

# NEWSLINE



***Our President and the  
four Vice Presidents***

# A letter from Gill, our President

The days are getting longer and the nights are getting shorter. There are daffodils, crocus and many other flowers appearing in gardens, fields and hedgerows and the birds can be heard from early morning.

Spring seems to come earlier each year. I have heard that this is a sign of Global warming and is quite confusing for bees, frogs and other creatures. But, these signs of Spring do help to lift the spirit.

There is so much sadness in the world. The radio and television bring, reports families who are suffering through famine, drought or war. There are also many families in this country who are struggling financially and health wise. Mothers' Union members, throughout the world, work tirelessly by campaigning, raising funds, donating goods and essentials as well as providing social company and fellowship. As members of this wonderful organisation, we should all be proud of what we strive to do and what is achieved. However...

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**We don't pay subs just to belong, we pay them to make a difference to the lives of others.**

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In 2007 Mothers' Union membership in Britain and Ireland was over 100,000, it is now below 38,000. This is a challenge for us in our branches and Diocese. It is also a challenge for all the good work that Mothers' Union does worldwide. The number of members in our Diocese has fallen. This is due to many reasons but the biggest disappointment for me is the number of branches that have closed because no one



would take over any responsibility. There are always ways round a problem. In some Dioceses, branches have combined responsibilities/leaders with another branch but still meet in their own individual churches. Some branches meet socially in someone's home BUT they feel strongly about, and are committed to, Mothers' Union so they continue to pay their subs and meet as and when they can. Some branches and deaneries pay the subs for long serving members who no longer manage their own finances and are often in a residential home. These are things for us all to think about.

I became President in 2019 and was re-elected (I think) at the start of 2022 so this is my final year. As I write this article, I do not know who will be my successor but I am certain that Sheffield Diocese Mothers' Union will be in good hands and with lots of help and support. Please pray and give serious thought to how YOU can help Mothers' Union in the future.

I thought that it would be a good idea to launch a President's Challenge at Spring Council on May 11th. My idea is that £24 will be given to every branch for them to use in whatever way they choose. The money would then be returned, along with any profit that is made, at Autumn Council on October 24. I hope that you can be creative in the ways that you can use and increase the money.

**Reverend Hilda Isaacson** is ending her term as our Diocesan Chaplain at the Spring Council in May. She started in the role just as the pandemic was taking hold. She posted sermons and words of encouragement at a time when we weren't able to go to church. She has also co-ordinated and helped me create services along with many other aspects of support. It has been a pleasure working with Hilda. **Father Richard Parker** has agreed to take on the role from May's council meeting. He will be commissioned at the Mary Summer Day Service at Sheffield Cathedral on August 9th at 2pm.

On Saturday November 2nd there will be an End of Triennium Service at Blackburn Cathedral. Members from across the York Province will gather to give thanks for all that has been done during these three years. I am hoping to hire a coach so that Sheffield can be well represented. More information later but please put the date in your diaries.

It is always a sad time when a friend or relative dies. I was very sad when **Liz Paver** died. She was Vice President for the Doncaster Archdeaconry, my 'right hand person' and someone that I could rely on. She was always calm and patient. I had known Liz for many years before we met again in Mothers' Union circles. I am proud to have known her and to call her my friend. I will miss her and I know that many more people will miss her too.

Sadly, as I wrote this letter to you all, I heard the very sad news that **Mary Williams** had passed away. I had been in touch with Mary quite recently because, as she always tried to do, she wanted me to know about her plans for Faith and Policy events. She has planned the Away Day on 21st May and also the Quiet Day on September 17th and wanted me to know that Margaret Vivian would be taking care of them while she was ill. She was a dedicated Mothers' Union member and a valued member of our board of Trustees. I will certainly miss her.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and welcome **Tanis Cockerham** as the new VP for Doncaster Archdeaconry and also **Pat Simpson** as our Honorary VP for the Doncaster Archdeaconry. Along with Jo-Anne and Norma, they met with me for a coffee and a catch-up (as you can see on the front cover). I would also like to thank and welcome **Annette Walker** who has agreed to take on the role of Rotherham & Loughton Deanery Leader from **Moira Leach** who had decided to step down. Thank you Moira for all your hard work. And welcome to **Margaret Culloden**, who has taken over from Tanis as DASH Deanery Leader

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***If you feel as strongly about Mothers' Union as I do then please think about its future in Sheffield Diocese and consider your role.***

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Before the end of this year, we need: a President, a Newline editor, several Deanery leaders, several Unit co-ordinators and representatives on all of the Units. Please think how you can help.

**Always wear your badge with pride and spread the word.**

**Love Gill x**



# A Tribute to Elizabeth Paver

by Jane Nadin, Cantley MU Branch

As we entered St Wilfrid's on Sunday February 4th, little did we know that the news which awaited us was going to be life changing. Our friend and colleague, Elizabeth Paver, had that morning passed away. Despite how very ill she had been for many months, Liz had continued to share our Church life until 5 weeks previously and her absence has been felt from that morning on.



Liz was the Matriarch of St Wilfrid's. She joined in so many aspects of Church life, constructing the Easter garden with the children, designing and erecting the Easter, Remembrance and Christmas displays in Church after doing the floral arranging with the rest of the Flower Club ladies.

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***With her husband Richard, she supported the many fund-raising meals held in Church – Liz attended and gave generously of her time.***

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Her community work involved being a long-term Foundation Governor of our Church School, St Wilfrid's in Branton and also Chair of the

Hill House School Governing body in Auckley – she even has a hockey pitch there named after her, such was her popularity!

Liz's funeral was as fitting to her as her life – 10 clergy and 2 Bishops attended with a packed Church and 35 others standing outside, a fitting tribute. Indeed, a comment made in the eulogy by Fr Andrew about his not remembering seeing Liz in the same outfit twice, summed up this very special lady and caused a smile.

Elizabeth's life was entwined around many aspects of Church life – She held many offices within the Church, and she was loved worldwide within the Anglican Communion. Indeed, one of the first tributes to Liz came in

from Bondo, in Africa – such was her popularity and love which she engendered. Just last year, The Archbishop of Canterbury bestowed The Cross of St Augustine upon Liz, much to her and the congregation's delight.

In our own Branch of the Mothers' Union, she led the 'committee' which successfully steers St Wilfrid's MU through the year's activities with great love and care, leaving no one out.

Liz will be greatly missed, not only in the wider Church, but more especially within our Church family here at St Wilfrid's.

***Rest in Peace Liz, sleep well Dear Friend.***

## A Tribute

from the previous DASH Deanery Leader, Tanis

**It was a privilege and an honour to be part of the wonderful service at St Wilfrid's Cantley; a celebration of our Vice President, Elizabeth Paver's (Liz) life. You won't be surprised to hear that there was standing room only in this beautiful church, and two gazebos outside for the overspill. Thank you to them.**

Red roses covered Liz's coffin, along with some of her life achievement awards. Our first hymn, O Jesus I have promised to serve you to the end, summed up her whole life, dedicated to the service of our God and King.

As I now officially take over the role of Vice President, wishing that it was under happier circumstances. I have the memory of a wonderful supportive woman, who encouraged me throughout my 6 years as Deanery Leader, and I thank God for her influence and friendship. I have a great deal to live up to, and I will use this season of Lent to

prepare for my new role.

Many of us grieve the loss our friend, and many tears have been shed, but I remember that Our Lord Jesus Christ also wept, and tears convey deep love.

As we prepare for our Blessed Easter and the risen Christ, we are comforted in our Christian belief that Liz has joined our Lord in the company of angels, and her life goes on!



## A Tribute to Mary Williams

written by Susan Sayles, Margaret Vivian and Anne Balme

**We were very sad to hear that Mary had passed away suddenly but peacefully with her family by her side on March 28th. Mary was a faithful servant of our Mothers' Union and will be much missed by all of us.**

She gave much thought and diligence to all the roles she took on as a Mothers' Union member. She was Coordinator of the Cathedral Branch keeping in touch with all their members in all corners of the city. She attended Attercliffe Deanery meetings and became a very efficient Deanery Treasurer and later became Attercliffe Deanery Leader and a Trustee. She took a

big part in Mary Sumner Day Services and also always made sure arrangements were in place at the Cathedral to provide welcome refreshments afterwards. During Covid restrictions Mary is remembered for keeping in touch regularly by phone when meetings were not allowed in person and sharing the difficulties we were all facing.



Mary with her husband, Syd

# Chaplains' Letter

## Revd Hilda Isaacson

Dear Friends

**Last Sunday was Mothering Sunday. It reminded me of when I began as the MU chaplain.**

It was the week before Mothering Sunday, that first Sunday when we were told not to have services in church due to the Covid-19 virus. Little did we know what the next months and years would have in store for us!

In Act 2:46- 47 we read 'Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.'



Being connected to people is biblical! We are some of the most connected people. People talk now about being connected through social media but a phone call or a handwritten letter are more personal. The practice of meeting together is good and I'm sure we all agree that it's good that those Covid lockdown days are behind us!

It was a hard time for us during the pandemic to adjust our natural way of life of meeting and socialising.

**We missed seeing our family but with video calls we were able to see them on a tiny phone screen!**

I learnt new and different ways of staying connected to people.

**Keeping in touch and staying in contact with people was essential. But it was a steep learning curve for many of us!**

Many of us had to learn to work remotely and the term 'zoom' entered our vocabulary as we began to have meetings by 'zoom' which often included the phrase 'you're on mute' or 'you do know we can hear you! I remember having to learn how to make use of video calling and creating videos for our church services – another interesting learning curve that was also quite liberating once we got used to it, especially when we used our garden as a backdrop! There was a benefit in that I was able to share them across YouTube

and Facebook! It was a relief to know that there was a way to stay connected to people even if they weren't the ones I'd prefer! Thank you for all the support you gave me in those early days as I worked out how videos and YouTube worked!

The early church came together to worship, to give thanks to God for his love for all people. As we come together in our MU meetings we come as part of the church, coming together to worship and share in fellowship with others. The church serves as an extended family showing love to one another, rooted in the fact that God is love.

As I finish as the MU Chaplain I'm delighted that **Richard Parker** will be the next MU Chaplain. Thank you for your love and support over these past years which I know you will continue to show to Richard.

**God bless Hilda**

Mary was usually in the cathedral on the first Friday of the month for coffee until her health prevented this. She was always willing to listen if there was a problem.

Latterly, Mary became Faith and Policy Unit Coordinator. This was a role which suited her very well. She chaired her first meeting in March 2022 and led the Intercessions at the Commissioning Service in April of that year in Rotherham Minster.

She gave a wonderful talk about the Cross at Winthrop gardens. The "Day Apart", was held in the Chapter House

at the cathedral. She used her friendships and connections at the cathedral to invite a variety of speakers to both these events. The **Rev. Mike Reed**, a canon at the cathedral and a chaplain at St. Luke's Hospice led our day last May.

Our condolences to her husband Syd, sons David and Christopher and their families. Our thought and prayers are with them. Mary will be greatly missed by all her knew her in the Mothers' Union, especially for her willingness to "work" and her wisdom and integrity in meetings.



# Rev Canon Richard Parker

It is with pleasure that I introduce myself as the incoming Chaplain to the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Sheffield. I have served in the Diocese for the whole of my ordained ministry since I was made Deacon in 1995.

Although I now live in Sheffield, my original home town is Doncaster and the parish where I first began to worship was St Wilfrid's, Cantley. It was there that I first met Elizabeth Paver, who I know is greatly missed by our members.

My first close encounter with the Mothers' Union was in my title parish of St James, Norton. The members were very supportive of the church, and I greatly enjoyed being invited on their outings. The same was true of Hoyland, which was my next move.

I have also been vicar of St Wilfrith Moorends (Doncaster), before returning to the benefice of St Peter and St Andrew Hoyland.

I retired from full time stipendiary ministry in July last year after serving fifteen years in Hoyland. The pastoral review in my local deanery, combined with changed personal circumstances, made it seem an opportune time to change the focus of my ministry. I certainly intend to remain active, hence my joy at being asked to undertake the chaplaincy to the Mothers' Union in this Diocese.

I am married to Susan, who is a great support. We do not have children or pets, so this leaves time to do some of our favourite things. These include outings into the Peak District, which we are fortunate to have within easy travelling distance. Although we enjoy walking, coffee



and cake have become more prominent in recent times!

I wish everyone a joyful Easter and look forward to getting to know you all. I have already received a warm welcome. As I know the current Chaplain, Hilda Isaacson, she has been very helpful in introducing me to my new role. It will be a joy to continue the work that she and others have done before me. In the meantime, please be assured of my prayers for you all.

**Richard**

# Diocesan News

## Tanis Cockerham, Vice President Doncaster Archdeaconry 2024

Well, I am a Yorkshire lass, born in Pontefract, a war baby! I was a nurse for over 40 years, having trained at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, initially as a cadet nurse aged 16 years. I loved every minute of my vocation and always preferred hands on care although I was privileged to become a hospital Matron (my mum was very proud).

I married and had three children, Helen, Leigh and Mark. I have one granddaughter, Lucy, and a cockerpoo named Monty. I love to read, I enjoy gardening and I was a fair soprano in the 'South Yorkshire Crusade Choir'

Peter and I loved travelling when we were young and able, and as a result we have seen the poorest and the richest countries. Our

Christian faith has been our journey, Peter is a Church of England Lay Reader, with over 42 years of experience in the role, and I was a Sunday school teacher.

My mother was a lifelong member of Mothers' Union, and was always baking and making preserves for coffee mornings. So, soon after I retired, I also became a member of Mothers' Union. Not letting the dust

settle, I was soon Branch Leader followed by Deanery Leader, which I thoroughly enjoyed, with the friendship of members, and the encouragement from our much loved former VP.

I hope that I can continue my journey of faith, supporting and working for our beloved Mothers' Union

**Love and God Bless, Tanis.**



# Mothers' Union Membership



I recently attended a Communities of Interest Zoom organised by Mary Sumner House on Membership. There is a concern that in Britain & Ireland membership of MU is falling for various reasons and this was a meeting to share ideas to slow the process!

*'Mothers' Union is unique in that members work together to solve challenges in their local communities. By helping to restore and strengthen relationships in families and communities, the movement gives a sense of belonging and acceptance to the stigmatised and vulnerable.'*  
*'Our Story - MU website'*

**In 2007, membership in Britain & Ireland was 100,000. In 2022 it was 38,000. Membership is falling 4.5% each year!**

**In Sheffield Diocese our membership has fallen from 1500 members in 2007 to 650 in 2024!**

Across the Dioceses in the membership meeting the consensus was that the main reasons for this are mainly our aging membership and branches closing as unable to find someone to do the administrative tasks. There was a discussion about ways to improve this

- Members to become Diocesan Members with subs paid directly to Diocesan Treasurer
- Deanery members with groups meeting in people's homes, pubs etc – one person to collect subs and coordinate.
- Evening meetings - early evening in winter - later in summer
- Groups run by committee with a rotation of roles or breaking down roles.
- Enabling branches to pay money direct into Diocesan Account-so there is no need to have their own Bank Account.

Have you any ideas? if so, then do talk to your Branch Coordinator, Deanery Leader or email me!

Elizabeth Dean Data& Media Coordinator.  
Email. [database@sheffieldmu.co.uk](mailto:database@sheffieldmu.co.uk)

## Fundraising Ideas

Summer brings lots of Mothers' Union fundraising events and I feel it now would be a good time to share ideas.

The Fundraising and Communications Unit meets several times a year together with the Action and Outreach Unit. Unit Coordinators, President Gill, Deanery reps and Deanery Leaders join together for discussions.

One idea, though I had heard of it being done by other organisations, was to wrap up pre-loved books which are in good condition. Attach a label describing the genre, for example, picture book, teenage fantasy, adult

crime, non-fiction and sell them as 'surprise' parcels for a reasonable charge. Alternatively they could be sold on a Book Tombola. It would work well at MU events to link in with leaflets or posters which describe MU support for the Read Aloud Project (as detailed in the Winter Newsline) and the MSH Literacy Campaigns which would be outreach as well as fundraising.

I would very much like to receive your ideas and details

of the fundraising events you have planned, either by email or through your F&C rep, before or after the event. A reminder, too, please send details and photographs to the Newsline Team and the website. This will help our Diocese have the funds to continue to support AFIA holidays and other local MU projects.

**Thank you.**  
**Susan Sayles**  
**F&C Co-ordinator**

## Away From It All (AFIA)

Have you thought about holding a 'Caravan Drive' in your branch, Deanery or in the community to raise funds for Away From It All Holidays?

It's a bit like a Beetle Drive but you draw a caravan instead and score a point for each part (see below) 'Beetle' drives are great fun for adults

and children alike and a cup of tea and a piece of cake along with a small raffle are a good way of raising funds for an excellent cause!!

'Caravan sheets' are available to download on our website or from your Deanery Leader!



**First person to complete a caravan shouts 'AFIA' and the game stops. Count 1 pt for each part (10 for a complete Caravan)**

**6 Caravan**  
**5 Sun**  
**4 Flowers x3**

**3 Window x3**  
**2 Door**  
**1 Wheel**

# No More #1 in 3

Standing together on 27th  
November 2023

We had a pleasant time with a little winter sun at the vigils in the Diocese. At Sheffield Cathedral, arranged by Mary Williams, our time together bearing witness to MU's Global Day of Action, a response to the 16 Days of Activism.



This year our alongside the posters for the campaign to raise awareness of the fact that 1 in 3 women will suffer from some form of violence throughout their lifetime.

We had a display of shoes (inspired by Tanis and Doncaster) and prepared for MU by Sally Wood, regarding shoe on the feet of women and men leaving an abusive situations noting their journey....and a 'Red Chair' as a symbol too. (by Jo-Anne) This is a symbol that the No More #1 in 3 has adopted to have in venues and churches promoting the message and as a witness to that person silently amongst us.



This led to these conversations engaging with visitors passing and going to the Cathedral over the period of the vigil:- Young woman (organising and promoting the Vintage session in the Cathedral) "I am deeply touched by what the Mothers' Union are doing today, and for women just like me too... I can't say more,... I am struggling.....(presented with helplines from the poster tear off strip)... I thank you!" Male (Visitor) "This really does hit home and make you think! Looking at the shoes, "How this is shown, everyone should see this as it makes the whole conversation, and narrative real" Female (Confessing I am a survivor) "You truly are angels sent down to taking this to task. Four years ago, I was alone - and had no one I could turn to as all my family had been excommunicated by my partner and our friends - well, his! That's how they get control - narrow you down, wear you down, and hem you in.... well I did it!... No more taking the fists and name calling! Mothers Union are right to help in these situations". Couple looking at the shoes with the narrative: Male "It is powerful to see and

be promoted and prompted to think about the journey of people in these situations". Female "I witnessed my parents and we fled and got away, I dread to think what life would have been like if we hadn't had such a strong mum ... But it had a cost to her she was outcast, and made to feel like a failure" Three friends (female coming out of Vintage fair) "It really is about time for more exposure and calling out males who do this -well done MU!" Male Survivor "you see" - pointing to scars around his neck.... "This is what I did to try to get away - take my own life....ashamed, hurt and not believed ... you see my wife of three years did this.... abuse to me... I lost a lot .... hospital helped ..revive me - relocated me ... not proud but I can talk to you about it now... it's good that you are, as you say MU championing for changes I am grateful, alive, and have things to give ... will try to come to a coffee morning and speak again.... BUT BIG Thanks".

13 people showed interest.

**Jo-Anne Levesley**

**Outside Doncaster Minster. Many thumbs up signs, smiles, waves and conversations.  
Please view [www.munomore/#3in](http://www.munomore/#3in) <<http://www.munomore/#3in>> [<http://www.munomore>]**

## Wath Barnburgh



Squeezing around a table at the Cathedral for a pre-meeting lunch here are members of the joint Action & Outreach and Foundation & Communication Committee.



Members and friends have been busy knitting for Baby Basics.



Members and friends at World Day of Prayer.

### Dear All at Mothers Union.

Thank you for the recent donations delivered to Baby basics. We always appreciate the time and effort that goes into the wonderful, knitted items that you send. We are

so very grateful for the continued support that you show to Baby basics.

Kind regards  
**Lydia Smith**  
Baby Basics UK

# baby- basics



Vice President Jo-Anne dropped off 89 items at Baby Basics from Sheffield MU members! Baby baths, high chairs, duvet set, knitted blankets, cardigans and jumpers! All for families whose lives have met with adversity!



The Branch hosted a coffee morning for the Make a Mothers' Day Appeal





# Wath (continued)

## Wath Branch

The membership at All Saint's Wath is growing, there are now 57 members including five men.



Mary Carr led the enrolment of 4 new members. Above: Caroline Langston

Below: Paul Lancaster, Kevin McGarrigle, John Parker.



We are run by a committee which is successful, enabling members to take an active part in running the Branch using their own individual skills. We are a very lively group meeting twice monthly to accommodate everyone. Our speakers are varied and lots of activities take place during the year. Some members are very quick knitters, hence all the hats and scarves donated to the homeless in Sheffield, baby requirements for Baby Basics and blankets for the AMAL legacy.

Members are very generous donating items for the Red Boxes, Women's Refuge in Barnsley and any other organisation we are asked to support. Many members' houses are used as storage facilities!

Sheila Wood



Congratulations to Linda and Kevin on their marriage

Congratulations to Elaine Norman on her special birthday.



Wath Branch members and Harley Craft Group collected items for the Women's Refuge. Including crockery and cutlery, cleaning materials, plastic cups, plates, bowls and cutlery for the children and Easter activities. After these had been delivered to Ann Balme, another four bags appeared!



We had Ann Balme as our speaker. She talked about Ticky Tat. It took us on her travels in USA



Mary Carr and I delivered 24 scarves and 25 hats to Michaela, the Parish Nurse in Sheffield to distribute to the homeless. These were knitted and donated by Wath Branch members and the Harley Village Craft Group.



Sadly we have lost two of our members. Margaret Griffin and Eileen McLoughlin had been loyal, supportive and hardworking members for many years. Two lovely, kind ladies who will be missed by everyone.

# Wath (continued)

## Wath Branch

Branch members run the Wath Tiddlers and Toddlers on Monday afternoons.

One of them **Pat Scherdel** has written these reflections about Tiddlers and Toddlers

*On Monday afternoon, just on one Toddlers come along to have some fun.*

*With Rachel, Gill, Anne and Pat. Lots of activities set out on the mat.*

*Also, on tables salt dough and games. Here come the children and here are their names:*

*There's William, Jakob, Sienna and Mollie, Violet, Scarlett, Matilda and Holly.*

*Snack time at 2 with juicy fruit and a drink. Who will give out the plates? Jakob I think.*



**Wath Branch held a raffle for Make a Mother's Day and raised £200**

*Playing again or making a model. Doing a jigsaw some find quite enjoyable.*

*Time for a sing-song with Rachel to lead. Merrily, down the stream, a crocodile, don't fear!*

*Miss Polly's dolly, by the doctor is seen. The big, big tractor is definitely green.*

*Heads, shoulders, knees and toes. Point to the window that's how it goes.*

*Twinkle, twinkle shine the stars. On a big aeroplane flying to Mars.*

*Finally, quietly sleeping they lie. Now jump up to say 'Goodbye!'*

*Another great time had by all. Yes, thank you leaders, we've had a ball.*

*See you next week.*



**Wombwell members donated lots of items to Barnsley Women's Refuge. We focused on things needed when they leave the refuge and set up home on their own. Donations include cleaning products, crockery and plastic plates and bowls etc for children to use.**

**Diane McAleavy**

## Rotherham and Laughton



**Rotherham & Laughton Deanery was sad to hear of the death of Helen Shepard in January aged 97.**

Helen was a staunch MU member and Branch Leader of Laughton Branch for 45 years before the branch closed when she became a Sheffield IMPC member. Helen admitted to Moira, Deanery Leader, that she made a mistake 'hanging' on to the role and not encouraging others to take a more active role in the branch! The collection at Helen's funeral raised over £600 for Away From it All Holidays, a project very close to Helen's heart.



**New Deanery Leader Annette Walker**

## Rotherham and Laughton (continued)

### Ryecroft

**Diocesan President, Gill Fellows attended our February meeting to enrol Eileen Cox into MU.**



This coincided with **Marie Bairstow** from Wales Branch giving us a talk on her holiday to India. It was really very interesting and Marie had some lovely photos to show us of scenery, temples and people.

In March we will be welcoming Marie's husband Phillip and his friend Gary whose talk will be on the Camino de Santiago Walk which they both completed not long ago.



*Gill with new member Eileen Cox*

### Wales & Kiveton Park

**At our November meeting we helped pack shoe boxes with a variety of gifts collected from a variety of people, including MU members, to go to Rotherham Lighthouse.**

A total of 118 boxes were produced, evenly split between men and women. A member of our Branch very kindly co-ordinates this event.



It's tradition that our first meeting of the year is a social event. This February we all met for lunch, across the road from the church. We were joined by Rev Gary Schofield and Rev Ian Jennings. Ian in the past has been the MU Diocese Chaplain.



## Ecclesfield

Margaret and Brian Vivian in Sheffield Cathedral on 4th August 2023, their 50th Wedding Anniversary, following the M.U. coffee morning. Margaret is the Deanery Leader for Ecclesfield and was formerly Branch Leader of Oughtibridge MU and then the Faith and Policy Coordinator for the Diocese



### Bradfield



*Donations of books to Sheffield Refuges from Bradfield MU for the Read Aloud Project.*



*Toiletries and other essential items have been donated to Sheffield Refuges this March.*

*A wonderful occasion as we celebrated our long standing member of 43 years, Sandra Gardner. Congratulations, flower planter and cards were given by MU members at St Nicholas Church as she celebrated her 90th birthday. Cake was enjoyed by all.*

*Pauline Reynolds*



## Ecclesfield



Christmas gifts and toiletries for Sheffield Refuge from Ecclesfield MU and Ladies Group.



On the 23rd March, St. Mary's held a coffee morning with a Bring and Buy Stall for the "Gift of Dignity" appeal, which raised £364. It was a lovely community event which everyone enjoyed, socialising, whilst having delicious cake.



Stephanie and Ian Hartshorne celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on the 14th March. They invited family and friends to afternoon tea at Wortley Hall. We wish them every happiness and God's blessings on this very special occasion.



## Ecclesall and Attercliffe

I received these 3 blankets from a lady at the MU Coffee Morning on Friday 5th Jan.

I don't know who she was but I have taken them to the Women's Refuge as Baby Basics won't have them as they are very fancy and have holes in the pattern. Grown ups will be able to use them as shawls and will be able to release their fingers from holes if they have that problem. Love and thanks for the blankets from Sally Wood and the recipients.



Some of the thirty Easter Eggs given to the children in the Sheffield Refuges from the Deanery



Flowers given out by St Catherine of Siena Mothers' Union to members of the congregation for Mothering Sunday.



Children's books and Christmas gifts for Sheffield Refuge from St James Woodhouse MU



# DASH Deanery

## Joy bags, a link with Australia; A joyful coincidence or 'happenstance'!

Our DASH Deanery project for 2024 is to put together Joy Bags, an idea that came from an initiative in Australia, where they originally used shoe boxes.

Our DASH Deanery project for 2024 is to put together Joy Bags, an idea that came from an initiative in Australia, where they originally used shoe boxes. Sprotborough Branch adopted the idea and used pretty gift bags replacing boxes. Included in the boxes sent from Collie in Australia was this note:-

*This is a joy box from the members of Mothers' Union. All saints church, Collie W Australia. Open one little parcel each day for a week, and know that you are thought of and in our prayers*

So using their example, seven small gifts are wrapped in pretty paper; each parcel also contains an encouraging poem or a prayer. The idea is to give something that will brighten their day and give pleasure to the recipient. Our aim, to start with, is to give 10 Joy Bags to each church that a Mothers' Union Branch is attached to. The bags will then be given to vulnerable members of our community. Mothers' Union information will be included of course. Another act of outreach.

When I received the instruction sheet re Joy Bags, from Izzy, I was amazed to see that the small mining town in WA was part of this scheme. Our son lives in Australia, and when we

first visited him he lived just outside the small mining town of Collie. We visited All Saints Church, and attended their Advent Service; we also took quite a few photographs.

In its heyday Collie was an important town having coal mines and a railway system to transport the coal. Now the mines are closed and the railway unused.

It is now quite insignificant, with little industry and a population of just over 7500. It has little to attract it as is quite a way inland and most Aussies like to live close to the ocean. The town is about the size of Thorne but with less than half the inhabitants. We found it a friendly place often went into town for a drink or a meal, it's a typical small Australian outback town. Our son now lives in Mandurah a lovely seaside holiday spot; (On the coast near the ocean) about 2 hours drive from Perth.

I spent time with the Mothers' Union, and All Saints Church in Collie is beautiful. It is famed for its stained glass windows and a mini organ; this was donated by a lady from Doncaster. There is a magnificent mural painted by Phillip Goatcher in 1922-23. Amongst those depicted are aborigines, Judges, and we were told, the Archbishop of New Zealand, and the diocesan bishop of Bunbury. Everyone is looking on the mother and child, except the Bishop of Bunbury who looks straight ahead.



So we have links worldwide with Mothers' Union, and to think that we can share ideas and projects is fantastic. Our fresh start baskets for the Women's Refuge, was also prompted by the actions of Mothers' Union in Australia, so a huge thank you to Mothers' Union worldwide.

PS After some research I must explain that Doncaster is near Melbourne, not Melbourne in Derbyshire, but Melbourne in the state of Victoria Australia, which is 3,325 kilometres from Collie. It's a long haul for an organ donation!

**Tanis C**

**Editor's Note: the details for Joy Bags are on the Branch Resources page on the website**

## A Big THANK YOU

**We had a lovely Advent service at Doncaster Minster on December 7.**

Afterwards Rev David Stevens said a huge "Thank you" to Tanis as she retires after 6 years as an inspirational DASH Deanery Leader. Pat Simpson was also thanked after 6 years as secretary.



## DASH Deanery (continued)

**Everyone brought Christmas gifts for women and children in Women's Refuge.**

The Manager of the Refuge joined us at the service and our new Read Aloud project was announced. Newslines were given out to Branches.



**Sylvia Beynon**, aged 86 was a member of Mothers' Union for over 60 years, being Branch Leader in Askern until, due to her ill health, the Branch closed. Sylvia then became an IMPC member. She had been presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and was awarded an MBE in 2000 for her work with children. We thank God for her friendship and dedication to the work of Mothers' Union

**Rest in peace Sylvia**

**A Thank you from the Doncaster Refuge**



## Barnby Dun

**30 Barnby Dun members and friends enjoyed their annual lunch at Whitby's fish restaurant in Doncaster. Fun and fellowship was had by all.**



**The Branch had a lovely morning, serving hot cross buns and bacon rolls at the Spring Fayre, raising over £520 for AFIA.**



**Congratulations to Rose Barker of Barnby Dun who was 97 years old on 8th March 2024**



## Bessacarr

**On November 18, St Francis Church had an Indonesian afternoon hosted by Bethan Heard and it was a super occasion.**

She told us all about her training in Bali, to work in Missions and we sampled Indonesian food and played games.

**Christine Davies**, our Branch Coordinator got very involved in the games and there were many MU members there. Bethan is the daughter of two members, Rev Richard and Joanne, and many MU members personally sponsored her to go to Indonesia. She is going again, this time to be a leader.



**St Francis Branch** hold monthly Soup Lunches in the church Cafe, which are very popular. Donations are for MU projects.



**Doncaster Minster MU making their first JOY bags at their April meeting.**



**At our March meeting we welcomed two members of staff from the Women's Refuge who gave an insight into the wonderful work they do.**

After a brilliant meeting they left with bags full of Easter Eggs and toiletries for the residents of the Refuge.

Also in March we hosted our Annual Quiz Night which was very well attended. We were pleased to welcome back **Sarah, Dave and Simon Rogerson**. Sarah was in the 2023 winning team and so set this year's quiz. There was a raffle and donations were given, raising a total of £250 for MU projects. It was a super evening.

The winning team this year was **Tony Hudson, Pauline Archer, Simon Rogerson**

and **Willy Fry**. They were presented with "The Wayne Page Memorial Trophy" by Pam, a member of St Francis

and wife of Wayne, who loved quizzes with a passion. Pam donated this trophy after Wayne's death.



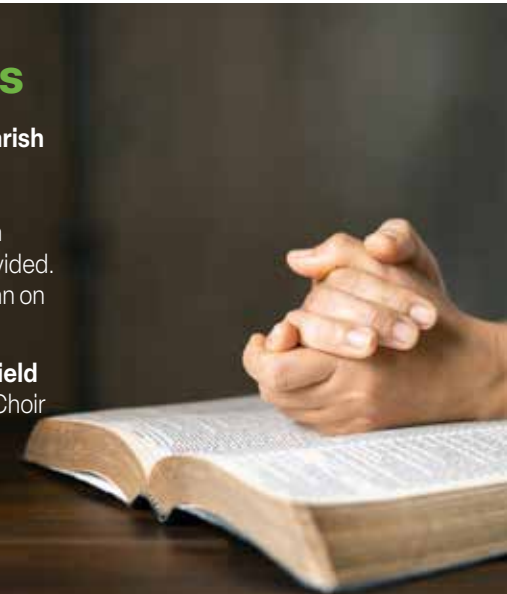
## Future Diocesan Events

**Away Day on Tuesday 21st May at Wadworth Parish Church from 10.30am to 2.30pm.**

This will be led by Rev. Ian Smith Theme: The Lord's Prayer for women and other radical thinkers. Bring a packed lunch and five pounds. Coffee, tea etc. provided. If you need transport please contact Margaret Vivian on 07934 665985 or email [margaretvivian@live.co.uk](mailto:margaretvivian@live.co.uk)

**Mary Sumner Day Service on August 9 in Sheffield Cathedral at 2pm.** If you would like to join the MU Choir for that service, please contact Pat Simpson. Email. [johnandpat59@hotmail.com](mailto:johnandpat59@hotmail.com)

**Quiet Day on Tuesday 17 September at 2pm at Harley Church.** The speaker is Rev Canon Richard Parker, Diocesan MU Chaplain.



## Members who have recently died

### DASH Deanery

Mrs. Frances Pepper and Mrs. Sylvia Beynon

### Ecclesall and Attercliffe Deanery

Mrs. Patricia Garmondsway and Mrs. Mary Wragg

### Ecclesfield Deanery

Mrs. Kathleen Bell

### Rotherham/Laughton Deanery

Mrs. Dorice Margetts and Mrs Helen Shepard

### Wath Deanery

Mrs. Eileen McLaughlin

## Indoor Members

Welcome to new members

### Ecclesall and Attercliffe Deanery

Mrs. Pauline Leach, Miss Nicola Gurney, Mrs. Frieda Wingfield, Mrs. Jean Wolfenden, Mrs. Josephine Kay, Mrs. Pam Bouchier and Mrs. Joyce Crowther

### Rotherham/Laughton Deanery

Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson

### Wath Deanery

Mrs. Diane Kelly

## 90+ Birthdays

### DASH Deanery

Wendy Shand - 91 years

### Ecclesall/Attercliffe Deanery

Winifred Flower - 93 years, Mary Roberts - 93 years, Frieda Wingfield - 99 years  
Sheila Wenninger - 94 years, Audrey Russell - 90 years, Joan Wragg - 94 years and Bridget Williams - 94 years

### Rotherham/Laughton Deanery

Connie Shepherd MBE - 91 years

### Wath Deanery

Margaret Boor - 95 years and Elsie Curtis - 91 years

## Dates for your diary

### MAY

Tues 21 Diocesan Away Day at Wadworth Church from 10.30 to 14.30 Cost £5

### JUNE

Fri 7 Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon. Hosts DASH Deanery

### JULY

Fri 5 Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon. Hosts Ecclesall and Attercliffe Deanery

Thur 11 Trustees Meeting at 10.15

### AUGUST

Fri 2 Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon. Hosts Tankersley Deanery

Fri 9 Mary Sumner Day Service at the Cathedral at 2pm

### SEPTEMBER

Fri 6 Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon. Hosts Wath Deanery

Tue 17 Quiet Day at Harley Church at 2pm Speaker Rev Canon Richard Parker, Diocesan MU Chaplain

### OCTOBER

Fri 4 Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon. Hosts DASH Deanery

Thur 24 Autumn Council at Bramley Church at 6.30pm

### NOVEMBER

Fri 1 Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon. Hosts Ecclesfield Deanery

Sat 2 End of Triennial Service at Blackburn Cathedral

Thur 14 Trustees Meeting at 10.15

### DECEMBER

Fri 6 Cathedral Coffee Morning from 10.15 to 12 noon. Hosts Trustees





# Sheffield Diocese Mothers' Union

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**Provincial President:** June Houghton  
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**Our link Dioceses in the Wave of Prayer:**  
Diocese of Central Zimbabwe,  
Lango in Uganda, Kebbi in Nigeria,  
Tamale in Ghana, and Guadalcanal in  
the Solomon Islands.

**Newsline Editorial Team:**  
Gill Fellows, Moira Leach, Elizabeth Dean,  
Sarah Rogerson and Pat Simpson

**Editor's Note:** Please can all photos be in 'jpg'  
and would you send them as attachments.  
Scanned hard copies do not reproduce as well  
as 'jpg' copies.

Please submit contributions for the  
Autumn Newsline by October 4, 2024  
to Sarah Rogerson, 37, The Hawthorns,  
Riccall, York YO19 6NZ  
or newsline@sheffieldmu.co.uk  
(Please make sure photos are in focus).

Please also send dates, times and photos  
for the website to Elizabeth Dean,  
177 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick, Northumberland  
NE66 2QR or webmaster@sheffieldmu.co.uk



## Useful Websites

**Sheffield Mothers' Union** - Our own website

**Mothers' Union** - Everything about Mothers' Union

**MUeShop** - Fundraising for MU via

**Sheffield Diocese** - Find out what is happening locally

[www.sheffieldmu.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldmu.co.uk)

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

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

[www.sheffield.anglican.org](http://www.sheffield.anglican.org)

### **Editor's note:**

*The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Sheffield Diocese MU.*