

140TH
ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Canterbury



A Celebration of Faith
Newsletter - October - December 2016

Congratulations

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconries

St Mary the Virgin, Fellowship Group

Diamond Wedding,

Janet and Laurie Walmsley
Long Term Membership, Pat
Hudgell

Whitstable Team Fellowship Group

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Andrew's Church, Barming Heath

Diamond Wedding,

Dorothy and Arthur Bryant

Golden Wedding,

Anne and Paul Taylor

Long Term Membership,

Joan Longley and
Jennifer Salter

FROM THE EDITOR

The focus in this newsletter is on our Christian care and outreach through crafts. Branches throughout the Diocese are making a variety of items for hospitals and care places. Using cross stitch, members make crosses in pockets which are given to family and friends, and in many other contexts too, praying for these people. It's amazing how grateful people are when they receive them, appreciating the care and thoughtfulness that the gift of a cross represents.

Depending on who the crosses are given to, it's sometimes appropriate to enclose a prayer within the cross pocket, (see back cover).

If you would like to download the instructions you will find them at muenterprises.org/inspired/files/2012/09/A-cross-in-my-pocket4.pdf

David Horwood.

Front Cover photo:

Lynne Tembey, Worldwide President, with the birthday card given to HRH Prince Edward for our patron HM The Queen.

Over 400 members born in 1926 and who therefore share the year of the Queen's birth are pictured in a birthday card from MU to the Queen. These are members not only from the UK, but from Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, USA, and from Uganda and South Africa. MU central office received a lovely letter from Buckingham Palace thanking us for the birthday card sent from Mothers' Union members.



My dear friends

I have been bursting with pride at everyone's engagement and enthusiasm in reaching out within your community celebrating Founder's Day and spreading the word about 21st Century Mothers' Union.

Congratulations also to Trustee Rita for her epic 140 kilometre pilgrimage walk from Margate to Mary Sumner House, London. She hopes more of us will join her for a Clapham Common Fun Run on 9th October (see her Just Giving page to donate to MU).



Mothers' Union is currently campaigning around some of the changes to the way child maintenance (financial support for children in the case of separation) is arranged in the United Kingdom. Sadly, we are only too aware that abuse doesn't stop with the end of the relationship. The petition can be signed online at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-charging-survivors-of-domestic-abuse-the-collection-fee-for-child-maintenance>.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations. Eliminating it requires intensive efforts all over the world. From 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women), for 16 days until 10th December (Human Rights Day), Mothers' Union takes part in the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. We will have action points and prayer days around the Diocese.

Has your branch responded on the School based Sex and Relationships Education discussion paper? We are seeking members to be part of a 'fast action' group for future circulations of policy documents. (see elsewhere in the newsletter).

It is exciting times as Mothers' Union commences a partnership programme with The Children's Society supporting refugees in the UK. To hear more about this initiative and opportunities for volunteering, come along to the Council meeting on 1st November.

A fortunate few went to General Conference last month to meet with members from around the world and celebrate the 140th anniversary of Mothers' Union, in the place where it all began, in Winchester, under the theme for the year 'A Celebration of Faith. We can announce that Bev Jullien, Chief Executive Officer of the Mothers' Union, will be the speaker at the Advent Service on 1st December in the Quire of the Cathedral. We hope as many members as possible will share this opportunity to meet her.

Grace and Peace

Marianna Poliszczuk, Diocesan President

E-mail: marianna2@compuserve.com

Around the Diocese

St Michael and All Angels Church, Maidstone

This Mothers' Union banner was made by members in about 1954. At the meetings they practiced the embroidery stitches and paid one shilling (10 pence) to meet the total cost of £28.17 shillings (£28.70 pence), for the material and silks. It was repaired in 1986.

Ann Rust



St Mary's Church, Dover

I am a new member along with my wife of the MU. My name is Mike Piper, I am a port of Dover Chaplain, and a Seafarers Chaplain. I would like to thank the St Mary's Branch of MU Dover, for the woolly pompom hats (with or without pompom), scarves, and gloves they have knitted me to supply the seafarers. All three items go down very well with the seafarers that come to Dover. I try to visit most ships, when I am able. The Freight ships that come into Dover, have mostly Filipino crews, along with some Ukraine, Russian, and other European nationalities.



I also visit the cruise ship crews, who also make me very welcome, and they too are mostly from the Philippines and India, and really appreciate the woollen garments. Obviously apart from the 'woollies' I am there for spiritual purpose if required, and I also carry mobile phone top ups that enable them to keep in touch with their loved ones back home.

Finally can I ask please for those lovely lady knitters, (and men if there are any) to keep them coming, I can use as many as can be turned out. Once again a big thank you to St Mary's Branch for all that they have provided for the seafarers, your work is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU

Mike Piper, Port of Dover Chaplain and a Seafarers Chaplain.

Around the Diocese

Holy Trinity Church, Margate

On 14th June the branch held a sponsored dog walk. Members brought their dogs and we did an hour's walk round Cliftonville. Those who did not walk prepared a tea for us on our return and we raised a total of £295 for the MU Away From It All holiday for families.

Today our branch is very active and successful but it hasn't always been like this. The photo is of our four members whose continual Prayer seven years ago, that the branch would see new members, has been answered. Mary, Nora, Dorothy and Eileen thought the branch would have to close, but through Prayer it is now flourishing with a group meeting on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening once a month. The combined age of the ladies is 367 years.

Valerie Browne



St Michael and All Angels Church, Harbledown

Members of the branch with Margaret Horwood, Canterbury and Ashford Archdeaconry President, and members from St Stephens and City Centre at a service of morning prayer led by Fr Michael Morris, his last service for the

branch before retirement. This was followed by lunch in the Church Hall.

Ann Taylor



Copy for the next Newsletter to be with the Editor, David Horwood, by Friday 28th October 2016. Please let me know what is happening in your area. Send to: 27 Abbey Gardens, Canterbury CT2 7EU or email: boycieboycie@icloud.com.

Around the Diocese

St Michael and All Angels Church, Marden

We have been invited by other branches to demonstrate and inspire in the making of the Cross in the Pocket which are distributed in hospital. The regular craft sessions are a happy fellowship of knitters and sewers who make many other items for sale for church funds. Items on the Cross in the Pocket can be found in this Newsletter.

Our visit to St Nicholas, Allington has resulted in their new community 'knit and natter' group.

Members and Vicar ready for our MU Mum & Toddlers Annual Teddy Bears Picnic in the Vicarage garden on 6th July, for all young persons and carers in the village to enjoy.

Margaret Bradford

Saying Goodbye Service 2016

The Mothers' Union were once again involved with the annual Saying Goodbye Service in the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday 30th July. For those of you who don't know about the Saying Goodbye Service, it is for those who have experienced the death of a child in pregnancy, at birth, or in early years of life. The picture shows over 800 candles in the shape of a heart, lit in memory of those who have died, including ones for parents who were unable to attend. This year we had eleven MU members from the Diocese helping with providing refreshments, and assisting where required during the service. We also had a pastoral team of five clergy who were available for anyone wishing to talk after the service.

Margaret Horwood



pictured: Mary Gentry, Allington Branch Leader; Rosemary McArragher, Carol Walker, Janet Codling and Ann Woodgate, all from Marden Branch



Together in Prayer

October - November - December 2016

Revd Wendy Jackson-Hill – Pastoral Advisor

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

I am writing this on what seems to be the hottest day EVER!! It is also the day that has been chaotic in Dover with traffic being gridlocked for miles on end.

This affected the buses in Deal where I live, the 09.57 arrived at 10.40 and by the time I was ready to travel home the buses were running an hour later than scheduled and tempers were starting to fray!

As I stood waiting for my bus I watched a pigeon building a nest high in the Beech tree, he flew from the new nest tree to another beech tree and I heard the twig snap as he broke it with his beak and then flew across to his new address, I watched him repeat that process several times and so wished I could see how the nest was looking.

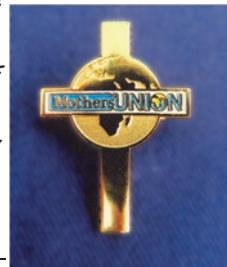
How lucky I was to have that lovely activity to watch while I waited!

What do we do with the time we are forced to waste when we have to wait for buses, trains, aeroplanes, doctors, dentists etc? I usually try to get into conversation with fellow ‘waiters’ and have met some lovely people by doing that.

I sometimes use the time to ‘talk to God’ using my surroundings as starting points and sharing my concerns about what’s going on or simply thanking Him for all the beauty around me.

Let’s be creative with the time entrusted to us, we never know when our time will run out!

“He who every morning plans the transaction of the day and follows out that plan, carries a thread that will guide him through the maze of the most busy life. But where no plan is laid, where the disposal of time is surrendered merely to the chance of incidence, chaos will soon reign.” - Victor Hugo



October - Harvest

I grew up in a suburb on the outskirts of Durban in South Africa and our Harvest Thanksgiving service was rather ordinary in that my Mum would add a bag of sugar, a few bars of soap and maybe a bag of flour to her grocery order for the week and I'd take that to Sunday School and we'd all march up to the Altar to hand our gifts to the Priest.

Imagine how 'different' my first Harvest Festival in England was! I was House for Duty Priest in a beautiful village called Sandford near Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. Many of my congregation were farmers and we had **real** Harvest gifts of freshly laid eggs, **real** vegetables not the tinned varieties, Honey and **real** fruit. At one church in the Benefice they traditionally had an Auction of the Harvest gifts after the Service and I have special memories of someone offering punnets of freshly picked Mushrooms and assuring everyone they were definitely safe for human consumption!

Sadly we have lost something very valuable with the advent of Supermarkets and refrigeration which enables our food to reach our tables from all over the World. We can enjoy out of season exotic fruits and vegetables all year round and I think we have become complacent and take our food for granted. We have recently started a vegetable patch in our small garden and it is so exciting to watch the tiny little green speck emerging from the soil and becoming a plant, then getting flowers and finally the fruit, that first Radish tasted amazing!!!

And so as October heralds the bringing in of the Harvest let us give humble thanks to God for all his great gifts to us. The end of October sees the end of British Summer time, shorter days and longer nights let us give thanks to God for His great gift of TIME and remember that our time IS in His hands.

Thought for the Harvest:

*All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above
Then thank the Lord, Oh thank the Lord for all His
gifts.*



Please remember in your prayers:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Saturday 15th October | Annual Market 10.00 am - 12.00 pm at St Paul's Church, Canterbury |
| Wednesday 19th October | Trustee Board Meeting 10.00 am - 1.00 pm in Diocesan House Chapel |
| Thursday 27th October | Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon in St Gabriel's Chapel |
| Friday 28th October | Copy deadline for Newsletter |

November - All Saints & All Souls

I was Confirmed 57 years ago on 1st November in my Parish Church in Durban, South Africa by the Bishop of Natal, Vernon Inman. He had also married my parents, Christened me when I was 6 months old and ordered my Mother to 'get that screaming little Chorister out of my church until I'm ready to give her her name!' My poor Mum never forgot that incident and reminded Bishop Inman of it at my Confirmation!

The Festival of All Saints is on 1st November and I'm sure we all have a 'favourite Saint'. Mine is St Francis of Assisi. We are all called to be Saints and that thought probably scares us but perhaps this little quote may help us understand more easily what a Saint really is.

A Sunday School teacher asked the class who'd recently been shown some beautiful stained glass windows in the Parish Church 'what is a Saint?' and a little boy said 'Someone the light shines through.' Clever lad.

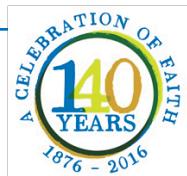
What about you and me, do we allow the light of Christ to shine through us?

On 2nd November we remember all those faithful souls who have been part of our lives here on earth and are now resting from their labours. We give thanks for their love for us, their example and the way they helped shape our lives.

Thought for All Saints tide:

Give thanks to God for your favourite Saint.

Make me a channel of your peace Lord and may my life reflect Your light and love in all I do and think and say today and everyday.



Please remember in your prayers:

| | |
|--|--|
| Tuesday 1st November | Diocesan Council Meeting 10.15 am - 1.00 - 2.00 pm |
| Tuesday 22nd November | Trustee Board Meeting 10.00 am - 1.00 pm in Diocesan House Boardroom |
| Thursday 24th November | Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel |
| Friday 25th November to Saturday 10th December | 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM against gender violence |

December - Christmas

Another great shock to my system when I came to England in 2003 was to find just how different Christmas is in the Northern Hemisphere! Of course I knew it was going to be cold BUT didn't know just HOW cold it would be. Going out Carol singing in mid Devon was a really chilling experience and how I welcomed those glasses of steaming Mulled wine we were given between venues!

Suddenly the words of the Carol ' In the Bleak Midwinter ' which we never sang in South Africa had meaning

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

I was used to scorching heat, edge to edge unrelenting sunshine and humidity and as we donned silly crepe paper hats and gathered round the dining table to eat hot roast Turkey and all the trimmings the perspiration on our foreheads soon sent rivulets of coloured dye running down our faces!

Why do I make this comparison between the Christmas weather conditions?

Because I believe that wherever we celebrate Christmas the message is the same

For God so loved the World that He gave His only Son

A thought as we celebrate Christmas:

*The greatest gift the world could ever receive was when
God walked down the steps of Heaven with a Baby in His hands....*

Reflection. What gift can I bring to God this Christmas?

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him? I give my heart.*

Please remember in your prayers:

Thursday 1st December

Advent Service 11.00 am in Quire of Cathedral

Thursday 29th December

Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon in St Gabriel's Chapel

Around the Diocese

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry - Quiet Day

"Lord may my shoes help me to spread the Good News of Peace" *Ephesians 6:15*

I relished the opportunity to meet up with the members

from the Ashford and Canterbury Archdeaconries at the Quiet Day held at St Stephen's, Canterbury and led by Revd Wendy Jackson-Hill (pastoral adviser to these Archdeaconries). We meditated on Christ 'our companion on the way', were encouraged to write prayers and to 'take off our shoes' following the Shoe Prayer: walking in socks around the church was a novel prayerful experience. The day ended with Eucharist followed by teas in the hall.

Marianna Poliszczuk, Diocesan President



Diocesan Events

In putting this together for the Newsletter I realised it would cover the run-up to Christmas. It is strange writing about Christmas when the sun is shining so warmly outside, but that is the problem of being so organised within the Diocese! We have a number of occasions to look forward to in this quarter so please keep your eyes and ears open and try and come along to as many as possible. The first occasion we all get together is the Annual Market on Saturday 15th October from 10.30 am - 12.30 pm in St Paul's Church, Church Street St Paul's, Canterbury CT1 1NH and you have all been allocated the stalls and received the relevant information. Please do encourage as many of your parishioners and friends to come along and support us, as this is our major fund raiser for the running of the Diocese. The second event is the Diocesan Council meeting on Tuesday 1st November again at St Paul's Church from 10.15 am - 1.00 pm. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch to eat in the Church Centre after the meeting and catch up with friends for a chat. The last but by no means the least, is our annual Advent Service on Thursday 1st December in the Quire of Canterbury Cathedral. We are honoured to have our Chief Executive, Mrs Bev Jullien coming to preach for us and further details about the service will be sent out in due course. Please put these dates in your diary and encourage as many members, family members and friends to come along, in particular to the Advent Service. This is always a wonderful occasion and the only one that is held in the Cathedral.

Margaret Horwood, Canterbury and Ashford Archdeaconry President

Around the Diocese

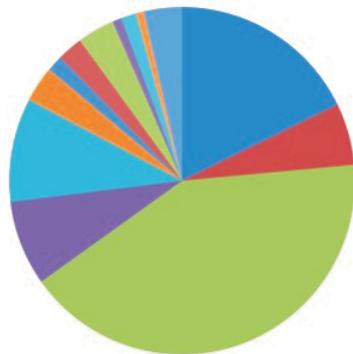
Saint Mary and Saint Ethelburga Church, Lyminge

Today I enjoyed a lovely morning with the ladies from Saint Mary and Saint Ethelburga, Lyminge. We met in a pub called The Cat and Custard Pot for coffee, it was great chatting with the ladies and learning a little about them. They support Folkestone Women's Refuge and Sue and Margaret had the opportunity to visit them recently. As I was chatting to Jeanette she was telling me about the bags she makes for patients of The William Harvey Hospital to carry their drains around in, a great idea and very appreciated by the nurses. If anyone else is interested in making some they can contact the branch and they will put them in touch with Jeanette. After coffee we visited the lovely Church of Saint Oswald, and Sue gave us an excellent talk on the history of the church. As always it's such a delight and privilege to meet with other branches and make new friends. I was made very welcome and came away feeling so blessed to be part of Mothers' Union.



Where we spent our money in 2015

The full set of accounts can be obtained from the Administrator or your Branch Leader. Please note that the expenditure on 'Literature & Badges' and 'Families First' are recouped from members.



- Central Subscriptions £7504.30
- Overseas Fund £2433.35
- AFIA £17570.14
- Other Giving £3341.39
- Secretarial Expenses £4085.64
- Unit Expenses £1406.30
- Insurance £632.18
- Literature & Badges £1014.12
- Newsletter £1463.15
- Travel Expenses £359.30
- Trustee Expenses & Training £600.74
- Room Hire £313.75
- Families First £1509.00

Education on Sex and Relationships

Many of us may lack knowledge about the way sex and relationships are taught in schools. As part of its mandate to promote flourishing and healthy relationships, the Mothers Union has a genuine interest in how young people can be supported and equipped to enjoy healthy and positive relationships with one another, with friends, with family members and others.

One issue being discussed at present is whether school-based sex and relationship education should be included in a wider range of the education curriculum known as Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education. Mary Sumner House has produced a wide ranging discussion paper on this issue which has been circulated to Branches. Branches and/or individual members have been invited to consider this major issue and to complete some relevant questions.

This has been identified as an issue on which the Mothers' Union has the opportunity to make a real contribution. Responses should be returned either by email to policy@mothersunion.org. or by post to Faith and Policy, Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB by 20th October. Please make every effort to take part. I would like to hear from any member who would like to be on an email circulation for future discussion papers.

John Sweetman Social Policy. email: johnsweetman@blueyonder.co.uk

A Tribute - Brenda Lawson - 13th June 1933 – 23rd June 2016.

Brenda was an active member of Minster Abbey branch of the Mothers' Union and became Branch Leader, and later a member of the Diocesan Trustee Board.

In 2001 she was elected Mothers' Union Diocesan President, and served the diocese well in this post for six years. Despite ill health at times, she spent a lot of time visiting branches and was always happy to attend events and services when invited, and with a smile and easy manner won the hearts of many members. She enabled those on the Trustee Board to fulfil their roles by gently supporting them, and was a member of the Diocesan Emergency Prayer Chain until her death.

She had a great sense of humour and always smiled in the face of adversity. Right to the end of her life she never complained, and always tried to find words of encouragement and friendship to those she met. She was a wonderful lady, and will be sadly missed by us all. Our love and prayers are for her husband Douglas, and her daughters, Sara and Kirsty, and may she rest in peace.

Douglas Lawson and daughters Kirsty and Sara would like to thank all those who attended the funeral and who sent cards in memory of Brenda.

Sue Spillett

This magazine is produced by Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Canterbury. All items must come with a note of the contributor's name and contact details. The editor reserves the right to edit or not publish anything received. Items are not intended to represent the official position of the Church of England, nor the official position of the Mothers' Union.

Those Who Have Died

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconries

St Martin & St Paul's Church, Canterbury Joan Oliver

St Michael & All Angels Church, Harbledown Betty Fels

St Stephen's Church, Canterbury Phyllis Wellard

Maidstone Archdeaconry

Minster Abbey, Sheppey Brenda Lawson Life member and past Canterbury Diocesan President

St Michael & All Angels Church, Maidstone Revd Barbara Durkin Linda Bicknell and Margaret Gray Jeanette Ardley

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 15th October

Annual Market 10.00 am - 12.00 pm at St Paul's Church, Canterbury, CT1 1NH

Wednesday 19th October

Trustee Board Meeting 10.00 am - 1.00 pm in Diocesan House Chapel

Thursday 27th October

Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon, St Gabriel's Chapel

Friday 28th October

Copy deadline for Newsletter

Tuesday 1st November

Diocesan Council Meeting 10.15 am - 1.00 pm St Paul's Church, Canterbury CT1 1NH, followed by lunch in the Church Centre 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Tuesday 22nd November

Trustee Board Meeting 10.00 am - 1.00 pm in Diocesan House Boardroom

Thursday 24th November

Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel

Friday 25th November to Saturday 10th December

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM against gender violence

Thursday 1st December

Advent Service 11.00 am in Quire of Cathedral, speaker: Mrs Bev Jullien

Thursday 29th December

Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel



Founder's Day

On our special day some members attended evensong at Westminster Abbey and also at Rochester Cathedral. However, Trustee Daniele travelled further afield.

Here with Marjorie Smith Dunblane Overseas Officer on left and Elizabeth Benton, Dunblane Diocesan President on right. The talk was well received and a magnificent day, well attended and most inspiring. A really great celebration of Mary Sumner's life.

Love from Beautiful Scotland.

Daniele Ligneau-Wilton, Action and Outreach Overseas



Thanet Deanery

How blessed we were on Tuesday 9th August - Mary Sumner Day - as it was a lovely sunny afternoon when 44 members and friends were welcomed to St Mary's Church Minster, to remember and give thanks for our founder Mary Sumner on this 140th anniversary of Mothers' Union. Our chaplain the Revd Lesley Valiant led us in prayer which included Mary Sumner's personal prayer.

We then went to Parkminster, next to the Abbey, for a delicious cream tea which was prepared and served by members of the "Looking Ahead" project which is an organisation providing support and training to adults with learning needs. I am sure Mary Sumner would have been proud to think that while enjoying ourselves we were supporting others, as Daniele Ligneau-Wilton did in Dunblane.

Janet Walmsley

Contact List

Diocesan Administrator

Susan Bradley 01303 864289
Wingmore, Brady Road,
Lyminge, CT18 8EU
E-mail: sbradleymu@gmail.com

Canterbury & Ashford
Archdeaconry President

Margaret Horwood 01227 455080
E-mail: apcanterburymu@gmail.com

Maidstone Archdeaconry President

Jean Sweetman 01622 728233
E-mail: jeansweetman@blueyonder.co.uk

Diocesan Website: www.muenterprises.org/canterburymu

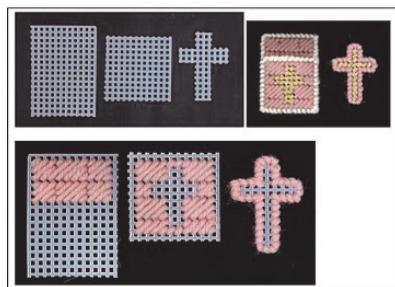
Mothers' Union Website: www.mothersunion.org

Registered Charity No. 250124

A Cross in my Pocket Prayer

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.
This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.
When I put my hand in my
pocket
To bring out a coin or a key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.
It reminds me too, to be
thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.
It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.
So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let Him be
If only I'll let Him be.

(Written by Verna Mae Thomas).



The stages of construction