IN REMEMBRANCE OF JEAN BAILEY.

Sadly, the Bradford Area President, Jean Bailey, passed away on 2nd April after a short period of illness. Jean had been a member for over 40 years and held many roles in the Manchester and Bradford Dioceses. We owe Jean a great deal as she was one of the leaders in planning our new Diocesan Mothers’ Union.

Jean’s funeral was held on 12th April and her 70th birthday was celebrated by her family on 22nd April. We continue to remember her husband, Richard, and the family in prayer. Jean will be greatly missed on the Trustee Board for her many skills and her knowledge.

*May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

We are not proposing to elect a new Area President for Bradford during this triennium. Alison Boggie is the General Trustee elected by the members in the Bradford Area and Alison has agreed to be the contact for all the Bradford branches until the end of 2018. A new Area President will be elected for the next triennium.

**Jean Thurman** *(Diocesan President)*

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**Further updates of The Mothers’ Union Trustee Board.**

Nicky Holliday resigned from the Trustee Board at the end of January and we thank Nicky for all that she has done as a Trustee, during planning of the new Diocesan Mothers’ Union and for her work with the website in particular. I am pleased that Margaret Crawford, Branch Leader at Boroughbridge, has agreed to take up the casual vacancy as General Trustee. Please pray for all the trustees as we take the Diocesan Mothers’ Union forward.

**Important roles to fill – please help**

**COMMUNICATION - OUTREACH - GIFT AID**

We are now working without Team leaders for the Communication and Outreach Teams. Later in the year, information will be available detailing what these roles entail and asking for your help and support in filling them.

Jean Bailey had taken on the role of Gift Aid officer in January so now we are looking for someone to undertake this task. Is there someone who could do this for us?

*Please contact Ann Hemsworth, Diocesan Services Team leader, Tel. 0113 2937494 if you want more information about these vital roles.*
A Visit to Parceval Hall

I participated in the Mothers’ Union Quiet Day of ‘Time for Reflection’ at Parceval Hall at the end of April. We looked at the Psalms of Ascent, our favourite psalm and on the last morning the 23rd psalm. We were then asked to re write the 23rd psalm making it personal to ourselves. After we had read them out I was asked to send this for the news letter.

My 23rd Psalm.
The Lord is my tractor driver,
He takes me to green pastures
And by the fishing lakes.
He guides me along the smooth paths.
Even though there are boggy places
I know that he is with me and will comfort me.
I have your gifts of love and food.
When I know not what is ahead of me
I am overjoyed when you are with me.
I pray that your love will continue to follow me,
And that I can stay in your house for ever.

Myra Shields. (Diocesan Member, Crakehall.)

Celebrating Marriage Week at St Mary’s Garforth Mothers’ Union.

This year we celebrated it by holding a Wedding Breakfast. A former branch leader, Lynda Webb came in her wedding dress so was allotted pride of place in between our Rector Rev Gordon Cooper, who said Grace for us and Neil Hampshire, who regularly helps us by playing the piano when necessary. The menu consisted of Melon, followed by Turkey Breast, Roast Potatoes, Carrots and Peas, followed by a choice of three desserts. We ended with Lynda cutting the cake, to have with a cup of tea, then a toast to the future of Mothers’ Union.

Instead of the normal speeches we had our prayers, followed by a short comparison of marriage to the relationships of Mothers’ Union, together with the letter from our Diocesan President Jean Thurman covering subscriptions, her thanks and that of our Patron the Queen last year. This was done to give a taste of what we do to the guests we had invited, possible future members, together with table displays on marriage and Mothers’ Union.

On 14th March we are having our inaugural evening meeting, which will be an informal forum to discuss the best day and time to have our meetings along with what we propose to have at our meetings. We envisage that younger ladies will appreciate meetings which have current themes within supporting marriage and family life, things that can help them in daily life as well as some being part of our projects both here and abroad. To this end we shall give them a copy of the new Labelled for Life and a Rough Guide to Mothers’ Union. The Committee will also be prepared to answer any questions on our branch and MU in general.

Margaret Bentley (Branch Leader.)

PROMOTING MOTHERS’ UNION ON MOTHERING SUNDAY

Make a Mother’s Day Cake Bake.

St. Mary’s Church, Goldsborough held a cake sale after the service on Sunday 12 March and raised £121.72 for ‘Make a Mother’s Day’. Sadly, our Mothers’ Union group has closed but we have two Diocesan Members and everyone rallied round to supply or buy cakes.

It was a family service so we were able to give out leaflets ahead of Mothering Sunday to promote the work that the Mothers’ Union does to help families around the world, and in particular to spread the word about ‘Make a Mother’s Day’ and, hopefully get some online donations too.

Our congregation was interested and very supportive so we hope we will do even better next year.

Susan Michael.

News from Christ Church, Lofthouse.

On Mothering Sunday our Vicar, Rev’d Mandy Rhodes suggested using the Sunday morning Eucharist Service to promote Mothers’ Union. Leader Pat Plenderleith gave a vocal account of work we do whilst Secretary Gabby De Vreeze set up a visual display. Our Branch welcomed a new member, Norma Hudson, then we all stood to renew our commitment to the Mothers’ Union Aims and Objectives. All agreed this was a most enjoyable occasion.

Dorothy Lightfoot (Branch Member.)

Speaker Offer! In 2014 we read the Bible from ‘Alpha–Omega’, non- stop, over 84 hours at St. Mary’s, Gosmeral. Recently I was asked by a Mothers’ Union Branch to talk about it. The talk went well and lasted about 40/45 minutes. Now I have this presentation prepared I am very willing to give a similar talk to other groups, whoever is interested. Who knows, I might inspire them enough to try the project themselves. Trees Fewster.

mfewster.41@btinternet.com
OUTREACH NEWS.
51 branches returned an outreach record sheet for 2016. The results are amazing, uplifting and so encouraging! Thank you for all you do in the name of Mothers’ Union in our diocese. The main results have been incorporated into the Trustees’ report to the charity commission and a fully collated sheet has been distributed to branch leaders, so hopefully all members will be able to see it. Please keep up all the good work during 2017, record it on your branch record sheet and return it to your Area President during December. How much more amazing it would be if EVERY branch returned their sheet this year!

Away From It All
The first AFIA holidays took place at Easter in our two caravans at Primrose Valley. Both of our caravans and an extra 6 week block booking in another caravan are filling up and many families in need will enjoy some time ‘Away From It All’ this summer thanks to your donations (and Jane Newsome’s sponsorship). Do continue your support for this most worthwhile project and perhaps send in some photos of your fund raising events.

Andrea Green
Outreach Team leader, Andrea Green stepped down at the end of March. Andrea has worked extremely hard during the past twelve months and we are grateful for all she has done. As the general trustee with oversight for Outreach, Yvonne Hutson can be contacted with any queries.

Yvonne Hutson (Trustee).

DIOCESAN LINKS
How can we get to know members across the diocese? Write to them is one answer, and that is the intention behind the formation of new Links between branches. You will by now have been given details of your Link and I know some Branches have already sent Easter cards and greetings to each other, and some Leaders met at the Lady Day service. As summer approaches perhaps your branch is considering an outing to another Area to meet with the Link, or it could be that plans are being made to host a visit, deciding what to tell or show your new friends about the parish and surrounding district where you meet. I hope this venture is successful and that new friends will be made together with a wider understanding of the new diocese. Perhaps in future issues of the Newsletter we will see news of how branches are linking?

Mary Thorpe (Leeds Area President.)

Mothers’ Union at Wakefield Cathedral have donated over 100 of these crosses to give to Christian asylum seekers at their baptism. Christians from Iran are coming to Wakefield after facing fear of arrest in their own country.

After an intensive Baptism Course they are baptised and linked with a church in the city to which they are dispersed. They proudly wear the crosses given to them by Mothers’ Union.

Rev’d Canon Tony Macpherson
(Sub Dean Wakefield Cathedral).

QUIZ NIGHT
Ripon Episcopal Area, Ripon Cluster will be holding a Quiz Night with Supper for both members and non members across the Diocese on Saturday 2nd September 7pm at the Chantry Hall Bedale. If you can get together a team of six - fantastic.
However we can make up teams on the night. More details from Josie Birley 01765 692035.

Josie Birley
(Ripon Area President).

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
A ‘Newsletter Extra’ covering the visit of our World wide President, Lynne Tembey to Leeds Diocese and the recent Council meeting will be published later in June. So please look out for it!

Carol Daley (Newsletter editor).

Forthcoming Dates.

June. Sun. 11th 3.30pm Golden Wedding Service Ripon Cathedral
Sat. 17th 10am to 3.30pm Intercultural Marriage Day Harrogate Grammar School.

August. Thurs 10th Mary Sumner Day celebration Ripon Cathedral
Usual midday prayers in Cathedral followed by picnic on Canon Paul’s lawn. Bring deckchair and lunch. All welcome.

September. Frid. 29th to Sat. 30th General meeting and Service Edinburgh. Frid. Services of Evensong at two venues.
Sat. General Meeting Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

November. Sat. 4th Council Meeting at Allhallowgate Methodist Church Hall, Ripon.
You may not be in a matrimonial cross cultural relationship, but in Britain we are living in a multi-cultural community. Most of us have contact with people from other cultures or faiths, for example through the NHS, Takeaways or restaurants, food shops, taxis, buses etc.

This conference is open to anyone, not only Mothers’ Union members, so please pass the word around and use the posters.

Don’t forget to book!

Pat Ainsworth (Trustee).

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Prayer Team Report

Don’t just do something: sit there......................and pray!

PRAYERFUL POINTERS FOR June and July

Please hold these events in your prayers:-

- June 8th: General Election
- June 11th: Ripon Golden Wedding Service
- June 17th: Embracing Difference Conference. *(Have you booked a place?)*
- June 18th: Fathers’ Day
- June / July: Ordinations
- July 11/12/13: Yorkshire Show

July Summer Holidays and Mothers’ Union trips! A busy June and relaxing July!

*Creator God, we thank you for your pattern of rest as well as work. We pray for all who give of themselves so willingly, caring for others and sharing the light of Christ in this world. May they also know times of deep rest and relaxation; time to draw aside from the demands of the world and to know physical and spiritual refreshment. And thank you Lord, that we can know rest in you in the midst of our busiest times.  AMEN

*Taken from the Faith in Action material on [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

Hilary Fielding *(Prayer Team Leader).*