



DIOCESE OF LEEDS MOTHERS' UNION,

incorporating Episcopal Areas of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Ripon and Wakefield,

linked in prayer with Lesotho (S.Africa), Kibungo (Rwanda), Etche, Ogbomoso (Nigeria), Hanuato'o (Solomon Islands),

FROM THE DIOCESAN PRESIDENT.



Dear fellow members,
Recent months have been busy but exciting. I attended the excellent General Meeting in Portsmouth when the Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, addressed members. Along with the other Diocesan Presidents in the York Province, I spent two days on a residential conference in early November and Sheran was with us. She truly is inspiring and will lead us all to a great future.

Sheran received a hamper containing gifts from each northern Diocese and she gave each of us a cross from Guyana. The Provincial Eucharist Service at Leeds Minster on 7th November was attended by 500



members from across the north and led by the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines. Our own Chaplain, Ven Peter Townley welcomed everyone and Bishop John Packer, former Bishop of Ripon & Leeds, who is now the Provincial MU Chaplain, led the intercessions.



In Sheran's words: ***"Mothers' Union is alive, exceptional and transforms lives. We must focus on Jesus"***.

The MU Theme for 2020 will be **"BUILDING HOPE AND CONFIDENCE"**

I ask you all to reveal "the church's best kept secret – **Mothers' Union** – in your parishes and in your lives. Keep praying for MU in Leeds Diocese as we build hope and confidence for the future during 2020. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season and a happy and healthy New Year.

With love from *Jean*

Visitors from Sudan

I was delighted when the Sudan Link Group in the Diocese invited Mama Hewaya and Mama Samira, the MU leaders in Sudan, to visit for two weeks in September. Our members had several opportunities to meet them in the Bradford, Leeds and Ripon Areas. It was a real joy to spend some time with them.



Please pray for them. *Jean.*

Dates for your Diary

Members in all areas are warmly invited to attend the following events:-

Saturday 28th March 2020 at 2pm – Diocesan Lady Day Service at Bradford Cathedral

Saturday 13th June 2020 at 10am for 10.30am –

Diocesan Council Meeting at St Mark's Church, Harrogate.

Please do join us!

Branch Envelopes

Branch Leaders/Branch Correspondents should all have received an envelope

containing important subscription information for 2020, a list of branch members to update and return and a copy of the Wave of Prayer. If you have not received this, please do contact the Diocesan Secretary as soon as possible. Many thanks *Joanna Sarkar.* (MU Diocesan Secretary).

Watch the latest videos,

Make a global impact and Mothers' Union—Who are we?
www.mothersunion.org.



DEADLINE for Feb./ March issue is January 14th.

Thank you Carol.

What is Mini MU?

Members attending the Diocesan Council meeting on 14th November enjoyed listening to the guest speaker Caroline Collins, Diocesan President of Liverpool.

Caroline spoke about the setting up of **Mini MU**, a group of children aged up to 15 years who set up their own branch with the help of adults whose advice to other Mothers' Union members who are struggling to communicate MU to their younger generation would be **"to let the children lead the way. We as adults think about what we can do to get children involved in the Church and instead we have to let**



Caroline with President Jean and Joanna Sarkar, (Dioc. Sec.)

them decide what they would like to do and just support them".

Bags of love (see photo) is another inspiring idea from Liverpool. The bags contain tissues, a tea bag, a chocolate bar and a prayer and are given via schools to mums on their little one's first day at school. Feedback shows that these have been welcomed gratefully and the idea is spreading. Our members all made up a bag at the Council meeting.



What about your branch taking up this simple but lovely idea next year?

For more information, contact your Area President. *Jean Thurman.*

Thank you from

David Osborne and family.

We would like to thank all Mothers' Union members and churches who sent so many kind messages of sympathy and support— and your prayers— both to Cynthia and ourselves.

They have been much appreciated at this difficult time. I have tried to respond to as many as possible by letter, telephone and email but some may have been missed, for which I apologise.

Cynthia died peacefully in the full knowledge that this was the end of one life— and a new beginning in another.

David.

AFIA holidays are such a wonderful thing for Mothers' Union to be able to offer— **39 holidays this year!** Thank you for all you do to make this possible. Here is just one comment from a recipient, (Names Changed).

'Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this amazing opportunity . I feel blessed to have been granted this week away. After my daughter (Sarah's mummy) died, life has been hard. Sarah has autism; that is challenging in itself but my other daughter and baby granddaughter live with us so Sarah and I rarely get one to one time. We have bonded in such a magical way. Sarah has taken part in activities but also we had evening visits to a secluded beach where we simply enjoyed being in each other's presence.

I love the prayer in the bedroom. The Lord definitely heard our prayers. We are refreshed in body, mind and soul and will cherish these memories forever.

Thank you again, God bless you all.'

Dates for Branches in the Ripon Episcopal Area.

2nd December 2pm. Ripon EA Advent service at St Robert's, Pannal.

3rd February 2pm. Skipton Cluster Meeting at Hellifield Institute.

11th February 10.30am Harrogate Cluster meeting at Starbeck.

13th February 2pm. Ripon Cluster meeting at the home of Myra Shields.

Josie Birley. (Ripon Area President).

Six more baby bags have been delivered to Armley Prison.

THANK YOU!

Carolyn

Peuleve.



Always Say A Prayer.

A prayerful thought in the midst of Christmas business:-

Lord, may the wonder of the Nativity give joy and peace to this troubled world and, as 2020 begins may all people be filled with hope for the year ahead.

The **Wave of Prayer** service begins our diocesan new year **January 8th –10th**. The service has been circulated and each Episcopal Area has allocated times. May this time together serve as a reminder of the challenges faced by our fellow members across the world as we take up the challenge of building hope and confidence.

Hilary Fielding (Prayer team leader).

