

DEC 2013 / JAN 2014

LINK-UP

email: mulinkup@gmail.com



JESUS IS THE REASON
FOR THE SEASON

The Newsletter of the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Prison Fellowship

Eph. 2v8-10.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is a gift of God... not by works....For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

How true I have found this since being part of Prison Fellowship at Lowdham Grange. Both in our meetings & in the Prison, under the Chaplaincy, it a joy & privilege.

As members of PRISON FELLOWSHIP(PF) we are to be committed to a local church & like M.U. we are a Prayer Group first. Coming from various traditions we find a real love & unity when we meet together to pray & seek God 's heart for all involved in the prison. In my 11yrs of belonging I've seen amazing answers to prayer, doors opened & lives changed. Our role is along side The Chaplain, The Revd. Mark Savage, who runs various courses which are an opportunity for volunteers to get involved. (New members welcome)

PF run a victim awareness & restorative justice course called SYCAMORE TREE. Offenders explore the impact of crime & think about taking responsibility, through group work, DVD's, discussions & work books. A powerful part of Sycamore is when a victim of crime comes in to share their story with them. A serious course bringing new ways of thinking, but involving lots of fun & even cake to finish!

Letter-Writing & Caring for Ex-offenders are areas that PF are involved with & give training for. Our regional co-ordinator would have more details.

Angel Tree is our Christmas project, which I co-ordinate in Lowdham Grange, sending presents on behalf of the prisoners to their children. The Dads write the messages & we buy & send the gifts with no mention of prison. A Christian story book is included. Some of the children will not know that Dad is in Prison. It can be an important link for keeping families in touch & together. Some of the men write to thank us. Here are some of their quotes about AT:

" was a lifeline to me", another: "I was ashamed I couldn't afford to send anything." "No-one has done anything for me... it's restored my faith in humanity"

The gifts cost £10 or more + postage. Last year I sent out 181. Much of our fund-raising is through our local churches. We are so grateful for their support, though we need & welcome new individual or group donations for Angel Tree.

Mary Kay Beard, a former bank robber & prisoner who created Angel Tree for PF International over 20yrs ago. says " You may never go inside a prison & yet the gift you bought for a child may be the very thing that God uses to touch a stony heart and redeem it for eternity." V.



A Letter From The President

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. Deuteronomy 7 v9

Yesterday at church we had a dramatic Bible reading. We had 12 scouts in a 'boat' with a sleepy Jesus. The congregation made the sound of wind and rain until Jesus said 'Stop - Be still'. The sudden silence was so powerful that we understood the Authority of Jesus much more clearly than if we'd just heard the story read.

God knows that we need visual aids. He has designed families to reflect His unconditional love and nurturing of us as his children. He has designed marriage to illustrate His faithfulness. Many Christian organisations are partnering with National Marriage Week to try to break the Guinness World Record for the number of couples renewing their marriage vows at the same time. The event will be on Feb 8th 2014 at 5.15pm. Olwen Kerswill has been preparing lots of helpful publicity and resources so why not ask your incumbent if your church can be involved and perhaps follow the service with a candlelit supper?

What an opportunity to contact couples who have been married in your church and what a witness to the nation of the importance of strong marriages.



This is the last of the current style of Link-up.

Thank you to Susan Parker, Christine Sharman and their team for all their hard work over the last four years. From March, Link-up will be free of charge to all members and will be produced quarterly. One change is that the Wave of Prayer will not be included so do get into the habit of using Families Worldwide as the Prayer Diary and the Diocesan leaflet which your branch Leader will distribute.

This year's Archdeaconry Days will help us to prepare for Advent and Christmas in a slightly different style.

Do give your Vice President some feedback.

May you all know God's blessing this Christmas time and in the New Year.

With my love and prayers, Lucille Porter



Lucille writes: If you would like to give to Angel Tree or have a speaker about any aspect of Prison Fellowship's work at Lowdham Grange, please contact me.



From Overseas

Dear Lucille;

Greetings from Kagera, I hope you and your family are all doing fine.

I am very excited to read your email to day with alot of love words.

Thank you so much for your prayer, soon after the birth I requested Jenny to inform you that God blessed us with a baby boy but the name was not yet, now we gave him the name is called Emily. It was not simple for me to visit the internet cafe and live a baby at home so please bare with me for being late to reply your email.

My health was not good for almost two months but your prayer done alot to me and my family.

Greetings to your family and all MU in Nottingham.

kindly send my heartfelt love greetings to Denise and tell her that I keep her promise in my mind that she will come back to Kagera with her husband.

We are missing you so much.

Editha Jasson

MU-Worker Diocese of Kagera.[sic]

ANNUAL RETURNS 2014

The Branch Annual Report Forms and Financial Returns were included with the November issue of Link-Up. Gift Aid Forms were also included for members who pay tax. Will Branch Officers please complete these forms and return them to your Deanery Leader by Monday 10th February 2014.

The Deanery Returns were distributed at the Trustees Meeting on November 18th. Will Deanery Leaders please return all the Branch and Deanery information to Alison Jacobson by Monday 24th February 2014? It is important that these documents are returned by the requested dates so that we can forward the necessary information to Mary Sumner House. If you need any help please contact Jenny Hempstead or Sheila Allton.

Thank you.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2014

Even though we have not yet celebrated Christmas, next year's Count Your Blessings leaflets have already been printed and given to Deanery Leaders for distribution to branches. Next year we are supporting the MU Wheels Appeal and Diocesan Funds. Leaflets about the Wheels Appeal are also included in the parcel. We hope you will continue to support this fund raising project and hope that family and friends will also support us as they have done in the past.

Because Link-Up will be published quarterly next year it will not include the Wave of Prayer. Please use Families Worldwide for the overseas dioceses throughout the year and a special Wave of Prayer leaflet for links in our own diocese is being distributed for every member through Deanery Leaders. Julia Holloway will distribute them to Diocesan Members.

Sheila Allton

DEC / JAN Dates For Your Dairy

DECEMBER 2013

Mon 2 10.00 for 10.30am
Nottingham Archdeaconry Day St
Jude's Church Hall, Mapperley,

Thurs 5 10.00 for 10.30am
Newark Archdeaconry Day Jubilee
Hall, Ollerton



JANUARY 2014

Mon 6 10.00 for 10.30 am
Nottingham A/D Deanery
Leaders meeting
Janet Clothier's house

Tues 7 10.30 am
Unit Leaders and Officers meeting
7 Corncrake Drive, Arnold

Wed 8 10.30 am
Newark A/D Deanery
Leaders meeting
Ann Hickman's house

Mon 13 10.00 – 12.00
Action & Outreach Meeting
Conybeare Rm, Trebeck Hall

Mon 20 10.00 – 12.00
Faith & Policy Meeting Conf. Rm 2,
Jubilee House

Mon 27 10.00 – 12.00
Finance & Admin meeting
Conf. Rm 1, Jubilee House

FEBRUARY 2014

CANDLEMAS 4th February 2014
Newark with Southwell Deanery will
be having a Candlemas service at
Laxton on Tuesday 4th February
2014. All are welcome.

Annual General Meeting in Belfast 21st June 22nd June 2014

Jenny Hodson is collecting name for those who wish to attend the General Meeting she needs the names by the end of January to book the seats. Travel arrangements and accommodation to be book by your self.

Please remember 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Nov 25th to Dec 10th.

See page 3 in the last edition of Link-Up.

Faith & Policy

December 1st – Advent Sunday – a very special season of preparation for Christmas, a very busy time, but in all the busyness let us try to set aside a little time each day to be still, to listen to God and to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas, and the joy of Christ coming into the world over 2,000 years ago.

Jesus, you came to the world in humility, born of Mary in a stable.

As winter approaches let us be truly thankful for so many blessings that most of us have of food, warm clothes and heat, and let us be generous not just to family and friends, but to those less fortunate for whom Christmas can be a very cold and lonely time. This year we are even more aware of people, not just overseas, but in our own communities who often have to decide whether to go without food or heat, and come to the Food Banks.

Jesus, born in a stable, you came alongside those in need, come to them again this Christmas through the love and prayers of us all.

“Wherever hungry people are fed, homeless people sheltered, rejected people welcomed powerless people empowered, Christ is born again and all heaven breaks loose.” And so may Christmas be a very joyful and special time for each one of us.

As we move into the New Year let us commit ourselves afresh to God in the words of Minnie Louise Haskins:

“I said to man who stood at the gate of the year: “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown” And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God, that shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

Sue Banks.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK 7th – 14th February 2014

This special week is supported by a number of Christian organisations including the Church of England and Mothers’ Union. The theme is “The BIG Promise – celebrating, supporting, strengthening couples across the nation,” and there is lots of information and plenty of ideas on the National Marriage Week UK website www.marriage-week.org.uk “Every year more than a quarter of a million couples across the UK signify their commitment to one another by getting married, and every year BIG Promise celebrates all those promises down the years, and seeks to encourage and support couples in their marriage. In 2014 the grand plan is that on Saturday, February 8th at 5.15pm every couple in the UK will have the opportunity to remember their big promises to each other”. Knowing how excellent Mothers’ Union is at providing food.

Faith & Policy con't

The Faith and Policy Unit want to encourage as many Branches as possible to organise a “wedding tea” on Saturday, February 8th, for as many people as they can contact in their parish; this to be followed at 5.15pm by a Celebration of Marriage Service, which will focus on the place and value of marriage in today’s world rather than just being a re-affirmation of vows which can exclude a lot of people. Faith and Policy will provide all the materials for this event, including an Order of Service and publicity materials, which will be distributed directly to Branch Leaders.

Margaret Lewis, Social Policy Contact.

parentport.org.uk

Parent Port is a new website giving you straight forward information on what you can do if you have seen or heard something in the media that is inappropriate for your children or grandchildren. It might have been a programme on radio, TV or online, a film, an advert, a video game or something in a magazine.

Parent Port has been set up by seven of the UK’s media regulators. Mothers’ Union have joined forces because we share a common purpose: to set and enforce media standards to protect children from inappropriate material.

At Parent Port, parents and grandparents can find out about the standards we expect from the media, make a complaint and share their views with us.

There is also advice on how to keep children or grandchildren safe online and what can be done about other products like clothing and the display of magazines in shops.

In our Diocese we are endeavouring to bring this initiative to a wider audience. To this end each Deanery is liaising with their Area Dean and we shall monitor the progress.

The UK Government has responded to its Childcare Commission with the publication of both parts of its childcare policy. “More Great Childcare” and “More Affordable Childcare” were launched this year. It demonstrates the Government’s preference for giving families more choice and flexibility in childcare options.

Set within this framework of choice will be a debate on the length of the school year. The Government’s Draft Deregulation Bill proposes to allow schools to set their own term dates. This has the potential to have far reaching consequences for families balancing work and family life.

Mothers’ Union will monitor the progress of this Bill as it is prepared for debate.

Margaret Lewis Social Policy Contact.

Congratulations

Happy birthday to:

Anne Hancock on 18 December - aged 100 St. John's, Carrington

Dorothy Naylor on 1 January - aged 90

Mary Jarman on 20 January - aged 90

Phyllis Lenton on 31 January - aged 100

All from Retford Area



Anne Hancock

Golden Wedding Anniversary:

Marjorie and Ron Swallow on 7 December – Retford area

Handbook Amendments

Pg 25 Greasley St Mary MU as of January 2014 will meet at 2pm every 3rd Monday afternoon.

Thank you from Joan Davies

Please convey the thanks from all my family to all the M U members who sent messages of sympathy to us on the tragic loss of our Grandson Thomas on October 12th. The love and support and prayers we have received has been overwhelming there has been an abundance of cards flowers and messages it would be impossible to answer each one individually. We have been most comforted to know so many people cared. Thank you and please continue to pray for all the extended Family and especially his Sister Laura.

God Bless you all.

Joan Davies

(branch leader East Markham).



Wave Of Prayer for DEC & JAN

Lord we give thanks for Mothers' Union worldwide.
Today we pray for the people and work of:

December 1st - 5th West Indies: North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba;
Rwanda: Byumba; **Central Africa:** Upper Shire; **Nigeria:** Lagos Mainland;
Tanzania: Rift Valley; **Scotland:** Glasgow & Galloway; **Diocese:** Diocesan Chaplains: Rev Robert Breckles and Rev Pat Chapman

December 6th -10th West Indies: Jamaica & the Cayman Islands; **Rwanda:** Gahini; **Nigeria:** Sokoto, Ahoada, Offa & Oji River; **Scotland:** St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane; **Diocese:** All Branch Leaders

December 11th - 15th Canada: British Columbia, Quebec & Qu'Appelle;
Central Africa: Northern Zambia; **West Africa:** Cameroon; **Ireland:** Limerick & Killaloe; **Diocese:** Branch Secretaries, Treasurers & Committees

December 16th - 20th Community Development co-ordinators and Trainers.

December 21st - 25th Families throughout the world

December 26th - 31st Hopes for the work of the Mothers Union in the year ahead.

JANUARY

January 1st - 5th Cyangugu: (Rwanda); Lesotho (Southern Africa); Lainya (Sudan); Kebbi (Nigeria); North Karamoja (Uganda); Bermuda, Canterbury; **Diocese:** The Mothers Union Chief Executive - **Reg Bailey and the staff at Mary Sumner House**

January 6th -10th Shyira (Rwanda); Awka, Okoye, Enugu, On the Niger (Nigeria); Gambia (West Africa); Ibba (Sudan); York. **Diocese:** Those we know who face this year with difficult marriage or family situations

January 11th - 15th Angola (Southern Africa); Myitkyina, Mandalay (Myanmar); Bo (West Africa); Members in Europe, London; **Diocese:** Mattersey, Everton and Clayworth with Beeston

January 16th - 20th Bunyoro-Kitara, Masindi-Kitara, Ruwenzori, South Ruwenzori (Uganda); Lokoja (Nigeria); Durham; **Diocese:** Ranskill with Trowell, Awwsworth and Cossall

January 21st - 25th Muhabura, Kitgum (Uganda); Algoma, Saskatchewan (Canada); Masasi (Tanzania); Kojo-Keji (Sudan); Winchester; **Diocese:** Ollerton with St. Mary, Bulwell

January 26th - 31st Matabeleland, (Central Africa); Katsina (Nigeria); Mumias (Kenya); Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean); Ogbomoso (Nigeria); Bangor (Wales); **Diocese: Diocesan Mothers Union Treasurer Graham Noon and Diocesan Accountant Jenny Hempstead**

Please remember in your prayers:

Mary Butler, Ian Banks, Joan Jordan, Sister Dorothea and Sister Margareta Mary of the Convent of St. Laurence, Southwell who are now in care homes.

Diocesan News

Nottingham Archdeaconry Day

Our December meeting this year will be an Advent Meditation which I hope is just what we all need before the Christmas rush Sue Banks will be taking us through it and I have it on good authority she is very good so I hope you will join us why not bring a friend? I look forward to seeing you there. We will finish the year with Coffee, Mince Pies and Cake. Our next meeting in March 2014 will be the Rev Lucy Cleland who will talk on being a Bishops Chaplin and her road to priesthood. I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas. May I take this opportunity in wishing you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year and I look forward to seeing you at Archdeaconry Meetings.

Janet Clothier VP

Diocesan Members' Report – December 2013

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of The Revd. Richard Goodhand, he will be missed greatly by his family, friends and former parishioners.

We say farewell to Bishop Paul and Rosemary Butler as Diocesan Members, we shall miss them but know they will be welcomed in Durham. I have commended them to Durham MU and Jean Carleton (their Diocesan President) writes "we will take great care of them both and promise not to be demanding".

We now have 90 Diocesan Members.

The Revd. Zoe Burton has transferred from Diocesan Membership to Branch Membership at Ollerton with Boughton MU.

We are pleased to give a warm welcome to the following as new Diocesan Members:- The Revd. Robert & Mrs Kate Breckles; Mrs Michele Noon; The Ven. David Picken; Mrs. Hilary Newenham; Mrs Georgina Bradley; Mrs Barbara Burrows; Mrs Rita Donohue; Mrs Judith Goodall; Mrs Amanda Old; Miss Jean Morris; Mrs Helen Richards; Miss Poppy Richards; Mrs Carole Robinson; Miss Lavinia Swannack; The Revd Liz Thomas; Mrs Mandy Toynton and Mrs Brenda Charles.

We also welcome Mrs Mary Scott who has transferred from Deanery Membership to Diocesan Membership.

I would like to say "Thank You" to Sue Banks for all the help and friendship that she has given to me over the last year.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Julia Holloway - Diocesan Members' Coordinator

Families First

Written by Ann Plant Oxford Diocese

Campaigning Families First

I believe this magazine is one of our most important showcases. It has articles which are bang up to the minute; it is attractively presented; it includes information of relevance to families in addressing many problems and anxieties they face; it is absolutely core to our values and objectives; and it is very reasonably priced. I know many members do not take the magazine and never read it. I appreciate that Families First seems to have a younger focus market, and many of us think we have passed that stage in our lives when it is relevant to us. However, if it has nothing to say to us, it is definitely relevant to our children and grandchildren.

At the moment Families First is making a serious loss which cannot continue. If Families First has to close, it will mean that Families Worldwide, which is financed under the same umbrella, will also come to an end. I would be so sorry to see this happen. So I am asking each Branch to consider how they could order some more subscriptions to Families First. Perhaps each Branch might consider buying copies to place in the staff room of their local Church of England Primary Schools. The articles are so relevant to teachers at these schools. Also it would enable us to promote Mothers' Union by putting a sticker on the cover with details of the local branch who had donated the magazine. Could your Branch encourage members to take out a subscription for a younger family member? Could you provide a subscription from your Branch for your church toddler group?

I am sure many of these ideas are me teaching my grandmother to suck eggs! But if we all do nothing, we will lose Families First. It is that serious! contact Mary Sumner House to order copies

Since MUEnterprises – the trading arm of the Mothers' Union was set up in 1995 its remit has been to support the charity by both raising funds and promoting Mothers' Union through the sale of products and services. There are four fundraising streams currently available to MUE to achieve this.

At Mary Sumner House we use available space to raise revenue by hiring out Conference Rooms and through the sale of cards and gifts via the Mary Sumner Gift Shop.

We also produce and sell Families First - an amazing tool for raising funds and promoting Mothers' Union within and beyond the membership and lastly we sell a range of products through our amazing MUE Reps, mail order catalogue and online shop. The profits from all revenue raised through MUE are covenanted back to the Charity.

Families First cont.

These funds are vital to Mothers' Union but we are struggling to maintain profit in the two streams where 90% of our market is the Mothers' Union membership.

Our membership is wonderfully supportive but we desperately need to increase income to be able to support Mothers' Union in this difficult climate where all charities are suffering.

Sales from our catalogue and subscriptions to Families First have declined along with the decline in Mothers' Union UK and Ireland membership. The skills and resources used for the production of Families First are also used for the production of your wonderful free members' magazine – Families Worldwide. If we were to lose Families First there is a real concern over the future of Families Worldwide.

Just think – if every Mothers' Union member in UK and Ireland purchased just one packet of greeting cards from MUE we would be able to hand over an extra £90,000 in PROFIT to the charity!

You have the power to make a difference!

FAMILIES WORLDWIDE JANUARY - JUNE 2014

Branch parcels have been given to Deanery Leaders for distribution to members. Please remember that members who take Families First will have received their copies with a recent issue of that magazine.

Sheila Allton.

LinkUp 2014

Next year Link-Up will be issued quarterly, free of charge, for every member.

Sophia Popham (Kirkby-in-Ashfield) and Julia Holloway (Mansfield) will be taking over as Editors in 2014 and we would like to thank Susan Parker and Christine Sharman for all the help and kindness which they have shown to us during these last few months. We know that they have put an awful lot of time and effort into producing our Diocesan Magazine and we hope that they will be able to enjoy more leisure time.

LinkUp will be produced quarterly from next year so please could you send your future contributions to

Sophia Popham, 109 Diamond Ave, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts NG17 7LX
or to Julia Holloway 6 Aylesbury Way, Forest Town, Mansfield, Notts NG19 0GJ; our new email address for those emailing their contributions will be:- mulinkup@gmail.com

We also need to know

1. How many branches are willing to receive an email copy and print off sufficient copies for their members?

2. How many large print copies do you require?
3. How many registered visually impaired members do you have who would like to receive Link-Up on tape?

Please let us know by 31st January 2014

We look forward to receiving your future contributions and would like to wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Sophia Popham & Julia Holloway

Editor's Note

Dear All

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last editor's note. I am relieved to be able to hand it over as I am working a lot more hours in the office but I will miss putting it together and the office debate on what should be on the front cover - where every member of staff normally has an opinion.

I have learned to use the software myself, as Claire who used to do the design work left to have a child and never really came back, we panicked a bit in the office, but one of the tutors helped us out and gave us some lessons on how to use it. For the last 18 months, Ashleigh, Kate and I have put it together and I remember one occasion when having spent 6 hours putting all the articles in and filling the spaces with stocking fillers from MU website and Church Times website, it crashed and I lost all work. I nearly cried and had to start again, that issue had a few white spaces!

Things need to move on, just look at AFIA, when we had our own caravan we did 30 holidays a year and one year we produced 70 food hampers for our families, social services families and Newark women's refuge families. The late Revd Annie Johnson from Christchurch, part of the Newark team, asked if we had any spare food left from the AFIA hampers to give to Newark refuge. We did, as Retford deanery used to provide almost a lorry load of food - fetching that back was a challenge! So, back in 1998 I was taken by Revd Annie with strict instructions to look after the refuge and give food hampers. Each year since we in the Newark deanery have added goodies to the basic hampers and provided presents for the children. There are currently 6 families with a total of 12 children in the refuge and I am still going to do the hampers, so if you have any spare food or goodies that I could use for those hampers, I will collect them from the Archdeaconry days in December. Enjoy Advent, I will be reading Stephen Cottrell's Do Nothing – Christmas is coming!

Finally I look forward to reading the spring edition of Link-up.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Susan Parker

Tanzania Trip

I just want to say a huge thank you for the support I have received from my write up in last month's LinkUp regarding my trip to Tanzania.

It is less than 2 months until I go now and I'm very excited, I will be travelling with my best friend Elliot Harvey. We are both currently in the process of having our many vaccinations, so me being afraid of needles is rather unfortunate at the minute.

Just to give you a bit of an idea of what we will be doing when we are there, our main duties include, showing love and affection to the children giving them attention, teaching them basic life skills, generally helping to care for them such as feeding, washing, changing nappies, playing games with them and most of all just being there to support them. I'm sure this will be a life changing experience for the both of us and we are extremely grateful to be able to have an opportunity like this.

I think we were both a little taken aback at how much the trip was actually going to cost us. We have paid for our placement which includes accommodation, breakfast and evening meal. Our flights over there, visas, vaccinations and the cost of travel and water per week all together totals over £4000 per person. This does not include basic toiletries, malaria tablets, water purification tablets and anything extra we would like to take.

People have been asking how they can support us and there are many ways you can do this – donating old baby/children's clothes, nappies, baby wipes, water purification tablets, crayons, colouring books and hand sanitizer. Donating money will contribute towards our travel to and from the orphanages, bottled water whilst we are out there and anything we need to buy for the children. We are quite lucky with the amount of luggage we can take so are grateful for any contribution towards our trip.

We will both be at the next Newark Archdeaconry day so please feel free to bring anything to that or come and talk to us about our trip. Alternatively you can email me at Ashleigh@nitlc.com or you can ring us on 01636 612226

Christine's final thoughts

My feelings are very much the same as Susan's and it has been very interesting getting it together, also listening to the younger people of NITLC on how things should look, they have been very supportive. I shall still be involved with MU as Deanery secretary (Newark with Southwell) and I am on the AFIA committee. I will also be helping Susan with the Women's Refuge hampers. Good luck to the new team and looking forward to seeing their first edition.

New Banner Dedicated

On October 15th, a Festival Service for the Nottingham Deanery Mothers' Union was enjoyed by members and friends at St. Patrick's Church, Nuthall, led by the Rev. Barbara Holbrook, and hosted by the Three Crosses Group.

A new modern-style banner, representing the group, and its formation from the branches of Cinderhill, Kimberley and Nuthall, and



generously donated by one of the group's members, was dedicated during the service. The occasion also marked 100 years since the Kimberley branch was formed, and a special cake marked the anniversary at a buffet tea afterwards in the church hall.

Latest news from Mary Sumner House

Mothers' Union to support Us (USPG) in aid for Philippines
Mothers' Union announced today that it would support local churches bringing relief to thousands in the Philippines affected by Typhoon Haiyan by assisting the emergency appeal of Us (formerly USPG). Mothers' Union works through its membership to help vulnerable people and those affected by tragedy in their own communities. As its membership in the Philippines is very small, the charity has insufficient local capacity within the Philippines to launch its own specific appeal. Through this new approach of partnership as part of the wider Church, Mothers' Union seek to reach these communities through the ministry of Us and the work of the Church in the Philippines.

"Our Relief Fund Committee constantly weighs up whether we have sufficient resources to fund the relief efforts of our own members" said Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, "but our spirit of mutuality in partnership, embodied in Mothers' Union's vision, calls us to do what we can to work in partnership where our own capacity is limited. Therefore we want to show our support by passing these gifts to Us who will use them where they are most needed. Us work closely with the Church in the Philippines and use very similar approaches to Mothers' Union so we know the generous gifts given through us will be going directly to those affected."

A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS



Susan Parker Christine Sharman Ashleigh Parker

**A very Happy Christmas and a
Peaceful New Year from us all**

DIOCESAN INFORMATION

Diocesan Office: MU Office, Jubilee House, Southwell, Notts. NG25 0JL

Diocesan President: Mrs Lucille Porter

Diocesan Secretary: Mrs Alison Jacobson

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www.southwellnottsmmu.org

SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit any material for the Spring Edition

Email: mulinkup@gmail.com No later than the 31st January

Post to: Sophia Popham, 109 Diamond Avenue,

Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts. NG17 7LX or,

Julia Holloway, 6 Aylesbury Way, Forest Town, Mansfield, Notts. NG19 0GJ