothers' Union members can apply for an AFIA holiday if they meet the criteria (briefly if they need a holiday but cannot afford one and have not had a holiday during the past three years).



However the trustees have now agreed that members who do not meet the criteria for an AFIA break can apply to use the caravans if there is a vacant week and agree to make a minimum donation of £100 to the AFIA fund. Vacant weeks will only ever occur outside of school holiday times and would only be confirmed two/three weeks beforehand, although applications could be received anytime and a provisional date given. Priority will always be given to AFIA applicants but it seems appropriate for members to use the caravans if vacancies occur. Application forms for both types of holiday are available from our **AFIA rep Denise Barret.**



*Yvonne Hutson*

## Forthcoming dates.

**April - Friday 12th.**

**Outreach Meeting at 10am for 10.30am** at Leeds Diocesan Office. All are welcome to attend. Come along and hear about MU Outreach work.

**May - Tuesday 7th.**

**Commissioning Service for the Provincial President** 11am at York Minster.

Numbers to Area Presidents please.

**June - Friday 14th.**

**Diocesan Council Meeting**

10am for 10.30am at St. Chad's Parish Centre in Headingley, Leeds.

*Rev. Canon Robin Gamble, Bishop's Advisor for Church Growth*, will be our speaker. We look forward to seeing you there.

**June 3rd-5th Time for Reflection**

At Parcevall Hall . Cost £146 full board.

Leader *Rev. B Partridge.*

Application forms & full details from Branch Leaders & Area Presidents.

**HAVE YOU BOOKED YET?**



## Golden Wedding Service.

Were you married in 1969 or earlier? If you are celebrating your Golden

Wedding Ripon Cathedral warmly invites you to share in this year's special service of thanks giving and blessing on **Sunday 9th June 2019 at 3.30pm**. To apply for tickets send your name and address to:- **Mrs.Trina Knockton,**

**The Chapter House, Ripon Cathedral, Ripon, HG4 1QT. Email: [postmaster@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@riponcathedral.org.uk) Tel: 01765 602072.**

*Prayerful thought: When we meet others' needs, we answer God's call.*