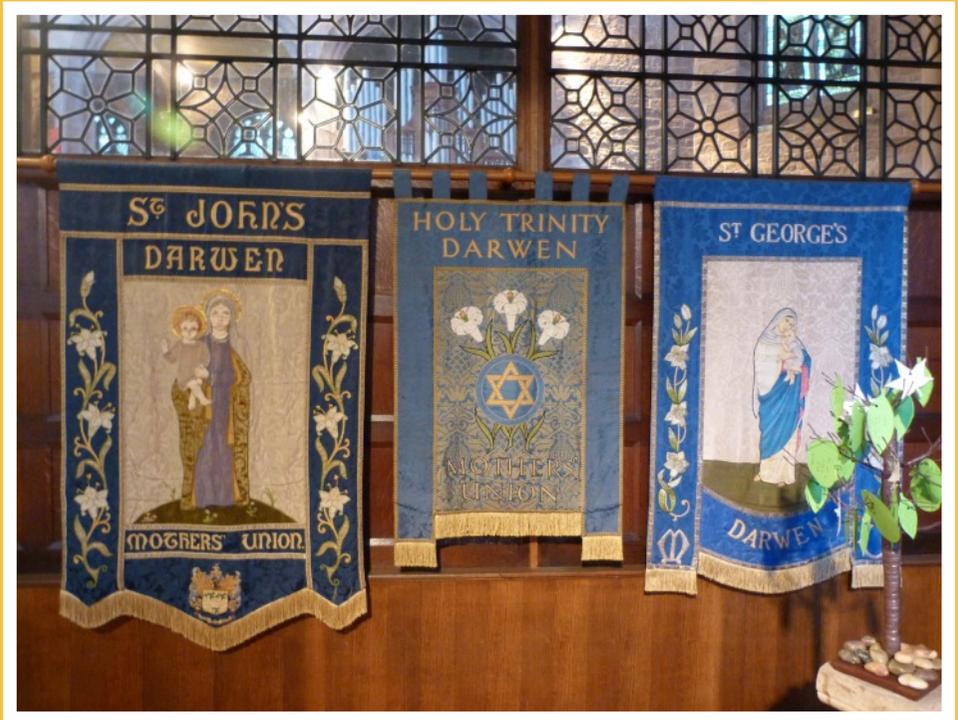




# mu news

Autumn 2017

IN THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of Blackburn

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

*2017 - 'Faith in Action'*

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### *FRONT COVER NEWS ....*

*Mildred Riley, Branch Leader of St Peter's Darwen, throws more light on the 'Front Page' item of the Summer edition of MU News.*

I have my mother's Enrolment Card for 1945 and it is exactly the same as the one you published. Slightly more interesting was the name of the Church on the card – St John the Evangelist – which was in Darwen. It was pulled down in the 1970's owing to dry rot and Darwen also lost St George's Church around the same time. The church in the town centre was Holy Trinity but when all three churches merged it was decided to call it St Peter's – also it was joined at that time to St Paul's in Hoddlesden, which is a village outside Darwen.

When we celebrated 100 years of the Mothers' Union in the Parish we paraded all the old banners into church and they are now on permanent display in the Chapel in St Peter's, together with a window dedicated to the Mothers' Union. The aumbry in the Chapel was also purchased to celebrate 100 years of the Mothers' Union in the Parish.

18 months ago, the First World War Memorial from St John the Evangelist was re-dedicated into St Peter's Church. It had spent some time living in St Peter's School (which was originally St John's) but it was felt it was more suitable to be in a Church. One lady who was a relative of three of those named on the Memorial came to the town's Remembrance Day Service and spoke about the history of her family mentioned on the Memorial.

## The Diocesan President writes ....

Dear Friends,

Where is the year going? July has just begun as I write to you! Is this because we are always so busy? (Time flies when you're enjoying yourself, so they say.) Maybe we would all appreciate (I think I would) one 'boring day' every so often, just to be able to look at the clock and say "Is it only?" instead of "Is it that time already?"



Unfortunately, in society today our 'day of rest', Sunday, is not applicable any more as in many families, my own included, members have to work at weekends for practical reasons. I personally do try not to shop, etc., on Sundays, but again for many families it is the practical thing to do. So with this in mind we should, and probably many of you do, set aside time every day to reflect, to pray, to just be..... to give us the strength to carry on in our everyday lives.

Of course school holidays will keep many of you busy, as Grandparents tend to take on child-minding duties. I have spent many happy hours entertaining grandchildren with such activities as picnics on the beach, trips to the park as well as baking and painting on rainy days, creating many lasting memories.

I have now been to all but two Deanery Festivals, and am now attending many IMPC Tea Parties. All of these events are joyous occasions for those attending. I have presented so many Long Service Certificates to members for 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and even 75 years' service - a remarkable achievement by all concerned. I have also been hearing many stories of your 'Talents Challenge' events and I look forward to seeing many of you again in October at Blackburn Cathedral when 'the Fruits of your Labours' will be received during the Service.

The Caravan is being well used this year with bookings from the beginning of July to 23 September, which is good, but there are still dates available for use after that date.

God bless you and your families, and thank you for all you do in the name of Mothers' Union.

Love and Prayers  
Enid

## ACTION & OUTREACH

In the Summer 2016 issue of *Blackburn MU News* we were introduced to the Mothers' Union of the Diocese of Highveld, South Africa and their President, Mrs Thandi Mpanza. On a recent visit by Bishop Julian to the Free State, his wife, Heather, met Mrs Mpanza.

The MU of the Diocese of the Highveld is part of the 'Gauteng Cluster of Dioceses' which come together to hold workshops. In September 2014 the Cluster held an MU Unit Coordinators' Workshop. Marketing Units are committed to increasing membership, generating income and raising awareness of MU's ethos and practical action. The Prayer/Spirituality Units are concerned with the spiritual development of the membership so that the organisation as a whole has a distinctive spirituality. The Action & Outreach Units provide resources and information to members. Let us pray that the Units work closely together and coordinate across the dioceses to the encouragement and support of Highveld MU and the others in their Cluster.



A current project of Highveld MU is supporting child-headed families. Children are taught the skill of planting their own vegetable patches. This assists the children to be able to grow their own crops and provide themselves with a daily meal. This has been done to curb child prostitution.

Let us pray for the children to know God's love through this caring ministry.

Gwyneth, Worldwide Section Leader

Unit Co-ordinator: Veronica Roper  
☎01254 852027 or 07901 913812  
veronica@vroper.fsnet.co.uk

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



# A Service of Thanksgiving

*Incorporating the receiving of the 'Talents Challenge'*

*To Celebrate*

*90 years of Mothers' Union*

*In Blackburn Diocese*

at

*Blackburn Cathedral*

*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017*

at

*3-00pm*

*All are welcome to join us for this Celebration Service.*

Tickets available on request from [muenid@virginmedia.com](mailto:muenid@virginmedia.com) or Tel. 01253 767721.

## **Blackburn Diocese Mothers' Union**

# **A Sharing Day**

Wednesday 18 October  
at Oswaldtwistle Mills Conference Centre

**Guest speaker: Marian Pope,**  
*Diocesan Development & Training Officer,*  
*Mary Sumner House*

Sharing Groups will include:  
Running a Branch,  
Leading Prayer and Worship,  
Action and Outreach,  
Membership and Recruitment,  
'Down Your Way' – a chance to explore the needs  
of your own parish,  
and a Money Matters Drop-In opportunity for treasurers.

All members are invited to attend and will have  
the opportunity to join two Sharing Groups  
during the day.

The Day, including lunch, is free of charge.  
More details of the programme and booking forms  
will be available during August.

## Accrington Deanery

Nine branches gathered at **St Paul's Church, Oswaldtwistle**, for the **Accrington Deanery Festival** on Tuesday 9 May. The Service was led by Rev Carol Garner and the new Vicar of Oswaldtwistle, Reverend Captain Martin Joss delivered the sermon. Also in attendance were the Mayor of Accrington, Councillor Tim O'Kane, and the Mayoress, Melanie Storey, Enid Nutland, Marjorie Holt, Rev Dr Stephen Adesanya, the Area Dean, Rev Ian Enticott, and representatives from the neighbouring Deaneries of Whalley, Burnley and Blackburn. Enid presented members with their Long Service Certificates, one of which was to Mrs Mary Duxbury for 65 years, and the Service was followed by refreshments.



The Branch banners which were presented at the Service

Enid spoke to us about the necessity of making the work of the Mothers' Union more widely known and to encourage new members. In the Accrington Deanery the Mothers' Union, amongst many other activities, knit jackets, hats and shawls for the Neonatal Unit at Burnley and Blackpool Hospitals; provide comfort bags for emergency admissions to hospital; make Fiddle Quilts for sufferers of stroke and dementia; do hospital visiting; care for families who are struggling and are addressing this year's challenge is to raise money for a new caravan.

## Blackburn with Darwen Deanery

**St Cuthbert Darwen** Branch have held two events for the 90th birthday challenge



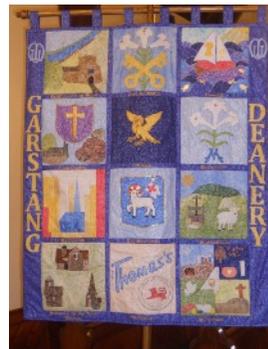
Member Lynn Ripley ran in the Darwen Half-Marathon in April and collected sponsorship amounting to £525. With Gift Aid, the final total should be over £600.

St Cuthbert's members held a Tombola and second-hand book stall in Darwen Market and raised £181.00.



## Garstang Deanery

Garstang Deanery Festival was held on Wednesday 26 April at **St Mary the Virgin, Hambleton**, when the new Deanery Banner was dedicated, having been masterminded and constructed by Frances Whewell from St Michael's Branch, with the help of members from each Branch in the Deanery.



Also at the Service, 37 members were presented with Long Service Certificates. The photograph shows those who received certificates for 50 or more years.

In particular were three members from Goosnargh, Eileen Roberts, Kathleen Anderton and Alice Parker, who have served for 65, 70 and 75 years respectively!

**Goosnargh St Mary's** Branch again entered into the spirit of the Goosnargh & Whittingham Festival whose theme for 2017 was 'Flower Power'. The MU Float, entitled '1967 - The Summer of Love', gave members the opportunity to don 60's attire, play some of the best music from that era, have a very enjoyable afternoon - and they won third prize.



**St John's, Pilling** members used a community event to raise funds for the Diocesan Challenge.

Pilling MU Members joined many other villagers, young and old, in a day, 'Celebrating Pilling' on Saturday 20 May. This Community Cohesion event took place on the Community Field where, in due course, the new Village Hall will be built. The organisers had been planning this spectacular event for

months and had secured some funding so that most activities were free for participants. There were imaginative displays and fun activities by village businesses, organisations and groups. Food was provided in the form of a BBQ as well as tea and scrumptious cakes provided and sold by the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Mothers' Union ladies. We used our £9 towards the ingredients,



which was increased by our share of the profits, to help fund the new MU Caravan. The day began with a fine drizzle but during the afternoon the sun came out. By the time the Ukulele Band gave their performance, followed by other musical items and a 'Last Night of the Proms' Finale by Pilling Jubilee Silver Band, most of us had wrapped ourselves in blankets to protect ourselves from the chill night air. A good time was had by

all! An Ecumenical Rogation Service, held in one of the marquees on the Sunday morning, was well attended. We look forward to perhaps another similar event next year. In the meantime our MU Members are preparing for our involvement with Pilling Coffee Feast on 29th July, when the Queen will be crowned and there will be a procession of floats around the village, after which everyone will enjoy tea and sporting activities on the field.



## Pendle Deanery

Members of **St Bartholomew's and St John's, Colne** Branch have been collecting items for a Safe House in the Hyndburn area.



The ladies on the photograph are Mrs Kay Whitney (Branch Leader), Mrs Margaret Mallalieu, Mrs Barbara Walsh and Mrs Maureen Harrison.

## Chorley Deanery

A member of **All Saints, Chorley Branch**, Sheila Dyer, receiving flowers and a certificate in recognition of 70 years as a member of All Saints Choir. Well done Sheila!



**St Lawrence, Chorley Branch** recently enrolled 6 new members.



Jean Fishwick (Branch Leader), new member Rosemary Sylvester, Dorothy Jones, Anne Watts, Carole Green and Valerie Eccles.



Jean with new member Tarnia Crompton, Irene Jenkinson, Kath Sharples and Pat Sherwood.

St Lawrence's also hosted the **Chorley Deanery Festival** on 18 May 2017. The Bishop of Blackburn presided and preached at the Eucharist, assisted by Canon Ken Barrett and Fr David Arnold.

## Kirkham Deanery

Guests from the surrounding churches were invited to **St Paul's, Warton Branch Open Evening**. After the initial welcome and prayers guest speaker, Kathryn Barnet-Battersby, entertained in a wonderful musical evening. She told those present how her interest in music started when she was just three years old. She managed to persuade her parents to buy her a piano – once they knew she was genuinely interested in music and was prepared to put in the practice. >

She worked hard and attained her BA (Hons) Degree in Music and Performing Arts at Lancaster University and then a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, specialising in Music, at Liverpool Hope University. She does a lot of work with choirs in the locality.



After her talk, Katherine had all standing to 'sing for their supper' - singing in rounds to familiar tunes, after which all were thirsty and hungry and enjoyed a splendid buffet supper. There was also an opportunity for a little retail therapy - thanks to the MU stall brought by Christine Hodgkinson - and the raffle was drawn.



Kathryn rounded off the evening with getting all to practise some deep breathing exercises before singing in rounds again.

It was a really enjoyable evening and thanks are due to Marian Hartley, who invited Kathryn to be guest speaker, and to all the ladies who helped to make it such a successful and enjoyable evening.

**Christ Church Wesham and Christ Church Treales** Branch members were delighted to welcome Nicky Ward from North West Blood Bikes to their May meeting. Her determination to raise awareness of the charity was clearly evident. Despite only working for the Blood Bikes for two months she volunteered to speak at the meeting when the original speaker fell ill. All the riders are volunteers with 90% of them using their own bikes and paying for their own boots, waterproofs, gloves and helmets. However, only a handful of women are in the group. She feels great pride in being one of them.



Northwest Blood Bikes formed in 2015 with four riders taking 10 months to complete 500 runs. There are now 300 riders with a total of 34,000 runs completed. They work 365 days a year, covering shifts from 7pm – 2am. >

They deliver blood, instruments, patients' records, breast milk and medications to hospitals here in Lancashire and the Lakes. A very dedicated group of controllers form the backbone of the organisation and help it run smoothly and safely – checking weather reports, riders, rotas, confirming pick-ups and drop-offs, etc. Nicky held the attention of all members, especially when they went outside to see the bike. It had been donated to Blood Bikes and cost £17,000. It was a very interesting and informative evening.

On 13 June, members had the pleasure of welcoming Mark Curtis from the charity Donna's Dream House in Blackpool. Mark, Donna's brother, told us all about his sister and her illness and the three wishes she had before she died. Firstly, she wanted to raise money for Trinity Hospice - to repay their kindness to her and her family. Secondly, she wanted to send children to America to enjoy the same dream holiday she had had and finally, she wanted to provide accommodation in Blackpool for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Her wishes are now a reality.



Mark explained that, whilst the voluntary team of Donna's Dream House provides the expertise, enthusiasm and administration, it is the generosity of many companies, organisations and individuals in raising and donating money that makes it possible to bring not only sunshine and fun into children's lives but a sense of wonder, adventure, laughter and a much needed holiday in Blackpool for the whole family. Recently the charity has expanded its facilities – through many generous donations – providing a pleasure cruiser, Donna Marie II, based in Garstang, to take families on short outings along the Lancaster Canal.

Mark believes passionately in Donna's Dream House and is keen to help create treasured smiles and precious memories, fulfilling Donna's dream in making a difference to the lives of children affected by serious illness or bereavement.

## Lancaster and Morecambe Deanery

On 9 May, in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Blackburn Diocese Mothers' Union the **Ascension, Torrisholme** Branch enjoyed an Afternoon Tea with a summer raffle and books, cards and £1 stalls. Gordon and Bernard from the Morecambe and Heysham Recorded Music Society provided



entertainment, playing a selection of memorable CDs to listen to and sing along to as well. The money raised will be donated to the MU Caravan Project.



The Branch's annual outing this year was on 13 June to Blackburn, which included a visit to the Cathedral. A lovely chance to have a good look round our Mother Church followed by a shopping trip.



## Poulton Deanery

**St Chad's, Poulton-le-Fylde** Evening MU had an outing to the Lightworks at Blackpool on Tuesday 13 June.



Members looking at a tableau

Blackpool has a number of Heritage Guides and Branch members have visited the Grand Theatre and had a tour of Stanley Park. This time they visited the Illuminations Collection, containing over 20,000 pieces from the 1920s to the present day including photographs, diagrams and beautiful original artwork showing the evolution of our 'Lights'.

There followed a tour of Lightworks, the home of the Illuminations, to see how they are made from initial design to final construction.



Branch Leader Dorothy Griffith turning the lights on!! (Imaginary of course)

## **Tunstall Deanery**

The Deanery Festival took place at **St Luke's, Slyne-with-Hest** on Wednesday 21 June at 2pm. This took the form of a Songs of Praise Service with Rev Pauline Bicknell as Leader and Preacher. This was Rev Pauline's last Deanery Festival with us before she leaves for pastures new very shortly.

A favourite hymn was chosen by each Branch and a spokesperson was invited to say a few words about their special choice. Kath Lane, Presiding Member, chose the Mothers' Union Hymn for Bolton-le-Sands. Hymns were also chosen by Enid Nutland, Diocesan President, and Janet Adams, Lancaster and Morecambe Deanery President. Rev Nancy Goodrich led the Prayers; Readings were read by Ven Dr Stephen Adesanya and Rev Canon Paul Warren. Deputy President Jane Brown kindly attended. Many thanks to all who provided the delicious refreshments and the beautiful flowers both in Church and Hall. Whilst making preparations in the morning it was dull and wet but the sun shone in the afternoon and everyone enjoyed themselves.

## **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Lunch**

At Whalley Abbey on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
1.00pm for 1.30pm.

£18.00 for two courses  
£21.00 for three courses

Tea or Coffee will be included.  
Menus and booking arrangements will be circulated later.

NATIVITY CRIB FESTIVAL 2017  
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GOOSNARGH

Thursday 30 November: Opening Service at 6.00pm  
with Archdeacon Michael Everitt

Fri 1, Sat 2 December 10.00am – 4.00pm

Sun 3 Dec 12.30 – 4.00pm

A wonderful array of Nativity Cribs will be on display  
in our beautiful church,  
you may even see an angel or two flying around!  
There will be an area for children to dress in traditional costume,  
tombola, live music, light refreshments and much more.

Nativity Crib Lunches will be available at The Grapes  
(next to the church).



All proceeds to Derian House

For more information  
please contact Delphine Burn  
on 01772 865487 or  
delphineburn@hotmail.co.uk



**Diamond Anniversaries**

- 9 March Barbara and John Mackie – St John Out Rawcliffe  
17 June Barbara and Tony Kay – St Michael Kirkham  
29 June Sylvia and Jim Holden – All Saints Clayton-le-Moors  
10 Aug Enid and Maurice Bramham – Holy Trinity Tarleton

**Emerald Anniversary**

- 18 Aug Margery and Gary Wignall – Blackburn Cathedral

Lord, as we look forward to Harvest celebrations, we give you thanks for the bounty of your creation and ask that you will bless all who work the land to produce our food. As fruits are gathered, we pray, too, that our work in Mothers' Union will also bear much fruit, through Jesus our Lord. Amen



## DIARY

- 8 Sep Blackpool Festival
- 13 Sep Lancaster and Morecambe Festival
- 21 Sep Trustees
- 14 Oct Celebration Service, Blackburn Cathedral (see page 5)
- 18 Oct Sharing Day (see page 6)
- 8 Nov MU Diocesan Council (daytime)
- 4 Dec Trustees meeting (daytime)
- 2018
- 25 Jan Celebration Lunch, Whalley Abbey

## NEXT ISSUE

Items for the Winter 2017

### mu news

should be received no later than

**1 October 2017**

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