



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

This 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, Mothers' Union is shining a light on violence against women and girls, with the clear message that it is not ok. We are calling on communities around the world to understand the many different forms of abuse that gender-based violence takes, from controlling behaviour by a partner to rape as a weapon of war.

All branches are asked to join the cause on 25th November in a 'Global Moment' to raise awareness of and stand in solidarity against gender-based violence. At midday, wherever you are, mark the start of these 16 Days with a lighted candle and a time of prayer or reflection. Changing culture to end gender-based violence takes all of us working together to spread the message that 'IT IS NOT OK!'

In the UK specifically, we are calling on the Government to redress the injustice in the new child maintenance system, for victims of domestic abuse.

For a full range of ideas for activities you could get involved in, please look at MU downloadable resources Mothers' Union 16 Days of Activism Resources MSH would love to hear about any events or activities you are planning for 16 Days. Let us know your plans at: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MU16days/>

Gladys

I would like to pay tribute to Gladys McCoulough, who died on 20th July after a long battle with Cancer. Over many years Gladys was our inspiration in our Action & Outreach work, developing new projects and inspiring us to work for them. There will be a longer tribute to Gladys in the Journal, but, meanwhile, we send love to her husband, Tom, and their family. *Barbara*



Tickets

I have a few spare tickets for the General Meeting and Service in Edinburgh (Sept 30th and 29th respectively). If interested, please contact me, using the contact details overleaf. *Barbara*

Crafts to support faith

Karenza Passmore from the Resource Centre at Church House is asking for any information from branches who produce arts and craft works to help promote and support faith. Information about banners, kneelers, and any other project would be welcome. Please contact Linda Benneworth - lindabenneworth@sky.com with details.

Visitors from Botswana!

In September a group from our linked Diocese of Botswana will be visiting. There will be 6 ladies in the group, 3 of whom are M.U. members. On Thursday 7th, all the ladies will come to the Cathedral for Midday Prayers, and lunch in the Dog Leap café. Please do come! It will be good to hear of life in Botswana, and share Mothers' Union news. *Barbara*

Welcome to Council!

On Friday 6th October we will hold our Autumn Council at St. John's Church, Kingston Park. Coffee and tea will be served from 6.30 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7 p.m. (*please note the new, earlier times*). We will be sure to finish by 9.15 p.m. to fit in with the parking rules, but the Metro is also very close. After a time of worship led with our new Mothers' Union Choir we will have the opportunity to review the many exciting aspects of our work and life together. Please do consider coming to Council, even if you are not a Council member: you will have a warm welcome, and gain a better idea of Mothers' Union life outside your own Branch, as well as meeting other members. The reports for Council will be available in good time, so that you can digest them and be ready with any queries.

At the end of the evening I will tell you about our Database survey, and we will each have the opportunity to fill in a questionnaire for ourselves, to make sure we are all comfortable with it, before members complete it in Branches. *Barbara*

Database

Mary Sumner House have asked us to help them complete a database of all our members. This is to give them a better idea of who our members are. It is also required of all membership organisations that they should be able to communicate matters of interest to their members. We also need the choice of which kinds of information we would like to receive (or not receive!). In this Diocese we have decided that it will be simplest if each member is asked to fill in a paper questionnaire. The questionnaires will be ready for you to take home at Council – one for each member - and we hope to have them all back by Paying-in Day in the New Year.



We will then look for about a dozen people who would be happy to input one Deanery's worth of information onto a database (it is extremely user-friendly, so the task should not be hard!).

The database will be extremely secure, and can only be accessed by trained officers at Mary Sumner House, and by some of our M.U. officers in the Diocese. It will not be 'sold on' to companies! But we also have a lot of choice about how much information we provide, so no-one need feel anxious.

Hello from the editor

Hello, I'm Daniel, I'm 17 and I am the editor of this Newsletter. For a young person, I'm rather heavily involved within the diocese. Firstly, I work as a Business Administration Apprentice for the Diocese of Newcastle. This is a job in which I have lots of varied roles, from managing social media and post to assisting at Diocesan Synod (you may have seen me behind the sound desk) and taking photographs at events. I am also a member of the Newcastle Readers Board Communication group and I also manage communications at my own church, St. Peter's in Monkseaton. I love what I'm doing so far. I hope that my apprenticeship, along with all the freelance work I am doing, will help me to develop my skills further



Calendar of Events

September

- 7th** Service Days & Midday Prayers: Tynemouth
- 14th** Trustees Meeting @ Church House. 10 for 10.30am
- 16th** Diocesan Members Day at Church House. 10 for 10.30am
- 21st** Alnwick Deanery: Quiet Day 10-3.30pm, "Words of the risen Lord", at Alnmouth Friary led by Bishop John Packer. Contact Mrs Norma Willmott (01665 577456) for more details
- 29th & 30th** Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh

October

- 5th** Service Days & Midday Prayers: Bedlington
- 6th** Diocesan Council St John's Church, Kingston Park, Tea/coffee 6.30pm, Meeting 7.00pm
- 7th** Friends Meeting St Aidan's, Morpeth 10am. Speaker Steve Forster
- 18th** 120th Anniversary at St John Whorlton @ 2pm
- 21st** Hexham & Bellingham Deanery: Deanery Coffee Morning, Bardon Mill Village Hall @ 10-12noon

November

- 2nd** Service Days & Midday Prayers: Diocesan Members

December

- 1st** Coffee Morning at Church House 10.30-12noon to receive Christmas Shoe Boxes and distribute Journals.
- 4th** West Deanery: Advent Praise in Holy Cross, Fenham @ 11am
Hexham & Bellingham Deanery: Advent Carol Service in Hexham Abbey @ 2pm
- 7th** Service Days & Midday Prayers: Faith & Policy Unit
- 11th** Morpeth Deanery: Advent Carol Service, St James's Church, Morpeth @ 7pm
- 11th** Tynemouth Deanery: Deanery Advent Carols, St Peter's, Monkseaton @ 2pm



▲ Members of St. Peter's Monkseaton MU braved the elements on their Mary Sumner Walk along Whitley Bay seafront.

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