

Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane with Diocese of Brechin

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SARAH WRITES

Dear Friends

Well, officially we are in Summertime tomorrow and we have been enjoying a fabulous week of sunshine, but as usual all good things come to an end and they are even talking about snow this next week. I had been trying to find the time to wash my thick jumpers and put them away for this year but am glad I haven't yet now!

I find my Christian journey can be a little like the weather, hot one minute and cold the next; up and down, all sunshine then wading through fog and rain. Sometimes God is near other times seems too distant to reach. I ask myself sometimes why? Why can't life be consistent and we always feel in touch with God? He is always there, but am I? The obvious answer to that is no; life gets in the way, the constant demands on our time, the things that need to be done or gone to. In many ways Lockdown was a blessing with less to do or go to, but I still found life was as busy as ever, but in a different way. I had to learn a lot more about modern technology and how to zoom and find new ways to keep in touch with everyone.

One success was our monthly prayer time, now sent to you all, and from the e-mails I receive from time to time, much appreciated by you. We have started meeting again in the Cathedral for "live" prayer time each month, but I will continue to send the prayers round to you all for those who are unable to join us. We can still unite together on that second Tuesday of the month at 11.30am. Many of us have also found great strength in the daily Midday prayers Mary Sumner House relay live on Face Book or You tube. If you cannot join at midday they are available at any time you are free to watch. It amazes me when I join in to see so many members from all round the world also there praying together.

Thank you to all who came to our Lady Day Service last week. It was lovely to feel so supported by so many of you as I, Kim and Mary, David and Irene were commissioned. We are very fortunate to have a Bishop who support the Mothers' Union so strongly. He too appreciates the monthly prayers we send out and sends our e-news to all the clergy.

The Provincial Gathering planned for April 23rd has been postponed for various reasons, not least Covid

still being very much around, and as I write this we do not have a new date, but I will let you know as soon as one is fixed. Most likely in the Autumn.

We are regaining our freedom and losing the restrictions imposed on us for so long, but it is up to each one of us to choose how we move forwards. Did the extra time at home enable us to be more disciplined and in touch with God? Will the busyness of life get in the way again and we return to our old habits? Will our journey still blow hot and cold, up and down or will the path level out a little more. Inevitably there will be ups and downs, that is life, but will there be two sets of footmarks on the path or just one?

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter.

With my love and prayers and thank you for your continued support.

Sarah

LADY DAY

The day started with us meeting in the Threshold for coffee/tea and a time of fellowship. The past two years have been a long time and it was really good to meet up with our friends we hadn't seen in all that time.

We joined the normal St. John's 11am Thursday service and their Rector welcomed us. Unfortunately their organist was not able to be there, but we all sang heartily to hymns we were very familiar with.

With Bishop Ian presiding we went into the service and after the Creed the commissioning commenced. Sarah was first, as Diocesan President, then the members of the Board of Trustees, Mary, Irene and David. Our new Chaplain, Rev'd Kim Lafferty was then



commissioned after which she addressed us and rededicated us as members.

After the service finished we all went back into the Threshold for lunch and more fellowship. It was a wonderful day and we are all looking forward to seeing each other more frequently as Covid allows.

Marjorie Smith

EMERGENCY PRAYER – introducing the new Prayer Chain Co-ordinator

Recently you will have heard that I have taken over managing the Mother's Union Diocesan Prayer Chain. As I haven't been in the Diocese very long, I thought I should introduce myself and, at the same time, remind people about the Prayer Chain and how it works.

I moved to Dalgety Bay in 2019 to be near my son and his family – I have three small granddaughters. In view of what has happened since it was a good decision! Until then, apart from my student years in Birmingham, I had spent my whole life in Gloucestershire and the Gloucester Diocese. Some of you will remember Pat Harris who was the Central President back in the 1990s. Her husband was the Vicar of the parish in which I worshipped. Her strong-arm tactics meant that everyone who worshipped there became MU members. The fact that I was a single parent, worked full-time and would be unable to attend meetings was not considered an adequate excuse. I joined! Our then local (male) MP who lived and worshipped in the parish also joined! When my son became older, I was able to attend meetings and become involved at Diocesan level and took various

roles. When I moved to Dalgety Bay I began worshipping at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline where everyone was so welcoming. I have happily made my new spiritual home there.

On hearing that someone was needed to take over the Prayer Chain I realised that this was something I could easily do from home, so I volunteered. The Prayer

Chain in Gloucester Diocese used to operate by telephone. There was a list of names and when one received a phone call one then passed the message to the next person on the list. The coming of the internet and email made things so much easier and efficient and, like in this Diocese, everything is now done that way.



For those who don't know about the Prayer Chain the principle is that a number of members have agreed to pray for anyone or any issue referred to them. If you would like prayers to be offered for a matter close to you just email me and I can then share the request. If you think you would like to join the Chain again just email me. My email address is audrey.e.ricks@gmail.com

Audrey Ricks

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN....

And it just started out as some harmless sniffles, and I thought Bother ! as I am one of those persons who hardly ever gets a cold, the last one I had must have been over 10 years ago, so a raging visit by the COVID virus was the last thing I expected, and I have been truly smitten – my weapons of war laid truly low!

But thankfully, I am fully vaccinated (and no reaction from having those jabs) so I might have felt dreadful, but I was home and able to look after myself. The week has passed in a haze, my energy levels are zero though my symptoms have all but vanished, I think that I've slept most of the week away. Certainly it's been an easy Lenten discipline as food has been on no interest despite holding on to my taste and smell.

Certainly after these few days, I'm even more appreciative of the NHS and all that they do for us when the normal running of the hospitals and surgeries are taken over by such events. Nothing is perfect or will ever be in this world, but I shall be counting my blessings as I snuggle into my warm bed in the safety of my home, even with COVID, that I'm not fleeing from a threat that uproots me and those I love from all that I hold dear.

I came upon this prayer which rather sums up the sadness that is Ukraine, written by Canon Angela Tilby that you might like to use too.

Merciful and mighty God, send down your powers from on high to quench the rage of war. Burn up the fuel of aggression, destroy all lying tongues, suppress the profits of violence, and because no one is without sin, unveil our own complicity. Bear up the broken and defend them under the wings of your protection, and send them the strong peace that comes from above to heal all wounds, relieve all griefs, and set all people free, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Elizabeth

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM SHERAN HARPER

My Dear Friends,

It's Easter once again and it with great joy that I wish you, your family and friends a *Happy and Blessed Easter*. Many of you will be going to Church, others may still be attending Church virtually or simply worshipping at home. Whatever is suitable for you, we continue to link hands across the oceans to celebrate and remember the Resurrection of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

This miracle of Easter with its gift of hope, reminds me of your faithfulness and the faithfulness of all members who generously give hope to so many families across the world. The impact of spreading life-giving hope is beyond all we can ask or imagine, so let us celebrate Easter not only at this time of the year but every day of our lives if we choose to.

During this season I reflected on the good news as written in St. Matthew's Gospel 28:6 (ESV), *He is not here, for He is risen, as He said...* We know that it was an Angel that uttered these words to Mary Magdalene and the "other" Mary at dawn on that glorious Sunday when they went to visit the tomb. So many centuries have passed since that day, and the beautiful truth of the Angel's declaration of the Resurrection continues to give us hope even now and for all eternity. Jesus is risen and is alive so we have hope that one day, we too will be resurrected and live as well.

The more I think of the disciples and their work, the more I believe that it was their experiences of following Jesus, the miracle of the Resurrection, and the leading of the Holy Spirit that pushed them to take the Gospel forward. I believe it is for all these reasons that we feel called to take the Gospel forward in our lives, through prayer and action. This also explains our generous nature and we are inspired to freely express our faith in action through the transformation of families and communities worldwide. We willingly work to ensure those around us are cared for, injustices are called out of their hiding places, and absolutely no one is left behind. It is because we have experienced the love of Jesus Christ in our own lives that we can confidently reach out with his transforming love and compassion to make a difference. It is not always easy and so we thank you for lifting us up in prayer and for continuing to do so each day.

The Covid-19 pandemic dealt us a severe blow and many still live with painful memories, but we did not suffer alone as God has been by our side and still is. In little over a month four tropical storms hit

Madagascar causing enormous devastation and members continue to provide much needed relief. Our very own Zonal Trustee Marie-Pierrette who lives in Madagascar opened her home and rescued one family from the flood. Currently our members are networking with the Church and government to welcome refugees from Ukraine and provide much needed assistance. We continue to pray for an end to all forms of conflict and injustice in the world that separates families. We remember at this time our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and Russia who through no fault of their own will suffer both spiritually and materially for decades to come. We pray that through it all and with the peace and hope that is still alive through Jesus' resurrection, we are assured that *Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning. Psalm 30:5.*



As we look forward to God's plan for us in 2022 with our theme *Transformation-NOW*, the Worldwide Board of Trustees and Staff at Mary Sumner House join me in thanking you for your love, prayers and intercessions which mean so much to us. We wish you, your family and friends a happy, blessed and joyous Easter. May the spirit of peace, hope and love be yours today and always for *He is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

With my love and prayers as always,

Sheran

Sheran Harper
Mothers' Union Worldwide President



This Photo by Unknown Author

**THE KILT WALK
EDINBURGH 18th.
Sept 2022**

The Trustees have decided we cannot run the Charity shop again not least because of the original uncertainty of it re-opening, distance for those helping to travel and the hard work it is for those who do help.

Instead do you fancy a fun walk in good company raising money for Mothers' Union? So far 4 of our members have signed up to join this walk. You can choose the distance you walk – 5,10 or 15 km. It is all arranged for you from start times, transport at the end with a meal too. The Hunter foundation will match what we raise up to £5000.

If you feel able and would like to join Mary and Clover (her dog) , Jackie, Alison and Irene then please get in touch with Mary maryelizkenyon@gmail.com The more the merrier. For those who cannot walk then hopefully you will feel able to sponsor the brave walkers. More details will follow in due course

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tuesday Prayer continues to be sent out on line to members but there are a small group who try and come together for the prayers in the lady Chapel of the Cathedral at 11.30 am on the second Tuesday of each month. Those who can then stay on, enjoy a light lunch in a nearby café.

Come and join us in person, or in fellowship as we pray together for the Mothers Union and the concerns of our lives and the world.

Thy Kingdom Come Service. 2pm May 27th

This has become an annual highlight within the wider MU context, and as usual will be streamed on Facebook and You Tube. You may like to invite your group to come and watch with you or even invite some friends in to share in this Whitsun tide service.

The Kilt Walk . Edinburgh 18th September

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to all those who have already paid. A quick reminder to those who have not yet paid they are due NOW. They are remaining at £28 and can be paid via Direct Debit if you wish for ease going forwards

<http://www.mothersunion.org/scotland/Scotland-Direct-Debit> .

Alternatively you can pay via cheque made payable to **Mothers' Union St Andrews Diocese** and send to David Morgan, 5 Anderson Place, Strathkinnis, St Andrew's KY16 9XZ. If you wish to pay by on line Banking (BACS) please put your name as the reference. The bank Details are: TSB Blairgowrie Sort Code 87-44-05 A/c No 72189960 .

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME....

My name is Jodie Taylor and I have just moved up from the Diocese of Llandaff in South Wales to Dunblane where my son now lives. I have been member of MU for many years holding a variety of

offices during that time. My six years as VP came to an end just as I moved but I also handed over the mantle of both branch and deanery leader.

When I retired 13 years ago I volunteered (as a MU member) in the local prison, there were about 20 MU members volunteering at that time along with some WI ladies. Parc prison, Bridgend is quite a large men's prison holding approximately 2000 inmates and volunteers helped in the play area. The play area was a specially dedicated corner of the visits hall with a play house built by the prisoners, tables and chairs for crafts and a small soft play area for the younger visitors. On her visit to Wales, I was allowed to show Sheran Harper our Worldwide President around the visits area where I worked and introduce her to wardens I worked with, she was amazed at both the facilities and the work done for both the prisoners and families talking about it at the annual meeting in Portsmouth. During that time I have been very lucky to have been granted vouchers from the Toy Retailers Association to be spent on toys at the nearest Entertainer shop, and in January I took my last car load of toys to the prison (to the value of £500), which over the years brought the grand total I had been given to £5000 worth of toys donated to the prison.



During lockdown the play area had been redecorated and at my farewell I was asked if I would be willing for the play area to be named after me, what greater honour could I have just for doing something I loved doing.

Jodie Taylor

AND INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHAPLAIN

Kim writes about herself.....

Kim is originally from the Fort William area where she grew up with her two brothers. They attended the local Church of Scotland as young people. On leaving home, she trained as a nurse and then with an eye on God's call on her life, she went to the Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh, followed by training as a midwife. Kim then returned to nursing, working in different aspects of elderly care, firstly back home in Glencoe, and then in Bristol. Latterly, she nursed in and around the Greater Manchester area. She ended her nursing career as a

community rehabilitation nurse. She then went from Manchester to Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University to train for the ordained ministry.

On completion of her ordination training, Kim returned to Manchester Diocese to be ordained



at Manchester Cathedral in 2012 and served her curacy in the Horwich & Rivington Team of churches. She became Team Vicar in Farnworth,

Kearsley & Stoneclough group of churches in 2015 and greatly enjoyed serving there. Kim has been a central member of the Mothers Union for a number of years. Once she was in the Team in Stoneclough she became involved with the local MU as much as possible.

God's call back home to Scotland was a wonderful example of how life can be changed in a very short time. Kim has been blessed with her parents' ongoing support throughout her life and both they and she are delighted she is now only 'up the road' from them. Sadly, just before she was due to move North, her lovely old Labrador Alfie had to be put to sleep. She made the move with only her crazy cocker spaniel, Brenna.



Kim is passionate about God; she loves reading, walking her dog, working with children, and getting to know new people. She is very happy to be home in Scotland and enjoying becoming part of the communities of Alyth, Ballintuim, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus.

*Yours in His service, Kim
Seeking to serve and follow God's way*

TO CONTACT KIM

Rev'd Kim E Lafferty

Rector, ABC Saints

Telephone: 01250 872715

My usual non-working day is FRIDAY

OVERLOOKING JERUSALEM



Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

O Universe, dance around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, now risen

Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,

Radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!

Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!

Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

A VERY HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL

**Christian Concern for Families
World-wide through**

**PRAYING – ENABLEING
– CAMPAIGNING**

**It's how the Mothers' Union works
best**

