

# IN TOUCH

with the Mothers' Union in Connor Diocese

**SPRING 2022**

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Diocese of Connor

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

**Dear Fellow Members**

## COME AND SEE

What a joy it was to have our Festival Service in St. Anne's Cathedral on Sunday 20th March! Our last Festival Service was in 2019, when I was commissioned for my first term as Diocesan President. The service in 2020 was the first casualty of the Covid pandemic. Although numbers had to be reduced, it was great to see the Cathedral well filled and everyone was delighted to be back.

My thanks are due to Dean Stephen who made us feel most welcome, Archdeacon Stephen for commissioning me for my second term as DP, and Canon Robert Deane our All-Ireland Chaplain for his uplifting and challenging sermon. The service was also attended by the Bishop, Rt. Rev. George Davison and among the guests were June Butler, our All-Ireland President and Mavis Thompson DP for Down and Dromore Diocese.

Canon Deane based his address on the passage from John 1:43-51 and used the words 'Come and See' to illustrate how we might promote Mothers' Union. He emphasised that the personal invitation was more important than the theological explanation and that the personal touch and the face-to-face experience of MU meetings are crucial. MU offers this personal interaction in abundance. He was very optimistic about the future of MU and encouraged us to stay positive and keep working away to promote our wonderful organisation. When people come along and see what we are doing they will want to be part of Mothers' Union.

Karen Bushby, Diocesan Communications officer was on hand to take photographs, and you can view the photo gallery which



*Saoirse – what mischief can I get up to next?*

shows the banner bearers at [connor.anglican.org](http://connor.anglican.org)  
With my love,

*Sally x*



*(Above, L. to R.) – Canon Robert Deane, All Ireland MU Chaplain, Archdeacon Stephen McBride, Connor MU Chaplain, Sally Cotter, Diocesan President, Bishop of Connor, Rt. Rev. George Davison.*

*(Right) – Roslyn Graham, North Connor Area Chair, carried the Diocecan Banner.*



# In Touch with the Diocese

## Women's Aid speak at MU Diocesan Council

The members of Connor Mothers' Union were delighted to finally meet together, after many months apart, at the Autumn Council held in Ballymena.

To highlight '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence' the guest speakers were Arlene Creighton and Tahnee McCorry from Women's Aid ABCLN (Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey).

In 2020-21, 1,583 women and 1,767 children were supported in the ABCLN area. In Northern Ireland in the same period the PSNI recorded 31,196 incidents of domestic abuse.

Women's Aid ABCLN provided confidential support, information and emergency accommodation for women and children who are affected by domestic abuse. They offer one to one support, practical assistance and group work for women in the community as well as specialised services and support for children and young people. Women's Aid also delivers a range of courses to encourage confidence building, help to make better choices and promote healthy relationships. Services provided are free, confidential and accessible to all women.

MU has worked with Women's Aid for many years and in 2021 it became apparent that Away From It All (AFIA) project could not continue in its usual form due to Covid restrictions so the Diocesan Trustees and Executive decided to support the work of Women's Aid with two generous donations of fuel vouchers to help families in need.

*Pictured (L. to R) – Cathy Doig, Social Policy Contact, Sally Cotter, Diocesan President, Irene Gates, Diocesan Secretary, Tahnee McCorry and Arlene Creighton, Women's Aid.*



## Mothers' Union Global Day of Action

One in three women worldwide has experienced domestic and sexual violence – a shocking statistic that soared following mandatory lockdowns due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mothers' Union is calling for an end to abuse and violence now, with #nomore1in3, a campaign which is part of its Global Day of Action, on Saturday November 27th.

On this day, the friends and members of Mothers' Union met in venues across Britain and Ireland – from cathedrals to shopping centres and churches to their own living rooms, uniting to call for



action against the abuse and joined together for three minutes of silence at 1.03 p.m., to make more people aware of the work that still needs to be done.

In Connor Diocese a short service was led by the Rev. Jason Kernohan in All Saints' Parish Church, Eglantine, during which 16 candles were lit by Cathy Doig, Connor Social Policy Contact and the 3 minute silence was observed. Prayers were led by Sally Cotter, Diocesan President and Cathy Doig. We were delighted to be joined by Bishop George and Mrs. Davison, along with members from across the Diocese.

The Global 16 Days campaign runs annually from November 25 (International Day Against Violence Against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day).



## Update on Worldwide

Mothers' Union supports communities worldwide by sending money directly to MU to provide basic necessities in an area which has suffered a disaster.

The Worldwide Fund supports programmes and projects worldwide. MU relies heavily on members' donations to do this work.

I would like to thank all the many members who financially support the work of the Worldwide Fund. Without your generosity MU would not be able to improve the lives of many families and communities worldwide.

**Valerie Ash (Diocesan Worldwide Contact)**

It was with deep sadness that the Diocese learned of the death of **Mrs. Edna Wright**. Edna held many positions within MU, ranging from Branch Chairman to Vice-President and was a vibrant ambassador for MU.

## Safeguarding Update

Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S responsibility

All members should have received their pocket card "Safeguarding and You" with the Autumn edition of Connected.

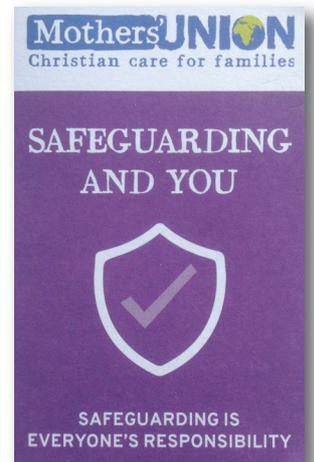
Lots of information and a link to the [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org) website.

Your branch leaders should have more information about the important issue of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

I do hope your branch will regard Safeguarding an important issue to discuss in the branch meeting!

Let's keep everyone safe,

**Valerie**



# In Touch with the Branches

## Celebrating 60 years together

Arnold and Gwen Woods celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August 2021. Gwen has been a branch member of St. Jude's



for the past 55 years. Arnold and Gwen now live in Wiltshire, but Gwen still remains a member of the Branch.

## Ballyrashane & Kildollagh MU

Mrs. Freda Hunter spent a busy lockdown by knitting 27 teddies, 51 hats and 68 cardigans (pictured). Along with other items knitted by branch members these have been sent to the Premature Baby Units.



## St. Jude's Mothers' Union

Photographed below are members of St. Jude's Branch who received long service certificates.



## Cathedral Branch

27 of these lovely blankets were donated to Antrim Area Hospital for use of the Neonatal and Cancer Units.



## 90th birthday

Looking wonderful is Mrs. Gladys Hollywood, the Branch Chair of St. Aidan's MU, celebrating her 90th birthday in December 2021.



## St. Matthew's MU



All of this lovely knitting has kept members of the Branch busy!



## North Connor Spring Area Service

DP Sally Cotter was the guest speaker at North Connor Spring Area Service in St. Andrew's Parish, Ballysally.



## St. Mark's Ballysillan

The members of St. Mark's Branch were delighted to have DP Sally with them to enrol Mrs. Norma Briggs into the Mothers' Union.



## Eglantine Mothers' Union

We send our sympathy to the family of the late Mrs. Pat Leckey, a member of Eglantine MU, who sadly passed away on her 100th birthday.

## St. Patrick's, Coleraine MU

Janet Peden, Coleraine MU Leader, admires the baby clothes knitted by Bridie Lees. They will go to local Neonatal wards.



## MU Enterprises

Please note the new email address for the Diocesan Enterprise contact: [mue.connormothersunion@gmail.com](mailto:mue.connormothersunion@gmail.com)  
Some of the Jubilee items available are shown below.



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