

MINUTES OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19th APRIL, 2016 at ST MARK'S CHURCH, GABALFA

A meeting of Llandaff Diocesan Mothers' Union Council was held on Tuesday 19th April, 2016 at St Mark's Church, Gabalfa. **Mrs Lynne Davies**, Diocesan President was in the chair.

There were approximately sixty members at the meeting.

This being the first Council of the new triennium began with a service during which the new Trustee Board, Unit Advisors and Diocesan Officers were commissioned.

1. Welcome

Lynne welcomed everyone to the meeting and also for attending her commissioning service at the Cathedral in February. This was the time she felt to thank Raye for her term as Diocesan President over that last six years, thanking her for all she did for the Diocese.

(Raye replied by thanking everyone for their kindness and support over the years).

Thanks were also given to Lowrie for playing the piano and the ladies for the refreshments.

Lynne then welcomed new members to Council for the first time.

2. Apologies

There were twenty nine apologies given from members unable to attend.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 20th October, 2015.

There were no amendments to the minutes and were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Jayne Young, Vice-President, Llandaff Archdeaconry

Seconded by: Judy Hopkins, Deanery Leader, Caerphilly with Merthyr Deanery

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that would not be discussed further in the meeting.

MIDDAY PRAYERS were led by MARIAN GODSALL, Elected Trustee, Morgannwg Archdeaconry.

5. Communications from the Chair

(a) It is very important that everyone knows what is going on in the Diocese. Please be assured that the Unit Co-ordinators are very approachable and will be happy to find the 'correct answer' to any queries put forward.

(b) Mary Sumner House: have asked for a snapshot of all projects in the Diocese. They are also taking a fresh look at the publications Families First and Families Worldwide and will be asking for your views. The Patron's Parade will be held on the 12th June, MU will take part in these celebrations for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday, however our Trustees declined an invitation to purchase ten tickets at a cost of £150 each, as the added cost of travel etc. would be expensive.

(c) Mary Sumner Day on 9th August : Via Facebook we were asked if anyone would be interested in attending Evensong at Westminster Abbey, where MU would be included in the service. No further news on this to date.

(d) General Meeting at Winchester this year, back to our 'roots' so to speak. Tickets will go on sale on the 25th April and arrangements are in hand to attend from the Diocese as usual.

(e) WASSAG Wales: A meeting is planned for the 19th May at Kenfig Hill arranged by Louise Barnham, Social Policy Contact with the Rev. Jonathan Durley where Constance will be invited to speak and tell her story and the subsequent set up of this organisation.

- (f) Samara Aid: will send boxes to refugee camps in Syria and Iraq, concentrating on 'Baby Boxes', these include everything you need for a new born. Please contact Lynne for further information.
- (g) Citizens Cymru: In March we were invited to attend a meeting at Tabernacle Chapel in Cardiff which would also be attended by the Leaders of the four main Parties of the Welsh Assembly, Archbishop Barry and representatives of the clergy in the Diocese. The outcome of this has been a meeting in the Rhondda on similar grounds also the Cynon Valley in the near future.
- (h) 140th Anniversary Celebrations: A Grand Concert is planned for the autumn. The performers will come from our Church Schools and any wonderful talent from our Deaneries. Details will be announced once the venue is finalised. Deanery Leaders were asked to put their 'thinking caps' on. Hopefully this will materialise in October.
- (i) Cardiff Half Marathon: Lynne's son Andrew will run this year for Mothers' Union. Sponsor forms will be sent out to the Deaneries.
- (j) Finally: Lynne closed her talk by highlighting the need for communication, it is a two way thing, do get in touch with Branch and Deanery Leaders to the Vice-Presidents and to the President, we are good listeners and all have MU as priority.

The Unit Co-ordinators then addressed members placed in groups. A brief account of what was discussed is as follows:

6. Reports from the Units

(a) Action and Outreach Unit - Lowrie Washington-Jones, Unit Co-ordinator

- (i) CARAVAN: The Unit members went to the caravan to prepare it for the forthcoming season. The school holiday dates have been taken. It was decided to give out the knitted teddies, despite the initial worries about Health and Safety Rulings. The 'open days' will be from Tuesday 12th July to Thursday 14th July and a fun day is planned for the 27th July.
- (ii) OUTREACH: The Cynon Valley Food Project continues as does the Rhondda Deanery Project. Please could Deaneries keep me informed of any projects going on in their Deaneries and give regular updates.
- (iii) PRISON VISITING: is ongoing in Parc Prison. Sadly there are still problems at Cardiff Prison and only one MU member is still going there.
- (iv) FUTURE PLANS: a 'Units United' meeting was held in March where all advisors met together to discuss the way forward for the next three years. A very successful and positive meeting. The Units are involved in all projects in one way or another, communication between them is vital. It is also hoped to attend Wedding Fayres during the next year.
- (v) OVERSEAS: Joyce is our Overseas Representative and we hope to develop contact with our new Link Dioceses. These links are very new and we all need to familiarise ourselves with their global location.

(b) Faith and Policy Unit - Penny Snowden, Unit Co-ordinator

- (i) Ready: We commenced the new triennium with a successful 'Units United' meeting in March as we recognize that there was always an overlap and that it was a positive step to collaborate. This was followed by individual unit meetings.
- (ii) Steady: Thankfully the unit has some experienced members and Judy, as past Co-ordinator, met with Penny to handover the responsibility of the Unit.
- (iii) Go: The Quiet Day in the Cathedral was led by the Rev'd David Morris and was well received and attended. The pattern of Deanery Eucharists continue each month in the Lady Chapel.
- (iv) Celebrating our Faith is the theme for 2016 and as this is the 140th anniversary of MU we decided to pray around the Diocese. There will be two sessions, the first at All Saints Church, Porthcawl on Monday 11th July, 10.30am – 12.30pm. Later in the year we will visit St Elvan's Church, Aberdare on Monday 31st October, 10.30am – 12.30pm (approx.). The parish Eucharist will complete each session.
- (v) Summer Retreat: at Llangasty will be led by the Rev'd Moira Spence.

(c) Marketing Unit - Sue Rivers, Unit Co-ordinator

- (i) Communication: A major priority for the unit will be the development of a MU Diocesan website with 'Facebook' and 'Twitter' accounts. Initial requirements have been discussed with a professional web designer and the Trustees updated. In moving forward we have to be aware of certain policies when developing this website such as data protection, privacy rules etc. Mary Sumner House, the Diocese of Llandaff and the Church in Wales will be contacted with regard to relevant policies.
- (ii) Publicity for MU Events and campaigns: The Unit will need to develop resources and publicity material to take around the diocese. An awareness raising campaign will developed for the Caravan – we have a model of the caravan and we need publicity literature to raise awareness, both in branches and outside the MU, e.g. Probus, Inner Wheel, WI. A publicity pack will be developed including a PowerPoint presentation, leaflets, donation forms etc. that could be used by members of the unit across the Archdeaconries.
- (iii) MUE: The unit discussed MUE and requested that MU resources should be made available to purchase at every Council meeting and at the forthcoming Deanery Festivals. This is an onerous task for one person so to facilitate this it was suggested that each vice-president finds a willing representative in their archdeaconry who would be willing to undertake setting up a stall and selling MU resources. They must be prepared to attend events in their area when requested, have the necessary transport, storage facilities and keep accounts – sales and money taken and liaise with MUE representative.
- (iv) Priorities: *To set up a diocesan website as soon as possible also 'Facebook' and 'Twitter' accounts.
*To develop an effective communication channel with members to ensure that there is at least one item is posted each week.
*Work with Action and Outreach Unit and Faith and Policy Units to develop publicity Materials
*Secure MUE attendance at MU events.

(c) Finance and Administration Unit - Barbara Treharne, Unit Co-ordinator

- (i) Finance: Sheila gave her report.
 - (a) Sheila thanked everyone for fundraising during 2015. A full report of branches and deaneries will be in the new Year Book due out shortly. Thanks also for completing the annual 'pink' forms, however, please can branches try to return them by the due date in order for the accounts to be completed for Mary Sumner House. The same applies to the annual 'white' forms.
 - (b) Again it is stressed that **money** cannot be given to either our churches or charities, however, gifts such as toiletries to projects like Women's' Aid etc. is perfectly acceptable. Also please note that nothing should be paid for out of petty cash, no matter how small, a receipt for any purchase is needed and the cash refunded. So often the petty cash payment is not shown on the accounts and there is no audit trail, which makes it difficult for the auditor, myself and the Charity Commission.
 - (c) Some branches collect their subscriptions and bank them before the end of the year. It is important that if they are banked they will need to be entered on the pink form for the year in which they were received.
 - (d) Gift Aid: Any changes to personal circumstances in respect of Gift Aid should be forwarded to Viv Liles as soon as possible. Please note that each individual must have paid an amount of tax equivalent to the total amount that they gift aid to all sources during the year.
It was also stressed that if any individual would like to gift aid but not through their branch treasurer, then can send the form direct to Viv, details on the form, however it is then up to the individual to advise of any changes that would affect the claim.

The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace and ended at 1.20pm.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 11th October, 2016 – Venue to be confirmed.

