



mu news

SPRING 2011

IN THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN

www.mothersunionblackburn.org.uk



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

A quarterly publication about the
Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Blackburn

2011 - Faithful Relationship



**DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN
MOTHERS' UNION**

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**BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN
DEANERY**

St Peter's Church Darwen

A new window has been added to the Unity Chapel in St Peter's Church Darwen.

St Peter's was formerly Holy Trinity and the parishes of St George and St John were joined to form St Peter's some years ago.

The design shown on this issues front cover incorporates the symbols of the former Churches and that of the Mothers' Union. The left hand light shows the emblems of St George and St John at the top and the triquetra symbol of the Holy Trinity at the bottom. The centre roundel contains the keys of St Peter against a background of rich blues and greens with paint textures suggesting the sea.

The right hand light contains an image of the Madonna and Child against a background of rich purple. This is balanced by the symbol of the Mothers' Union at the bottom and a trinity of Madonna lilies at the top.

The Unity Chapel also houses the three Mothers' Union Banners from the former churches together with an Aumbry purchased by the Mothers' Union in 1999 to celebrate 100 years of a branch in the Church.

Mildred Riley

The Diocesan President writes...

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter at the start of 2011, like most of you, I wonder what the coming year will hold? What opportunities will be presented? What challenges will we face? What joys or sorrows will come our way? This applies to individuals, the Church and to the Mothers' Union.



We see daily in the media the challenges we face economically and we could become very depressed by all the gloom, but we need to see past the headlines and look for all the good and positive things that are happening in the world and in our own communities.

Despite financial difficulties, the work of the Mothers' Union is still changing many lives by transforming situations into opportunities for working together to provide food, health and education for many people.

In our own Diocese I am very excited by some of the opportunities that lie ahead - some new and some that already exist, but may grow and develop. The theme for 2011 is 'Faithful Relationships' and if we are faithful to the work we have been called to do, then we too can make a difference to the lives of many people.

One of my favourite hymns is 'Great is Thy Faithfulness'. There have been many times when I been concerned about some matter, whether it be financial or some decision to be made, but God has always been faithful to His promise and provided all I have needed.

As we consider our theme this year we must look at our own faithfulness; to our loving Father, to our families and friends, to our Church and to the Mothers' Union. If we remain faithful, God will bless and encourage us in all our endeavours.

So we go forward into the New Year, trusting that we may be awake to the openings for our service to the communities in which we live and work, so that together we can make a difference.

With my love to you all,
Beverley





Message from Christine Reade ...

“Listen, I am standing at the door knocking ...”

“Listen, I am standing at the door knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me”. (Rev 3:20) This invitation to share the joys of the heavenly banquet in the Book of Revelation made me think about our vision for the work of the Mothers’ Union in the Blackburn Diocese. Whenever we see a closed door there is curiosity about what lies on the other side. there is also the anticipation and excitement (sometimes tinged with fear!) about what we will encounter when we open the door. Let us not lose that sense of excitement about the work of the Mothers’ Union so that we close doors to others coming to join us. Let us make others curious about the Mothers’ Union so that they will be eager to knock or even push that door open. Maybe we can even open the door for them!

Today’s world is crying out to us to open doors for others and, with God beside us, invite them in. Happily the Mothers’ Union is opening doors. In our work overseas the literacy project has opened doors to so many people and transformed their lives from hopelessness to lives full of promise and purpose. Here at home, work in prisons and the parenting programme has opened doors and provided opportunities for our members to live out the five objects and improve the lives of so many families.



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God is knocking on the door of all our hearts inviting us to come in and bring others with us. There is so much work to do and so many new possibilities and opportunities for us as members of the Mothers’ Union. I am certain that we do not wish our doors, here in the Blackburn Diocese, to bear the warning ‘Danger, Keep out.’ We want the notice on our doors to say ‘Welcome, come in and join us and see what God can do through us!’

With love and prayers,

Christine

Mrs Christine Reade is an Honorary Vice President of the Mothers’ Union in Blackburn Diocese together with Mrs Vivienne Goddard

TUNSTALL DEANERY



Holy Trinity Bolton-le-Sands held a Christmas Fair and the photograph above shows members having a happy time selling their home produce.

Pam Bentley (EM)

GARSTANG DEANERY

The Mothers' Union's Got Talent!



The photograph above shows members of Garstang Deanery at their recent 'Bit of a Do' when **£678** was raised for the caravan fund.

The entertainment, provided by the ladies in the photograph, was 'The Mothers' Union's Got Talent' and these ladies proved that this was indeed the case!

Mary Braithwaite

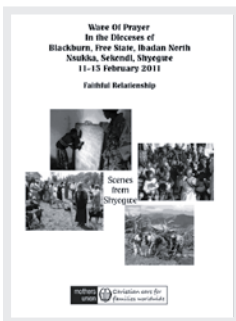
ACTION & OUTREACH UNIT WORLDWIDE SECTION



News from Free State

I recently received the letter below from Delysia Hoehne in the Free State. Matito, the Free State Mothers' Union Worker, has asked her to be our correspondent - which is lovely. At the moment, The Revd Hilary Murphy, from Blackburn Diocese has been seconded to Bloemfontein Cathedral for three years, so we have quite a link.

I quote: *"I am a member of Mothers' Union for over 50 years. We attend service at the Cathedral - a most beautiful church near to the centre of town. I attend another church's MU. It is St. Margaret's and we have about 14 members, some black and some white. Many of our members are teachers or retired teachers, we meet on 2nd Wednesday of each month and have another meeting a week later to undertake projects such as knitting or various crafts. We also recondition Christmas or Greetings cards, for sale. We make various items for the needy in winter, we knit scarves, hats or caps and squares to knit into blankets. I also have many people at my church, the Cathedral, who knit squares which we make up into small blankets for babies, larger ones for the elderly, for our cold winters. Since we have had Hilary I have given her about 60 blankets each winter, to distribute to those in need. The Mothers' Union office says to tell you that the District Leaders had a special planning meeting in November for our Diocese. They have eight districts and meet when they need to - transport is always a problem."*



Delysia closes by sending greetings to you all for a blessed Christmas and 2011.

I have also heard from Matito. She has received her copies of **mu news** and is busy translating the Wave of Prayer Service, for members to use in February. When we meet for our Wave of Prayer, our sisters in South Africa will be sharing with us.

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Elizabeth Swarbrick - Worldwide Section Leader

FAITH & POLICY UNIT



Faith & Policy Unit Meeting

Our meeting is for all Deanery Representatives for Prayer, Indoor Members or Policy. It will be held on :

**Wednesday 16th March
at St Paul's Withnell
at 10 for 10.30 am**

Tea/coffee will be provided;
please bring a packed lunch.

For some of this meeting we will be discussing Branch Worship and anyone, other than reps, who would like to come for this will be very welcome. This will be at around 11.30 am.

Anyone needing directions to St Paul's, please contact Christine (details below).

QUIET DAY



to be held at:

**St James' Shireshead
Lancaster
on Wednesday 6th April 2011
10.30 am – 3 pm**

An opportunity for some
quiet reflection
in lovely surroundings.

Tea and coffee will be provided;
please bring a packed lunch.

Christine Mullineaux - Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator

MU ENTERPRISES Ltd

Look out for the Literature Stall
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Contact:

Sheila Swift



Mothers' Union's Theme

for 2011 -

Faithful Relationship

Jesus was very clear that faithful relationships are the model and structure for living together in harmony as: families, friends, neighbours, communities, nations and internationally.

He was also very clear that faithful relationships are equally important in the development and nurture of our individual and collective faith journey.

ACCRINGTON DEANERY

St Peter's Haslingden



Twenty-eight unsafe windows at St Peter's Community Centre led to every user group being asked to hold an effort as their contribution towards the funding.

The Mothers' Union held an 'Auction of Pledges and Goods' and raised **£1,500** on the night.

The photograph above shows our Auctioneer, The Revd John Binks, with members: Mary Binks, Joan Lord, Elizabeth Monaghan and Marjorie Schofield.

On the right, Mary giving her bags to members at the Parish of St George and St Mark Senekal, Link Parish to St Oswald's Warton.

Visit to the Free State

In September last, when Mary Binks went to visit the Free State, members of her own branch, **St Peter's**



Haslingden, decided this would be an ideal opportunity to send gifts to the Mothers' Union Branches that she was to visit. Light to pack and useful, what better than the new Mothers' Union Smart-bags. Thirty-six bags in total were purchased from the Accrington Deanery Literature Representative.

Joan Lord



WHALLEY DEANERY

New Members

It was with great pleasure that **St Leonard's Langho** welcomed four new members into our branch in 2010. The photograph left shows Doreen Marr, Jean Winter, Maureen Holden - Branch Leader, Kathleen Leslie and Edith Critchley with The Revd David Doble, our Priest in Charge, in the background.

Maureen Holden

KIRKHAM DEANERY

St Thomas' St Annes

On 7th December we celebrated 'Words, Music and Mince Pies' together with members of St Thomas' Church.

The event was organised by Mary Davidson (Action and Outreach). Barry Evans, a church member, played works by Bach, Chopin and Handel and accompanied our carols. Readings from the Bible, Betjeman, Hardy, Lucardo, Dickens, Laurie Lee and Howard Thurman expressed the wonder of Christ's birth and man's response to Him. We reinforced the Christmas message of 'love and fellowship' by forming a circle of friendship, before enjoying tea and mince pies. As part of our church



'Look into Christmas' Carol Festival, our branch set up a carol display to illustrate outreach work done for the International Aid Trust and Blackpool Victoria Special Baby Unit. We chose 'Rocking' as our theme and surrounded the baby in the manger with knitted blankets and knitted gifts of tiny garments (see photograph above).
Rhoda Lowe

Birthday celebrations at St Cuthbert's Lytham



Mrs Betty Lorrains, our oldest member, celebrated her 100th birthday on 18th November. Despite having had a fall just a week before her birthday, Betty was as cheerful as ever and proudly showed us her card from the Queen. She received over 90 cards and had a celebration party at home with her family.

Margaret Fisher



BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN DEANERY CORRECTION

Please note that the event on 4th September in Darwen Market Place, reported on page 8 of the 2010 Spring issue of **mu news**, was held in aid of

**'Support our Soldiers'
and 'BLESMA'**

and the proceeds from the day went to these two charities and not 'Help for Heroes' as we reported in our article.

Elizabeth Johnston

MARKETING UNIT



My aims for the Marketing Unit in 2011 are to update the list of Mothers' Union speakers and also the updating of the new Mothers' Union website.

Speakers

I have recently written to all the current speakers asking for an up-to-date list of their topics and asking how many times they have been invited to speak to branches and also other groups in 2010. This is in preparation for their inclusion in the new Mothers' Union handbook that is going to be produced later in the year

A few of the present speakers have decided to retire from speaking, so we are in desperate need for more people to come forward. If you feel that speaking to branches is something that you can do, or if you know of anyone you think may be interested, please let me know as soon as possible. I am sure that there are many members out there who have interesting stories or interests that they could share with members. A speaker can go out as little, or as often, as they wish and the visited branch pays travel expenses.

I will continue to collate the information I have received from the present speakers and I will send out an up-to-date list of speakers and their topics for all the branches, to be distributed through the Presiding Members at their deanery meetings.

On behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank all the speakers, and especially those who have decided to retire after many years, for the wonderful service they give and have given to the Mothers' Union.

Blackburn Diocesan Mothers' Union Website

The installation of the new Mothers' Union website is also high on my agenda for 2011 and I will be helping to bring that to fruition during the year. This, of course, is dependent on the approval of the Trustees for this to go ahead. The information gathered was to have been presented to the Trustees at the meeting in December 2010, but unfortunately, owing to the bad weather, this meeting was cancelled.

www.mothersunionblackburn.org.uk

Jenny Towers - Marketing Unit Co-ordinator

Mothers' Union
believes children should be valued
as children, not consumers

Yet marketers target children's natural inexperience
in order to reach the household purse



Our Bye Buy Childhood campaign
aims to empower families to challenge
the commercialisation and sexualisation
of childhood through positive action

For more information
www.themothersunion.org



Reg Charity No: 240531



LANCASTER DEANERY



Christmas Carol Service

Lancaster Deanery Carol Service was held at **St John's Ellel** on 2nd December 2010. Members of the Deanery gathered together for a 21st Century Service taken by The Revd Sam Corley.

Jane Brown

BLACKPOOL DEANERY



IMPC Tea Party

In July 2010, Blackpool Deanery held their Over 80's Tea party at **St Wilfrid's Mereside**.

A short service was conducted in the church by The Revd Philip Hudson and was followed by high tea in the hall. We were delighted to be joined by guests Andrea Howson and Christine Mullineaux, on what turned out to be a lovely sunny afternoon. All our guests received a small gift to remind them of the afternoon and I think we could say that a good time was had by all!



Enid Nutland

St Paul's North Shore Blackpool

Many congratulations to our member Mary Fox, who was 100 years old on 6th December 2010.

Sylvia Taylor

LANCASTER DEANERY



St Mark's Dolphinholme

Dolphinholme Chapel held a Christmas Tree Festival and, on behalf of Dolphinholme Mothers' Union, I made a special tree. The Festival at the Chapel was a great success and the organisers were very pleased with the response, but the bad snowy weather kept some visitors away.

The photograph (left) shows Enrolling Member Janet Adams with the Christmas Tree.



The branch have had an active start to the New Year. We have filled a further nine Baby Bags and delivered them to Lancaster Farms. (Last year we took eight) - I think that for the size of our branch we have done pretty well.

The photograph (right) shows the branch celebrating a Happy New Year at Zumo's restaurant at Forton.



Janet Adams



York Minster 19th July 2010

Another photograph taken at the wonderful Mothers' Union Eucharist held in York last year.

Sent in by Enid Nutland, Deputy President for Lancaster Archdeaconry, Enid (in the green jacket and floral dress) is standing proudly next to the Diocesan Banner, with Beverley Laycock, Diocesan President, and other members of Blackburn Diocese.

**2011 MOTHERS' UNION
MIDDAY PRAYERS**

**Prayer for
homeless young people**

May God, who left his home in glory, have mercy on all who live in the world with no place to call their home. May God, who had nowhere to lay his head, champion their cause and give them refuge.

Amen

We pray for all young people who are homeless because of family breakdown and conflict.

Lord, protect your children.

Lord, provide for their needs.

We pray for all young people who are homeless in preference to enduring abusive homes.

Lord, protect your children.

Lord, provide for their needs.

We pray for all young people who are homeless as a result of addiction to harmful substances.

Lord, protect your children.

Lord, provide for their needs.

We pray for all individuals and organisations who help young people who are homeless.

Lord, bless their endeavours.

Lord provide them with resources.

Amen

May the Lord answer you when you are in trouble. May the God of Jacob keep you safe. Psalm 20:1

AWAY FROM IT ALL CARAVAN HOLIDAYS

- ♦ **Do any families in your parish need to get *Away From It All*?**
- ♦ **Sometimes the families who need a break are those least able to take one.**
- ♦ **The Mothers' Union provides holidays for families like these.**
- ♦ **The Mothers' Union Caravan accommodates up to six and is fully serviced.**
- ♦ **Holidays are available for families, couples or individuals.**
If a caravan holiday is unsuitable, alternative accommodation may be possible.
- ♦ **Application Forms must be completed by a member of the clergy, a representative of the church, or a Mothers' Union member.**
- ♦ **Please apply as soon as possible**

For further information please contact Marion Barlow.

Congratulations



Congratulations to

Catherine Greenlees

a Mothers' Union Occasional
Speaker and a member of
**St Andrew's, Longton,
Mothers' Union**
on
being awarded an M.B.E.
for services to Christian Aid
in the New Year's Honours.

Parnal Rothwell

MOTHERS' UNION IN THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN

MUScl-man Tie

The popular Blackburn Diocese
Mothers' Union Supporters'
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order, for presentation to men
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branches for their contribution
to the Mothers' Union.

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* includes a MUScl-man
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CONGRATULATIONS



Platinum Anniversary

*2 NOV Olive and Len Ball
Holy Cross Blackpool*

Diamond Anniversary

*14 OCT Audrey and John Donoghue
St Thomas St Annes on Sea
1 JAN Joyce and Raymond Neale
Christ Church Thornton
20 JAN Annie and Frank Pilling
St James Haslingden*

Golden Anniversary

*10 DEC Jean and Harry Knighton
St Michael Kirkham
17 DEC Alma and Walter Stafford
St Paul Little Marsden
2 JAN Marjorie and Ronnie Moore
St Anne Shevington
11 FEB Alicia and Arnold Wade
St James Haslingden
25 MAR Mary and Bill Hesmondhalgh
St Peter and Paul Rishton*

*'To uphold Christ's teaching
on the nature of marriage
and promote its wider
understanding'*

Mothers' Union News in the Diocese of Blackburn

A PRAYER FOR SPRING

Lord of the seasons,
we give you thanks
for nature's re-awakening;
for spring flowers,
for bird song,
for lengthening days
and the promise of warmer weather.
As the seasons change,
help us to remember
your unchanging love for us,
and give us grace
to reflect that love
in our lives,
through Jesus our Lord.
Amen.



DIARY

March

- 9th Ash Wednesday
- 10th Trustee Board Meeting
- 16th Faith & Policy Unit Meeting
- 21st Diocesan Council
- 25th The Annunciation

April

- 3rd Mothering Sunday
- 6th Quiet Day, St James'
Shireshead, Lancaster
- 24th Easter Sunday

NEXT ISSUE

Items for the Summer 2011
mu news
should be received **no later than**

1ST APRIL 2011

Please send to the Editor:

Mrs Bron England

www.mothersunionblackburn.org.uk

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