

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

IN TOUCH

Mothers' Union News
No. 64
Winter 2008

Newyddion Undeb y Mamau
Rhif 64
Gaeaf 2008

Mothers` Union Mission and Values

Our vision is of a world where God`s love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

Our aim is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of family life in its many forms.

To achieve this vision our mission is:

- ◆ **To promote and support married life**
- ◆ **To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children**
- ◆ **To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service**
- ◆ **To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children**
- ◆ **To help those whose family life has met with adversity**

Dear Fellow Members,

GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME.



I have just returned from the second MU Regional Conference held in Kampala, Uganda.

Before the conference began several of us were privileged to attend the Centenary celebration of MU in Uganda. We arrived early at the school field in Namirembe, which looked like a mediaeval jousting event with white and blue open-sided tents surrounding the grassy centre. Suddenly we heard music and the delegates started to sing and dance their way into the arena accompanied by the Boys Brigade Brass Band. All the members wore their distinctive MU uniforms and a special fabric had been produced for the event. I was presented with some later and will be able to show it to you.

Altogether there were between 4,000 and 5,000 members there. The Archbishop of Uganda preached and presided at the Eucharist and was assisted by many women priests. The event was vibrant with colour, singing and dancing. After the service a hot meal was provided for everyone- it was truly the feeding of the 5,000.

Next day our conference began. There were about 85 delegates, 8 from the UK and Ireland and the rest from Tanzania and Uganda and we were placed in family groups of about 10- I was a Giraffe.

We worked together and shared our stories, it was a very humbling experience meeting people with very little materially but with great spiritual riches.

'We haven't got much but we share the little we have', as one member put it.

Many said that their first priority is to preach the Gospel and then to do the work of caring. Prayer and Bible study is the focus of their branch meetings.

We discovered that the Mothers' Union is well known and respected in this part of East Africa. People see the practical help offered and the difference that the Family Life Programme makes to the lives of people affected by poverty, HIV/Aids and ignorance caused by lack of education.

The needs are great but the MU supported by their own dioceses and by help from Mary Sumner House is making a real difference.

The church in Uganda couldn't run without the MU and one bishop described them as the pillar of the church.

We saw some sad sights but there is hope too. The Home-Based Carers supported in part by our donations to the Overseas Fund, visit and support AIDS orphans and their carers. Many families consist of grandparents and children or older siblings caring for younger ones.



*Abraham
aged 16,
caring for
his younger
siblings.
All AIDS
victims*

Everywhere we saw real poverty but smiles too. Most children are neat and clean in their school uniforms.

AIDS has decimated the population in this area but the battle to educate and treat the sufferers is being fought with our help. Praise God! Amen! This was the response we heard after every presentation.

I was so proud to be a member of our effective organization which is really making a difference. Please invite me to speak to your branch or Deanery and show you my pictures. I hope to pass on to you something of what I've seen. As the members from Tanzania and Uganda say-

God is good!- All the time!

All the time. -God is good!

Because that is His nature.

With every blessing as you care for those around you,
Tyann



*Reg Bailey surrounded by children at
Luganda School*

HIDDEN GEMS



In Touch readers may be interested to hear about the church of St. Mary in Llanfair Kilgeddan, Monmouthshire. The secret of this church is that there are murals inside commissioned by the Revd. William Lindsay in memory of his wife who died in the 1880's. These murals were executed by Heywood Sumner (the son of Mary Sumner) and completed 1888. Heywood Sumner was a member of the Arts and Crafts movement and also a friend of William Morris. The church of St. Mary was to be demolished after decommissioning in 1989, but was saved by a charity called Friends of Friendless Churches. It sounds as if it would be worth a visit.

EDITOR`S NOTE

Some of the `news` is a bit out of date by the time you receive your copy of In Touch. Some articles had to be held over from the last issue of In Touch as they were received after the deadline. it`s lovely to have news of what is going on in the branches. It makes for more interesting reading for members. In Touch will be distributed three times a year, around the time of Families Worldwide, as from 2009.

A harvest Auction night was recently held at **St. John the Evangelist Branch, Canton** which raised £25 towards Mission giving.



LLANGYNWYD WITH MAESTEG

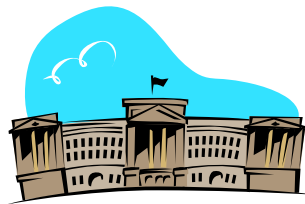
Margaret Jones , Past Provincial President attended a meeting. She explained to thirty plus members that she was one of the Mothers` Union members representing Anglican Women at The United Nations where discussions had taken place on Women`s Issues worldwide. Margaret`s address was both interesting and entertaining and she stressed that the Mothers` Union was held in high regard, with Anglican women striving to give the message that God`s love is for all people. Unfortunately, in many countries women are not highly valued and it is a hard task to change opinions and to improve the attitude towards women.



Our annual Eucharist at the Cathedral was hosted by the Parish of Cwmogwr and conducted by Rev. Kevin Lake. We wish Kevin every blessing as he takes up his new appointment at St. Fagan`s, Aberdare.

Vicar Geraldine presided at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Her address was inspired by various aspects of the worldwide Mothers` Union. During the service Jennie Scourfield was enrolled into the Mothers` Union by Deanery Leader Mary Davies.

Following the service, members adjourned for a splendid meal at The Old House Inn.



Our congratulations go to Christina Thomas, advisor to the Faith and Policy Unit. She and her husband Cynwyd were invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, hosted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. It was a very special occasion for a very special couple.

The September 'Bring and Buy Coffee Evening' was quite successful even though the weather was dreadful and attendance was less than usual.

It was a pleasure to welcome Mrs Liz Collings, Elected Trustee and member of Llangarw Branch, to the October Meeting. Liz spoke about her work as a Mothers' Union Volunteer at Parc Prison. Members found the talk interesting and informative.

Branch Leader Mary addressed the November meeting and discussed the differences between other organisations and Mothers' Union. There followed a discussion on the 2nd object of Mothers' Union.

LALESTON BRANCH 1928 - 2008



The Church bells rang out to celebrate 80 years of the founding of Mothers` Union in Laleston and to welcome past and present members and guests. Among the congregation were Past Enrolling Members Kate Autton, Jean Gordon, and Pauline Williams and former Incumbent Revd. John Gordon. In her Address, Revd. Elaine Harris spoke of the news of financial crisis and failing banks. This news was repeated again and again but never a mention of how the situation would affect the poor in undeveloped countries. However, Revd Elaine told the congregation that Mothers` Union is a caring organization with its branches throughout the world caring and addressing the needs of many.

Long service awards were presented to Audrey Williams -51 years, Pauline Williams - 47 years, Dilys John - 47 years, Doreen Williams - 43 years, Val Davies - 42 years, Marion Harries - 39years, Jean Richards - 36 years, Mary Harris - 32 years, Joan Rule - 29 years, Irene Matthews - 29 years, Katherine Nelson - 25 years, June Henry - 25 years, Mary Howells - 25 years. Canon Edward Evans, Vicar, gave a notice that a Past Enrolling Member, Jean Richards was critically ill in the Princess of Wales Hospital; Jean will be remembered in our prayers.

After the service, tea was served. Kate Autton thanked everyone and said how life had changed since her time in the parish with her late husband, Norman, who was a curate in the parish. There was no `phone in the Parsonage and Revd Norman went around the parish on his bicycle! What will the next eighty years bring?



EDITOR`S MESSAGE

I am very grateful to Julie for doing more than the usual work since I have been out of action.

Since my first involvement in Mothers` Union when I was fortunate to have a place at Westminster Abbey for the Anniversary celebrations, I have felt I belong to a very large family. This has never been more true than during the past three months when I have received so many kind messages from members from across the diocese - and further.

I am very aware that there are very many members who have far worse illnesses than I`ve had and I pray that God`s love will comfort them and strengthen them during their difficult times. I have taken my time of illness to reflect on what God is saying to me. I`ve been guilty of not spending enough time with God and it really has been good to " Be still and know that I am God".

Although I am impatient to return to full health, I give thanks to God for all He has given me.

My sincere thanks go to all who have `covered` for me - at branch level and in Marketing. Tyann has more than enough on her plate but she, too, has taken on some of my duties. It`s at times like these that we realise that " No man is an island" and we all need each other.

BRIDGEND DEANERY FESTIVAL

The evening of May 6th was warm and pleasant as members from Bridgend Deanery congregated for their Deanery Festival held at the ancient church of St. Crallo at Coychurch. It was hosted by Branch Leader Lynda Love and members of the Coychurch Branch of the Mothers' Union. The Deanery officers and members were delighted to welcome Diocesan President Tyann Leonard, Diocesan Secretary Lyn Evans and Vice President Ann Butler together with Unit Co-ordinators Mari Harrison, Raye Saunders and Judy Hopkins. Eight members of the clergy joined the 150 members for an uplifting service in praise and thanksgiving for the work of the Mothers' Union.

The service was conducted by Rev Michael Komor, while the sermon based on the life of Julian of Norwich was preached by Rev Canon Val Hamer. The chalices were administered by Rev Geraldine Blyth and Mrs Joan Thomas from Coity with Nolton Branch.

After the service members were pleased to meet and chat with those from other branches in the Deanery and enjoy sherry and soft drinks provided by the members of Coychurch Branch.

Deanery Leader Mary wishes to thank all who attended and made this such a special occasion and looks forward to welcoming everyone to the Deanery Quiet Evening at St. Illtyd's Church, Newcastle, Bridgend on Thursday 11th September at 7.00pm.

Be part of a miracle

Make a Mother's Day 2009



For the third consecutive year, Mothers' Union is highlighting its work with mothers and carers facing adversity, through its *make a mother's day* campaign.

Nearly 10 percent of all mothers in the developing world die in pregnancy or childbirth. Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia account for 86 % of these deaths.

Nearly 18% of all adults globally are illiterate, and of this percentage, the majority are women, and, moreover, women trapped in poverty.

Make a Mothers' Day, which utilizes Mothering Sunday to highlight the ongoing needs of mothers around the world, is a catalogue of gifts for mothers on Mothering Sunday, which financially supports the work of the charity in helping families. Last year the campaign raised £159,000 to help mothers, and carers of vulnerable and bereaved children.

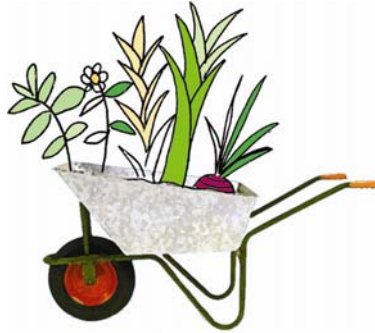
This year the catalogue again offers eight ethical gifts priced from £6 - £150. In line with the programme activities of the charity, the catalogue promotes gifts which support the achieving of the Millennium Development Goals, including ending poverty, provision of literacy education, maternal and child health, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

For example, the gift of a birthing kit, priced at £28, equips Mothers' Union trained birthing attendants with basic equipment including sterile medical equipment, vaccinations for the baby, and newborn essentials such as towels, soap and baby blankets to help the mum care for her new baby.



Orders for gifts can be made by post, by telephone 020 7222 5533 or on the designated website for the campaign, www.makeamothersday.org. Orders must reach Mothers' Union by 13th March to ensure delivery before Mothering Sunday, 22nd March 2009.

Alongside the Birthing Kit, other gifts include provision of a place on a Mothers' Union literacy circle (£6). provision of plants, livestock or latrines, and gifts which support the provision of services for mums, including parenting and income generation support.



With each ethical gift purchased, supporters will receive a card for Mothering Sunday detailing the gift, which can then be personalised and sent on to a mum. Those ordering gifts can alternatively choose to receive a gift in memory of their mother to honour her lifetime of caring. We hope both members and non members will dig deep to support mums whose needs seem greater than ever.

To order copies of the catalogue contact your local Mothers' Union representative, or the main office of Mothers' Union on telephone 020 7222 5533, email marketing@themothersunion.org or via their website on www.themothersunion.org.



Well done to 'The Twits' from **Lantwit Major Branch**, winners of the Vale of Glamorgan Deanery Skittles Match held on 17th September.



Trixie Randall, Diane Gullett, Eleri Collins and Marlene Wheeldon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Vilma Rowley—80

St. Lleurwg's Hirwaun

Jessie Richards—80

St. Fagan's Aberdare

Cecily George—80

Whitchurch

Megan Davies—90

Ystrad Mynach

Cynthia Williams—80

Lorna Lewis—80

Cimla

Barbara Moffat—80

St. Martins Roath

Maisie Morris & Lillian Mumford

Cilybebyll

Beryl Thomas—80

Cwmavon

Maisie Crookes—90

Joan Turner—80

Llanishen

Betty Holmes—90

Skewen



WELCOME TO BRANCH

Jeanette Lade & Marjorie Nawaz

Fr. Kevin & Mags Lake

St. Fagans Aberdare

Kath Lawley,

Jill Purse & Edna Taylor

Whitchurch

CONGRATULATIONS

Joyce and John Pearce—Silver

St. Matthew's, Treorchy

Anne and Jeff Riddick—Ruby

St. Peters Fairwater

Louise and Harold Hubbard—Diamond

Coity w Nolton

Margaret and David Davies—Golden

St. Mary's Troedrhwygarth

Mary and Elias Marsden—Ruby

Skewen

John and Beryl Davies—Diamond

St. Georges, Cwmparc

Marilyn and Handel Evans—40 years

St. John's Aberdare

William and Alma Rogers—Golden

Cimla

Ron and Olga Jewell—Diamond

Neath

John and Jennifer Williams—Ruby

St. Martins Roath

Roy and Pat Vosper—Golden

St. Illtyds Newcastle

David and Anita Sutton—Golden

Llangynwyd w Maesteg

Wynford and Margaret Parkman—Ruby

Cilybebyll

Roger and Anne Gullam—Ruby

Huw and Joyce Morgans—Sapphire

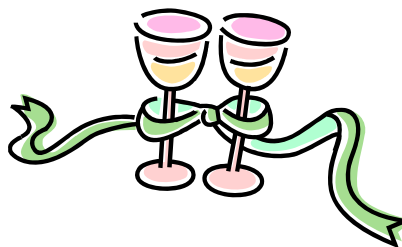
Cwmavon

Peter and Zena Ball—Golden

Wenvoe w St. Lythans

Bob and Frances Clarke—Golden

Llantwit Major



OBITUARIES

Myra Philips
St. Matthews, Treorchy

Marjorie Chard
Pam Norris
Whitchurch

Iris Beaverstock
St. Peters Fairwater

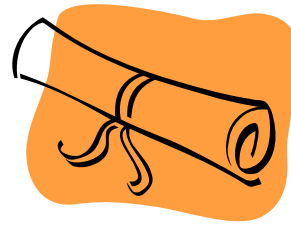
Jean Phillips
Coity w Nolton

Jane Luckwell
St. Matthias, Treharris



*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace
and rise in glory*

LONG SERVICE AWARDS



Jean Jones. 46 years.
Joy More, Enid England, Phil Crocombe, Cecily George, Clarice Evans, Mavis Twomlow, 42 years.
Margaret Davies 37 yrs, Sylvia Tyrrell 34 yrs
Connie Roberts, 26 years.
Whitchurch

Sandra Meyer & Sheila Williams 45 yrs
Lyn Parsons Jessie Payne & Gill Winton 18 yrs
Carole Rees 15 yrs, Christine Smith 12 yrs
St. John's, Canton

Mona Thomas 52 yrs, Ruth Porter 51 yrs,
Jean Porter 47 yrs, Nancy Hancock 30 yrs,
Margaret Herbert 28 yrs, Margaret Davies 26 yrs
St. Marys Troedrhywgarth

Molly Jenkins 50 yrs
Ystrad Mynach

Bridgend Deanery News

Bridgend Deanery held their Quiet Evening on Thursday 11th September at St Illtyd's Church Newcastle Bridgend. The Service took the form of a Healing Service and was conducted by Revd. David Lloyd. The members who attended found it to be a very calming experience.

Friday September 26th members from Bridgend Deanery attended a Social Evening at Blaen Garw Rugby Club, hosted by Llangarw Branch. It was a very enjoyable evening with lavish refreshments, a tombola stall, a host of raffle prizes, dancing and entertainment. The event raised £300.00 for the A F I A Caravan.

Members are looking forward to The Deanery Advent Service to be held at St Bridget's Church St Brides Major on Tuesday 2nd December conducted by Archdeacon Philip Morris.

PARISH OF ABERDARE ST FAGAN

The enrolling member of our parish, Marian Godsall accompanied by her husband Peter recently forfeited the chance to spend a relaxing fortnight's holiday in favour of a working break in the Dominican Republic. Their time was spent working in excessive heat helping to build houses in the most deprived areas of the country armed with nothing more technical than a pick and shovel. These houses cost £1800.00 each and thanks to the generosity of the parish and wider community this target was exceeded by well over £600.00. Marian also took a case full of Jelly shoes and stationary for the children of these families who were living on rubbish tips in appalling conditions. Marian and Peter also funded clean drinking water and food for the children of the community for 3 months.

What is even more remarkable is that this venture was the second undertaken by this couple who last year went to Uganda to help build a school for the local children where they were billeted. On this occasion Marian was able to meet with the local branch of the Mothers' Union. After an appeal for M U badges locally, Marian, thanks again to the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the St Fagan's branch, was able to provide badges for this overseas branch. The branch also funded the purchase of material with the M.U. Logo, bought locally in the mothers' Union training centre in Uganda. This enabled the local branch to make and wear the same tops. Along with the wearing of the badges this was a matter of great importance to the local members. This is action and outreach at it's most effective. Marian and Peter will give an illustrated talk on their experiences to any branch who wishes to host an evening.





Members of **St. Catwg's Mothers' Union, Canton** were invited to a day out at Highgrove, the home of HRH. Prince Charles. Everyone enjoyed the day and brought home souvenirs.

Fr. Ben Andrews makes a presentation to Mrs. Lilian Greenwood, branch leader at **St. Paul's Grangetown** on the occasion of her 90th birthday



ST. MARGARET'S OF ANTIOCH, ABERAMAN

Bron Thomas celebrates her 100th birthday. The photograph shows Bron with Margaret Earney, Branch Leader, Mary Mann and Mary George

ST. DAVID`S CHURCH, HOPKINSTOWN

Happy Birthday to Ann (Annie) Feilding who has celebrated her 90th. Birthday. Annie has been a faithful member of the church and of Mothers` Union for very many years. A very spiritual person, she still occupies a seat in the choir stalls and reads at morning services. A celebration lunch for thirty members of Mothers` Union was held at The Heritage Park Hotel. A bouquet was presented to Annie and everyone enjoyed the birthday cake which had been made and decorated by Annie herself.



Annie with Revd. Chris Burr and Ann Davies at The Heritage Park Hotel



BAGLAN BRANCH

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Glan Victor who have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

THE VALLEY OF HOPE



The Valley of Hope in Aberdare which is run by the Church Army appealed to the members of **St. John's Branch, Aberdare** to make woollens for deprived children in Ethiopia.

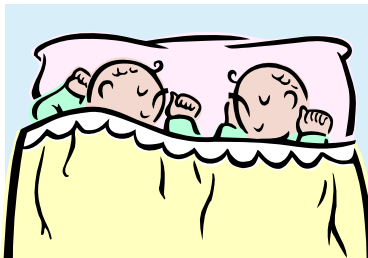
There was a wonderful response to this request with members producing a total of 88 beautifully knitted jumpers, waistcoats and cardigans. Some of the garments can be seen in the photograph above.

The clothes are being taken to Ethiopia by Mr. Ralph Upton of the Valley of Hope in November.

Mr. Upton will be speaking to the branch next year to report on their contribution and also to speak of the work of the Valley of Hope with families who are dealing with drug problems.



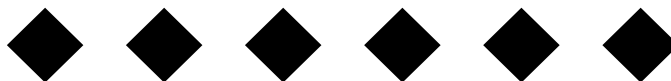
Warm Congratulations from members of St. Fagan's Branch (Cynon Deanery) to Stella and Ron Gough who became grandparents again. Their son Reverend Martin Gough (who is Anglican Chaplain at the Royal Naval College Dartmouth) and his wife Amanda presented them with TWIN grandchildren! Euan and Freya were born on September 20th and weighed in at 6lbs 2ozs and 5lb 15ozs respectively. Love to you all.



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



President:

Mrs. Tyann Leonard, The Rectory, Llandow, Cowbridge, CF71 7NT
Tel: 01656 890205

Secretary:

Mrs. Lyn Evans, 15 King Street, Aberaman, Aberdare, CF44 6UN
Tel: 01685 874429

Treasurer:

Mrs. Beryl Baldwin, 60 Llantrisant Road, Cardiff, CF5 2PX
Tel: 029 20 554457

Literature Representative:

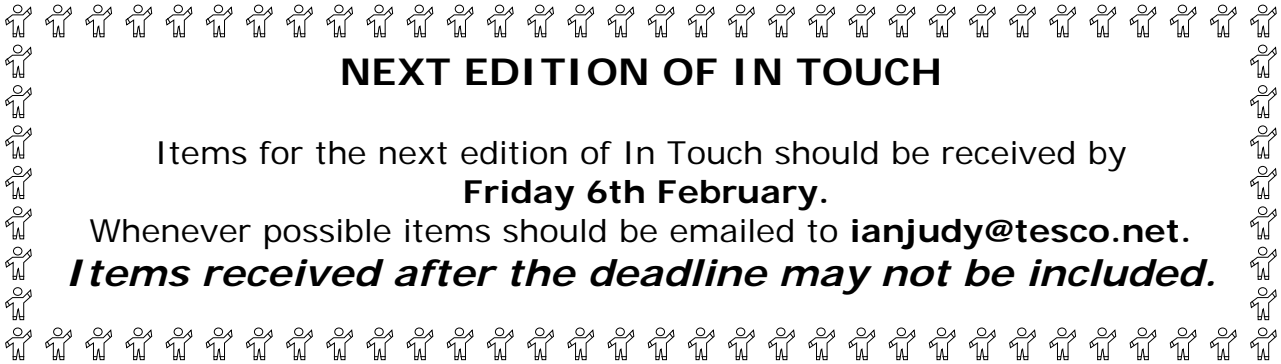
Mrs. Kathleen Jordan, 45 Kimberley Road, Penylan, Cardiff, CF23 5DL
Tel: 029 20 317200

Editor

Mrs. Judith Hopkins, 13 Park Crescent, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 0EU
Tel: 01685 384413

Editorial secretary

Mrs. Julie Davies, The Rectory, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 0ER
Tel: 01685 722992



NEXT EDITION OF IN TOUCH

Items for the next edition of In Touch should be received by
Friday 6th February.

Whenever possible items should be emailed to ianjudy@tesco.net.
Items received after the deadline may not be included.

OUR WEBSITE

www.churchinwales.org.uk/llandaffmu

Dates for your diary

March 24th 2009 Quiet Day of Prayer in St. Elvan's Church Aberdare. 10 a.m. coffee for a 10.30 a.m. start. Eucharist at 12a.m. end by 3p.m.

Holy Land Pilgrimage Oct 21 to 30th 2009.
More information is available from Archdeacon Philip Morris (01656 880108) or Mari Harrison (01443 435125).