

MINUTES CARLISLE DIOCESE MU COUNCIL MEETING 08.03.23

FLOOKBURGH, St John's LA11 7JX 10.15am- 15.30pm

The Aims of the Mothers' Union

- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity
- To promote and support married life

Welcome and Prayers

We met at Flookburgh in the South of the county with the aim of meeting in different areas of the diocese.

Pleas let us know of you want to host a Council meeting or Sharing Day

Our Triennium prayer Gracious God, we put our trust in you. Give us open hearts and minds to discern your perfect direction for our Mothers' Union in Carlisle Diocese:

Affirm us in your love that we may be bold to seek your face.

Strengthen us with resolve to embrace new ways with confidence.

Unite us in heart and mind that we may move forward with gladness.

Inspire us in our faith that all things are possible with God.

Transform us into a people empowered by the Spirit, overflowing with hope, to effectively serve our communities. Amen.

You might like to use this YouTube version of the Lord is my Shepherd in one of your meetings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MGO>

Apologies and Resignations: Cards were signed for Revd L L who has to Blackburn diocese and MB who resigned in Oct. HB was welcomed as a VP. And we hope to announce new Chaplain by Sharing Day.

Apologies and attendees: see full minutes

Diocesan President

- a. **Reimagining MU: we have 3 aims in Carlisle Diocese**
 - a. To Simplify processes:
 - b. To raise the profile of the MU
 - c. To increase membership

We spent 5 minutes in pairs discussing: You might like to try this in your branch

- The most important thing to you as individual about MU membership.
- The most important thing to the Worldwide MU.

You can read the comments in the full minutes

Simplifying procedures: This has caused both confusion and consternation.

Only the Diocese must conform with legalities and have minutes etc. This does not apply to deaneries and branches. If things are working well: keep status quo. Many Branches and Deaneries are struggling to appoint leaders, treasurers and secretaries. If this is the case, organise things as a committee. You do not need to take any minutes or have a bank account, instead use petty cash, request funds from DT and keep financial records. Discuss with DT if you need to.

We will explore with the archives in Carlisle how we keep the records of CDMU branches and records.

Raising the profile of the MU: We will lease a caravan for AFIA in St Bees. This is a joint project with a local like minded charity and leaflets will be jointly badged MU/Time to Change.

Branches will be asked to support acquisition of toys / towels / beach towels and raise AFIA funds

MU image: Please wear badges, scarves and logo fleeces and T shirts when involved as MU member for all activities. information about buying these will be in next diocesan newsletter. DP was given a dress in

MU cloth which she intends to wear for synod and Bishop's enrolment. Plan that all bags for food bank, hospital etc will be made using logo cloth. If you wish to sew contact DSi or DP.

Increasing membership

Bishop James was enrolled on Sunday March 12th at St John's Keswick, along with 3 other new members. This was to spread the message that you don't have to be a mother to join, just agree with the aims. A prayer for the Bishop was sent to all vicars asking them to pray for Bishop James and the Mothers' Union at their services that day.

Publicity Plans

2 Publicity cards given to all council and freely available to take more after the meeting. 2000 made. Encourage all branch members to take two to pass on to somebody they feel might be encouraged to support the MU. There is space to add local / branch details. 'Who We are' leaflets go well with cards.

Website: Our own website is now live. <https://carlisediocesemothersunion.org.uk/>

Please submit stories/news/events and photos (with permission). Please contact DP if you want to learn how to add stories and events to the website.

Sharing Day Tuesday May 16th at Houghton. Contact DS if you need help with lift etc. Adam Sach from MSH and Bishop Rob will be attending. We have an exciting and interesting agenda, so please make an effort to come along. The day will start with a short service in the church.

Updates from MSH and other important correspondence

Please advertise support for Make a Mother's Day.

Safeguarding: BG (see Report Circulated)

Officer Updates

Diocesan Secretary – York 22nd September: Last gathering until 2026. DP and DSi doing another sponsored cycle ride to York for Summer of Hope Appeal. Please let us know if you want to go for the day or overnight and we arrange transport. Still awaiting 14 Annual Branch returns forms.

Diocesan Treasurer – Gift Aid paperwork to go out soon to branches. Still awaiting 13 Annual Branch Accounts (by end of March please at latest). Branches advised to keep 6 months' worth of expenses minimum in their accounts. Diocese £3.5K excess expenditure over income for last year but Diocesan account balance £17,500.00. Insurance will increase next year. Branches with a nearby Cumberland BS can pay DT directly in the BS office. They would need to exchange full bank details with the DT before trying this.

Database Manager: thank you to branches reporting changes. Mailings are 2 Contacts and a Prayer diary each year – please let CG know if anybody missed a mailing. You would only get an MUE catalogue if you previously ordered.

Communities of Interest Leads: Please see the individual reports

Domestic Abuse - 16 days of activism was highlighted. Please contact us if you want to help prepare for more positive action in the future. or on 01228 739416.

MUE - MUE reps from areas where Council and Sharing Day are held will be asked to bring cards to sell on 20 pocket displays to hold 40 cards available from HB for £20.

What will you do?

Metamorphosis bite size activity set up by DP for members to assess their branch response to: supporting the vulnerable, their relevance to the community and their confidence to take a risk with something new. Bulls Eye grading sheets and stickers are available if you want to do this in your branch. See ensuing discussion in main minutes.

Discussion in twos and threes – having attended council today what are you going to do? Following ideas were suggested:

- Give promotion cards to specially chosen people / members to give out / put in church with information leaflets / put in pews or give out with books and notice sheets.
- On- line branches – may interest younger ladies who could be approached through their children or group such as diddy disciples;
- Approach and try to involve clergy more. Archdeacons could be asked to support.
- Investigate MSH plans to produce a 'church' membership pack.
- Raise awareness of MU work at home and WW by giving talk (DP to talk on Bishops Harvest Appeal at diocesan synod).
- Encourage enrolment especially on special days (2 new members to be enrolled by the Bishop on Mothering Sunday at Penrith).

1. Future Dates

TRUSTEES: Wednesdays 9.45 for 10.00 to 14.00 Bring Lunch
 JUNE 14TH ST MARYS WINDERMERE UPPER ROOM LA23 1BA
 AUG 30TH NATLAND CHURCH VESTRY LA9 7QQ
 NOV 29TH HOUGHTON CA3 0NF

COUNCIL: Wednesdays 9.45 for 10.15 to 15.30 Bring Lunch
 OCTOBER 11TH SHAP CA10 3NR

SHARING DAY:

TUESDAY MAY 16TH HOUGHTON CA3 0NF 9.45 for 10.15 to 15.30 Bring Lunch

QUIET DAY APRIL 19th Rydal Hall LA22 9LX 10.00 til 3.00 Revd. Steve Carter £30.00

RETREAT NOVEMBER 15/17th Rydal Hall LA22 9LX 4.00 Wed – 2.00 Fri Cost to be confirmed

ANNUAL GATHERING: YORK BARBICAN YO10 4AH FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd

The meeting closed with the sharing of the Grace at 3.10pm