

The 'Kindness' of sharing cake

Saturday 24th September 2016. A most significant day in the Diocese of Lichfield – when Mothers' Union was asked to be part of the welcoming of The Right Reverend Dr Michael Geoffrey Igrave OBE as 99th Bishop of Lichfield.

Deb Tudor and I attended the service of Enthronement and Installation at 11am, and later the same day Adie Harris and I attended the Eucharist service at 3.30pm. It was such an honour and privilege to be able to represent Mothers' Union at these services.

The Bishop urged us to be Joyful, Trustful, Thoughtful and Kind people, to speak of God's word from wherever we are, and to continue to share generosity.

After each service we had the opportunity to talk to so many people, clergy and lay, and present and hopefully future members.

I was told of new members being enrolled all over the diocese – this is something I can't wait to share with Bishop Michael when I have a meeting him.

The Bishop asked me to thank you for your 'thoughtfulness and kindness' in providing the cakes for after the Eucharist Service. I add my thanks to you too for rallying to the call and sending in your 50p's and a big thank you to all of you who sent more than their 50p. Hindley's Bakery in Lichfield did us proud and produced the most delicious cakes – and it was certainly the easiest way to provide them.

Between the two services there was a Procession of Faith through Lichfield Town Centre – a wonderful sight to see, with about 200 people leaving The Cathedral Close and entering town. The Salvation Army Band led, children, clergy, lay readers, Canons, Archdeacons and visiting Bishops were followed by Bishop Michael, with our own Diocesan Chaplain Revd. Preb Carl Ramsay by his side [Carl was also the Dean of the Eucharist at the 3.30pm service]. Only a few yards behind Bishop Michael was the Mothers' Union Banner, which led the parade of the individual deanery banners from the Goodness of God Celebration last year.

Like the banners and the parade there was a great feeling of moving forward throughout the day – I'm so glad Mothers' Union is and will continue to be part of that moving forward for God.

with my love and prayers to you all, Sue



Autumn Council – Thursday 10th November

10 for 10.30am start aiming to finish by 2.30pm

Drinks will be available before the meeting and at lunchtime, please bring your own packed lunch

Guest speaker; The Revd. David Primrose

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Wedding Prayers

Couples who have asked for our prayers this month are;

we have no individual requests now until December so we ask you to pray for all couples who are getting married during October and November

We are still looking for Wedding Fayres to attend.

Please let us know if you see one advertised in your area.



Planning your programme

– a new resource for two of your meetings.

We are conscious that if we do not share relevant up-to-date information about the work of Mothers' Union with our members they in turn cannot be enthusiastic about belonging and sharing that information with their friends and family.

Having been a member of a branch committee, a branch leader, and a member of a branch run by committee I understand what it is like trying to fill the programme of meetings for the following year. Some branches may not have the funds to cover the costs of Mothers' Union speakers, so miss out on new work and exciting programmes that are being launched both here and worldwide.

Please consider using the new resource that has been produced for you to use at two of your meetings. Try to leave a few months between them but they are both for you to use during 2017.

We hope you enjoy using this new initiative, we very much hope to build on this and provide material for two meetings every year from now on.

Your Branch Leader will soon be receiving more information about this resource, please ask about it at your next meeting.

from your Board of Trustees

Mothers' Union members will be present at the following two Wedding Fayre's

Saturday 15th October
at
Christchurch, Burntwood

Saturday 22nd October 10am – 3pm
at
St Andrews Church, Carters Green, West Bromwich

Have you asked for your certificate for your 140th Anniversary Celebration?

We know of some branches who have held celebration events, afternoon teas, and coffee mornings etc who have not asked for a certificate.

If this applies to your branch or deanery please contact Adie at the office.

If you have asked and not received please email Adie again. At the moment after the AGM, the Commissioning Service and then holidays we are trying to catch up on lots of administration

If you were at Spring Council you may remember us giving a 140th Anniversary Celebration Certificate to Margaret Davies to pass on to a member who after her 'Baby Shower' had a collection for Mothers' Union – we have since had this up-date from Margaret.

Baby Robyn Margaret Turnham arrived safely on 4th August. Proud new parents Emma & Andrew are overjoyed as are Mandy & Simon Poole the happy Grandparents. Emma and Mandy joined Kinver Branch of Mothers' Union together on 3rd May 2012. We send best wishes to all the family.

Do you enjoy reading the Lichfield Beacon?

Would you like to see it continue?

For many members it is the only direct communication they receive from Mothers' Union – I'm sure you would agree it would be a great shame if it had to stop being produced.

It is important to keep showcasing what we do around the diocese, partly, so that we can share what we are all doing, but also so that we can 'borrow ideas' from other branches and make them our own.

We need an editor for this wonderful resource.

Are you able to offer yourself as editor starting with the next issue which will be produced in line with Spring Council 2017? The Lichfield Beacon is produced twice a year, so it is not something that you would be working on every month, you would probably need to put aside some hours in March and some in October.

You would need to have a computer and email access, and we use a Publisher set up, but it has also been produced on 'OpenOffice'.

Most of the articles are provided by various trustees and unit members, it is just the reports and photos from the members that may need formatting.

We would be more than happy to show you how we have produced it in the past, and would always be on-hand if you needed help.

Please ask yourself could take on this job for us? Has God blessed you with the talents required, is he asking you to use them for Mothers' Union?

If you can help, please contact Adie or myself via the office. Thank you so much, Sue

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Reply from the Palace

Members at St Andrews, West Bromwich Branch have had a lovely card from her Majesty the Queen and a letter from her Lady in Waiting, thanking them for the booklet of prayers they sent to her. They are a very small branch and putting the booklet together and receiving this recognition has given them such pleasure. The booklet 'More Words' has sold many copies, not only in the church and branch but further afield too.

What have you done this year that was special to you, your branch or your deanery?

Whatever you did please let us know so that we can it share with others.



Thank you to everyone who has helped to celebrate the 140th Anniversary of Mothers' Union during this year, keep celebrating, keep enjoying what you do, keep encouraging other people to learn about the work we do.



Receiving the newsletter

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter in the future please email the office and you will be removed from the mailing list

If your friends, family or other members would like to receive the newsletter please email the office with their details and they will be added to the mailing list

office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk



at
Lichfield Mothers' Union

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