

*MOTHERS' UNION
MATTERS
in DEVON
Autumn 2010*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2010/2011

Trustees - Tuesday, November 30th
Unit Co-ordinators Day - March 22nd
Spring Council Meeting - Friday, May 6th
Diocesan Retreat - June 13th - 16th

Items for the Spring Issue of Mothers' Union Matters

by Monday, April 11th 2011

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Mothers' UNION 
Christian care for families

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

This summer has been a busy one for some of us. In June Bridget and I went to Preston for the Annual General Meeting. The service, on the Wednesday, was wonderful, it made me realise the strength of the Mothers' Union. Next year, the meeting will be in Edinburgh on June 9th. If you would like to join us, please let Julia know in the office. I can assure you it will be a well worth experience.

In July, Mavis, Heather, Janet, Bridget and myself took part in 'Churches Together in Devon' celebration. It was wonderful to be part of the parade and walk to the Hoe behind the bands and see displays along the way. There were bagpipes, bongo drums, dancers from Burundi; you name it, we heard and saw it.

Mavis and I were at St. Sidwells Open Day in September. People looked in at the shop and the chapel; we handed out leaflets and chatted to them, so, hopefully, they will remember one way or another. We must keep talking about Mothers' Union and all the great things that are being done. People are amazed to learn that we work in eighty one countries and have four million members.

I think that you will agree with me that the icing on the cake was the visit of Vivian Kityo, a Worldwide Trustee from Uganda. She arrived at Totnes Station at 10.09am on Wednesday, September 22nd and then we drove to Exeter the next morning, Thursday; Ilfracombe in the afternoon and home across Dartmoor, to Vivian's great delight. On Friday we went to St. Andrew's, Plymouth in the morning and St. Luke's, Buckfastleigh in the afternoon. In the evening Vivian was the special guest at Harberton Harvest Festival. She was delighted to see around our county and said it was a beautiful place; but we all know that even when it is raining! After listening to what Vivian told us about her country, we are so privileged.

God bless you all,
Mary

Our front cover shows emergency relief supplies being delivered to people affected by disaster. MU is well placed with its network of volunteers in over 80 countries.

KNITTED SQUARES

We are delighted that the scheme for knitted squares for Wakisa Ministries in Uganda and CINDI Kansenshi in Zambia is so successful and would like to thank all our knitters. Set out below are the instructions for knitting the squares :-

6in (15cm) squares are used for large blankets and 4in (10cm) for baby blankets. Colours rather than white are the most popular. Use size 10 (3¼mm) needles, double knitting wool, plain knitting only. Add a postcard or greetings card.

Postage to Uganda - Vivian Kityo, Director, Wakisa Ministries, PO Box 6249, Kampala, Uganda, or to Zambia - Mrs. P. Bwala, CINDI (Kansenshi), PO. Box 72091, Ndola, Zambia.

Postage & Packing - The Post Office provide very good polythene posting envelopes. 100gram maximum parcel - 210mm x 310mm - £2.49 for 3 (6 x 6in squares). Postage £1.41 (April 2010).

2 kilogram maximum parcel, 495 x 650mm code PM84 76p each, postage £13.22 - approx 85 x 6in squares.

ALL parcels will require a customs declaration sticker CN22 (white) stuck on the front. Gift, squares for orphans, no commercial value, weight, signature. Senders address on the back of the parcel. Mothers' Union sticker. The scheme works most successfully when the purchase of wool, knitting and postage is completed within your Branch, Church or community.

These may seem boring details to have in the magazine but we hope they will inspire more people to take part in the 'Squares Scheme'.

Bridget Vinton

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

A little girl was sitting with her grandfather. She reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Granddad, did God make you?" "Yes, dear", he answered, "God made me a long time ago". "Oh", she replied, "Granddad, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, dear" he said, "God made you just a little while ago". Feeling his cheek, and then her own smooth one, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

School Blues

A little girl had just finished her first week of school..."I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

Vivian Kityo's Visit

Vivian is a Central Trustee as well as the director of Wakisa Ministries in Uganda. We have sent 60 large parcels of knitted squares to Vivian since the scheme began in 2007. The girls at the Centre have been delighted with the squares and the blankets that they have been able to make for themselves and for their expected babies.

Vivian wanted to thank us for giving them a gift of love and friendship in the form of the squares which have made such lovely blankets. We have also been sending postcards of different places and wild life in Devon.

Vivian stayed with our Diocesan President, Mary and her husband Norman. Travelling around Devon gave Vivian great joy, recognising some of the places from the postcards and the sheep and ponies on Dartmoor were seen on a beautiful sunny day driving back from Ilfracombe. Vivian also visited Exeter, Plymouth, Buckfastleigh and Harberton, telling us about her work as a representative for Mothers' Union, but especially about the status of women in Africa and her work to give women equal rights and opportunities worldwide.

She also showed us a film of the training given to the expectant mothers in her care at Wakisa Ministries., some of whom have suffered abuse from as young as 13 years old. A special thank you was said for the squares while the girls held up the blankets.

Exeter Diocese has a copy of the DVD which will shortly be available for hire to show to your Branch.

Bridget Vinton

(A picture of Vivian in St. Sidwell's chapel appears on the back page)

Funny you should ask....

One day a middle-aged Jewish man heard from his son at university. "I've decided to become a Christian, Dad." The father panicked. "What do I do?" he asked himself. The only thing he could think to do was to call his rabbi for advice. "Funny you should come to me with this problem," says the rabbi. "Not two years ago MY son came to me with the same speech. I had no idea what to do. I panicked, and the only thing I could think to do was go to God."

"Goodness! And what message do you think you got from God?" asked the father nervously. The rabbi laughed. "God said to me, 'funny you should come to me with this problem'..."

Branch News

It was with great pleasure that I could present one of our members, Barbara Moppett, with a long service certificate in July. Barbara, who is now in a residential home, celebrated a membership of the Mothers' Union for over 62 years. She has a framed photograph of the occasion displayed where she can see it all the time and I know she was thrilled to have received the award.

To celebrate Mary Sumner Day on August 9th, our Branch held a Bring and Share lunch, welcoming over thirty members, families and friends. It was a wonderful day enabling us to renew, and form new, friendships and also raise £105 for the work overseas.

We also congratulated Jean and Peter Thompson on their diamond wedding anniversary and Sally and John Stone on their emerald wedding anniversary. Jean and Sally have been members, and support the Mothers' Union, for many years.

Clare Irvin, Bishopsteignton and Ideford Branch

Deanery News

Totnes Deanery - I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. Two of the highlights for me were the services of celebration at Avonwick church on August 9th and at Buckfastleigh church to hear first hand from Vivian Kityo how Mothers' Union works in Uganda.

Our next get together will be at St. Petroc's, South Brent, for a Carol Service on December 8th at 11.45am with a bring-and-share lunch. I look forward to seeing you and your friends there.

Madeleine Baldwin, Deanery Chairman

Tiverton/Cullompton Deanery - On July 28th we had a very special day with members from other Deaneries in the Archdeaconry. It was a lovely summer day and there were over 40 members enjoying themselves. We started with Midday Prayers, then time to browse around the various stalls before having a very good ploughman's lunch. After lunch our President, Mary, told us about her visit to Lusaka last year and gave us an insight about various aspects, which proved very enjoyable. Thank you to all who came to help make this day so special.

By the time you read this, we hope to be having a Celebration Service of the good things about winter, to which all members will have had the chance to contribute.

Sheila Gould, Deanery Leader

From the Units

Action and Outreach

A very good response from across the Diocese as packages of old and new greetings cards arrived by post for the Age Concern Older Offenders Project (ACOOOP) craft exercise in Dartmoor Prison. It is now realised that these need to be reduced to small details, birds, flowers, butterflies, etc., to promote individual design (scissors are not allowed in HMP Dartmoor). But very welcome are plain, scored cards, along with crossword and puzzle books.

The Masiandae Centre in Plymouth run by DCRS (Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support) is being re-organised, thus items of clothing for the Asylum Seekers must be withheld until further notice. Thank you for all that you have done in the past.

The problem of moving trauma teddies has been resolved. A member from Moorside/Ivybridge Deanery mentioned at Plympton St. Maurice's Branch Meeting that Shelter Box would take them. Keen work by Project Organiser, Margaret Beech, has made a contact address available and also raised money for postage. Well done!

A kind act by Rosemary Tull resulted in a Guest House owner who wished to retire, asking help from the Mothers' Union and passing over bedding - sheets, duvet covers, duvets and pillow, filling 8 large dustbin liners and 5 shallow boxes - which were duly transferred from Challacombe, to the delight of Operation Sunshine, into their depot at Tavistock.

Rosemary, who is also our worldwide diocesan link, has been informed of the marriage of Joan Toloaki, the Mothers' Union Development Co-ordinator in Temotu. A card of congratulations has been sent from the Trustees.

Before the inspiring visit of Vivian Kityo to our Diocese, Gay Curtis, Liaison Worldwide Links Representative for Bath and Wells Diocese, with which Kampala Uganda is linked, informed me of the Mothers' Union Development Co-ordinator there, Ruth Owino. Vivian was delighted to hear this as Ruth, with whom she works closely, was on a shot of the visual presentation shown to Archdeaconries - small world.

Midge Davidson and I have set up, through AFIA, an Autumn holiday to benefit a family nominated by a Children's Centre, using another source other than through West Country Press Promotions. This may prove an indicator to explore next year.

Thought for the future - Time with family may prevent Time behind bars.

Thank you, Mavis Davis

- A morning meeting labelled Coffee & Chapel-starting in the Coffee Bar before going to the Lady Chapel for a short time of worship within, or as part of, a talk on any subject selected by the volunteer 'leader' that morning
- A more informal afternoon meeting for Tea & Chat in the Hall, has evolved as a time to discuss the progress of on-going projects; an opportunity for spontaneous comments on news etc.; favourite readings; arrangements for future meetings; details of Diocesan meetings and those of other local Branches (at which we are always made welcome), followed, of course, by the tea and cake.
- To make life easier, our meetings were to be held on the 22nd of the month (whatever day of the week that might be) but take second place to other dates already on the calendar, e.g. Women's World Day of Prayer, Wave of Prayer, Council or Deanery meetings, etc.
- * We agreed to continue hosting the Deanery Meetings and to continue providing our Overseas Fund-raising Luncheon in October.

The real change, in a nutshell? Less paperwork and no time-consuming money matters! The essential needs and concerns, as Mothers' Union members in upholding the aims and objects, continue with enthusiasm.

Norma Kennedy (formally Littleham-cum-Exmouth)

FOOD (John 6: 1-4 : Mt. 14:13-21)

DIOCESAN MEMBERS

We hope that many of you were able to meet Vivian Kityo when she visited the Diocese in September and hear of her work with the Wakisa Ministries in Uganda. It was lovely to see pictures of the young girls with the blankets they had made from your knitted squares.

We hope also that you managed to send an early response for your subscription, as London need them to organise our mailings.

Please join us at Exeter Cathedral at 12 noon on Friday, 26th November, as it is our turn to take midday prayers. Again, we will have lunch together in the Chapter House, a chance to catch up with the news from where you live.

With our love and blessings,

Maureen Styler (01752 691592) & Jenny Buckle (01364 652472)

THOUGHTS ON MOVING FROM BRANCH TO DIOCESAN MEMBERSHIP

I have likened it to being rather like that of moving from secondary to tertiary education. A long time ago for most of us, but, until we reached the official school leaving age, others were responsible for the day to day running of our school life. However, once that magical birthday arrived, we were than expected to become more independent.

A Branch always requires a leader (Enrolling Member), a secretary, treasurer and committee members. On becoming Diocesan members, however, we would no longer have to provide an army of officials to deal with form filling and writing reports and dealing with money.....Each member now receives regular letters reminding when payment of subs are due, (this now automatically includes Families First and Families worldwide) and includes a section for any overseas donations we might wish to make.

The decision to change, however, was not taken without a great deal of prayerful thought; a major stumbling block being the fear that we might no longer be able to meet together as a group for friendship and support. We discussed in detail how we saw our future role as Mothers' Union members. Everyone had a say! We agreed that we must continue to meet regularly and to continue our prayerful time together at Corporate Communion on the first Wednesday of each month. The continuation of producing a typed programme was found to be essential.

Thus we have continued with meetings which seem to have fallen into a pattern:

Marketing

MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY - Mothering Sunday is a very special occasion in the Church calendar and in the community. Children give their mothers or carers pretty posies or a gift to say thank you.

Have you considered organising a special event? Invite friends and families to share a special meal, soup lunch, afternoon tea or BBQ; arrange a five-a-side football tournament or quiz night.

Mothers' Union produces an ethical gifts catalogue 'Make a Mother's Day'. Gifts can be given on an individual basis or the funds can be raised from the special event you organise. £16, for example, can make all the difference to a community by paying for fuel for transport in order to deliver much needed food aid, £6 can provide baby chicks, ducklings or a goat to help women in rural communities sustain their families. The steady income and self sufficiency created out of the gift will provide them with an income for many years.

The 2011 catalogue will be available in the spring, so look out for it and help 'Make a Mother's Day'

MU Enterprises

The Promise of Easter, Reflections for the Lent Season by Fleur Dorrell, Head of Faith and Policy - Order No. BA0223 £4.99

Undated Bible based readings for the weeks of Lent including Easter. The book takes a deeper look at six themes which are especially relevant to Lent; holiness, relationships, forgiveness, sacrifice, hope and love. The book is suitable for small groups or for individual use. It is an ideal choice for those wanting devotional material for Lent.

Bridget Vinton

Faith & Policy

Cathedral Prayers for 2011 - Last Friday of the month at 12 noon

January	Honiton/Ottery
February	Aylesbeare/Christianity
March	Ken/Cadbury
April	Tiverton/Cullompton/South Molton
May	Moreton/Newton Abbot/Ipplepen
June	Tavistock/Okehampton
July	Barnstaple/Hartland

Phyllis Shafee 01626 888326

From the Archdeaonries

PLYMOUTH

A highlight of the year for me was sharing the Diocesan talk, 'Relationships not Rules', with St. Gabriel's Branch in Plymouth. The subject matter opened up a lively and fruitful discussion about how our relationship with God, and those around us, affect our lives. We had a really good afternoon. However, I was saddened later to reflect that a number of Branches had opted not to have a Diocesan talk this year because the subject once again was relationships.

Our talk for 2011 is to be the last one in this 'relationship series'. The subject is 'Faithful Relationships' and speakers will be gathering in Exeter to prepare for it. Apparently, the subject matter is excellent - "the best one yet" as someone said, so please consider including the Diocesan talk in your 2011 programmes.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Coffee Morning in the Minster Church of St. Andrew's, Plymouth to hear Vivian Kityo in September. It was an excellent morning.

On a personal note, thank you for the cards and good wishes on the occasion of my husband's retirement as Vicar of Hooe, Plymouth. Ian and I have remained in Plymouth; our new address being 8 Larkhall Rise, Plymouth PL3 6LY, 01752 319528

Margaret R. Provost

(As a member of Seaton Branch who have had all the Relationship talks so far, I agree with Margaret that all the talks have been excellent and have stimulated lively debate. As I can't remember what happened a year ago, I have never found the subject matter dull but each one fresh and new. Editor)

BARNSTAPLE

Since stepping into Gillian's shoes as a very new President, I have become aware of the foundations that Gillian had built, and all the hard work that she had done to maintain and support Branches in the Archdeaconry. Her enthusiasm and presence is, through unfortunate circumstances, sadly missed and we send our love and wish her well in her recovery.

My aim for this year was to visit as many Branches as I could, and each Branch has greeted me with such warmth and friendship which has been a joy. Following Gillian has been made so much easier by the welcome I have received from all the Branches.

In the past few months I have attended the St. George's Day and Mary Sumner Day services in Appledore; Deanery Festivals in Georgeham and Shebbear and Lady Day in Torrington. This was a special day for the Torrington Branch to say farewell to Clarissa Humblestone, their Branch leader for so many years.

On a warm, sunny day in July, Mary and Norman Steer travelled to Ilfracombe for my Commissioning Service, rather nerve-racking for me in front of my own congregation, but on the day, a wonderful occasion.

In late September Mary and Norman returned to Ilfracombe, this time with the Mothers' Union Worldwide Trustee for Africa, Vivian Kityo. We enjoyed a lovely service when Vivian spoke about her work in Uganda coping with many languages and teaching simple rules of hygiene to limit the devastation left by diseases like cholera. Many of you already support her work by the knitting of squares and your contributions to Overseas aid and she gave thanks for this practical, essential support. I was struck, not only by her graceful stance and beauty, but by the love of God which seemed to shine from within her and in all she said.

Thank you to all the members that came from all over the Archdeaconry, you certainly made the day and showed our support for the international work of the Mothers' Union adding to Vivian's lasting memories of the Mothers' Union in North Devon.

These past few months have been quite a learning curve for me, but I am certain that, with the love we receive from the Lord Jesus, we will all do our best, helping us all to go from strength to strength for the Mothers' Union in Devon and worldwide.

With every blessing, Jenny Facey

Finance & Central Services

The Trustees have agreed the following increases in the Tribute for 2011 :-

Branch Members : £16 of which £8 goes to Mary Sumner House, £7.50 to the Diocese and 50p to the Branch.

Diocesan Members : £26 of which £8 goes to Mary Sumner House, £7.50 to the Diocese, £9 for Families First, £1.50 towards postage.

Trustees have also agreed that, as from January 2011, Branches will be asked to pay £10 (currently £7) to any Mothers' Union speaker they invite to address their meeting. Speakers will make no further claim.

Mary Moore, Unit Co-ordinator