

MOTHERS' UNION NZ

In the Anglican Province of AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND AND POLYNESIA

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Newsletter No. 75
September 2019



Bev. Jullien, CEO of Mothers' Union, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Worldwide Mothers' Union President Sheran Harper.

In the General Synod chambers at York, our Worldwide President Sheran Harper received a standing ovation in response to her address she had just given to Bishops, representatives of the Anglican Communion and members of clergy and laity. It truly was an electric moment and so many people came to visit the MU stand to tell us how the speech had inspired them!

Bev. Jullien brings to Mothers' Union considerable knowledge and experience in the corporate and education sectors, and also from a number of non-executive director roles in the not-for-profit sector.



The full text of Sheran Harper's' Speech at York: Pages 7-8
MU Festivals in the Pacific coming up: Page 6



From Joan Neild, Provincial President

Dear Members,



Joan Neild

I want to start in Rwanda. The Mothers' Union World Triennial Presidents' Council Meeting in June was an impressive and embracing conference and included Presidents from all corners of our Global membership.

The Presidents all came prepared for action on our Muloa 3. The compiling of all countries was merged together. It was truly surprising that a lot of the data from all countries was very similar. That indicated that we all have problems and down times, but we all have amazing successes and blessings in our provinces wherever in the world we are. I saw with my own eyes what a difference Mothers' Union has done for Rwanda, and we visited some truly amazing results of working and sharing together. Metamorphosis is our new name to describe our Mothers' Union approach to community transformation, and metamorphosis will now be used to describe our inward looking work (Muloa) and our work engaging with our churches and communities.

Mothers' Union is now an interconnected Global movement, sharing and supporting one another to achieve common goals in our operation, underpinned by prayer, friendship, love and service.

The four overall changes we aspire to make are in the areas of 1. Gender Justice, 2. Peace and Safety, 3. Self-reliance. 4. Restored relationships with God, each other, the Environment and the stigmatised.

Meanwhile back in New Zealand life has been very busy in Mothers' Union, with lots of fellowship and help to communities. There have been Mary Sumner services, soup and roll winter meetings and a meal shared in Stratford with members. I attended St. Mary's Patronal festival in New Plymouth. We are proud of Holy Trinity Otahuhu MU branch reopening, and their enrolments. So a very busy winter has been happening in all our branches despite the weather which has been cool and wet.

"For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have one function, so we, though are many, are one in the body of Christ, and individually members one of another.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, Let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion of our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. We all have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." (Romans 12 v. 4 - 8)

We all are inspired by the writings of Paul the apostle. He tells us all about the values of all our gifts and talents in this passage, and urges us to use them to the Glory of God, that we may use them to serve through our kind doings, whether behind the scenes or in the forefront to build up believers of our actions of love - and so to spread the gospel.

Mothers' Union gives all of its members strength through the prayers we share provincially and worldwide, so we can all accomplish great things for others.

I would like to remind you that October 18-20 are the dates for our Provincial General Meeting. The venue is St. Peter's Cathedral in Hamilton. For further information and registration please email Janice Cheeseman caseus@xtra.co.nz. We do need to know numbers. It would be wonderful if as many of you as possible were to come, even if just for the day on Saturday for the General Meeting, but again please advise us of the numbers for catering. *(Full details on page 3)*

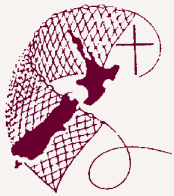
I leave you with this lovely verse from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, ch.15, v. 12. 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope.'

I send you my best love and blessings.

God bless you all, Joan Neild

Provincial President Mothers' Union





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



The Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki



Inauguration of the new Diocesan President. Rosemary Bent and Valentine Ling-Ronolea standing before the Archbishop at St Peter's Cathedral in Hamilton for Valentine's inauguration as Diocesan President for the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki. Mothers' Union members from Waikato, Taranaki and Auckland attended to support Valentine as she took on the responsibility of leading Mothers' Union members in her Diocese.

The Service was one of dedication, joy and celebration.

The Mary Sumner Window at Eltham

The window is in memory of Ivy May Petch 1903-1961 and was donated by her husband in appreciation of the work of the All Saints' Mothers' Union.

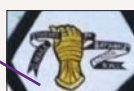
The Mary Sumner window, one of two installed in All Saints' in the 1960s is understood to be unique in New Zealand. The 6ft high window is an exquisite life-like painting of Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union movement.

The Mothers' Union badge is featured in the upper part of the window. Mothers' Union prayer:

'All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for you: and every life I touch, quicken by your spirit, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.'

Mary Sumner is depicted in a vibrant blue dress representing meditation, contemplation and loyalty. It also represents heaven and eternity. Indeed, she is carrying a copy of the Holy Bible. She looks as if she has just arrived for worship. The purple background indicates wisdom, love and justice. The green grass indicates new life.

At the bottom right hand corner is the insignia of the makers, the only time one of G. Maile and Son's windows was signed.



**Richard and Joan Neild with
members of the Mothers'
Union at Stratford.**



❖ 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. 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.

Thank you Rosemary . . .

In handing over responsibility to Valentine Ling-Ronolea in Hamilton, Rosemary Bent concluded a second period of office as Diocesan President. Her service to the aims and objects of Mothers' Union dates back to when she was admitted as a member of the afternoon MU group at St Mary's New Plymouth in May 1976, having been prepared for MU membership by Mrs Robertshawe. From the outset she served as Branch Secretary there, until her husband's appointment as Dean at the Cathedral in Suva took them to Fiji in 1985.

Since there were no MU groups in Suva, Rosemary attended meetings of the Association of Anglican Women while there. Under the guidance of Mrs Betty Hurst she had joined AAW originally in Wellington in 1969 as a young businesswoman, and subsequently had periods of service for AAW as an Overseas and Outreach Convenor. However as a Lone MU Member herself and being aware of the presence in Suva of some MU members from Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands (temporarily in Fiji while their husbands were studying), she held MU gatherings for these women in the Deanery.

Back in Te Awamutu NZ in 1989, Rosemary joined the MU branch at St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton before her husband's calling took them overseas again from 1994 -1996, this time to Papua New Guinea. There Rosemary attended the MU Branch at the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Popondetta.

Back in NZ once more in 1996, Rosemary rejoined her branch at St Mary's New Plymouth. From 1998 until 2008 she was Diocesan President in the Diocese of Waikato, before becoming Provincial President from 2008 until 2011. In 2010 she received permission from Bishop Victoria to formalise the MU Branch in Christchurch which Margaret Wilson had been working with and supporting. In 2012 she visited Tonga where, at the invitation of Amelia Tu'inukuafe, the Diocesan President, she shared some MU training of new and prospective MU members. Rosemary became Diocesan President again in the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki in 2013, a post she held until this year.

These long years of service amount to a significant offering of time and talents on Rosemary's part to the work of Mothers' Union, for which those members in particular whose lives she has touched, are very grateful.



Ten ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting.
(Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing.
(James 1:9)
3. Give without sparing.
(Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing.
(Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing.
(Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending.
(Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint.
(Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering.
(Corinthians 13:7)
9. Prove without punishing.
(Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting.
(Proverbs 13:17)

- The Diocese of Auckland -

On 7 August our Chaplain, The Right Reverend Ross Bay, Bishop of Auckland, presided over our Mary Sumner Day Service in the Bishop Selwyn Chapel at the Cathedral of The Holy Trinity in Parnell. It was well attended by Mothers' Union members together with the AAW Diocesan President and members of AAW. We also welcomed Reverend Igasiatama Mokole, Vicar of Holy Trinity Otahuhu and his wife Alaimalo. During the service Bishop Ross presented Mrs Margaret Wilson with a Certificate in recognition of her service to Mothers' Union. This certificate had come from our Worldwide President Mrs Sheran Harper from Mary Sumner House in London - a well deserved award. Our guest speaker was Jennifer Cassidy a Social Worker with Counties Manukau Health and she was joined by Mrs Mary Ann France from Quilting in Prison Ministry who set up a display in the Bishop Monteith Centre for us to view while we shared in a lovely lunch.

Kohi/Orakei On 10 August I joined the Mothers' Union members of Kohi/Orakei branch at St. Andrews in Kohimarama. Mothers' Union members "cooked up a storm" and we all enjoyed a fantastic breakfast with Parish members and had a great morning of fun with line dancing, karaoke plus plenty of chat.



Holy Trinity, Otahuhu To cap off our week it was off to Holy Trinity Otahuhu to a lovely service where the Revd Igasiatama Mokole decommissioned the old Mothers' Union Banner and blessed a beautiful new Banner.

At this service we enrolled 13 new members into Mothers' Union, including both the Revd Iga and his wife Alaimalo together with their daughter, plus 2 other men and 8 women – a good start for this new group. It was a wonderful morning and again another enjoyable meal was shared. A big thank you goes to both Archdeacon Taimalelagi Fagamalama

Tuatagaloa-Leota and the Revd Igasiatama Mokole for their perseverance and encouragement in reviving Mothers' Union at Otahuhu.

Papatoetoe On a sad note we farewelled the Revd Edgar Tu'inukuafe on Friday 16 August at St. George's Papatoetoe (see the obituary below). He was brother-in-law of our long serving Mothers' Union member and recently retired Diocesan President in Polynesia Mrs Amelia Tu'inukuafe. Thank you to all those Mothers' Union members who came to support the Tu'inukuafe family at this time and in particular thank you to our Provincial President Mrs Joan Neild, who travelled from Orewa to attend.

A few days later we were to learn that our Diocesan 1st Vice President Mrs Pamela Ferry had fallen in her garden, had broken 3 bones in her ankle, was residing in North Shore Hospital and would be in plaster for 6 weeks. Please pray for her as she recovers from this.

Pukekohe Barbara Jeffs of Pukekohe Mothers' Union celebrated her 90th birthday and we sent her a card of congratulations. Barbara now resides in a rest home in the Thames area.

We offer our condolences to Archbishop John Paterson, his wife Marion and their family following the recent death of his brother in Wellington. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

Thank you to all our members of Mothers' Union who have been a great support, attending all our events during this busy month. Some of you I know caught trains and buses to do so. You are a great support to me and your executive.

May you all enjoy the beautiful spring flowers which are coming out - particularly the daffodils.

Love and Blessings, Raewyn Skipper, Auckland Diocesan President

An Obituary for the Reverend Edgar Max Tu'inukuafe (16.5.1936 – 11.8.2019)

Edgar was the Tongan Priest who led the Tongan Mission Community that meet at St. George's Anglican Church, Papatoetoe. Edgar had become well known to Mothers' Union members throughout his time at St. George's and we always found him to be a very kind-hearted, humble and compassionate man who will be greatly missed.

Continued over the page . . .

St. George's was filled to capacity and people were standing outside to say their farewells to Edgar. He had not only been a Priest but also a Teacher and Lecturer and a good many young students attended his funeral. He had helped so many gain a good education and had also helped his people with their immigration issues.

To the Tu'inukuafe family we send our sincere condolences, love and prayers.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

God Bless, Raewyn Skipper
Auckland Diocesan President

Birkenhead Christine Ball, member of Mothers' Union at All Saints' Birkenhead writes: On 26 June, All Saints' Birkenhead MU held our annual Bucket Day.

Members brought buckets, pegs, and cleaning materials, for donation to the Granger Grove residential programme for young mothers, at the Anglican Trust for Women and



Children in Otahuhu, South Auckland. Two of the staff at the ATWC, Katrina and Paula McKenzie, spoke to us about the programme, how much they enjoy working with the young mums and their children, and the great benefits the programme achieves for both parents and children.

At the end, we helped the staff fill up their car with all the donated materials. It was quite a sight!

One of our oldest members, Jocelyn Windsor, in her 90s had knitted 19 pairs of slippers. She is in the front of the photo, wearing red jacket & blue trousers.

Also in the photo are ATWC staff (5th & 6th from left), our Vicar, the Rev'd Jordan Greatbatch, and to his left in the back row, our leader, Pamela Ferry."

- Te Haahi Mihingare ki Te Taitokerau-



Unloading clothes, bedding, carpets, furniture children's needs at 3 Mission Place, Kaitiaki. A client's child from the Crèche has a strangle-hold on Social Worker Tina Walker, Te Whare Ruruhau o Meri Finance Officer Bardia Matiu, Oratia's Paul Goldsmith, & local Manager/Social Worker Martha Reihana-Ngatote.

Before stopping at Kaitiaki, the SUV and trailer delivered Mothers' Union gifts received from Raewyn Skipper as well as others' donations to local MU hero: 'Auntie' Norma Stephens in the Karikari Peninsula. Norma has since recruited the Revd Cherie Rameka of Cable Bay, whose role will be to seek out needy and retired people living in what she calls 'the valleys'. Norma Stevens herself will mainly reach urban residents.

Captions on the left tell much of the story: 'Te Whare' social workers relate to abused clients and the resulting family needs which may also include help with parenting and education. Clients come from Kaitiaki, Kaikohe and further afield.

The final call this time was to MU leader Norma Evans in Kaitiaki itself. Norma is fully involved in both Church and Community, with amazing contacts to find who needs help.

- The Diocese of Christchurch -



MU Gifts for Christchurch People Pictured are gift bags that Judith has made for filling with gifts for deprived women in Eastern Parish areas of Christchurch.

Suggestion actioned Joan Neild's suggestion of arranging a time to invite people who might not be able to come during the week to Mothers' Union was discussed. We are hoping to have a planned morning tea on a Saturday in October.



- The Diocese of Wellington -



St Mark's, Wellington Central

Margaret Jones from the MU Branch at St Mark's, Wellington reports that their little group celebrated being 109 years this month. You have been so faithful. This must be one of the oldest groups in the area.

What a remarkable achievement. Congratulations and best wishes from your Provincial Team.

Church of the Epiphany, Masterton.

This is a great branch in the Wairarapa, with about 35 members and just 'beetling on' faithfully year after year.

The MU Branch at the Church of the Epiphany in Masterton, reports that one of their long-standing members has died just short of her 100th Birthday.

"Today I would like to honour the memory of Edith Stewart. A wonderful woman, her Christian faith remains an inspiration to us all.

"Her family, Church and the Mothers' Union were central to her life. Mothers' Union began in our Church of the Epiphany in 1948 when we became a church in our own right.

"A member of Young Wives, she graduated to Mothers' Union in 1952. A dedicated member, she upheld our Mothers' Union principles wholeheartedly, held every position available and was Leader for a number of years.

"Edith received her 50 year service badge, which she greatly treasured, in 2002. She was loyal, steadfast, loving and kind.

"Her memory will remain an ideal which we will always desire to emulate in our own personal membership of the Mothers' Union."

Written by Bernice Olsen, a former Branch Leader.



Edith being interviewed by a reporter from the 'Wairarapa Times Age.'



In God's Wide World

St Barnabas Cathedral,
Honiara, Solomon Islands.



A Special Occasion - travelling to attend Mothers' Union Celebrations

On Monday 23 September, Margaret Wilson and I travel to Tonga to represent our Province at the 60th anniversary of Mothers' Union in Tonga on Friday 27 September. We last visited Tonga in the party visiting Tonga to introduce Mrs Lynne Tembey to the Mothers' Union. It is an honour to be asked to attend their special celebrations.

The next day we depart Tonga for Honiara where we have been invited to attend the 100 years celebrations for Mothers' Union in the Solomon Islands. Margaret and I will be among the 13 overseas guests attending the celebrations. The number of members from Vanuatu is 43 and altogether their Mothers' Union members number around 1000 members. It is an honour to have been invited and we look forward to what promises to be a never forgotten experience.

The Mothers' Union in The Solomon Islands was founded by Mrs Emily Sprott in 1919. She was the wife of Rev. Rudolph Sprott and they hailed from Wales. They were sent out in a delegation from England by the Melanesian Mission to help the islanders find peace and independence through Christianity.

Emily's story is very special. So we intend to make a feature about it when we have the photos of the celebrations. We look forward to telling you all about it.

With love and peace to all, Joan



MU Worldwide President's Address given to the Church of England Synod, July 2019

Good Afternoon! It is indeed an honour and a privilege for me to stand here as an Anglican Communion Representative, to address the General Synod of the Church of England. This is a dream come true as I have attended Diocesan Synod in Guyana both as the Recording Secretary and the Mothers' Union Representative for a total of 12 years and hoped that one day I could experience another kind of Synod and here I am.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for their ongoing relationship with Mothers' Union and for giving us this amazing opportunity to be here ... the first ever in the history of Mothers' Union and in the life of General Synod. Your Graces, on behalf of Mothers' Union, I thank you.

I am Sheran Harper, the first Worldwide President of Mothers' Union from outside the British Isles. At my Commissioning in February at Southwark Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury challenged me to make Mothers' Union known. He said, 'no longer must Mothers' Union be the best kept secret in the Anglican Communion' and today I confidently stand at General Synod and take on this challenge to ensure Mothers' Union is visible throughout the length and breadth of the Anglican Communion and beyond ... and that our stories of impact which bring hope, life and a future are shared widely So others could be inspired.

I am sure you will agree with me when I say that the gift of Mothers' Union is one of the greatest assets of the Anglican Communion. We are still existing even after 142 years with a vast network like no other ... strategically placed at the heart of every community ... well-positioned in 84 countries around the world ... with a membership of 4 million ... making us the number one, oldest and largest women's movement in the world ... all actively concerned with lasting transformation of individuals and communities, and working with people of all faiths or none. I believe our success is due to members being driven by a love for God and all humanity.

As part of my long and fulfilling journey of serving the Anglican Church and Mothers' Union for over 32 years, I was blessed to visit over 20 countries as the lead of a key area of Mothers' Union work – the parenting programme. Through this I was able to gain significant knowledge of the issues and challenges faced by the Church, and an understanding for the context and culture within which Mothers' Union operates across the world.

I have experienced first-hand the benefits of Mothers' Union and the Church working together with one vision in mission and ministry. I have seen the capacity of indigenous Clergy and Church Leaders in very remote communities strengthened through Mothers' Union Programmes not only in building the Church but also in encouraging transformation through women's empowerment. Gloria in the Amazon experienced domestic violence in the home for many years and now helped by our programmes, she is a village councillor and has a say in the way government finances are spent in her village. She also ensures that the well-being of the family is priority on every agenda.

From 2012-2014 it was Mothers' Union that led the process for the development of the first Code of Ethics and Child Protection Policy for the Church in my home Diocese, Guyana. This was necessary as parenting groups were reporting activities that warranted the establishment of such a Policy.

The document was completed and accepted by Synod in 2014 In keeping with the continuing focus on Safeguarding I am happy to report that just 2 weeks ago, Diocesan Synod in Guyana passed a resolution that the Code of Ethics and Child Protection Policy be revised and updated for use with immediate effect. Such are the benefits of us working together as one ... in the Body of Christ. And indeed Mothers' Union globally reaffirmed this need for creating safe spaces at our recently concluded Worldwide Council.

The opportunities to know Christ and make him known are numerous wherever we are placed, and Mothers' Union is like the fertile soil that accepts us just the way we are. It nurtures us and helps us grow and discover the gifts and talents that we never knew existed ... and even better, uses them for the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

It is on my Mothers' Union journey that I have encountered Jesus countless times, so I know he is real and alive in our Anglican Church, in fact he is real and live everywhere

As a member I have felt like a true missionary when I took off my shoes, rolled up my sleeves, and worked hand-in-hand with God's people ... in several countries, Bishops and members alike ... reaching remote inaccessible communities by the Grace of God bringing the Gospel alive. I remember working deep in the Dry Chaco of Argentina and it was a Bishop (originally from England) who was my co-facilitator and translator ... Because he and his wife chose to walk the journey with us, they continue to encourage unity in the midst of conflict ... and peace and reconciliation among 4 indigenous tribes.

It was only last month that I met and embraced Mama Elizabeth, the Provincial President of South Sudan ... who has lived through the ongoing ethnic conflict since 2013 with senseless killings that continue to destroy so many innocent lives leaving children orphaned and vulnerable to diseases, starvation and finally a heart-breaking demise. Mama Elizabeth, a strong advocate for peace and reconciliation, has played a key role in helping the Mothers' Union and Church together amidst this turmoil.

It was Mama Elizabeth who led a delegation of 160 MU Leaders from South Sudan to a gathering in Northern Uganda in February ... their first gathering in 10 years. They were women from warring tribes ... not speaking to each other. But by the conclusion of their time together ... they left healed and inspired, singing and dancing, and exchanging phone numbers. Such is the power of forgiveness and the joy of walking in the light. Just this morning, Father Joseph who is here with us said... 'thank you for organising the gathering of the women, the Dioceses are now speaking to each other again.' To God be the glory!

Many of us here will never have experienced the extremes of South Sudan but I am sure you can identify with a little town in England that Mothers' Union and the Church have been working together. This town is facing challenges due to isolation and deprivation, with few employment opportunities.

Mothers' Union has been providing a safe space in a school where parents can gather for coffee, and with our members making themselves available to listen and lend support. This initiative is only a year old but one success story so far is that in addressing loneliness through this simple yet profound initiative ... the result has been an adult Baptism held in that school.

As Mothers' Union members we do so much more than just serve tea, coffee and cake It is tea, coffee and cake with a mission!

Nicky Gumbel said ... nothing comes close to the bonds of friendship that are built while breaking bread together.

A few weeks ago I visited the Ministry of Cake at a Hospital in Chichester Diocese. They were pieces of cake lovingly baked, wrapped and placed in a little basket. But it is the ministry that went with the cake that moved me to tears.

After existing for over 142 years, like little old ladies ... you can well imagine just how tired we were feeling. So 2 years ago the Holy Spirit gave Mothers' Union a vision. We became very excited and typical of us as women we prayed and went straight for it, some of us giving our husbands no choice but to join us on the journey.

So over the past 2 years, we have been engaged in global conversations, listening to over 200,000 members around the world, so we could really understand our purpose in a modern society and in addition look at ways we could make a difference in the future.

This process culminated at our Worldwide Council in Rwanda last month. 72 global leaders representing 30 Provinces gathered. By the end of our week together, the voices of our members were very clear in recognising just how united we are despite our diversity – wherever we are in the world, the core of Mothers' Union remains the same.

We are so sure that we want to make changes in gender justice, peace, safety and helping people to help themselves.

We recognised that very deeply rooted in our heart is a strong urge to restore relationships – with God, ourselves, each other and the environment. Our members strongly feel the need to connect and reconnect with the Church, and to building relationships that would enable us to work together for the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

I am delighted to report that our global leaders left Rwanda feeling refreshed and revitalised in their identity, and with renewed confidence to reach out even more to others outside the church.

Already they are starting to do things differently, for example, in South Africa members have changed their way of working with street children; they have moved from just feeding them each day to partnering with the relevant authorities to reintegrate them into communities.

Members also said ...

We have learned from each other's Dioceses and Provinces in recognising the importance of working with and through the Church.

We have recognised that our own behaviours have not always been helpful.

We regret this and are now ready to listen and engage in the right way... and in a way that is beneficial to all.

For example, an exciting project which is developing with the church here in the UK is called Metamorphosis. So Metamorphosis is Mothers' Union facilitating a process alongside the leadership of the Clergy. It is based on participatory Bible Study, which enables the laity and clergy alike to reflect on their calling ... recognise the resources they already have and gain the confidence to reach out effectively in the community.

I think the results so far are exciting – for example, Sally gained the confidence to reach out to other churches and run a Service on the village green which attracted many, including dog walkers from the community.

And John commented on how reflecting on the story of the woman touching the Cloak of Jesus has helped parents in a primary school to open up and share their own stories of loneliness and isolation. They also recognised that God knew, loved and accepted them too.

If you would like to find out more about this new and inspiring initiative then I invite you to attend our fringe event on Saturday at 7.00pm. Members in the UK would love to explore with you how MU can work in this or other areas of your mission.

In closing and as I reflect, I am amazed at the way we are aligned to God's plan and purpose for unity in the Church and wider community. Recently, a wonderful Bishop here in England asked me if I had a choice, what one thing would I like help with to make it a reality and my response was ...

I have experienced the immeasurable benefits of close working relationships between the Clergy and Mothers' Union ... so my greatest desire would be to see even closer working relationships and partnerships ... between the Clergy and Mothers' Union at Parish, Diocesan and Provincial levels

Because I strongly believe that together we can move mountains ... and achieve above and beyond all we can ask or imagine.

I pray that we resist the temptation to be distracted by the challenges that face us instead let us remain focused on the prize before us, and work together to ensure lives are filled with purpose and meaning, and at the same time bring more and more people to Christ.

Knowing Christ and making him known brings a peace that surpasses all understanding and releases joy everlasting.

May God bless the General Synod of the Church of England.

I thank you.



From Revd Dr. Bruce Nicholls I am pleased to report to you on our important two weeks in Singapore, visiting theological colleges and churches and attending the General Assembly of the Asia Theological Association. We celebrated ATA's founding in Singapore in 1950-50 years ago at which I was present. With me at the Assembly was Dr Abraham Saggu and his wife Esther, of Nepal, and Dr Peter Thakurdas, of Pakistani birth and now a New Zealand physician.

Peter Drucker, the famed management guru once said, "Culture eats strategy for breakfast." We interpret this to mean that success in our mission strategy depends on our implementing it within the culture of the people we are seeking to reach. Our past failure to do this has resulted in few converts among educated Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims. I felt this deeply when teaching in Myanmar where in addition to 9 million tribal Christians there were only a few Christians with a Burmese Buddhist heritage, the national culture.

Our teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ, lived and taught in a Jewish culture but in his death and resurrection, he began a new culture which embraced both Jews and Gentiles. Our challenge in Asia is to transform the proclaiming of Christ from a western cultural background to one of Asian cultural values. The seven plenary speakers at the General Assembly, all millennials born since 1985, struggled with this issue in their understanding of the future church, the theme of the Assembly. They emphasized building community, living authentically, ignoring denominational barriers and engaging in the creative arts. Their lives are now being shaped by a digital culture which is both good and dangerous.

Our challenge is to interpret the Gospel in Asian cultures. We will emphasize God as the creator of all things in the context of a Hindu and Buddhist view that creation is eternal. Our Christian ethic of sin and judgment will complement the Asian ethic of honour and shame. We proclaim the resurrection hope of eternal life to the Hindu or Buddhist who longs for death—to be freed from the bondage of endless rebirth. I aimed to do this in my new book, *Building Bridges from Asian Faiths to Jesus in the Gospels*, which was released, along with other publications, on August 12, the first night of the General Assembly. In it I avoided western confrontation and rational thinking and emphasized an Asian understanding of building relationships. All this to inspire inquirers to read the Gospels and find out for themselves who Jesus is and why he died. My book will be available from Regnum Books, Oxford, and from Amazon.com or from me in Auckland.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support. This enables the members of our Research and Development Trust to travel to the countries of south Asia as teachers in Christ's way, to change lives and transform cultures to the glory of God. *In Christ, Bruce.*



Former head of the New Zealand Church Missionary Society, Steve Maina, has been consecrated Bishop of Nelson. The Bishop-elect was born, raised and had served as an Anglican Priest in Kenya.



Jenny Dawson and Margaret Wilson at the National Council of Women.



Bishop Waitohiariki (Wai) Quayle is the first Maori woman to be consecrated as the Pihopa / Bishop of a Maori Bishopric. Her 'Te Upoko o te Ika' covers much the same area (with variations) as the Diocese of Wellington.



Provincial Treasurer and Media Officer Katherine McIntyre has been visiting Jerusalem and enjoying her time there very much.

She was attending a course at St George's College Jerusalem, where Ivica Gregurec, the Precentor at our Cathedral, has attended courses recently.

Katherine is currently representing us at the World Annual General Meeting of the Mothers' Union which meets from 19 September at Portsmouth in England.

The NZ Mothers' Union Provincial Team Directory and Contacts

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Newsletter, Facebook and Website

Fresh items of news, letters and contributions from dioceses and branches are invited for the next newsletter in November 2019. Please send these no later than 31 October to:-

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Observing Mary Sumner Day at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Margaret Cunningham is pictured with Mary Ann France from Quilting in Prison Ministry.

Right: Mary Sumner Lecturer Jennifer Cassidy, a Social Worker with Counties Manukau Health, standing with Auckland Diocesan President Raewyn Skipper.