

Diocesan Members' Newsletter

January 2012

Dear Fellow Members,

I pray that you will have had a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas time, and that you will be able to 'Discover and Celebrate Your Gift' which the Lord has given you, in the coming year, as our Theme for the Year suggests.

Meanwhile, you will find details, and a form, enclosed with this letter asking for 'Friends of Child Contact Centres'. These 'Friends' can be MU members or not, they can be anyone prepared to make a donation to the work of these centres. This means that all other donations made to the MU can then be used for the many other projects we have. Please read the information and then consider donating yourself, passing it on to a friend, or both! (Fiona Densham is a General Trustee of Bath and Wells MU).

Secondly, as MU members we are being asked to consider whom we might nominate as Diocesan President for the next Triennium (Jan 2013-Dec 2015). Should you wish to nominate someone, please contact me with their details at the following address:

*Rowena Merson, Wardway Farm, Wardway,
North Petherton TA6 6PE. Tel: 01278 662240 or
e-mail: rowena.merson6@btopenworld.com*

Finally, if you have not already paid, the end of January is the deadline for the renewal of Annual Subscriptions .

Wishing you all A Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Love and Blessings

Rowena

Monthly Archdeaconry Coffee Venues and Times.

Taunton - The Cornerstone Bookshop - 11am (1st Tuesday)
Wells - The Beckington Cafe - 11am (1st Thursday)

Please drop in to either of these venues if you are in the area on the day. There will be no Pub meetings until the spring!

Mothering Sunday Ethical Gifts

www.makeamothersday.org/

***Mothering Sunday Cards
can be bought by ordering
them 'on-line' at
www.themothersunion.org
or by contacting
Chris Mahony on
01275 857724 or e-mail:
chris@anorankh.demon.co.uk***

***If ordering on-line put Bath and
Wells where it asks for Diocese,
then we will receive a
percentage of that order.***

For further details of all **Events** on the back page of this news-letter please contact:
Rosemary Tullett at the MU Office in The Old Deanery, Wells on **01749 685131** or e-mail **Mother's Union @bathwells.anglican.org**

A Prayer on Poverty

Righteous Judge,
your will for your people is
fullness of life
and hope for the future.

We confess that we have failed each other and betrayed our faith whenever a child lacks essential food,
whenever a family has no access to safe water,
whenever a parent grieves for a starving family.

There is enough food to meet the needs of all but we waste our scarce resources;
by human conflict we destroy harvests and lay waste land.

Forgive us our past failings;
challenge us to present actions and inspire us for sharing in the future.

John Johansen-Berg

Mothers' Union Theme for 2012

Your Gift? Discover and Celebrate!

Each of us is created by God to love and serve him and the world in which we live. Our faith journey calls us to discover and develop our gifts so that these can be used for God's greater glory. We are also called to affirm others in their gifts so that together we can bring about the kingdom of God. So for 2012 we are encouraging members to discover, nurture and celebrate all that they are and to thank God for all that he gives to us.

Look out for Your Gift! Discover and Celebrate!

Lord,
we each have some gifts,
but none of us has them all.
We each have something to contribute to others,
and equally something to receive from them in turn.
We each need each other,
and our lives are impoverished
if we attempt to go it alone.
You call us all to be part of your body
with a unique role to play within that,
but by the same token we belong to an interdependent whole
in which every member is of vital importance.
Teach us, then,
not only to exercise our own gifts wisely
but at the same time to appreciate those of others,
and so may we grow together,
building one another up in love,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Nick Fawcett

Look Out for Your Gift!

The following poem was written by a fellow MU member who rose to the challenge, just two weeks before Christmas, to find something to put into an Advent Service. So she used one of her 'Gifts', and came up with this:

The Innkeeper's Wife

Me and my husband, my old man, Cain
Are in the hospitality game
Now the problem with being an innkeeper's wife
Is I'm always so busy; no time for a life!
Some clients are rude, arrogant, snappy
But you've got to keep smiling, make sure *they're* happy

This time last year they came for the tax
Booking up rooms by email and fax
Bethlehem-bound, for the Emperor's census -
Rich men and poor men (and good king Wenceslas)
Too many people! Not enough room
They camped in my kitchen. Boy, did I fume!

They huddled in wardrobes, slept in the bath
I didn't know whether to cry or to laugh
We found pants in the parlour, dungarees on the door
Wigs in the window and frocks on the floor
Even my husband was tearing his hair
We couldn't sit down; no empty chairs!

He bolted the door, turned the key in the lock
Gave a sigh of relief but then came a knock
A desperate rapping of knuckles on wood
"Please let us in; we need shelter and food."
"Send them away!" I muttered to Cain
"All right," he agreed, "but I need to explain!"

When he opened the door, the man looked so weary
And as for the woman, she was breathless and teary
My eyes fell upon her hand on her girth
I knew with one glance she was due to give birth
“Sorry,” said Cain, “But we’re full up to bursting.”
“We’re not!” I said brightly (sometimes I could curse ‘im)

“She can’t carry on. The poor girl’s not able
We’ll find her a room; it’s warm in the stable.”
Cain took them round to the animal quarters
I followed with towels and jugs of hot water
Back in the house we paced up and down
Anxiously waiting - a sign or a sound

And then we heard it – a baby’s first cry
We praised God in Heaven and, there in the sky
A star had appeared, so big and so bright
The darkness shot through with its wonderful light
The angels were singing – what a glorious sound
And shepherds came flocking from miles around

The babe, they called Jesus, (“God with us,” they said)
Laying him gently on an improvised bed
I’ll never forget the peace in my heart
The sense that this moment was only the start
Of a new way being, a new way of life
.....It’s a privilege being an innkeeper’s wife

Anna Caddy - Diocesan Member

Yet Further Teachings on Creation through the Ages!

We cannot be all that God wants us to be without caring for the earth.

Rick Warren (1954 -) author of The Purpose Driven Life

In a time of ecological emergency, the church can offer to the world a hope that is rooted in the power of God to bring new life into all that has been created.

Wesley Granberg Michaelson (1945 -) Ecology and Life

The beauty of the world is Christ's tender smile for us coming through matter.

Simone Weil (1909—1943)

We are to exercise our dominion over these things, not as though entitled to exploit them, but as things borrowed or held in trust... Man's dominion is under God's Dominion, and in God's Domain.

If I am going to be in the right relationship with God, I should treat the things he has made in the same way he treats them.

Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984) Pollution and the Death of Man

Gift Aid - Are you a Tax-payer?

Remember, for every donation you make to Mothers Union, through subscriptions or otherwise, they can receive 20% more from the Inland Revenue. For example, if you give £20 MU will actually receive £25. Therefore, if you have not signed a Gift-Aid Declaration before - please use the form opposite and send it to the address on the bottom of the form.

THE MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESE OF BATH & WELLS

Reg Charity No.240531

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please complete in CAPITALS

Diocesan Member.....

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Dr etc).....

Full Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Date paid	Description**	Amount

**eg Subscription, Overseas Fund Donation, AFIA etc

I would like the Mothers' Union to treat these donations, and all donations I make hereafter, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations and reclaim tax accordingly. I am a UK taxpayer

Signature of Donor

Date of Declaration

Note: Donors must be UK taxpayers who pay an amount of tax on income or savings or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax reclaimed by the Mothers' Union on the donations in each tax year.

Please notify the Treasurer if you change your name or address, or if your circumstances change and you no longer pay sufficient tax.

Please return the completed form to:

Mothers' Union Office, The Old Deanery, Wells BA5 2UG

Dates for 2012

February

Monday 6th - *MU Branch Officers Day - Mark Village Hall*

Thursday 16th - *Cathedral Prayers*

March

Thursday 15th - *Cathedral Prayers - Bridgwater & Diocesan
Member*

Thursday 22nd - *Quiet Day/Day Apart - Frome*

April

Thursday 19th - *Cathedral Prayers*

Saturday 21st - *The Queen's Birthday - The Old Deanery*

May

Saturday 5th - *Annual Meeting in Taunton Archdeaconry*

Thursday 17th - *Cathedral Prayers*

June

Friday/Saturday 15/16th - *General Meeting in Wales*

Thursday 21st - *Cathedral Prayers in Bishop's Chapel*

July

Wednesday 16th - *Quiet Day/Day Apart - Monks Yard*

Thursday 19th - *Cathedral Prayers*

ANO MU Event: *Reaching for Gold?*

August

Thursday 16th - *Cathedral Prayers*

September

Thursday 20th - *Cathedral Prayers*

October

Monday 1st - *Annual Retreat - Abbey House, Glastonbury*

Wednesday 17th - *Quiet Day/Day Apart - North Petherton*

Thursday 18th - *Cathedral Prayers*

November

Thursday 15th - *Cathedral Prayers*

December

Thursday 6th - *Advent Coffee Morning - Cathedral Prayers*

*All the above events are open to Diocesan and Branch
Members. Please support them if you can.*