

IN TOUCH

with the Mothers' Union in Connor Diocese

AUTUMN 2020

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Connor

www.connormothersunion.org

Dear Fellow Members

A lot has happened since the previous issue of In Touch. We have all become very used to the continuing impact of the health emergency on our daily lives.

It has been lovely to see our churches reopening, and whilst we are still not able to sing, it is great to be able to come together for worship.

Our members have been very busy in recent months, knitting the little Covid hearts pictured here, and also making masks and scrubs as shown below. Food parcels have also been prepared. Your kindness has not gone unnoticed and many letters of thanks have been received. Some evidence of the efforts you have made is indicated overleaf.

Whilst MU meetings haven't happened since spring, and are not likely to take place again before Christmas, we have been doing our best to keep in touch with members. Many Trustee and Executive meetings at Diocesan and All Ireland level have been taking place via Zoom and we have had to embrace this new technology. Diocesan Council is not going to happen this November, but hopefully I will be able to send you a message on the internet.

Could I ask Branch chairs to ensure that news is passed on to all members, especially those who do not have access to the internet.

As I write this letter, we are experiencing a beautiful spell of autumnal weather as is often the case in September. The changing colours of the leaves remind us again of the wonders of nature.



You will remember the photograph of me with our little granddaughter Saoirse in the last issue. I'm pleased to report that she is now walking (or even running) about and enjoying life. She really loves the swings in the local park. We had hoped to visit Edinburgh in April, but due to the pandemic this had to be postponed. We hope to see the Edinburgh folk in the near future, but it has been great to watch Saoirse's progress on our almost daily video calls.

I close with the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26

"May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his favour and give you his peace."

With my love,

Sally x



Mary Huey is pictured modelling one of the scrubs she made during lock down.

AI Photographic and Poetry Competitions

Thank you to everyone who entered these AI competitions. All the entries for the photographic competition were excellent but unfortunately none won a prize. It is hoped to use the photographs at every opportunity. There was success for Connor in the Poetry Competition with Valerie Reilly from the Cathedral branch being joint winner. There were two highly commended entries from Moira Thom, Christ Church, Lisburn and Margaret Hanthorne from Derriaghy branch

The photographs and poems can be seen on the website.

Killead & Gartree and St. Jude's MU

The members of Killead & Gartree and St. Jude's along with some friends have been very busy during the lockdown. In April they volunteered to work with the Lisburn/Belfast NI Scrub Group. Altogether the Group made 6504 scrub sets, 6823 scrub bags, 606 face masks and 84 patient gowns with the branches contributing by unpicking, washing and ironing used duvets and pillowcases and preparing new ones. They also cut out 218 scrub sets, 82 scrub bags, and 14 patient gowns and sewed 164 scrub sets, 82 scrub bags and 14 gowns plus knit 110 hearts. If that was not enough, in May, Killead & Gartree sent two hampers to the ICU and Ward 7 in Antrim Hospital as the staff could not use the canteen facilities.



St. Aidan's MU

Pictured are Mrs Brenda Wilson, Mrs Margaret Richardson and Mrs Jessie McKee who along with other



branch members prepared wash bags and knit hearts for the Belfast Trust hospitals.

Lisburn and Derrigahy Area

It was discovered that Lagan Valley Hospital was in great



need of emergency wash bags and so again MU stepped forward. Lambeg Parish delivered 50 to the Lagan Valley

Hospital and 36 to the Royal Victoria Hospital. The Area Chairman, Valerie Christie, made up a further 40 bags which were delivered to the Lagan Valley Hospital at the end of July.

St. Mark's Ballysillan and St. Anne's Cathedral, branches



In support of the Antrim Hospital Macmillan Unit 'comfort packs for relatives' project St. Mark's MU branch asked the congregation for contributions. The photograph shows the appeal was extremely well supported. As Connor MU had supplied so many comfort packs for the Macmillan Unit it was decided to give the St.

Mark's packs to the ICU as some relatives are asked at short notice to stay overnight with their seriously ill family members. There were many items not used so along with a large amount of toiletries from the Cathedral branch wash bags were prepared and taken to the Belfast Trust for the Mater Hospital.

ENTERPRISES

The sale of Enterprise wares has been difficult for Angela and Jean due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Both ladies will be delighted to take orders over the phone or by email. If you do not have a catalogue let them know or look at the MSH website www.themothersunion.org. Remember the sale of Christmas cards, birthday cards, calendars and diaries etc. plus the other items is a valuable source of revenue for the diocese. Jean is stepping down as Enterprise Contact at the end of the year. We thank her for the hard work over the last four years and wish her well.

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Items for In Touch to be sent to Sally Cotter at mupresident.connor@gmail.com

Happy Birthday

Mrs Maisie Jameson from the Church of the Epiphany MU celebrated her 100th birthday on 13th September 2020. She said it was the best birthday celebration she had ever had. Maisie has had Covid-19 and survived which is remarkable at her age.

