



## Messy Church Goes Large! *Can we make 600 gingerbread people?*



On 17th June the Children's and Young People's team of the Diocese are running a huge Messy Church event at the Cathedral from 2.30 - 5 p.m., for children and groups from all over the Diocese. The theme is 'The Body of Christ', and it will focus on all sorts of fun activities concerned with our bodies, ending with worship and food. The Mothers' Union have been asked to do the following:

- Provide 600 undecorated gingerbread people (or shortbread, or other biscuit recipe)
- To run a stall to help children decorate 'their' person
- To serve cold drinks for the children throughout the event
- To help with registration at the start

Could you help with any of these? If so, please contact me as soon as possible and let me know what you can offer. The similar event last year, which was featured in our last Journal, was huge fun, and I feel sure this will also be very memorable.

*Barbara Packer*

## Retreat at Shepherds Dene

Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 7th June, led by Pat Craighead. See the last Journal for full details and the booking form.

## Diocesan Council

Come to Diocesan Council on Friday 31st March from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Any member is welcome to attend! At the meeting at St. John's Church, Kingston Park, following refreshments, we will start with a brief Annual General Meeting, then the meeting will give a broad view of all that is going on in the Mothers' Union in our Diocese. The papers for the meeting will reach Branch Leaders in good time. After Midday Prayers, Marian Pope will speak to us with the theme 'Faith in Action: New life in the Mothers' Union'. 'Faith in Action' is the Mothers' Union theme for this year, and Marian is an inspirational speaker. She is the Diocesan Training and Development Manager at Mary Sumner House, and has been very much appreciated by many of us in the past. The meeting will finish no later than 1pm, to fit in with the 3 hour parking limit in the area.



*Barbara*

## Wanted!

Every week about three men are discharged from 'the Departure Lounge' at Acklington prison without a family to receive them. They may go to a hostel, or may even land up on the street. They often leave with nothing but the clothes they were wearing on entry. Can we help them by providing a small backpack containing toiletries (including a small towel and disposable razor), together with the kind of things we put in the shoe boxes, including a change of underwear and socks? If so, please contact me ([lindabennworth@sky.com](mailto:lindabennworth@sky.com)) or bring them to Council on 31st March. I can source nice inexpensive backpacks if needed.

Look out in the next Journal for much more about this, and about other ways in which we can help prisoners. *Linda*

## Diocesan Publications Secretary

Are you computer literate, and fairly well-organised? Are you happy recording and paying in cheques? If so, you may be able to help by organising our orders for Families First. We are grateful to Joyce Elrod, who has fulfilled this task for a number of years, and she will be happy to help whoever takes over. She sends out the current lists to Branch Leaders, receives the new lists and payments, and returns everything to Mary Sumner House. The magazines are dispatched to us individually by post, so there is no distribution to do. The work involved is between May and September. If you feel you could do this, please contact Lynne Craggs, or Joyce Elrod to discuss the role.

## Lindisfarne Archdeaconry Festival

**Thursday 25th May at 10.30am**

In The Great Hall, Hexham Abbey. Guest speaker in the morning will be Margaret Sentamu, wife of the Archbishop of York and a Mothers' Union member. This will be a very interesting event led by an inspirational speaker, so booking is essential, Please contact Sheila Walker  
smwalker59@btinternet.com Telephone: 01434322369.

**Archdeaconry Festival Eucharist** in the Abbey at 2 p.m. when everyone is welcome. Praise will be led by the Mothers' Union choir.

## Speakers Booklet

I am in the process of producing a new booklet to replace the Speakers' list. So that we can keep all members up-to-date in

developments in the worldwide work of MU, it is essential for us to have speakers prepared to present items relating to current MU and family life issues and other topics which touch our Aims and Objectives. However, in the next booklet we also aim to include ideas for programmes which give us all the opportunity to share our thoughts – a bit of DIY! We have great experience to share around our families, our Church and the Mothers' Union – and our country. So let us know what you think might be a great idea for a branch meeting, things to do, discussion starters. If you think you could share the occasional talk on a subject appropriate to MU, it would be wonderful. Listen out for more on this at Council on 31 March. Please, - no 'Preservation of hedgehogs'! I look forward to being inundated with emails (jenniejonespcdc@hotmail.com) or a quick call to 0191 267 7829! God bless

*Jennie*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 2nd** Cathedral Service Day: Newcastle East Deanery

**16th** Trustees Meeting: Church House: 10 for 10.30 a.m.

**18th** Diocesan Members' Day at Church House, 10 for 10:30a.m

**25th** Lady Day: Deanery services around this day

**31st** Diocesan Council: St. John, Kingston Park 10 for 10.30 a.m.

**April 6th** Cathedral Service Day: Corbridge, Hexham & Bellingam Deaneries

**8th** Mothers' Union Friends

**14th** Deadline for Journal articles

**May 4th** Cathedral Service Day and meeting: Action & Outreach Unit (**note change of date**)

**19th** Diocesan Members' Day and distribution of Journals: Church House, 10.30 a.m. onwards

**25th** Lindisfarne Archdeaconry Festival at Hexham Abbey

**June 6 - 7th** Retreat at Shepherd's Dene

**July 15th** Diocesan Communion Service at St George's Cullercoats (**N.B. Saturday**)

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