**THE MOTHERS’ UNION – NEWCASTLE DIOCESE**

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in the church of St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park, on Friday 18 March 2016 at 10.30 am. There were 109 members present and apologies had been received from a further 20.

Diocesan President Barbara Packer welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those attending for the first time. Diocesan Chaplain Revd Jane Scott presided over a short Meditation ending with the Mothers’ Union prayer. The names of those who had died since the last meeting of Council were read: Doris Rutherford, Ethel Moore, Joan Little, Hilary Stanger-Leathes, Joyce Wright, Elsie Coates, Enid Garrow, Mabel McInnes, Helen Cuthbert, Helen Matthews, Molly Fairbairn, Vera Johnson, Nancy Hudspith, Mary Foreman, Jean Goddard, Christine Monk.

Barbara Packer presented to the Chaplain the following Officers for commissioning/re-commissioning: Margaret Crawforth (AFIA holidays rep), Sheila Smith (Indoor Members’ contact), Jennifer Brown (Prayer and Spiritual Education rep), Lorna Beadle (Prayer Chain contact), Jennie Jones (Training Officer), Andrew Willmott (Branch Report Recorder) and Elizabeth Brown (Trustee, Tynemouth Deanery Leader). A Long Service Award was presented to Mary Cummings who had been a member for fifty years.

**Minutes of the 2015** Annual General Meeting previously circulated were taken as read, adopted on the proposal of Judith Cure seconded by Gladys McCoulough, and signed by the President. There were no matters arising.

**The Annual Report for 2015** prepared by former President Jennifer Snowden had been previously circulated and Barbara thanked Jennifer for this; she felt the work being achieved was impressive.

**The Financial Report for 2015** was presented by retiring Treasurer Jean Barrass; the end of year balance of £35,910 was healthy although membership had dropped by 44. The total in the Indoor Members’ fund at the year end had been substantially increased by donations following the funeral of a member in the Ponteland Branch, and other funds were satisfactory. On behalf of the meeting Anne Lloyd thanked Jean for her efficiency; a gift of a token and flowers was supported by a warm round of applause.

The Annual Meeting concluded at 11.00