

MOTHERS' UNION NZ

In the Anglican Province of AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND AND POLYNESIA

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Newsletter No. 74
June 2019

Our Worldwide Mothers' Union



Overseas



MU at the Kigali
Conference in
Rwanda:

The Pictures
Pages 11 & 15

The Key
Messages
Page 16

More pictures
throughout !



At Home

Tai Tokerau: MU at work and worship in the
scattered rural far North of Aotearoa New
Zealand, where unemployment is rife.

The Pictures and
Stories
Pages 2 and 3

Growing food for
the poor. Whole
family MU Services
may be at beach
cottages or Marae.
Practical support
offered where,
when and what
may be needed.





Joan Neild writes from hospital

Dear Members and Friends,

You may have heard that I am now recovering from surgery after taking a tumble in Rwanda. I am sorry to have to be leaving until later some of the tasks I had planned for myself as soon as I returned, but a fuller report of the marvellous and productive MU World Council Meeting which I was invited to attend on your behalf is now planned for the August issue.

It was such a special experience meeting the many leaders from Africa and the rest of the world who were able to attend. At our Provincial Conference in Hamilton in October which I hope as many of you as possible will attend there will be opportunity to tell you more fully about what we learned and planned in Kigali.

2019 was the first time the World Council Meeting has taken place outside of Britain & Ireland. 72 leaders from across the world gathered to plan together the way forward for MU. In step with God!

The meeting began with an incredible service of joyous worship and the sharing of the Eucharist. The Archbishop of Rwanda, Dr Laurent Mbanda and preached on Hebrews 10:19-25 encouraging us to spur each other on in the work that we do. He also reminded us "when you don't empower women, nothing happens."



Joan Neild with the Revd Anne Kennedy (left), Provincial President, Australia

On Day 3 participants spent the morning continuing to shape the global vision and strategy before spending the afternoon visiting Mothers' Union credit & savings projects in and around Kigali. On the last day, all attended a gathering for a meal at the home of the Archbishop.

I was pleased to be travelling for much of the way to and from Kigali with the two Australian participants – Canon Libbie Crossman and the Revd Anne Kennedy – and so grateful to be lodged near to them while there. They helped me enormously, as after my fall I had the use of only one arm. Such wonderful Anzac support, by God's grace! He watched over me and kept me safe until I returned home.

This adventure demonstrated afresh to me how faith in God provides great strength in time of need. Having faith is the first thing we need to get in step with God.

Let me conclude by thanking all who have been in touch and wished me well since I returned. Blessings be upon all MU groups and members as you gather in warm company on these winter days.

'Let your love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.' Romans 12:9-10

Bless you all, Joan Neild



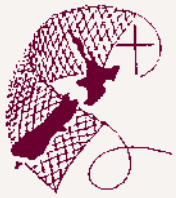
Queen's Birthday Honours for Mother's Union Members

On June 3 it was announced as having been approved by Her Majesty the Queen, that Past Provincial President Margaret Wilson had been listed as Member of the Order of New Zealand. This honour is richly deserved for her lifetime of service to many areas of the community, and in particular for her devotion to the re-establishment and continuing existence in New Zealand of Mothers' Union.

We are delighted that also on the honours list was a member of St Mary's New Plymouth Branch of Mothers' Union, Denise Wood, who is to be awarded the Queen's Service Medal for services to the community through the Red Cross, the RSA and other organisations.

Congratulations to Margaret and Denise from us all! Thank you so much for your selfless service.





Mothers' Union News from Aotearoa New Zealand, Polynesia, and around God's World



- Te Haahi Mihingare ki Te Taitokerau-

'Greetings to all Mothers' Union Members. Our aroha and Manaakitanga to the whanau in Christchurch.

We have had lots of good times along with the sad times, with the loss of Ritihia Brown and Aggie Smith's husband Edward Smith. Now the happy times: Last month we had Myra Berghan's 89th birthday and Ruth Jones' 80th birthday. (Ruth is the mother of MP Shane Jones.)



Aunty Aggie's HUGE Garden

Community Outreach "First of all, here is the story of that HUGE garden that Aunty Aggie put down for the Mothers' Union. After talking with her over the phone, I thought it was going to be a planter box. Mistake! Without me knowing any more, she went ahead and said to her grandson, 'Wiremu, Norma and I are going to do a kumera garden for the Mothers' Union'.

Next, I get a call from Aunty Aggie saying, 'Girl, I have started on the garden, and well, there is only us two to do the garden.'

Then I found myself standing in the garden talking to the 'Guy above' (ie God Almighty) saying 'what and how do we manage this garden?'

That's when it came to me to go and meet with Norm Popata, Kaitaia Correction Supervisor. From there he approved for us to have PD workers, looking to complete their community hours, to help us take care of our garden.

Even Norm got a fright to see what two old ladies can do. He said that next time we start another huge project like this let him know first and he can help us. So that is the story about the Kumera garden.



**The PD Man shows us
how to plant Kumera**

Told by Norma Evans



From all around . . . Up in the Tai Tokerau region of the far north, we work through many widely scattered churches, marae and community groups. As Mothers' Union, we are now taking part in the Sunday service in the Parengarenga Ahipara Region. We start our day with a Mothers' Union service then our normal church service. On the left, Ngahuka Matiu, a new MU member for Whatuwhiwhi gives a reading.



**Young mother Sarah
and her Baby.**

We thank the Auckland Mothers' Union for the lovely boxes of items, which we gave out to a community group we support, called 'Open the Curtains.'

We have been able to participate with the Maori Women's Welfare League by supporting them in working with young parents and grandparents who need support with food and clothes and transport.

Last month Awanui Mothers' Union decided to put down a garden for families that could not buy vegetables. This is an on-going project: The Maori Women's Welfare League supplies plants for the garden..



Norma Stephen's planter box with cattle over the fence looking on hungrily

Tai Tokerau, Continued . . .

We also support our local schools with stationery given again from the Auckland Mothers' Union whom I call our Fairy Godmothers. We also go around each month visiting our hospital and our Kaitia local home for the elderly, doing a waiata session.

At Christmas time we made up Christmas gifts for young parents and grandparents and whanau who were unable to give their families anything. We were asked to supply Christmas presents to 40 children, from babies to 10 years of age.

We attended Sir Hector Busby's Knighthood at Waitangi, very special day, and the Waitangi Day Church Service at 10.00 am on 6 February 2019.

- Below are some more photos of our life in our Tai Tokerau Region -



Top: Two MU Services at the Bach, the left being at Whakararo Bay. (Whakararo = 'Be Humble')

On the far right, note the priest celebrating Holy Communion from on the verandah of another bach.

Below left: Aunties Aggie Smith and Norma Evans of the Big Garden Project.

Below right: Auntie Aggie Smith's Golden Wedding Celebration at the Marae.



- The Diocese of Christchurch -

Christchurch Mothers' Union members are shown displaying the St Brigid crosses made from rushes gathered from the roadside. They are associated with St Brigid and made especially on St Brigid's feast day-1 February.

Tradition has it that she made a cross from rushes on the floor as she tended a dying chieftain and told the story of Jesus. They are allowed to dry and hung in homes.

St Brigid is one of Ireland's most beloved saints; she worked all her life for the poor and oppressed, challenged injustice and worked for a peaceful land.





**Archdeacon Taimalelagama
Fagamalama Tuatagaloa Leota and the
Precentor, the Revd Ivica Gregurec**



- Diocese of Auckland -

The Auckland Quiet Day with AAW members held in the Bishop Selwyn Chapel

On 22 May some 25 members and friends took part in a Quiet Day, led by Archdeacon Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa-Leota. The Auckland Branch of AAW was represented by President Barbara Dixon, who read the first lesson.

Presiding at the Eucharist Service which started the day was Cathedral Precentor the Reverend Ivica Gregurec, who paid tribute to Revd Rota Waitoa, first Maori ordained in NZ (1853), remembered in the Church on this day. Cathedral Organist Dr Philip Smith generously played for this service. The Venerable Tai gave the homily, acknowledging the readings for the day, 1 Samuel 16:10-13a and 1 Timothy 4:11-16 and emphasising the importance of all working together to do God's will.

After a quiet lunch in the Bishop Monteith Visitor Centre, all returned to the Chapel for the time of Quiet Reflection, using the practice of Lectio Divina. After an unaccompanied hymn 'Breathe on me, Breath of God!' implementation of Lectio Divina began, the passage chosen for close study being Luke 10, 39-42 where Jesus visits Martha and Mary at Bethany.

Archdeacon Tai explained the process to be followed. We would observe silence while and after several translations of the passage were read slowly to us. After the first reading we were to reflect quietly to ourselves what word or sentence spoke particularly to us, after the second reading, we should say aloud the word or sentence we had chosen, and after the third reading, we could share it quietly with our neighbour.

Then followed the Lord's Prayer, and the hymn 'Amazing Grace', before a time of silent reflection and meditation on the passage. We were to consider these two questions:

- ✠ Am I more Martha and less Mary in the way I serve Christ?
- ✠ Or am I more Mary and less Martha in my way of serving Jesus?

We were also to pray to ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to become more integrated in serving and praying.

The last exercise was to write down a personal resolution for our journey in life, and then to share this quietly in small groups.

To conclude, Archdeacon Tai summed up what we had done and would be able to learn from this experience we had shared, and all sang, linking hands, 'Bind Us Together, Lord'. We took away with us the following prayer:

*Gracious and merciful God,
Jesus was welcomed by Martha and Mary into their home
and found there refreshment and rest;
Give us the will to love you,
open our hearts to hear you,
and teach us to serve you in others;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN*

Mary and Martha of Bethany are remembered by the Church on July 28, so you may wish to keep this prayer to use then.



Footnote: 2019 marks 10 years since Archdeacon Tai was ordained to the Priesthood on Sunday 12 July, 2009. The Auckland Mothers' Union hope to observe this anniversary by attending a weekday midday Holy Communion in the Marsden Chapel, followed by lunch. For further information please email raewynskipper@gmail.com



Johannes Vermeer 1654-5

This Easter Cross was in the car park after a dawn service St Chad's Orewa on Easter Eve.

All Saints' Birkenhead Here on Mothers' Union Sunday, August 2018, at All Saints, Birkenhead, Auckland our Vicar the Revd Jordan Greatbatch and MU members pose with home made items they are donating to mothers and children, via Granger Grove at the Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Auckland.



The MU meeting at All Saints, Birkenhead, Auckland, August 2018.
From left: Vicar Jordan Greatbatch, Pauline Matthews, Pamela Ferry (Enrolling Member), Anne Cater, Jean Putt, Joyce Parsons, Margaret Jones, Anne Farrington, Nell Stanley, Deidre Schubert, Marcia Worsley, Tricia Cane, Judy Cranch, Helen Hilton, Colleen Stott.



Mothers' Union Committee for 2019 at All Saints, Birkenhead, Auckland.
(Back row) Jean Putt, Treasurer; Pamela Ferry, Leader (Enrolling Member); Colleen Stott (Trading Table). Front row: Vicar Jordan Greatbatch; Margaret Jones (Retired Leader); Helen Hilton (Catering, and Liaison with Granger Grove at Anglican Trust for Women and Children.) Joyce Parsons, Secretary, was away.



Mothering Sunday is the Anglican Church's day for honouring mothers. Each year MU members make white flower corsages, which are given to all women present, and to men in memory of mothers. This year, Pamela, our new MU Leader, also baked Simnel cake for morning tea. Simnel cake was traditionally given by servant girls to their mothers when they returned home for Mothering Sunday. Pamela thanks the Revd Jordan and parishioners for making her so welcome.



Pamela Ferry, Enrolling Member, & Don Gallagher hold the Simnel cake made by Pamela, & Colleen Stott with white corsages for mothers.

Our Mothers' Union meeting on 27 March was a very happy morning, after all the sadness for Christchurch. It was a Lady Day service, our Vicar, the Rev'd Jordan Greatbatch, was our speaker and showed a very interesting film of a very special Cathedral in Philadelphia. Also present at our meeting were three visitors: our Auckland Diocesan MU President Raewyn Skipper, and Ruth and Peter Blackburn, from our Link branch in Maleny, Queensland (North of Brisbane). Ruth spoke to us about the MU branch in Maleny. If our group can be any help to anyone please let us know. *Blessings, MU Leader Pamela Ferry.*

On 27 March I spent a lovely morning with the Mothers' Union Branch at All Saints' Birkenhead, where our Northern Archdeaconry Leader Mrs Pamela Ferry is the Enrolling Member. The Revd Jordan Greatbatch spoke at the meeting on 'How we 'do' Church now'. He referred to a book 'At Heaven's Gate' written by Englishman Richard Giles, who was Dean of Philadelphia Cathedral. The book contains reflections on leading worship and helps to address the question "How can we 'do Church' to encourage new and younger members?"

A branch member had knitted some delightful ducks and rabbits which could hold a small Easter egg. It was lovely to see some familiar faces and to catch up with Margaret Jones. I really enjoyed being with a hard-working group of women, passionate supporters of their Mothers' Union. - Raewyn Skipper

All Saints' Howick Long-standing member of Mothers' Union Mrs Barbara Muriel Gill passed away on 12 April 2019. Auckland President Mrs Raewyn Skipper gave an address at her funeral service, extracts from which follow: "You were always greeted with a big smile and a very cheery "Hello, how are you?" when you met Barbara. always bright and happy to see you, she was always ready for a good chat. *Barbara Gill with Katherine McIntyre.*



Barbara had a very strong devotion to Mothers' Union over a great many years and was always present at Diocesan gatherings over that time. Having a strong connection with the work of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children and as Secretary of the All Saints' MU branch, she touched many lives. In the years when the Revd Bruce Moore was Vicar at Howick, she formed a long-lasting friendship through MU with his sister, Mrs Margaret Baker. Mrs Joan Beck of St George's Papatoetoe remembers Barbara with great affection as they worked together in the Southern Archdeaconry.

A highlight for Barbara was spending a morning in 2016 with the then Worldwide President, Mrs Lynne Tembey, who was visiting from England. When unfortunately no longer physically up to attending Barbara continued to keep up with the activities of Mothers' Union through mail and visits from members, in particular Mrs Jan Fowler, who continued to keep in close contact. Barbara gave many years of faithful, dedicated service to Mothers' Union for which we shall be forever thankful. She will be greatly missed but lovingly remembered. *2 Timothy 4:7 You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith – well done, good and faithful servant."*



Howick Quilters continue to support the work of Mothers' Union to assist the Anglican Trust for Women and Children. In May, Raewyn Skipper received a large amount of clothing to take to ATWC, some from Christchurch, as well as this box of 25 hand-knitted children's cardigans, made by an elderly lady at Whangaparaoa.

- The Diocese of Wellington -



The Lady Day General Meeting and Service

Lady Day: Since medieval times, 25 March has been known as Lady Day, and for centuries it has been seen as very special. The name comes from the medieval Church's celebration of the Annunciation, which Christians believe was the moment the archangel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear a son. Once the Church had fixed the liturgical date of Christmas at 25 December, the Annunciation logically fell around 40 weeks earlier. Since the 7th century, it has been celebrated on 25 March.



- Fra-Angelico 1438

On 25 March 2019 Wellington Diocesan Mothers' Union held a General Meeting in the Brian Davis Room followed by a Lady Day Service in the Lady Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral. Ann Desmond, Acting Diocesan Mothers' Union President, welcomed a good number of MU members from almost all parts of the Diocese. 40 members attended: 17 from Epiphany, Masterton in the Wairarapa (who came by bus), 10 from the Kapiti region (mostly by train), 3 from Belmont, 7 from the Wellington region and 3 lone members.

The Right Reverend Dr Eleanor Sanderson chaired the meeting at which formal motions were passed establishing a Mothers' Union Council to handle MU affairs in the Wellington Diocese, ratifying the appointment of the Diocesan President, electing a Diocesan Treasurer and Council, and approving the establishment of a MU bank account for the Council to operate. The annual subscription was decided on to cover the Diocesan commitment to the MU Provincial Council and further business included reports on the 'Away from it all' holiday arrangements and the January MULOA meeting in Brisbane, as well as information on the Families Worldwide magazine from England and the Wellington Diocesan Intercessory Prayer Circle.

Bishop Ellie remarked that she thinks the Worldwide Mothers' Union is ahead of the Church in its work worldwide and it was mentioned that the present Archbishop of Canterbury agrees with the statement of his predecessor, Archbishop Rowan Williams, that the Mothers' Union is the 5th Instrument of Unity of the Anglican Communion, the first four being The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Primates Meeting, The Lambeth Conference and the Anglican Consultative Council.

Lastly, Cheryl Hansen spoke of her concern for the low profile of Mothers' Union in our Province of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. In the 1960s MU was blamed for not accepting divorcees when in fact it was the Church at large at that time that had made that decision. Mary Sumner, founder of Mothers' Union had been quite clear that anyone, regardless of their marital or social status, was welcome into MU. New Zealand was years ahead of the UK regarding marrying of divorced people in church, but MU was still bound by the UK rules, and NZ's wish to enrol divorced persons was not granted as an exception.

After the AAW was formed, the attitude of blaming MU seems to have continued over the years, affecting its membership and recognition. MU does need support and encouragement from the Church - especially the clergy - to be recognised for the amazing organisation it is nowadays worldwide.



A group of Long-Term Members



From Epiphany Church, Masterton

Members agreed with Cheryl's thoughts and felt that this meeting was the start of new life for MU in our Diocese of Wellington. Hope was also expressed at the meeting that MU could have its own voice at Synod alongside AAW, so that both organisations could be represented, sharing the platform and working together for all members.

After lunch, Bishop Ellie celebrated a special Eucharist for Lady Day in the Lady Chapel, using the service from the Mothers' Union website. Epiphany had been asked to do a narrative of the Gospel and the man they had in their number did very well in taking the part of the Angel Gabriel.

The service included the commissioning of all the Council Office Bearers and Members, prior to the Great Thanksgiving which was based on a service originally written by Rev Barbara Bonifant for Advent but adapted for Lady Day by Ann Desmond. Bishop Ellie shared a reflection of several personal incidents where she listened to God, saw what God was asking of her and acted according to God's promptings – real, live examples of Listening, Observing and Acting – in Step with God.

St Mark's, Wellington Central

St Mark's Branch continues to meet at Hataitai each month. In January, members welcomed Ann Adams, a MU member from UK visiting her family. Members attended All Saint's and mingled whilst having morning tea, with no formal meetings while Margaret Jones was in the UK. Often their meetings are more informal but with some interesting stories.



They continue to fund-raise for feminine items and will carry on again this year for the City Mission.



- The Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki -

Greetings in the name of Our Lord. I believe all is well and we are keeping warm. As a newly elected Mother's Union President of the Diocese of Waikato Taranaki, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during our election.

A very big thank you to Rosemary Bent for her leadership and dedication to the work of Mothers' Union in New Zealand and abroad, especially the Melanesian countries of Solomon, Vanuatu, PNG and Fiji. Rosemary: *"Loloma and tankio tumas."*

I am delighted to inform you all of my MU Diocesan team in the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki. The list is as follows: Diocesan President: Valentine Ling-Ronolea. Vice President, Diocesan Team Mentor and Taranaki Archdeaconry: Rosemary Bent. Treasurer: Fiona Leith. Waikato Archdeaconry: Johanna Halder.

As a team, we look forward to working closely with all of you.

With our love and prayer, Valentine Ling-Ronolea, Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki.

TE PUNA TRUST NURTURE TARANAKI 16 May 2019

Dear St Mary's Mothers' Union

I would like to continue our huge thank you message to all of you who have made and donated beautiful knitted blankets, jumpers, cardigans, booties and hats to the Nurture Taranaki programme. We continue to feel great pleasure in giving these lovingly made pieces to the mums whom we work with.

Most of the families we work with do not come from backgrounds where parents, aunts or grandparents would have the skill or inclination to make such beautiful and precious handmade gifts and so it really is special to them when we explain that the items have been handmade, with them in mind, by lovely ladies who are putting their unpaid time, resources and love into each piece.

So thank you again from all the mums and babies, some who are now almost three years of age, who have received your beautiful, useful gifts.

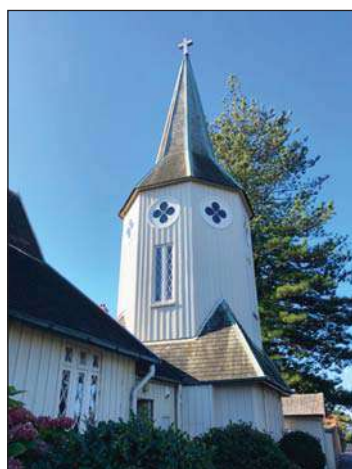
Kind regards, Paul Lampe, Nurture Taranaki Programme Manager

The Provincial Executive Meeting

The first meeting of the Provincial Executive since November 2017 was held in Auckland on 4 May 2019 in the Selwyn Library at Bishops Court and chaired by Mothers' Union Chaplain Archbishop John Paterson. All Aotearoa NZ Diocesan Presidents attended, apart from the President of Christchurch, whom Past Provincial President Margaret Wilson represented. Archdeacon Tai of Samoa had hoped to attend the meeting after arriving from Samoa that morning, but fog prevented an Auckland landing, the plane flying on instead to Christchurch.



One of the tasks for this meeting was to choose a date and venue for the next Provincial Conference and Meeting. Other matters discussed were the need for MU to have income beyond subscriptions, the reports from the Diocesan Presidents, and the effort MU is making, as a member of the National Council of Women, to get the NCW to work towards bringing help to families, rather than just concentrating on gender equality.



The meeting was also pleased to receive a letter from Cheryl Hansen from the Wairarapa expressing the hope that MU could achieve rightful recognition of its world status in our Province rather than continuing to be disparaged because of the events of some 50 years ago. She made the positive suggestions that MU work towards being represented at all Diocesan Synods and at General Synod, and that St John's College and all clergy be made aware of the work of the MU organisation.

Joan Neild was able to advise that work towards conveying concern to a meeting of the Bishops about the official standing of MU within the Church is under way. Although Polynesian countries of Fiji, Tonga and Samoa were unable to send a representative to the Executive meeting, we hope they will be able to do so to the Provincial Conference as notified below:

❖ NOTICE OF MEETING & CONFERENCE ❖

All MU Members are invited to attend The Provincial Meeting of Mothers' Union in the Province of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia, to be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday 19 October at The Cathedral of St Peter in Hamilton.

The meeting will be held during a Mothers' Union Conference to commence on the afternoon of **Friday 18 October** and concluding with Morning Service in the Cathedral on **Sunday 20 October**. Please do try to attend the Conference and Meeting, which is held only once every three years. (The last one was in Auckland in 2016).

One of the tasks for the meeting will be to vote on some amended wording in the Provincial Constitution to bring it in line with the new World Constitution. Details of the amended wording will be distributed to members by 19 August. At present that wording is undergoing a review by the Chancellor of the Auckland Diocese, who is also an Informal Member of General Synod. Any Motions intended to be brought to the Meeting should be sent in writing to the Provincial Secretary by 19 July.

Travel and accommodation costs will be your own responsibility, though we hope to obtain a grant towards the cost of registration. You are advised to book your accommodation in Hamilton now for the nights of 18/19 October, as the city will be hosting a sports event that weekend. If you have difficulty finding accommodation, please make contact with Valentine Ling-Ronolea for further ideas (see Directory). A sub-committee has met in Hamilton to make arrangements for the conference, and a registration form with further details will be sent out soon.

ZONE C – SOUTH PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

April 2019

Dear Friends,

As I write this newsletter I want to begin by sharing with you some words from an email our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper sent to me on Saturday: Please can you convey to your Provincial President of NZ and her Diocesan Presidents just how sad I am at this terrible episode which snuffed out the lives of so many and at the same time leaving several wounded. So many families have been thrown into immediate mourning at the loss of loved ones. I read in disbelief at children being affected terribly, some wounded and in critical condition, and some orphaned and so many missing.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, please be assured that we stand with you in prayer and that God's presence would be in the midst of it all bringing comfort and a peace which passes all understanding. We pray that all will be restored to normalcy soon and justice will prevail ... that the entire country will feel safe once again. May God bless and protect New Zealand from acts of terrorism and may the existing terrorists have a change of heart and instead be renewed to make meaning contributions to society. These and other mercies we ask in Jesus' name AMEN.

I am sure that we all share with Sheran as we continue to pray for not just the families of those that were murdered, but all New Zealanders as they strive to understand how all this could happen in their beautiful country.



Zone C MULOA 2 "catch-up" workshop

As those who were present in Brisbane for our MULOA 2 workshop will know, most of the members for Melanesia and all from Papua New Guinea were unable to join us due to visa issues. We are holding a small MULOA 2 workshop in Brisbane for 11 members from these provinces next week, 9th and 10th April. Most of those coming already had paid their fares and did not wish to waste these, hence the Brisbane location. I ask for your prayers as I lead this workshop

as Bronwyn is unable to assist at this time but has been of great assistance in the preparations. Please pray also for those who are attending.

We are able to hold this workshop in large part because of the generosity of those from Australia and New Zealand who assisted with accommodation costs. We have sufficient from these donations to hold this workshop as Mary Sumner House was unable to give us any assistance. Thank you.

Worldwide Council in Kigali, Rwanda June 2019

This is the first Worldwide Council meeting to be held under the new constitution, so will be smaller in number, but truly global, as most, if not all the Provincial Presidents will be able to attend. Please pray for all the staff at Mary Sumner House who are working hard to make this a successful time.

The Commissioning of the Worldwide President



Women proudly wear the Mothers' Union Blue and White, the traditional MU Uniform colours at Kigali.

Sheran was commissioned by Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, during Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday, 26th February. It was a joyous occasion.

Please circulate this newsletter to your Diocesan Presidents and any others who may be interested. It is also being sent to all those who attended MULOA 2 in Brisbane.

With my love and prayers,



Our Finances and a response from Mary Sumner House



Mothers' Union Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia Financial Report for period from 1 January to 31 December 2018

Opening Bank Balance, Kiwibank \$1382.51

Receipts

Subscriptions	3320.00
Suscriptions to FWW Magazine	430.00
Missions Day)	
Quiet Day)	207.40
Mary Sumner Roses	205.00
Donation (Summer of Hope event)	1025.60
MULOA	3481.70

Total Receipts 8669.70

Payments

MSH for FWW magazines	392.47
National Council of Women Sub	145.00
Postage Printing and Stationery	506.29
Website	96.60
Newsletters	1965.35
Mary Sumner Roses	190.00
MULOA Expenses	2944.78
Bank Fees	56.00

Total Payments 6296.49

Closing Bank Statement 31 December 2018 \$3755.72

N.B. Thank you to the Diocesan Treasurers who have sent members' names with their 2019 subscriptions to the Provincial Treasurer. If not yet done, please get on to this, as the names of financial members are needed for them to be able to cast a vote either by attending or through a proxy at the General Meeting.

Letter from MSH on receipt of levies for 2018

8 June 2019

Dear All at Mothers' Union Province of New Zealand,

Thank you for your subscription contribution of £668.10. Not only have you raised essential funds but the awareness you drive locally about the charity and our work is astounding and invaluable to Mothers' Union.

Again, from all of us here at Mary Sumner House, thank you! You really do help us to achieve our mission of transforming communities worldwide through the promotion of stable marriage, family life and the protection of children. We hope we can continue to count on your exceptional support!

Warmest good wishes,
Adam Sach (Head of Fundraising & Communications)



A little driving tour . . .

Provincial Treasurer Katherine McIntyre made a trip around the lower and central North Island in May, and was delighted to be able to attend the MU meeting in Masterton and to meet up with the Stratford MU group.



Adelaide MU Lady Day. Joan Neild, NZ Prov President shares a moment with Marion McCall, Adelaide Dio President

Travel further away . . .

In March, Provincial President Joan Neild travelled for family reasons to Adelaide, and while there was able to attend the Lady Day service in the Cathedral of St Peter.

After worship in the cathedral, members gathered in the nearby hall for lunch and a presentation by Anglicare SA about their foster care programme. This programme is the focus of MU Adelaide's fundraising project for 2019-20.

A 50 year membership certificate was presented by Adelaide Diocesan President Marion McCall to Mrs Janet Dickey.





These six Mothers' Union Leaders, from left, Rosemary Kempzell, Lynne Temby, current World President Sheran Harper, Pat Harris, Trish Heywood-Brown and Lady Christine Eames, met recently at Mary Sumner House. They 'pay it forward' by getting together, using their combined experience and vision to work towards the continued work and outreach of Mothers' Union Worldwide.



Jeanette Lawrence (Mary Sumner House) and the Revd Anne Kennedy, PP Australia and friend.



Mothers' Union Members meet at Kigali, many becoming acquainted for the very first time on this day.



Reflections from the Worldwide President - January - May 2019

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. " Psalm 34:1 KJV

Thank you for electing me to lead this amazing movement of 4 million members in over 80 countries worldwide. This comes with great responsibility, but with God at the steering wheel and with each and every member by my side, I believe all is achievable in step with God and his plan for Mothers' Union. My first five months as Worldwide President have gone so quickly and have been one of the most exciting and rewarding journeys in my life as a Mothers' Union member. I have been enjoying my role, visiting members and community projects, and achieving targets, together with members of my Trustee Board, Chief Executive and staff of Mary Sumner House. All are working incredibly hard, love what they are doing and are committed to Mothers' Union.

On behalf of my Trustee Board, Provincial Presidents, Diocesan Presidents and members around the world, I take this opportunity to thank the immediate Past Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, and her Board of Trustees for a splendid job over the past six years. This has certainly set us on course for God's plan and purpose for Mothers' Union as we look to our 150th Anniversary in 2026 and beyond. Congratulations, Lynne, on your awards which are truly deserved for your outstanding contributions to not only your role as Worldwide President but in your four decades as a faithful member.

Special thanks also to Chief Executive, Bev Jullien, the Senior Leadership Team and staff at Mary Sumner House for the incredible work they continue to do for Mothers' Union. We appreciate all you are doing.

COMMISSIONING SERVICE – FEBRUARY

I thank God for giving me the strength to answer his call to serve as Worldwide President and I extend my gratitude to all members for prayerfully voting for me to lead our beloved movement in the triennium 2019-2021. The tremendous outpouring of love and support from the Anglican Communion, members, friends and family who attended the Commissioning ceremony were above all I could ask or imagine; and the numerous expressions of congratulations and joy from the Provinces and Dioceses around the world were all appreciated. I extend my sincere gratitude to Archbishop Justin and Mrs. Caroline Welby for making the event such a memorable one and I take on board the Archbishop's Challenge to make Mothers' Union visible rather than being the best kept secret of the Anglican Communion. My sincere thanks to the Bishop and all at Southwark Cathedral, Chief Executive and staff of MSH for planning and coordinating the activities for the Service and reception. A truly successful evening.

My own Diocese Guyana held a Thanksgiving Service at St George's Cathedral followed by an evening reception on January 6. I extend sincere thanks to Bishop Charles and Mrs. Maureen Davidson, the Diocese of Guyana, all who travelled from overseas, members and friends for attending. I will treasure these special moments always.

MARY SUMNER HOUSE

Our Chief Executive and Staff welcomed me to my new office and made me feel so welcome and comfortable. I was fortunate to meet them all at the Sumner Seminar with the opportunity to speak and share my journey. They are a wonderful bunch! I continue to thank God for their faithful commitment and the work they continue to do for us, even as they work way beyond the normal call of duty. I especially welcome new members of staff and continue to pray for them, and I am grateful for the years of service of staff that are no longer with us and pray for their new journeys.

Bev and I continue to have teleconference calls at least once per week when I am overseas, with members of the Senior Leadership Team included when necessary. These meetings are very productive and serve their purpose in keeping me connected with the Chief Executive, and informed and updated at all times.

MEETINGS

My meetings in and out of MSH have been beneficial in moving our work forward, profiling Mothers' Union, making connections and building relationships.

The new Worldwide Board consists of the Worldwide President and eleven Zonal Trustees representing all regions with the first ever male Board member. We met for the first time from February 25 – March 1 under the new constitution and included in the agenda was governance training which prepared Trustees for the task ahead. I thank God for the variety of skills, expertise and life experiences that have been brought to the table and for the friendships that have grown over the past five months. Thank you also to the co-opted for willingly agreeing to serve alongside us. May God continue to shower his blessings of vision, purpose and direction on us as we co-create the future in step with God. I ask for your continued prayers and can assure you we will be stronger just knowing that you are praying for us.

A memorable moment for me was meeting Diocesan Presidents from around Britain and Ireland (B&I) at Mary Sumner House on February 26th and sharing my Mothers' Union journey with them. I thank them for their continued faithfulness and commitment to all Mothers' Union stands for. Thank you to the B&I Group for inviting me to be a part of their committee meeting and to meet them all. What an outstanding group of Mothers' Union leaders! I pray for God's guidance and direction in all their deliberations and plans for moving forward.

I was delighted to meet with the Past Worldwide Presidents and the Central President as they have all been a part of my Mothers' Union journey for the past 32 years. A briefing was held for them at Mary Sumner House on 2nd May so Bev and I could update them on all Mothers' Union matters and preparations for Worldwide Council 2019. My heart is so full of admiration for their selfless and faithful contributions for so many decades and for leaving the legacy of a solid foundation for us to build on in this triennium and beyond.

In February, I visited the Anglican Communion Office and met with: Secretary General, Archbishop Josiah Idowu Fearon; Director for Women in Church & Society, Canon Terrie Robinson; and Canon John Kafwanka, Director of Mission. All were supportive of the work of Mothers' Union and were interested in ways we could work together especially around their work with Intentional Discipleship.

Bev and I received Bishop Marinez Santos Bassotto, the first female Bishop for Brazil and Mrs. Carmen Gomes, wife of the Archbishop of Brazil at Mary Sumner House on 14th February. This was a successful meeting because in addition to building relationships they accepted our invitation to send two delegates to Worldwide Council in Kigali - the President and immediate past President of the UMEAB. We have been trying to develop this relationship further for years and I believe this is God's time now.

The Director of Peace, Justice and Integrity for Southwark Diocese, Rev'd Canon Dr. Rosemarie Mallett paid a courtesy call on me at Mary Sumner House on 21st February. Our discussion focused around Mothers' Union and the Church working together.

Bev and I were delighted to meet with the Clerk of Synod, Dr. Jacqui Phillips at MSH to discuss the Worldwide President's attendance and presentation at the Church of England Synod in York in July 2019. An entourage is expected to accompany the WWP and the usual Mothers' Union activities will be in place. We look forward to receiving further information from them.

WRITING, INTERVIEWS AND FILMING

I have written several pieces including letters and articles for magazines, bits and pieces for blogs, congratulatory messages for Provinces and Dioceses observing anniversaries and members celebrating joyful occasions. I have also been communicating and supporting Zonal Trustees and their Provincial Presidents in areas where natural disasters and acts of terrorism have destroyed lives and devastated countries. We pray for God's continued presence and peace in these areas and thank him for the organisations working on the ground and the relief that has been provided.

I was also interviewed and filmed by: Adrian Butcher and his team from Anglican Communion News Network on my plan and vision; live radio interview by UCB Radio on our range of Mother's Day Ethical gifts; and filmed by the Thy Kingdom Come crew on Wave of Prayer.

VISITS

LAMBETH PALACE

I was honoured to receive an invitation to Lambeth Palace in February to meet Archbishop Justin and Mrs. Welby. This was a memorable occasion as they are both such welcoming and humble people. I was accompanied by our Chief Executive and we had a successful meeting as the Archbishop and his team were very interested in the work of Mothers' Union and our progress with MULOA.

I visited the Dioceses of Rochester, Chichester, Peterborough, Worcester and Coventry in the Province of Canterbury in April and May. They were all answering God's call successfully in their own unique and special way. All teams did a splendid job in hosting and preparing programmes which allowed me to interact with members at various locations; visit projects in the church and wider community including the AFIA Caravan at Selsey; visit members at a Spring fair, listen to the stories of lunch club; participate in a prayer group; attend evening prayer and a branch meeting; meet members of Clergy; and above all, worship and enjoy fellowship with the Trustees and members.

I was deeply touched when I visited the Refuges and I pray for Mothers' Union members to reach out and support in whatever way they can so mothers can begin normal life again. Members' Day was one of the highlights of my visits as I met members and observed business sessions, listened to reports, and a presentation by Caroline Clarke on the Modern Day Slavery. I enjoyed delivering keynote addresses, sermons and just speaking at various locations in these Dioceses. May I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all members for their sterling contributions to the work of Mothers' Union in every Diocese. It is because of you we can change lives and transform communities wherever we are placed. May God shower his blessings of peace, joy and prosperity on you as you continue to reach out in love to all those who need you most.

CHURCH HOUSE

I attended a fringe session at Church House accompanied by Becky Weaver-Boyes, one of our UK Regional Development Managers where I was invited to share my experience on the benefits of Companion Dioceses. I also made some worthwhile connections with various leaders including the Bishops from Kenya and India, Anglican Communion leaders and USPG.

ADMISSION

Although I had done many admission services in the past, I was thrilled to do my first one as Worldwide President in the Mary Sumner House Chapel and the second one in Chichester Diocese. Thank you so much Deborah and Becky for this special privilege. I will continue to pray for God's blessings as you use your gifts and talents for the furtherance of God's kingdom.

CLOSING

As we begin Worldwide Council 2019 in the beautiful city of Kigali, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Archbishop, The Most Reverend Dr. Laurent Mbanda, and his wife, Provincial President, Chantal, for hosting this historical meeting and pray that God will bless our time together.

Sheran Harper,
Worldwide President

*At the Commissioning Service in
Southwark Cathedral on 26th February*





Scenes from Kigali

As with all effective Christian conferences, there were times for gathering, worship and presentations. Smaller group work too, for looking at the issues, for reflection and decision.

Over this page, you may read a summary of the key messages as determined here and such meetings of members of the other geographical zone conferences around the world.



Triennial World Council of Mothers' Union 2nd -7th June 2019

Key messages for sharing

Leaders from 30 provinces across the world met to reaffirm the essence of who Mothers' Union is and what they do. As a membership, they agreed the impact and change they wish to make across the world in the years leading up to the 150th anniversary of the movement – in 2026.

To shape the way forward, they had listened to the voices of over 200,000 members worldwide over two years, in a process known as Mothers' Union Listens, Observes and Acts (MULOA).

The key decisions reached:

1. Our identity: Mothers' Union is a global, women led, volunteer movement. United in our diversity and living out our faith, we support individuals and families to transform their lives. Embedded in the Church and community, we have unprecedented reach that gives a voice to the stigmatized and vulnerable around the world.

2. The overall global changes we aspire to make are in the areas of **gender justice, peace and safety, self-reliance and restored relationships** with God, each other, the environment and the stigmatized.

3. A short-list of seven areas was developed – from which three key strategic priorities will be crystallised for programme, policy and advocacy work – after looking further at the data from MULOA and the week's discussions. These are:

Stable livelihoods, reconciliation and conflict resolution, strengthening women and girls' voices to influence change, literacy and education, positive gender roles, gender based violence, and the environment.

4. The values which determine how we work are being non-judgmental, loving and compassionate, persevering and bold.

5. Our approach to working in all our communities is first to listen and observe, then to mobilise our own and surrounding resources. We will work to equip those around us to meet the challenges they face, and where appropriate seek to partner with others enabling us to reach more people, more effectively.

6. In all we do we are committed to operating in line with good financial management, governance and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

7. Creating safe spaces for the vulnerable is a key part of what we do, so we commit to a collective policy on safeguarding, and developing and implementing contextually appropriate procedures consistent with this policy and in line with the guidelines of the Anglican Church.

8. We are an interconnected, global movement, sharing with, and supporting one another to achieve our common goals. We recognise the need for a central charity to support and coordinate this work and agree to contribute towards the associated costs.

We ask the central charity staff team to use the principles above to create a detailed strategic plan for approval by the Worldwide Board in November 2019.



MU Leaders From around the Eastern Pacific



The Archbishop of York with June Houghton after her commissioning in May as Provincial President of York Province in York Minster.



MU Banners at York Minster



At Te Aute College, Archbishops Don Tamihere (Aotearoa) Philip Richardson (New Zealand) and Fereimi Cama (Polynesia)

The NZ Mothers' Union Provincial Team Directory and Contacts

Provincial Chaplain: The Most Rev. John Paterson,
P.O. Box 87255, Meadowbank, Auckland, 1742.

Provincial President: Mrs Joan Neild, 493 Hibiscus Coast
Highway Orewa, Auckland 0931 rjneild@xtra.co.nz,
Phone +64 (0)9 426 3647 or 027 290 7732.

Provincial Treasurer & Media Officer. Mrs Katherine McIntyre,
PO Box 11394, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542
katherine@maxnet.co.nz Phone 09 578 1511

Auckland Diocesan President: Mrs Raewyn Skipper,
19 Larne Ave, Pakuranga, Auckland 2010
Phone 09 576 3418 raewynskipper@gmail.com

Waikato & Taranaki Diocesan President: Ms Valentine Ling-
Ronolea, Flat 3/8 Anzac Parade, Hamilton Central 3204.
Phone 07 838 0399 Mon-Friday after 5.30 pm, or
021 051 3667 saleau85@yahoo.co.nz

Wellington Diocesan President: Ann Desmond,
4 Wedgewood Grove, Raumati Beach, Paraparaumu, 5032
Phone 04 297 0506 or 022 494 1775.
anndesmond4@gmail.com

Christchurch Diocesan President: Mrs Margaret Kenna
15 Coolspring Way, Redwood, Christchurch 8051.
Phone 03 352 8158 MEHK@xtra.co.nz

Newsletter, Facebook and Website

Fresh items of news, letters and contributions from dioceses and branches are invited for the next newsletter in August 2019. Please send these no later than 15 July to:-

The Provincial Secretary: Janice Cheeseman, 14 Cecil Rd,
Epsom, Auckland 1023. Phone 09 630 4127 Or 027 271 5950
Email: caseus@xtra.co.nz

Follow us: **Facebook: Mothers' Union NZ**

Website: www.mothersunionnz.org.nz - a refreshed version is about to be launched..



Have you ever felt disappointed when the picture you sent in to Mothers' Union did not appear in our newsletter? You are not alone! Nine pictures were unusable this time.

Photography with a mobile is not quite the same as with a camera, in that the picture is 'flattened' - distance perception being largely closed up. Otherwise it is similar. Some tips . . .

- ❖ When taking a small group of 3-4 people, don't get too close. If you do, they'll look quite banana shaped. They won't like it.
- ❖ Make sure your focusing is complete before pressing the button.
- ❖ Never take a shot with bright light behind the subjects. (We did our best with the Auckland Cathedral shots - see page 5, and it took much adjustment to get them marginally print-worthy. Bright sunshine makes hard shadows on your subjects' faces too. Beware!
- ❖ Look behind your subjects to be sure the background is not too fussy.
- ❖ Try to attach your picture to an email if you can - most mobile's own programmes mean quality is lost in transit.
- ❖ Disappointments happen here too. Once, a great Masterton picture would have been the front cover feature, if only the file had been bigger. It couldn't be enlarged - such a waste!