

# IN TOUCH

with the Mothers' Union in Connor Diocese

**AUTUMN 2021**

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Diocese of Connor

[www.connormothersunion.org](http://www.connormothersunion.org)

## Dear Fellow Members

In the last issue of In Touch I told you how much we were looking forward to visiting Christopher and family in July, for Saoirse's second birthday. I'm pleased to report that the visit was very successful, and you will see how much she has grown in the photograph on the right. What was even better than that was a return visit from them just a couple of weeks ago. By all accounts the boat journey was a real thrill, but the main excitement of the trip was a visit to Bellevue Zoo. Saoirse was really intrigued by the various animals, and the outing made us appreciate once again, the wonders of creation.

As well as enjoying her visit to the Zoo, our Cuckoo clock made quite an impact and she enjoyed watching the cuckoo make his hourly appearance. She couldn't understand how the cuckoo only called once at one o'clock and happily concluded that the cuckoo was 'sleeping'.

I hope you were able to join with MU members worldwide on 25th September for the Annual Gathering. You will read more about it on this page. Bev Jullien (CEO) congratulated us on how we had reached out to those in need, especially during the pandemic. MU has directly supported 128,000 people in the UK. She said: "When we pull together, truly amazing things happen".

In the following pages you will read how we are continuing to help others, by sewing, knitting and providing comfort packs. Your efforts are really appreciated, and this is an opportunity to show MU in action.

MU members will be coming together for the Global Day of Action on 27th November. You will find more details of this on the website. Sadly, there has been an increase in domestic violence since the start of the pandemic.

As I write his letter, Area Services are being planned and I have a number of dates in my diary. I am looking forward to seeing many



of you on these occasions, and indeed attending some branch meetings during the year.

Wishing you God's richest blessings.

*Sally x*

## Annual Gathering

On Saturday 25th September members from across the globe joined together for our second virtual Annual Gathering.

After Sheran Harper opened in prayer, Bev Jullien spoke about how resilient MU had been during the pandemic. She quoted our Patron, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who said: "Adapting readily to change you (MU) responded remarkably by really reaching out to struggling communities". Bev said that 1.6 million people worldwide have been helped by education programmes, hygiene packs, food parcels and support for health care workers. She said that we hope to become more connected and reach out to our members worldwide to help end violence, poverty and injustice. Bev thanked everyone for their generous contribution to the emergency appeal last year and for their amazing dedication and commitment to the work of MU.

Mid-day prayers were led by MU Central Chaplain Rt. Rev. Dr. Emma Ineson.

In the afternoon session Sheran Harper began by saying how deeply humbled she was to be chosen to continue as Worldwide President for a further triennium. She then said MU was a dynamic, engaged, compassionate movement at the forefront of a changing world, facing new challenges with confidence. Due to the pandemic, we were forced to change course and navigate new waters in order to survive. Our outpouring of love encouraged her and others to reimagine the work of MU and she thanked us for supporting her with faithful prayers and generous acts of love. As we look forward to a new triennium, we are more connected than ever. We are reminded of the light that shines before us and in the words of St. Theresa of Avila, "Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world."

Sheran announced the Theme for next year, which is 'The time for transformation is now', and she urged us to move boldly forward to our 150th anniversary in 2006.

Next year the Annual Gathering will be in Belfast on 24th September, with two services of Thanksgiving in St. Anne's Cathedral the previous day.

# In Touch with the Diocese



## Honour for former President

We were delighted with the news that Paddy Wallace had received the gift of Maundy Money from Her Majesty the Queen. Paddy, a member of All Saints' Antrim, has long been a stalwart of Mothers' Union and has held a variety of roles, most notably as Diocesan President (Jan 1998 – Dec 2001), and then as All-Ireland President. She has been a wonderful example to all in Mothers' Union and is still very aware of everything that is happening in the organisation. She is well known throughout the diocese and the whole Church of Ireland and is held in very high regard.

Paddy was nominated for the Royal Maundy Money by the Bishop of Connor, Rt. Rev. George Davison.

Speaking about receiving the Maundy Money, Paddy said she was very excited. "I was quite overawed. I did not expect it in the slightest. I am very honoured".

Sadly, because of the Covid 19 pandemic, Paddy was unable to receive her Maundy Purse in person, but it was sent to her in the post.

We join with all who know her, in offering our sincere congratulations on this wonderful achievement.



Bartholomew's, Stranmillis, the Revd. Canon Kevin Graham and Alberta Miskimmon.

Along the way June was joined by the Dean of St. Anne's Cathedral, the Very Revd. Stephen Forde.

June's second walk started at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Portrush, where the Rector, Canon Peter McDowell, sent June and her fellow walkers, Nina, Kim, Alicean, Jean and Kay on their way along the beautiful Coast Road towards Portstewart. The photograph shows the group after they arrived at Agherton Parish Church with the Rector, the Revd. Malcolm Ferry. Others in the welcoming party were Connor DP Sally and her husband Bob, Carol Ferry and Branch Secretary Rosemary.

Donations for '21 in 21' are still being accepted and can be sent to the Diocesan Treasurer, Mrs. Emma Ferris, 33 Vaddegan Road, Newtownabbey BT36 7SW.

## '21 in 21'

Connor Diocese was delighted to welcome the MU AI President, Mrs. June Butler, on two occasions as part of her "Mums in May" fund raising walks in each diocese of Ireland. June has walked 21kms in most of the dioceses with the final 7km in Connor to be completed on Wednesday 13th October 2021, starting at St. Judes Muckamore. Pictured with June at the start of the first walk in Belfast are the Rector of St.



## Diocesan Membership

Being a member of MU is not restricted to Branch Membership. Diocesan Membership is available to anyone who supports the aims and objectives of this wonderful organisation, but for whatever reason cannot attend branch meetings.

A Diocesan Member receives all the normal MU publications and can attend all Diocesan meetings and social events.

To learn more of this form of membership, please contact:  
DP Sally Cotter – [mupresident.connor@gmail.com](mailto:mupresident.connor@gmail.com)  
or VP Geraldine Montgomery – [montgomery\\_ge@yahoo.com](mailto:montgomery_ge@yahoo.com)  
(028 9071 5778).

## 'Take it to the Lord in Prayer'

The prayer chain in Connor receives several requests each week and there are members in every branch who present these requests to God. The Faith & Policy Unit would encourage all members to make use of the prayer chain as it is an effective way to bring the power of prayer to support those facing adversity of any kind. If you would like to submit a prayer request please use the form available on the Connor website

<https://www.connormothersunion.org/diocesan-prayer-chain> or email Prayer Contact Hilary directly [hilaryfaboddy@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryfaboddy@gmail.com)

# In Touch with the Branches

## All Ireland Competitions

*The quality of the Connor entries for all the AI competitions has been extremely high and this hymn written by Mrs. K. McCurdy from Armoy & Drumtallagh MU follows that standard. The hymn can be sung to "To God be the Glory".*

TO JESUS MY SAVIOUR I OWE EVERYTHING  
FOR MY SAKE HE SUFFERED, A NEW LIFE TO BRING  
HE PRAYED TO HIS FATHER "NOT MY WILL BUT THINE"  
AND BID US REMEMBER IN THE BREAD AND THE WINE

○ MY LORD, ○ MY LORD, HOW YOU SUFFERED FOR ME  
○ MY LORD, ○ MY LORD, CRUELLY NAILED TO A TREE  
○ HELP ME REMEMBER, WHEN TEMPTED TO STRAY  
YOUR SACRIFICE MADE, FOR MY SINS TO PAY

○ PRAISE TO THE FATHER, AND PRAISE TO THE SON  
DEATH HAS BEEN CONQUERED, THE VICTORY'S BEEN WON  
THE GRAVE COULDN'T HOLD YOU, YOU ROSE FROM THE DEAD  
ASCENDED TO HEAVEN, UP TO THE LIVING HEAD

CHORUS

As usual, members throughout the Diocese have been supplying washbags to hospitals and knitting items for wherever the need has arisen. The following are just some examples of this valuable work.

## St. Polycarp's MU

Members of St. Polycarp's have been busy filling washbags for distribution to Lagan Valley Hospital, the N.I. Hospice, as well as knitting baby items.



*Members beavering away filling wash bags.*



*Branch chair, Jean Sheridan (right), with Branch and South Belfast Projects Rep, Helen Walsh, showing some of the many items the Branch provided.*



*The Revd. Canon William Taggart, Chaplain of the NI Hospice, handing over some of St. Polycarp's washbags to Michele Gordon, complimentary therapist.*



**Christ Church, Lisburn** – Baby Basics received these lovely knitted articles from the Branch.



*The branch also sent wash bags to the Mater Hospital, Belfast.*

# URGENT REQUEST

Irene Paget, Mid-Connor Area Chair, received an urgent request for baby hats from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. These were duly supplied and a further 208 hats from St. John's, Crumlin and Killead & Gartree Pins & Needles Group were also delivered.



This lovely photograph of Mrs. Jean Jackson from St. Jude's, Muckamore was taken on her 99th birthday in July.

## A wonderful 60th anniversary

The Enterprise Contact for Connor, Angela Morwood, and her husband Basset, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The couple marked the happy occasion with family and friends both here and in Wales.



## ENTERPRISES

Shown here are some of the many Christmas Cards available. Please shop early to avoid disappointment.



Enterprise contact: Angela Morwood  
morwood26@btinternet.com  
028 9263 8855



Items for In Touch to be sent to Sally Cotter at: [mupresident.connor@gmail.com](mailto:mupresident.connor@gmail.com)