

Diocesan President  
Mrs Joy Silcock



Down &  
Dromore  
Mothers' Union  
Diocesan  
Holy  
Communion



followed by  
Afternoon Tea  
In  
St Mark's  
Newtownards  
May 21st  
At  
2.30pm



Contact  
Rosemary Clarke  
for further details

*Around and About Spring 2015*

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Down & Dromore

Dear Friends

A friend recently brought me a bunch of flowers from her garden which included some beautiful white cherry blossom. Our cherry tree is just about to burst into bloom at the bottom of our drive.

I won't ever forget the year new neighbours moved in across the road and her young son asked his mum one morning why Joy had painted her road pink?....she looked across and sure enough the wind had brought down the cherry blossom to cover the drive completely in pink petals. It is such a pity that the blossom lasts so short a time but I hope that the sight of it cheers others as much as it does me, the frothy masses of colour are one of life's blessings.

We are constantly blessed with the certainty of God's love which lasts the whole year through – I am so fortunate to meet fellow members – of all ages- who cheer me with their positive attitude to life which I believe is built on their faith. Please do not ever underestimate the lasting effect of a friendly word or a smile. Let us be Christ-like.

It can be part of 'our mission' in 2015.

In His Name, Joy



A lovely teacup arrangement at St Mark's during another MU celebration St Valentine's Coffee Morning

## Grace & Flavours

A BRAND NEW PUBLICATION

£3 each

*Food for Body & Soul*

*A brand new collection of thoughts, prayers & graces for every season of the year with 50 delicious seasonal recipes*



Support

## 'MUMS IN MAY 2015'

*Get everyone involved members and non-members alike!*

The money raised will be divided 3 ways

- Develop MU Literacy & Financial Education programme into Ethiopia
- To finance the All-Ireland Mums in May Fund so that dioceses can continue to apply for funding for projects such as AFIA (Away From It All holidays).
- To support dioceses in Ireland

During May 2012 the amount raised was

**£85,000**

By holding Tea parties all over Ireland and sales of Teatime Treats Recipe book

## *Around the Diocese*



Photo of members from Seapatrick MU decorating their Christmas tree for the **Christmas Tree Festival** at the beginning of December 2014 held in **Holy Trinity Church BANBRIDGE.**

The festival was a great success, Saintfield MU enjoyed an outing to it with supper of course as part of their Christmas festivities.

**L to R**

Nan White, Josephine Scott, Joyce Anderson and Phyllis Burrell ( Branch Leader).



**Diocesan Advent Carol Service** took place on 1st December in **St. Clement's Church, Templemore Ave, Belfast** where three of their members collected their "long-service" certificates Margaret Entwistle 53 Years Jackie Heaney 43 Years Ann Saunders 42 Years pictured with the Rector Rev Chris Bennett and Mrs Joy Silcock, Diocesan President A lovely knitted crib scene greeted us at St Clement's.

**Mrs Beck, Portaferry Branch** (now closed) celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 17th February 2015 Joy & Rosemary visited on behalf of MU Down & Dromore



Many Congratulations to Mrs Frances Meehan, (pictured below) a member of **Groomsport MU** for 50 years who was presented with a framed long service certificate and a silver badge recently.



**St Mark's Newtownards**

Ards Area Service Rev Chris Matchett (Rector) with Dr Heather Morris (preacher)



**St Jude's Belfast** celebrated 50 years with a special service and CAKE!

# Around The Diocese

## Festival Service 25 March 2015 Shankill Parish, Lurgan

Special preacher was Bishop Pat Storey  
Friends, members and visitors enjoyed this time of fellowship and worship as shown below



A very successful St Valentine's Day Coffee Morning in **St Mark's Parish Centre, Newtownards in February.** It was very well attended with the hall transformed to create a Tea Room using china teapots, china cups & saucers and cake stands.



Joy on the right pictured with Vivienne Abernethy of Shankill Parish



On left Norma Bell & June Bunting enjoy a catch up



Iris Suitor (DP of Armagh) was one of the many welcome visitors to Lurgan



**St Brendan's Sydenham** above with their banner (not out for a long while) at Down & Dromore Festival Service and pictured right with cheque for £250 for MU Worldwide raised at a quiz



## MU Contacts

### Down & Dromore

www.downanddromore.org/action/mothers-union

### Mothers' Union Ireland

www.mothersunion.ie

### The Mothers' Union (Mary Sumner House, London)

www.mothersunion.org

### Diocesan Press Officer—Marion Edwards

All items for website or magazine please send by email and mark Mothers' Union or MU .

For next edition send by beginning of November 2015

**PLEASE SEND ONLY HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS AND SEND BY EMAIL**



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### The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord, We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

### In Memory

It is with much sadness we record the death of our oldest MU member in the diocese at the end of December. Indoor Member, Mrs Jetty McAllen of Newcastle was 104 years old and always a joy to visit.

We acknowledge that there have been many more members' deaths in the past number of months and extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends who have lost loved ones. Where possible members of Diocesan Trustees have represented MU.

## Diary Dates

May	5	Gilnahirk Area Meeting St Columba's 8pm
	7	Christ Church Cathedral Dublin Holy Communion 11.15am
		<b>Flower Festivals</b>
	8,9,10	<b>Shankill Parish Church Lurgan</b>
	8,9,10	<b>Magherahamlet Church, Spa</b>
	8	PSNI Ladies choir St Clements Templemore Ave 8pm
	10	Bangor Abbey 75th anniversary service 10am
	13	D & D Council Comber 7.30pm
	21	Tea Party & Holy Communion St Marks, Newtownards 2.30pm
	22-25	Flower Festival St Mary's Comber
	27	Diocesan Prayer Walk Hillsboro 7.30pm
June	6	Faith & Policy Training Day, Dublin
	26	General Meeting, Nottingham
Aug	9	Mary Sumner Day
Sep	8	Downpatrick Area Service Killinchy
	14	Gilnahirk Area Service St Elizabeth's Dundonald 8pm
	16	Ballynahinch Area Service, St John's Dromara 8pm
	20	Ballyholme Branch 60th anniversary 4.30pm & 6.30pm
	20	Dromore Area Service Ballyward 6pm
	24	Willowfield Area Service Belvoir 8pm
Oct	14	Carrowdore & Millisle, Carrowdore 2pm
	20	Trustees Knocknagoney 7.30pm
Nov	2	Lurgan Area Meeting Waringstons 8pm
	7	All Ireland Council, Dublin
	10	Council Belvoir 7.30pm
	28	16 days of activism against gender violence St Anne's 3-6pm
Dec	7	Advent Carol Service
Jan-16	18	Bangor Area Meeting St Galls 7.30pm

## MU & Other Charities

Mothers' Union is a registered charity with its governance, leadership and programme work driven by and undertaken through its volunteer membership.

### Funded by

- Members Subscriptions
- Donations and fundraising
- Major supporters eg Comic Relief
- MU Enterprises Ltd
- Partnerships (likeminded organisations) eg Time for Families

### Where funds go

1. Local MU groups fundraise to fund individual projects
2. At national & international level funding comes from central resources for core programmes eg Literacy Programme

The generosity of people who give their time and money to help us serve families all around the world is both inspiring and humbling.

As a limited company and registered charity, Mothers' Union (Central) accounts are independently audited and submitted to Companies House annually. They also report to the Charity Commission, an independent body that regulates the activities of charities in the UK. Diocesan Accounts are also independently audited as should happen to all Branch accounts.

We would urgently request and encourage members not to fundraise or donate to other charities in the name of Mothers' Union otherwise it will be impossible to fulfil the aim of Mothers' Union to be transformational through our worldwide fellowship of over four million members bringing Christian care to families of all kinds.

It is very important that Mothers' Union branches do not donate money to another charity. You may for example give an invited speaker money for their travel expenses but must not give them any further money from Mothers' Union accounts. If your branch wishes to give financial support to another organisation, which is not Mothers' Union, you must first ask the Diocesan President.

Charity Law is very clear on this – our financial activities support the work of Mothers' Union alone.