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National Council



Once again we arrived at The Hayes Conference Centre for our National Council and AGM. The sun was shining and continued for three days. The grounds are always groomed to perfection, if you get a chance, take a stroll around, especially the lake, it is so quiet and peaceful, it gives us a few minutes to reflect on what is going on around us.

The members of Clifton Diocese greeted everyone with a smile, gave out keys and sorted any problems out with efficiency and panache.

Unfortunately Bishop Alan Williams was unable to join us due to other commitments. We began with Mass in the Chapel led by Fr. Bill Serplus. Then it was down to business with a relaxed atmosphere. Our National President Mrs. Margaret McDonald welcomed everyone. Introductions of members, officers, delegates and invited guests were made. Officers read out reports, there were lots of breaks for coffee, cake and a chat. We ended the day with Benediction.

Tuesday began with breakfast and more sunshine which makes everyone happier.

Monsignor Bernard Massey was invited to National Council, he later celebrated Mass with a special exuberance telling us "love is the way forward".

That evening we were entertained by the members of Clifton Diocese with poetry,



song and a guided tour of Clifton Diocese, it was very interesting.

The following morning all too soon it was time to pack our bags ready to leave but not before the Annual General Meeting with minutes, apologies, matters arising, Ratification of appointments, thanks to retiring Officers in particular Irene Mitchell who has worked so tirelessly for the UCM. Ending with Holy Mass led by Fr. Paul.

After the National Council

For the return journey from National Council a minibus stuffed with banners, boxes and other paraphernalia plus National President Margaret McDonald, National Secretary, Kate Moss, National Treasurer Margaret Kerbey and nine other assorted members set off for Liverpool. It was a beautiful day so with the windows open we bowled along the A50. We did hear a slight grinding noise but thought nothing of it. Then our nostrils were assailed by an oily smell,

obviously a passing lorry. After a mile or so there came the ominous voice of the driver "We have a problem (no, he was not talking to Houston) I am going to have to pull over". Oh dear, twelve ladies plus one driver stranded on the side of the road, a narrow grass verge backed by thick vegetation..

For over two hours sitting in the bus or walking up and down the verge while hundreds of cars, lorries, coaches and motorbikes thundered past - and we only attracted one beep of a horn; obviously, the days of our youth have gone. It was even too dangerous for me to try to take a photograph - you will be pleased to hear. We longed for the little singing girl in the AA ad.

Eventually a breakdown truck and two large taxis arrived. Hurrah for the AA. So we were brought safely home, tired and hungry but safe.

Thank you St Christopher!

Madelaine McDonald Media Officer



Monsignor Bernard Massey



FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dear Members

Hello,
I have been in office twelve months now and I don't know where the time has gone. Since the last issue of the newspaper, I have been visiting some of the diocese around the country. During which I have been able to visit the members and meet up with people I have not seen for a few years. In every meeting I have listened to reports about the work you are doing in your foundations. It covers all aspects of our aims and objectives. From popping into a neighbour's to make sure they are alright, to raising much needed money for a local charity, you are there. The diocese of Hallam has been formed for 40 years next year. The word Hallam comes from an ancient name meaning Sheffield area. Early on in the year, I was asked to go and read some part of the newspaper in a recording studio near Preston. As you know each addition is recorded so that any member who has difficulty reading because of their poor vision can obtain a free audio copy. I like reading aloud but struggled when it came to describing the photographs because some of them did not have a proper explanation with them.

Margaret McNicholas a past National President has been doing this job for a number of years. Thank you. One of my unusual visits was to Wembley Arena in March where the Christian Youth Ministry had organised the bi-annual event for the youth from all over the country, it's known as FLAME. The theme this year was 'significance' the message was that everyone is significant and they have no need to compare themselves to others. The whole experience was rewarding and I enjoyed being part of the day. This edition will come out after National Council, where details of the pilgrimage September 2020 to Banneau will have been given out, if you are interested in going on the pilgrimage please contact your Diocesan officers for information. Next year we will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Walsingham and would like to collect photographs from each diocese that have been taken over the years. Please label them. Thank you for all the work you do in the name of the UCM and thanks go to the Chaplains for their support. Take care.

**Margaret McDonald,
National President**

Bryony's vital role with seafarers

"Every day, we see how much seafarers sacrifice to provide for their families and to bring us the goods we rely on. We hear about the weddings they can't attend, the graduations they have funded but will only see in photos, the baby that may be walking before they return, the goodbyes they didn't get to say," says Bryony Watson, Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) port chaplain.

Bryony's role is to provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers visiting the port of Immingham on the south bank of the Humber estuary. Ships arriving in the port carry everything from coal and oil to cars and food.

"As ships get bigger they are berthed further from our view, as shipping becomes increasingly efficient, the crews get smaller and the hours in port get fewer. With some vessels able to be in and out of port in just six hours, the crew are more isolated and more exhausted than ever," says Bryony.

A crew is often made up of many nationalities. The Philippines remains the biggest supplier of seafarers, making up around a third of the world's 1.5 million, followed by China, Russia, India, and Indonesia.

The standard length of contract for a Filipino seafarer is nine months. Conditions on ships vary greatly from comfortable to primitive, depending on the company.

When she dons her hard hat and high-vis jacket and climbs the gangway to a vessel, Bryony never knows what to expect. A

seafarer might be worried about his wife or child back home, he might be feeling lonely or depressed, or he might need to see a doctor.

While she provides a lot of practical help to seafarers, SIM cards, mobile-phone top-up cards, transport to local shops, warm clothing in the winter, she sees simply being available as a vital part of her role.

After the devastating typhoon in the Philippines earlier in the year, a cook on board an oil tanker told me that it had taken him four days to contact his wife, frantic with worry for her and his two young daughters. When he finally got through his wife told him that the kitchen roof had been blown off, and water was pouring in through the ceiling. His daughters hadn't slept for days as they were too scared.

Port chaplaincy is about being present, being there, whether that means standing on a cold deck in the rain for an hour, or chatting over coffee in a mess room.

After leaving university with a degree in fine art, Bryony had planned on becoming a primary school teacher. But, after four years as a volunteer ship visitor, she changed her mind and decided on an unconventional career choice, and became an AoS port chaplain.

The Church asks us to support the work of AoS and port chaplains like Bryony.

Seafarers are invisible to us, says Bryony, yet, without knowing it, we all rely on them. "Think for a second of your morning routine. Light on, cup of coffee, shower, breakfast, into the car. Would any of this have been



possible without shipping? So, the next time you make a cup of coffee or turn on the TV, spare a thought for the seafarers who make this possible.

Greg Watts
www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

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BIRMINGHAM



Visit To Compassionate Kitchen

Here in Bloxwich, Birmingham Diocese we have an order of nuns, Immaculate Mary, Mother of Christ. There is a sister convent in Stoke on Trent and in February several members of St Peters Bloxwich UCM, with other parishioners, travelled to see Compassionate Kitchen, run by the Stoke

nuns in operation. We not only observed but also helped, serving a three course Sunday lunchtime meal to 60 people, and doing the washing up! How impressed were we! This was real Christian charity, with no questions asked.

Angela Wyer



6,000 Years Of Marriage

Over 6,000 years of marriage clocked up by nearly 200 couples was celebrated at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday 3 February. A Thanksgiving Mass to acknowledge, and celebrate, all those who have pledged their commitment through marriage. It was celebrated by Archbishop Longley of Birmingham. Amongst the couples were our

lovely Carole Costello and her husband Paul, celebrating their golden wedding at St Joseph & St Paul Kings Norton she became a bride again, including a lovely white dress, and was given away by her 14 year old grandson Harvey.

Susan Martin

Foodbank Opens Its Doors

Our foodbank opened its doors December last year and at the end of March was officially opened by our bishop, Bishop David Gough. Although started by the local Methodist church most of the volunteers are

from St Peters, including these five UCM members. We've become dab hands at stock rotation and finding use by dates.

Susan Martin Media Officer



Papal Blessing For Win

Win Brookstone receiving her papal blessing from our spiritual advisor, Father Paul.



Birmingham Diocese AGM

The Birmingham Diocese AGM, Annual Mass and lunch took place on 1 April (no it wasn't an April fool). There was no room for us at St Chad's Cathedral, but undeterred there was a good turnout for the new venue at the Sacred Heart church Tamworth. It was particularly good to see representatives from the North Staffordshire section. Building work was going on so after the AGM business was completed our room was quickly turned into a chapel for Mass. At the end of Mass our Win Brookstone was presented with a papal blessing for the occasion of her 95th birthday. We were honoured for this to be co-celebrated by no less than four priests, and at the end of the meal we had not one but two speakers. The local representative of Mary's Meals spoke to us about the backpack project. This was to provide a child in need with everything to improve the school experience from T-shirts to pencils. We much appreciated a visit from Margaret McDonald who was very encouraging when she gave our second talk.

Susan Martin Media Officer

Congratulations

90th BIRTHDAYS

Pauline Hughes, St Patricks Birstall. Past Diocesan Secretary, Leeds Diocese
Freda Parker, St Joseph Staveley Foundation, Hallam Diocese
Betty McClure, Kettering Foundation, Northampton Diocese
Jean Stribbling, Langley Foundation, Northampton Diocese
Margaret Oakes, Holy Spirit Foundation, West Bridgford, Nottingham Diocese
Lena Woolley, Holy Spirit Foundation, West Bridgford, Nottingham Diocese
Barbara Bushell, Holy Apostles & Martyrs Foundation, Shrewsbury Diocese
Annie Lewis, Holy Apostles & Martyrs Foundation, Shrewsbury Diocese
Beryl Hewson, Holy Apostles & Martyrs Foundation, Shrewsbury Diocese
Thelma Malone, Bromley Foundation, Southwark Archdiocese
Kay Pendleton, All Saints, Liverpool Archdiocese
Stella Murphy, Christ the King, Liverpool Archdiocese
Nessie Flanagan, St Anne's Foundation, Rockferry, Shrewsbury Diocese
Vera Bolger, St Anne's Foundation Rockferry Shrewsbury Diocese



Jean Stribbling



Thelma Malone

80th BIRTHDAYS

Sheila Godley, Hallam Diocese. Past Diocesan President and Secretary, National Media Officer and Vice President
Joan Hughes, All Saints, Liverpool Archdiocese
Norma Hannah, St Mary's Woolton, Liverpool Archdiocese
Joan Worthington, Independent Member, Liverpool Archdiocese
Mary Macnamara, Kettering Foundation Northampton Diocese
Maura Jones, St Mary and St Phillip Neri, Radcliffe, Salford Diocese
Pat Skelly, St Mary and St Phillip Neri, Radcliffe, Salford Diocese
Sheila Delahunty, St Mary and St Phillip Neri, Radcliffe, Salford Diocese
Anne Kiernan, St Mary and St Phillip Neri, Radcliffe, Salford Diocese
Ann Smith, St Mary and St Phillip Neri, Radcliffe, Salford Diocese
Iris Riley, St Mary and St Phillip Neri, Radcliffe, Salford Diocese
Mary Quinn, St Anne's Foundation Rockferry, Shrewsbury Diocese
Liz Dent, St Joseph's Foundation, Tilehurst, Reading, Portsmouth Diocese
Veronica Williams, St Joseph's Foundation, Tilehurst, Reading, Portsmouth Diocese
Electa Balchin, St Joseph's Foundation, Tilehurst, Reading, Portsmouth Diocese

70th BIRTHDAYS

Maureen Bowsley, St Anne's Foundation, Rockferry, Shrewsbury Diocese
Paddy Roberts, St Anne's Foundation, Rockferry, Shrewsbury Diocese

RUBY WEDDINGS

Maureen and Donal English, St Joseph's Foundation, Tilehurst, Reading, Portsmouth Diocese
Marian and Nick Telepneff, (Foundation President) St Joseph's Foundation, Tilehurst, Reading, Portsmouth Diocese

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

Cath and John Holden, St Richard's, Skelmersdale, Liverpool Archdiocese
Catherine & Tony Cole, St Aelred's Foundation, York, Middlesbrough Diocese
Joan and Terry Boland, St Joseph's Foundation, Maidenhead, Portsmouth Diocese
Sheila and Anthony Benfield, St Joseph's Foundation, Maidenhead, Portsmouth Diocese
Elizabeth and Ron Christian, St Colman's Foundation, Cosham, Portsmouth Diocese

Asia Bibi is FREE!



Thanks to your relentless effort over the last 10 years, we have achieved something wonderful, and something we can be proud of. We have managed to save an innocent woman from the death sentence... a sentence she received because of her Christian faith. Now, she can embrace her daughters and her husband and be truly free.

Thanks to your perseverance and generosity, we managed to activate public opinion, bring media attention to Asia Bibi's case, encourage Western governments to act, and bring her situation to the attention of international institutions.

Our collective strength overcame the Islamist radicals who called for Asia Bibi's execution, and encouraged Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan to resist the pressure from terrorists on the streets of Islamabad. In fact, this is exactly what we asked for in our last campaign, one of many we have launched to liberate Asia Bibi.

Thanks to your signature and to hundreds of thousands of likeminded people who joined this international campaign, Asia Bibi is now free.

HALLAM



Visit from National UCM President

At the Pastoral Centre Sheffield, we had the pleasure of the company of Mrs. Margaret MacDonald, UCM National President and Mrs. Margaret Kerbey, National Treasurer, both from the Liverpool Diocese. Also present was Rev. Bishop Ralph Heskett of the Diocese of Hallam. Mrs. MacDonald is pictured here on the left with our newly elected Diocesan President, Mrs. Angela Mellors.

The Secretarial post was taken by Mrs. Sheila Godley and the Treasurer, Mrs. Marie West. The other posts are: Media Mrs. Dorothy Anderson, Study Days Mrs. Angela Higginson, and Welfare, Mrs. Marie Harvey for the Hallam Diocese. Our meeting closed with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Ralph in the Chapel.

Dorothy Anderson Media Officer

ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON



New Members Enrolled

Two members from Hollington Foundation Clara Reder & Dolores Foster were enrolled into the UCM by our Parish Priest Fr Micael Beatty at the 10am Mass.

Submitting copy for next issue

The deadline for articles and photos for the next edition of the Catholic Mother is
Monday 9th September 2019

Please send copy to Margaret Postill,
 National Media Officer, at
catholic.mother@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you



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 Anyone sending photos to be published in The Catholic Mother newspaper, it is your responsibility to make sure you get permission from all in the photos.

"All You Need is Love"

St Wilfrid's Foundation, Northwich invited their Diocesan Study Officer, Mrs Maureen Bowsley to give a talk entitled "All You Need is Love".

Maureen began the talk with a brief history about The World Meeting of Families which was first started by Pope John Paul II in 1994. The aim of which was to strengthen the bonds between families and bear witness to the importance of marriage and family to all of society.

We then looked at the triptych Holy Family Icon. On the outside doors are the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who carry with them the desire of God to protect. On opening the doors, in the centre are the Holy Family of Mary, Jesus and

Joseph seated at table, sharing a meal, sharing their faith. This represents our own home where God-with-us is communicated and passed onto future generations. As Maureen explained, the family is called to be the "living icon" of the Most Holy Trinity. Finally on either side of the Holy Family icon are two Gospel narratives, The Raising of Jairus' Daughter and The Wedding Feast at Cana. In both these Gospel passages we see Jesus' deep compassion and concern for marriage and for those living with the burdens of family life.

After Mass we resumed our talk where Maureen focused on Amoris Laetitia 'The Joy of Love' Pope Francis Apostolic

Exhortation on Love in the Family. The contents of which look at the experiences and challenges of family, love in marriage, love made fruitful, pastoral perspectives, better education of children and the spirituality of marriage and family life. Maureen illustrated through a variety of slides and animations how Pope Francis speaks the same language as you and I, down to earth, so that we can relate his teachings in a very practical and useful way. In particular, Pope Francis repeatedly talks about three very simple but important words: 'sorry', 'thank you' and 'please'.

Monica Barnett Diocesan President, Shrewsbury

LIVERPOOL

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon Welcomes Leaders to Civic Mass

At the beginning of March, the Archdiocesan Secretary Cath Lydon accompanied me to the Metropolitan Cathedral for the Civic Mass. Archbishop Malcolm McMahon welcomed the Civic leaders from across the region. Among the dignitaries attending were Lord Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Christine Banks, and High Sheriff of Merseyside Peter Woods, who are both Catholic. Archbishop Malcolm also welcomed Bishop Paul Bayes, and Rev Dr Sue Jones first Anglican Dean since Women Priests were Ordained twenty five years ago. At the reception after mass, we had our photograph taken with her and our Dean Anthony O'Brien.

Maria Bruns



Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey

The picture shows a group of UCM members from Liverpool on Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey near Hereford, organised by retiring Archdiocesan President, Mrs Maria Bruns. Fr. Alastair a member of the order of St Benedict led us in a very interesting Retreat, held in a beautiful setting. The theme was "The Saints as Ordinary People" - grumpy or humorous - they sounded remarkably like us. Before returning home, we visited the nearby convent of the Poor Clares, as a friend of Maria's is a member of their Congregation. The nuns made us very welcome with lots of tea and cakes. We had food for the Spirit and the Body.



New Members At St Edmund Of Canterbury



Pictured with Fr. David Potter and new Archdiocesan President Maureen Finnegan, are two new members who were enrolled at a bi-monthly Mass at St Edmund of Canterbury. They are Vera Jones of St Richard's Foundation, Skelmersdale, and Catherine McGair of St Anne's, Foundation Ormskirk. Ladies, you are very welcome".

Madelaine McDonald

JERICHO

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Cunning Plans

Sheppey Catholic Parish headquarters church, St Henry and St Elizabeth, in Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey, are celebrating again! This time a brand new Altar. The edict

requiring Mass to be celebrated with the priest facing the people resulted in the purchase of a "temporary" wooden altar still with us even in 2019. Almost from the moment he arrived in the parish in 2001, Canon Frank Moran has dreamed of replacing its very plain serviceable "top with two legs" design with something more in keeping with Pugin's Victorian Gothic style.

Original plans were to have a marble altar, but we are a grade 2 listed building so had to ask permission for any proposed work. As the weight of a marble altar would require

us to reinforce the floor beneath it, permission was denied. This despite our argument that we were not altering the building, but rather restoring it to the beauty of Pugin's original design.

Never one to be thwarted by authority, the Canon came up with another "cunning plan"a phrase which the Parish has become very familiar with since he joined us! We would simply replace the cheap wooden altar with something more suitable. So wood was decided on, and after many consultations, and a great deal of work, our beautiful church finally has the altar it deserves.

Retired architect David Goodin, and young carpenter Greg Heusser, came to the church, spoke to Canon Frank, and after much consultation produced a magnificent design which the Cunning Plan Committee unanimously approved.

Greg used his incredible talents to reproduce in wood everything that Pugin's craftsmen had produced in marble. The wood was English Oak, from Herstmonceux castle, in East Sussex. Greg did all the work himself, and told me he

enjoyed it so much he often worked on it until 9pm! The only machine made parts were the rounded pillars which he made with flat panels, and were rounded off by a machine. These pillars needed to be darker than the rest of the wood to match the columns on the original back altar. This was achieved by soaking the wood in ammonia. Incredible. And as Canon Frank had wanted right from the start we were able to see through the spaces between the columns to the back altar, to see the identical pillars on Pugin's altar, and the beautiful Bosses between them.

It was a wonderful moment when we went into the church to see the finished article being installed. Even more wonderful was the Sunday after when we saw Canon Frank celebrating his first Mass on the altar of his dreams. He deserved every word of praise given by the congregation who were equally delighted by their new Altar, and, ironically, thought it was marble!

Mary Van Dyke

MIDDLESBROUGH



Holy Name of Mary Coffee Morning

Meriel Carroll, our Foundation President felt that with the help of other members, she would start a weekly Coffee Morning on Thursdays after mass to give our parish a chance to meet up and socialise during the week. It began slowly with approximately 10 parishioners, but has now grown into a flourishing social event with 30 to 40 regulars. The money raised through contributions and raffles help the Church funds and are also

donated to local charities including the Teenage Cancer Trust, Newcastle, Zetland RNLI, The Great North Air Ambulance and Zoe's Place, a hospice offering respite for terminally ill babies and their carers. It is now a well-established occasion, well loved by those in our parish and neighbouring parishes.

Jean Rigg



St Aelred's UCM Join Sisters For Evening Mass

Members of St. Aelred's UCM met at the Monastery of St Joseph at Askham Bryan and joined with the Sister's for evening Mass. During the Celebration of the Mass Fr. Bill Serplus enrolled Rosalie Langdon as a new member for St. Aelred's Foundation. The other

members renewed their commitment to the UCM. Afterwards the Sisters provided delightful refreshments to which a special birthday cake was added for one of our members.

Kath Stubbs, St. Aelred's



Left to right Fr. Bill Serplus, Sr. Collette Cavanagh, Rosalie Langdon, Kath Stubbs, Sarah Sheils.



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NORTHAMPTON

Flower Arranging Evening

In May, Liz Wheat of Holy Spirit Foundation, West Bridgford, organised a Flower Arranging Evening for our members. We all brought along a cup and saucer for our arrangement which

proved to be very effective and we were all very pleased with our efforts!!!

Ann Lewis Drew, Study Officer



Papal Blessing

St. Mary's parish had the accolade of one of our members Agnes Milne to be presented with a papal blessing for her continued work for Cafod for numerous years. Agnes has been in the UCM as a member since the Dunstable foundation began over 25 years ago. Agnes is a stalwart member of the parish, the founder of our food bank contribution that St. Mary's subscribes to once a month as well as other numerous activities for the good of less fortunate people that Agnes and her late husband Andrew were passionate about. She has worked tirelessly for the good of all people especially missions in Africa. A very happy day was celebrated with her and her family on this wonderful day as well as a special cake in our after mass coffee morning hosted by The Union of Catholic Mothers.

Ann Lewis Drew
Study Officer



Thank You

Thank you all for the beautiful cards, Mass Cards and presents which I received at National Council. I have been overwhelmed by your kindness. As I said in my Closing Comments at Council this has been an incredible journey, full of lots of wonderful memories. Thank you all for allowing me to be the National Secretary for The Union of Catholic Mothers; it has been my privilege and pleasure. As I said in my Annual Report 'May God Bless The Union of Catholic Mothers as we continue our journey in the twenty first century'.

Love and prayers, Irene Mitchell, Past National Secretary.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12th October 2019 Autumn Meeting, St. Chads, Birmingham.

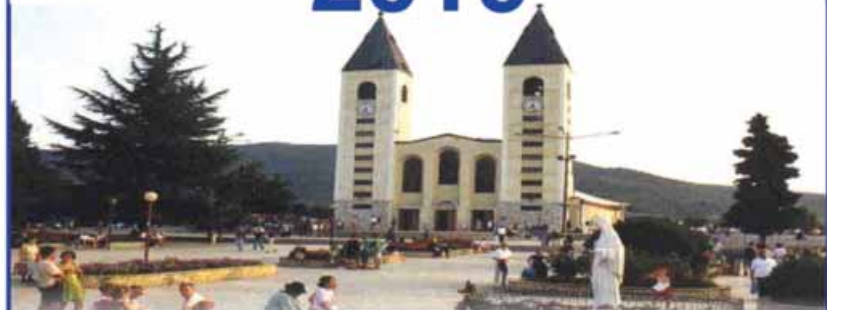
6th November 2019 Catholic Women Praying Together, Mass 11-30 at Farm Street Church, London W1K 3AH.

16/18 March 2020 National Study Conference Hayes Conference Center, Swanwick.

11/13 May 2020 National Council Hayes Conference Center, Swanwick.

7th July 2020 Walsingham Pilgrimage.

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PLYMOUTH



Synagogue Visit

The members of the Cathedral Foundation had a very interesting visit to their local Synagogue.

Vivienne Oxley Foundation Secretary



Literary Experience

Exmouth and the surrounding area abound with local talent. We have in the past welcomed artists, writers and actors to speak or perform at our UCM meetings. For our first meeting in March we greeted Michael McLarnon, a local writer and poet (and co-incidentally husband to UCM member Brenda).

Michael read for us a selection of his prose written within the last few years and draws on his personal experiences and emotions. The selection included a variety of humorous, thought-provoking, reflective and insightful poems which held us in thrall of his art and style. He joined a writer's group several years ago and has published 3 books online. He intends to add to his repertoire by publishing a book of some of his poems using the same online publishing platform.

He concluded by reading part of one of his 3 novels 'Heron' written under his Nom De Plume Michael Trelissic (in acknowledgement of his admiration of Trelissick Gardens in Cornwall). His books are available online with several ebook retailers.

After the readings Michael answered questions and joined us for tea and chocolate biscuits.

Liz Johnson, Media Officer, Exmouth Foundation

Chicks Coffee Mornings

Members of Exmouth Foundation are very active in the parish and support with great enthusiasm the many events in the parish, particularly in support of charities and those supporting children are very close to our heart and our UCM mission. On Mothering Sunday the Parish of the Holy Family in Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton held coffee mornings after the Sunday mass in order to raise funds for the CHICKS Charity.

CHICKS (Country Holidays for Inner City KidS) is a national children's charity providing free respite breaks to children aged 8 to 15 years old from all over the UK who would really benefit from a break in their home lives. The charity began their work in 1992 and since then has provided over 15,600 children with a much-needed break.

The theme of the cake sale was 'Chicks' and resulted in a very creative response with fluffy yellow chicks abounding. Contributions to the sale varied from some lovely knitted chicks with a surprise crème egg filling to home-made sponges and slices of various flavours to delicious Easter biscuits and creamy fudge. The variety of fare was mouth-watering!

We were delighted to help raise funds alongside fellow parishioners.

Liz Johnson, Media officer Exmouth Foundation

Songs Of Praise – UCM style



There is nothing as uplifting as praising the Lord in song and the UCM believe firmly in that joyful principal.

Several years ago one of our much loved members (sadly now deceased) Sheila Bennett suggested that we hold our own 'Songs of Praise' style meeting. This tradition has carried on occasionally throughout the years, but has not occurred recently.

However, it was suggested, following Sheila's sad parting that we hold a celebration in her honour and revive the old tradition. Thus, on Thursday 21st February the Holy Ghost church hall at Raddenstile Lane, Exmouth reverberated with joyful praise and music.

We sang a selection of favourite hymns chosen by members and invited anyone who would like to join us.

Derek Richards (Lorraine's husband) was our music DJ and secretary Siobhan Canham provided us with a wealth of interesting facts about the hymns and their composers.

Sheila's husband Eric joined us in the singing. It was a really fantastic afternoon and one we will certainly be repeating again in the future. We raised the sum of £192 for our chosen charity this year – The Bramble children's ward at the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital.

Liz Johnson, Media Officer, Plymouth Diocese

Skittles Evening

Summer was in the air as the Exmouth Foundation UCM visited the local Railway club skittle alley to take up the challenge. Lack of skittling ability was more than compensated for by the verve and panache of our tea-drinking skills and the elegance of our 'cake and sandwich-munching'.

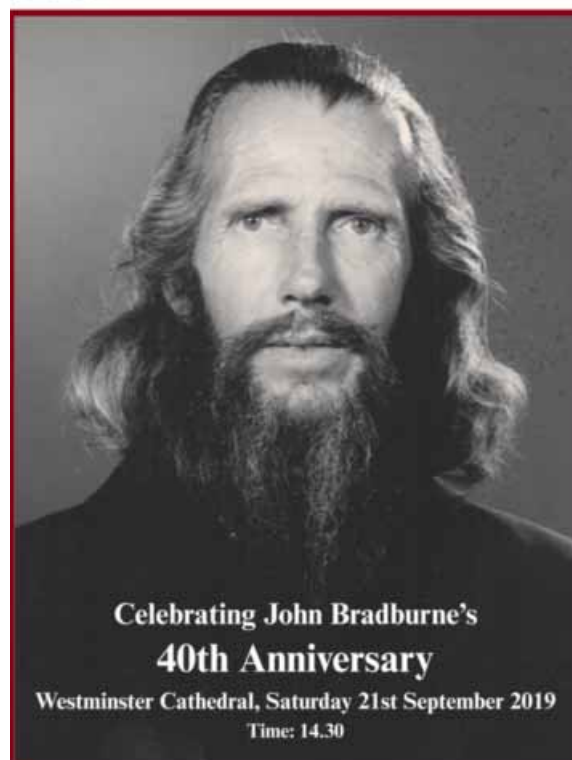
A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all and helped along by the stalwart efforts of Anne McAlpine's husband, who cheerfully replaced the skittles for all contestants. Having fun and laughter together makes us a more cohesive and effect group within our Church community.

Mary Chaplin (treasurer-Exmouth Foundation)



JBMS

John Bradburne Memorial Society



Celebrating John Bradburne's
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Time: 14.30

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PORTSMOUTH

Double your money

'Double your money' was the promise made by the UK government to any organisation that might raise money for a registered charity. Mary's Meals, which I know many of you are aware of, is a registered charity which pledges one hot meal a day to any child who attends school in deprived countries of the Third World. £13.90 is enough to feed one child every day of the school year. With this promise in mind, St Colman's foundation in Cosham organised a Sunday afternoon 'get together' with Tea and Cake and a little bit of dancing. More than sixty people of all ages from St Colman's parish in Cosham and St Paul's church in Paulsgrove joined in the fun and the sum of £1157 was raised and with this amount matched by the government, the total amount sent to Mary's Meals will be £2314, enough to feed 166 children for a full school year. Described by Cathy Riley, who along with our president Pauline Kaznowski was one of the main organisers, as 'Double the Love', the fun had by everyone that afternoon and the proceeds raised, certainly reflected that love for our fellow human beings and in particular the children in deprived countries

Elizabeth Christian, Portsmouth Media Officer

WUCWO General Assembly

Portsmouth Diocese is linked with Bamenda Diocese in the Cameroon. Our Diocesan Justice and Peace officer, Maureen Meatcher, was fortunate to be able to attend the WUCWO General Assembly in Senegal last October. While she was there, she met Judith Chiato, the President of the Association of Catholic Women of Cameroon and has forged links with her. Our Diocesan Bishop has asked us to help the Cameroon as they are in crisis now with terrorist activity. Maureen contacted Judith to find out what the situation was for our associates in Bamenda diocese. We received the following message "Thanks for all the prayers for us in this part of the world. Things are getting worse by day as the wickedness of the government

increases. They have resorted to burning down hospitals, breaking into houses and taking our male children to unknown places. I can't thank you enough for your concern for us." Maureen's justice and peace work takes her to many places, one of which is the United Nations in New York. At a recent women's conference there (CSW63) she met two non-governmental officers (ngos) from the Cameroon who were pleading UN women to give them help to avoid civil war. Their contact details have been sent to Judith in the hope that they are able to cooperate in the work for peace and security in their country.

Elizabeth Christian Media Officer



Wokingham Foundation AGM

At the Wokingham Foundation AGM Fr. David O'Sullivan celebrated Mass and members renewed their commitment to the Aims and Objectives of the UCM. Fr. David presented long service certificates to four members of the Foundation, Maureen Meatcher has been a UCM member for 43 years and has served at local, national and international levels. Valerie Loughnane has been a member for 40 years, many of them as Welfare Officer or President. Eileen Mason received a certificate for 35 years and Pat Hall for 30 years. They have all made significant contributions to the Wokingham Foundation and continue to be much valued members.

Ladies at St Colman's foundation like to keep busy

Their latest project has been to spend afternoons making cards which are then presented to various members of the parish. Particularly appreciated are those that are given to young new mums when their babies are baptised. We also present them to children who have made their First holy communion or have been confirmed. Other recipients are couples on the occasion of their marriage and other parishioners for whom we have a Mass said in times of illness or bereavement.

Elizabeth Christian Media Officer



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SALFORD

Two New Members Enrolled



Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Blackley were very happy recently to enrol two new members to our foundation. Fr. John Coe, the Diocesan Chaplain, officiated, assisted by our Parish Priest Fr. Philip Brady. We followed the enrolment with a party in the Parish House and were delighted Diocesan President (Mary Tierney) Deputy President (Maureen Woodward) and the Diocesan Secretary (Phillipa Roberts) were able to celebrate with us.



Rosary Rally

Salford Diocesan Rosary Rally was a beautiful afternoon, Fr. John Coe lead the service, enlightening us with stories of a Pilgrimage he had just been on with Bishop Brain, "he said it was a time to be quiet to pray silently." Fr. Coe and the Diocesan officers said the Rosary. The sun shone through the stained glass windows casting brightly coloured lights around the St. Luke's Church.

Adela Ramsbottom Media Officer



Whit Walks

We gathered at Manchester Cathedral at 9:30 and the procession to Albert Square began at 10:00. There was a service in Albert Square with hymns accompanied by Greenfield Brass Band and Musicians from St Philip's church, Salford. We were joined by the Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Abid Latif Chohan and the ceremonial Mayor of Salford Councillor Charlie McIntyre. The Act of Worship was led by the Dean of Manchester the Very Rev Rogers Govender. The sermon was given by Rev Simon Watkinson of St Philip's Salford. Also taking part was Bishop of Bolton Right Rev Mark Ashcroft and Bishop of Salford Right Rev John Arnold. We witnessed a lot of support from the people in Manchester during our procession. Although a lot cooler than last year and with just one shower on the procession on the way back to the Cathedral we still had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Phillipa Roberts

Busy Couple of Months for St Charles Foundation

We have had a pretty busy couple of months in our UCM meetings getting things ready for a sale of Easter Items. They were sold at the masses with our now amalgamated parishes of St. Mark's Pendlebury and St. Mary's Swinton. Thankfully our efforts were rewarded and we were able to hand over £200 to CAFOD for the relief fund appeal. Last week we went on a tour of the BBC Studios at Media

City, Salford Quays, which we found informative and enjoyable. After security checks and turns sitting in the Mastermind chair we had three guides to look after us and who passed on information about the things we were being shown. Some of us took part in the recording of a radio play, with sound effects, which greatly amused the rest of our group! We had one volunteer to introduce the weather forecast which she did

with great confidence despite the disappearance of the temperatures on the chart. Some of us enjoyed a coffee before boarding our transport which arrived in perfect time to take us home. We now have to decide what delights we can look forward to at our future meetings.

S.M. Beardshaw



Amoris Laetitia- The Joy of Love

Theme: Central to the Joy of Love is the Joy of the Family

Union of Catholic Mothers: Diocesan Study Day, 9th February 2019.

The Middlesbrough Diocesan Study Day was held at St. Aelred's Church, York, on Saturday, 9th February. Our theme this year was taken from Pope Francis' Encyclical, Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love. We decided to concentrate on love in the family, the Parish and the wider Church and world. We spent the morning looking at the situation of many families today and how we might respond to the needs of the young, from small children to those of student age and into their early twenties.

The day was organised by our Diocesan Study Day Officer, Rose Cartledge. We commenced with Mass at 10:00 a.m. in which our readings and prayers were devoted to the theme of the Joy of Love.

During the morning we had some inspiring contributions from Pat Nobbs, President of our Parish S.V.P., telling us a little of what they do for families in our Parish and area, Neil Ballantyne, on his involvement in the Scouting movement, H.C.P.T and the school, Emmanuel Kofi Obeng on how as a Maths teacher he could reach out to his students, Bethany Wallace a student who has grown up in our Parish now a student in Leeds, and Tega Palmer a student at York University now a reader and a member of the choir. We finished with lunch and a time to share our experiences and ideas.

This gave us a valuable opportunity to review what we are doing in our Parish and to start to formulate plans for



L/R Rose Cartledge, Sarah Sheils, Bethany Wallace, Jean Rigg, Neil Ballantyne, Pat Nobbs

initiatives in the future. We were delighted to welcome U.C.M. representatives from Filey, Middlesbrough, all the Diocesan officers and Father Kevin Trehy from a neighbouring parish. We were greatly supported by Father Bill Serplus, our Diocesan U.C.M. Spiritual Adviser who will help us to take our ideas forward into action.

As the Pope has reminded us "Every young person has something to say to others. He or she has something to say to Adults, to Priests, Sisters, Bishops and the Pope. All of us need to listen to you". We all need to develop our listening skills and to hear what our young people are really saying.

Kath Stubbs Media Officer Middlesbrough Diocese

SOUTHWARK

Tour of Clerkenwell

Members and friends of Tolworth Foundation were delighted with the tour of Clerkenwell in April which was led by Kate Boyle.

Highlights included the Museum of the Order of St John, and the Clerks' Well which gave the area its name. Nearby local parish clerks used to perform medieval miracle plays. Originally sited on the boundary wall of St Mary's Nunnery, after the dissolution of the Nunnery and destruction of the wall the well was lost until 1924 when it was rediscovered during rebuilding in Farringdon Lane.

The Museum tells the story of the Venerable Order of St John from its roots as an Order of European Hospitaller Knights founded in Jerusalem during the Crusades, to its present commitment to providing first aid and care in the community through the St John Ambulance Brigade and running an Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. Our tour ended with a hot lunch in The Sir John Oldcastle.

Many thanks to Kate. We look forward to our next London Walk.

**Lucy Smallwood
President, Tolworth Foundation**



L/R Mary Burt, Mary Piper, Catherine Rooms, Gerry Grehan, Father Roy

Long Service Certificates

St. Columba's Church, Selsdon Foundation presentation of Long Service Certificates to Catherine Huzzey, 40 years and Marion de Souza 30 years, (President) Margit Symonds 30 years was unable to attend.

Marion de Souza Foundation President

New Members Enrolled

On Sunday 20th January 9 new members were enrolled at Hythe Foundation in Kent (Archdiocese of Southwark). The wonderful celebration was attended by Diocesan President Mary Burt and Diocesan Secretary Mary Piper.



UCM Study Conference



On April 9, 2018, Pope Francis released an apostolic exhortation on holiness titled *Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad)*. In this document, Pope Francis shows that holiness is not an impossible task – we, no matter who we are, can achieve holiness in the ordinary moments of our lives. Archbishop Angelo De Donatis, the papal vicar, said, “The pope wants to tell us that holiness is not something else apart from our everyday life, but it is exactly our ordinary existence lived in an extraordinary ways.”

“We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.”

The Call to Holiness was the title of the UCM's Study Conference. It was the turn of the UCM members of the Hallam Diocese to host the Annual Study Conference at the Hayes Centre in March 2019. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Allan Williams led us through the documents 'Rejoice and be Glad'. He began by telling us we would have plenty of breaks so that we wouldn't fall asleep. We would also have plenty of time to discuss any matters arising. It was a lovely couple of days. Bishop Alan is an inspirational speaker, with time to think, discuss and pray together. The second evening we were entertained by 'Crows' Feet' Folk Group from the Hope Valley.

If you would like to run a study day, Rejoice & be glad reflection guide is available in PDF format at adw.org/holiness

Margaret Postill
National Media Officer



God at Work

I was fortunate to attend the Study Conference at Swanwick this year as an observer. It was a wonderful three days, very informative, prayerful and a happy time. It was lovely to meet so many members from all over the country. One evening, sitting at a table with seven other ladies each of them from a different diocese, I asked one lady where she lived. She replied Doncaster. I told her that I had made a lovely friendship with a catholic lady who was from Denaby Main outside Doncaster.

My parish was going on a pilgrimage to Lourdes by coach and the parish priest said that we would be joined by a lady from Doncaster but she needed a bed for the night before we left. I said she could stay with me.

We became good friends and have been away together since and try to meet up when we can.

The lady asked me the name of my new friend and I told her "Teresa *****". Her response was "Oh, she is my cousin, I am seeing her next week and I will tell her I have met you".

Not a coincidence - God placed us together at that table.

Joan Starr, Stockport Area Secretary

Submitting copy for next issue

The deadline for articles and photos for the next edition of the Catholic Mother is

Monday 9th September 2019

Please send copy to Margaret Postill,
National Media Officer, at
catholic.mother@yahoo.co.uk

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Walsingham Whispers

“PREPARING FOR THE DOWRY REDEDICATION: THIS IS YOUR MOTHER”

We are delighted that Bishop Alan Williams, our Ecclesiastical Adviser, will be our main Celebrant again this year.

Lead Diocese – Diocese of Northampton led by Bishop Peter Doyle and their Chaplain, Fr Gerard Byrne assisted by Canon Noonan.

It is now only a few weeks away and we pray that we will be blest with two lovely days for our pilgrimage.

Preparations are going well and we will be holding our final meeting with the lead Diocese at the end of May. The Pilgrim Bureau has undergone a huge refurbishment, including some new en suite rooms, and consequently rooms could not be allocated until the work was completed. This is now taking place and we would like to thank the Northampton Diocese, especially Mrs Jenny Hyde, their President, and Mrs Sam Canning, their co-ordinator, for their patience and the excellent way they are dealing with the changes. I do hope you will enjoy the 'new Bureau' please let the Walsingham

Sub Committee know what you think.

Sadly, numbers again have been very slow coming in and at today's date (19th May) we only have 222 confirmed bookings but I am sure that many of you will already have sent your booking forms to Angie Higginson, Walsingham Sub Committee Treasurer, I am sure too you will all remember the magical number of 500 which enables us to have that beautiful open air Mass. Please do not forget that your friends and families are very welcome too.

Stewards; Thank you to all of those who have volunteered for this really important role and I will be sending out their instructions very shortly and, as always, we could not run our pilgrimage without you. Please remember to bring your instructions with you to Walsingham. If you have not been able to volunteer this year, please do consider it for next year.

When you are at the pilgrimage could we please ask that you listen carefully to the announcements made by the Shrine staff, particularly regarding the order for the line-up of

the silent procession.

I do hope that many of you have been able to attend the Dowry tour which has been travelling around the Diocese during this last year and which culminates in the Archdiocese of Westminster on the 19th-21st March 2020, just prior to the Rededication at the Walsingham Shrine on Sunday, 29th March 2020 – the nearest Sunday to the Feast of the Annunciation.

Finally, as always, we look forward to welcoming you all to our 74th Walsingham pilgrimage and a special welcome to our new National Secretary, Kate Moss. We pray for a spiritual, happy and uplifting pilgrimage and we wish you all a safe journey to Walsingham and a safe return home to your loved ones. God Bless you all.

**Maureen, Angie, Mary & Marie
Walsingham Sub-Committee**

SHREWSBURY

Seven New Members at St Peter's and St Raphael's Foundation

St Peter's & St Raphael's Foundation Stalybridge welcomed seven new members on Wednesday 13th March, 2019. The ladies were enrolled during Mass by Fr Phillips, assisted by Pat Fleming, Parish President. The meeting followed in the Parish Hall and was attended by 40 members. Everyone had a lovely afternoon.

Pat Fleming



L/R Pat Fleming, Parish President, Kath Courtney, Ann Simcock, Glenda Delaney, Fr Philip Atkinson, Ann Lomas, Eileen Pickford, Gillian Burns and Joan Jones.

Share Some Kindness

Although the internet creates a wealth of opportunities for young people across the world unfortunately digital technologies can also generate new and significant avenues for bullying. Young people face pressures from their peers which can have tragic consequences. A taskforce bringing social media together with internet service providers has been set up by the Duke of Cambridge in the hope that online bullying can be overcome ensuring that the internet remains something that young people and their parents can embrace.

The Duke of Cambridge is working with industry, charity leaders and young people to help combat cyberbullying. Zoe Croft, from the Taskforce on the prevention of cyberbullying explains more, the Duke tells digital parenting why the subject means so much to him.

Through his work with young people, mental health charities and as a parent himself. The Duke of Cambridge has become increasingly concerned about cyber bullying and the impact it can have on children and young people.

A recent nationwide survey revealed that 55% of young people have received hurtful comments online, with 18% experiencing cyber bullying - and the problem is growing. There has been a dramatic increase in mobile devices and social media sites, which young people view as integral to their world.

In May 2016 the Duke of Cambridge brought together a taskforce of leaders in the technology and charity sectors to develop an industry – wide response to the online bullying of young people.

A panel of young people brought together

by the Taskforce revealed that while many of them admitted they have been cyber bullied, they also explained how easy it can be to join in with negative conversations online, quickly becoming a contributor to the abuse. The study also revealed how easy it can be for young people to just stand back and watch cyberbully unfold.

The panel asked the Taskforce for help in three ways.

- 1 To identify a set of actions for young people to help them behave better online, and for these to appear on the social media sites they are using.
- 2 For these actions to form part of a campaign that also reflects the fact that young people see social media and the internet as positive platforms.
- 3 For parents, carers and teachers to help remind young people how to behave online, just as they do with their usual offline behaviour.

As adults, we have conversations every day with young people, guiding them on how they should behave at school, with friends and when they go out. This generation is asking us to offer them the same support about how to behave online and on social media.

The Taskforce has now turned its attention to delivering these outcomes and it's clear that by working together, younger and older generations can help stop cyberbullying, and make the internet a better, kinder place

Look out for further announcements on the work of the Taskforce on the prevention of cyberbullying at www.royalfoundation.com/our-work/cyberbullying

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A SHORT HISTORY of THE UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

On the 15th May 1891 Pope Leo XIII wrote an encyclical entitled "Rerum Novarum" addressing the condition of the working classes. He wanted to make Catholics aware of the social implications of the gospel and the Catholic tradition built on that gospel. The Anglican Church had already started to find ways of alleviating the problem of the working poor and inaugurated the "Mothers union" to give particular help to women.

Mrs. Chichester, a Catholic lady who lived with her husband and family at Tiverton North Devon was very aware of the duties they had towards their tenants. She thought that she could help the women best by starting a Mothers Union. The results of her efforts exceeded all expectations. The meetings she held, became popular, were well attended and helped to improve the lives of women in neighbouring villages. This success inspired Mrs. Chichester to form a similar society on Catholic lines, which might prove to be of real service to the Church. With the help of her sister, Miss Berkeley, she drew up a scheme for a Union of Catholic Mothers.

Together they wrote a prayer to be used in meetings, which received an indulgence from

Cardinal Bourne and later on from the Holy Father. Both the scheme and the prayer were submitted to the Archbishop of Birmingham and received his Grace's approval. Groups to help Catholic Mothers grew up in Liverpool, Preston, Salford and Birmingham.

The aims of the UCM were to insist on the sacramental character and permanence of marriage and the observance of God's law in the married state. This also included the Catholic education of the children, their training as public spirited citizens, the avoidance of immoral companions, amusements and literature; the practical management of the home and an active share in the good works of the world. These were combined with a deep spiritual culture for both mother and child. There were to be no class distinctions in the UCM. As its name implied, the aim was to unite and not separate - a true "Union" of Catholic Mothers to pool their knowledge and to share their experiences to help one another.

During the Great War several foundations had lapsed and others weakened but after the Armistice of 1918 a revival took place. Flora Kirwin, a daughter of aristocrats, was involved in charity work in the East End of

London. She ran a hostel on the coast for working girls to have a holiday. She wrote articles on women's poverty and asked why the CWL did not enrol from the working class! By 1923 there were foundations in Birmingham, Bath, Boscombe, Brighton, Cambridge, Hartlepool, Huddersfield, Liverpool, Newcastle, Salford and Wolverhampton. From 1923 to 1938 the UCM was known as "The Catholic Women's League Union of Catholic Mothers" and this title appeared on the badge.

The reorganization of the UCM began in 1923. Various schemes were submitted to the CWL but it proved impossible to select one to suit all, but there was unanimous agreement about the card membership. This was sent to Cardinal Bourne, who gave his approval and attached an indulgence to the recital of the prayer. Foundations began to crop up in isolated districts. Mrs. Thornley the UCM President of the UCM drew up these rules.

Rules

1. The consent of the parish Priest must be obtained.
2. Also the consent of the CWL.
3. Each foundation is free to draw up its own

constitution as needs vary in different places, but these must be submitted to the local CWL before coming into force.

4. Reports of the UCM must be passed by the local CWL before being sent up to the CWL magazine.

They worked satisfactorily until the rapid growth of the UCM made special constitutions a necessity. By 1925 the UCM consisted of 22 foundations in Birmingham and 11 elsewhere and had been re-organized to protect the sanctity of the Catholic home and to fight against the pernicious propaganda of Neo-Malthusianism. 1927 saw 63 foundations established and by 1928 UCM was seeking a greater measure of independence from the CWL in order to develop its own special character. It was in 1934 that Salford Diocese was active in arranging holidays for tired mothers. It wasn't until 1945 that the "Rest Home Service" was set up in the south. Media awareness was already a concern of Catholic women as the 'clean film campaign' was strongly supported by the UCM.

If you would like to read more there is a booklet with the same title.

Maureen Meatcher
past International Officer

National Officer Reports to Council 2019

National Council of Women

A delegation of five young women from the National Council of Young Women attended the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nation in New York on 8th to the 19th March. The trip was self funded by them from fundraising activities. They met with the President of the International Council Women, raising the profile of the NCW of Great Britain.

The resolution passed at the 2018 NCW conference regarding the re-establishment of a Minister for Women and Equalities placed in the Cabinet was fairly well received by the Prime Minister who responded with a letter in which she said that there were no plans to change the current structure, being the Government Equalities Office which has now been established within the Cabinet Office.

Since the introduction of the Female Genital Mutilation Act in 2003, progress has finally been achieved on prosecutions for FGM in this country. In February this year the first successful prosecution of a perpetrator took place.

A mother of a three year old and her partner were convicted and sentenced to 11 years. Since laws were introduced only three other cases have come to court but all ended in acquittals. The NCW has worked hard over decades along with other organisations, using petitions and resolutions to the Government and raising public awareness on this issue. I will be attending this year's NCW conference which is in Leamington Spa, the theme is Women and Justice.

Justice and Peace

In January I mailed out to all the Diocesan J and P Officers a covering letter and a standardized form for them to fill in an annual report. This was so I could report to the Committee and Council about what is happening across the country in UCM regarding J and P matters. The very same process that the Diocesan Secretaries and Treasurers and Welfare Officers do and set out in our Handbook.

From 17 Diocese we have 11 named J and P Officers and 6 vacancies, where the Secretaries are the receiving Officer. Seven reports were received in this first tryout. All in all I consider that a bit of a result. So what's been happening across the country in the last twelve months?

A tremendous amount of work with and for the Homeless has been reported on. For example, work with the Julian Trust in Clifton offering hot meals and a bed to those in the city who

are in need is ongoing. In Liverpool Arch Diocese, Foundations have been supporting The Whitechapel Centre a safe place for homeless families. Many UCM Members are also members of the SVP, working hard with young homeless people in their Diocese.

Concerns about attitudes to Abortion by our leaders in Government and the Health Services and proposed changes in the law have led to petitioning and letter writing to various bodies and MP's. Again many Foundations are involved in this task of providing a voice for those as yet unborn and unable to speak for themselves.

Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers in need have a special place in the hearts and minds of many UCM Members. Collaborative work with the Medaille Trust on working against human trafficking and modern slavery also Churches Together to provide food and clothing and holding events designed to help migrant families feel welcome in our communities.

Work with Women's Refuges, Marys Meals, Mental Health Organizations and Dementia sufferers and their families are high on many Diocesan agendas.

At the end of last year Oscar Romero was canonized as you know, this is following many years of keeping his memory and of what happened to him alive by organisations such as Justice and Peace. Many Dioceses reported on events and special Masses to celebrate the life, martyrdom and canonisation of this great man.

Thank you J and P Officers for your reports. I have mailed out booking forms for the 2019 Conference 'Forgotten People, Forgotten Places' 26-28 July here at the Hayes. If you wish to attend please contact your Diocesan Committee.

I attended Romero House the National Office of CAFOD on 9th February for the quarterly meeting of the National J and P Network.

Phil Kingston from Christian Climate Action was the invited speaker.

He spoke about the Christian Climate Action Group's new campaign, Extinction Rebellion.

Extinction Rebellion uses non-violent, civil disobedience action to get its message across because they believe that time is running out for humanity to reverse climate change. Phil has been arrested several times recently along with other group members for taking direct action. For example stopping traffic in London at various points around the city by lying down in the road whilst group members handed out leaflets and spoke to people about the issues of climate change.

The Group highlights the connections between environmental destruction and the global economy. Phil expressed his admiration for the leadership offered by Pope Francis in Laudato Si to hear "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." Phil's feeling was that only a widespread movement of civil disobedience will force politicians and leaders of corporations to meet the challenges of our times.

You will no doubt have seen the news stories recently of thousands of High School and College Students across the country leaving their lessons and lectures to peacefully protest about the very same thing.

Bruce Kent of the Movement for the Abolition of War and formally a leading member of C.N.D. informed the meeting that Britain is currently spending £200 billion plus on more nuclear weapons. The military are responsible for 10% of the carbon dioxide emissions in the country. He pointed out that unfortunately non-governmental organisations are limited to take actions needed to raise serious challenges due to their charitable status. The discussion was interesting and very lively as not everyone supports civil disobedience.

2020 Conference was discussed, the aims of the conference are to: update Christian witness for justice and peace in light of recent developments in Papal teachings; thinking on integral ecology; looking at movements such as "Extinction Rebellion" and scientific advice to policy makers and finally: systemic change to address economic-ecological crisis will be explored and inspirational initiatives which lower carbon footprints and build a sustainable future.

The day finished with a lovely presentation ceremony to Ann Kelly, administrator of the National Justice and Peace Network. Ann retired after 12 years service.

Cafod

In a letter I distributed recently to all Diocesan Justice and Peace contacts, I shared the link to the 'Eventbrite' site and encouraged members to use it as a way of getting information quickly and directly from CAFOD about local events around the country.

The web site address is www.eventbrite.co.uk it is a free, safe and trusted service with no hidden costs or obligation to attend any of the events advertised on behalf of CAFOD. If you do wish to attend events advertised near you, as an individual, you can also register or book on the site.

Catherine Rutherford,
National Vice President

OBITUARIES

BIRMINGHAM

Barbara Long, St John Fisher Foundation, West Heath,

EAST ANGLIA

Hazel Hart, Our Lady & St Walstan's Foundation, Costessey

David McWeeny, husband of Una, Our Lady & St Walston Foundation, Costessey

Lily Paine, St Helen & St Joseph Foundation

LEEDS

Margaret Bourne, Past President St Josephs Foundation, Castleford

Frances Denville, St Patricks Foundation, Birstall

LIVERPOOL

Maria Stockton, St Joseph's Foundation, Penketh

Marie Jones, St Benet's Foundation

Marie McGuinness, St Paul's Foundation, West Derby,

Teresa McCarthy, Queen of Martyrs Foundation

Teresa Dring, St Margaret Mary's Foundation, Knotty Ash,

Sheila Murphy, Christ the King Foundation

Ann McGonigle, St Oswald's Foundation

MIDDLESBROUGH

Jean Atkin, St Aelred's Foundation, York

Teresa Gunn, Holy Name Foundation, Past Diocesan President

NOTTINGHAM

Mary King, Spalding & Holbeach Foundation

SALFORD

Kathleen McHugh, St Edmunds Foundation, Little Hulton

Maureen Hurst, Past National Public Service Officer and Salford Study Officer

Brenda Johnston, Past President and Past Diocesan Justice and Peace Officer St Mary and St Phillip Neri Foundation, Radcliffe

Rita Brabazon, St John's Foundation, Chorlton

SHREWSBURY

Marie McEvoy, Sacred Heart & St Peter Foundation, Baguley Wythenshawe

SOUTHWARK

Thelma Congreaves, Holy Cross Church Foundation, President Carshalton

Bridie McKechnie, Holy Cross Church Foundation, Carshalton

Audrey Hurrelle, Past President St Saviour's Foundation, Lewisham

PORTSMOUTH

Sheelagh Pickard, Sacred Heart Foundation, Fareham

Margaret Proctor, Sacred heart Foundation, Fareham

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

OBITUARY - Sheilagh Preston



Sheilagh was born in Rochdale on 13th December 1937 and after a very severe stroke in December 2018 she never recovered any of her faculties and died on 2nd April 2019. She was married to Jack and they had 3 sons, Simon who died aged 17, Richard and Matthew both of

whom have two sons, Simon and Jack and Charlie and Jasper. She was a trained Physiotherapist and for some time she worked in a hospital in Southport as they moved around with Jack's job.

She was not a cradle Catholic but after much soul searching decided that was what she wanted and 35 years ago Mgr Kilgannon, Mother of God Church, Sheffield, brought her into the church. She joined the parish UCM and after a time became Foundation President. She was a Reader and a Eucharistic Minister and was also on the management team of the Parish Credit Union.

For 10 years Sheilagh was a Trustee of the Diocese having been invited by Bishop John Rawsthorne, and represented the Trustees on the Safeguarding Committee. She was a manager of St Vincent's Furniture Store and also supported Sheffield 4C's, which is Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care and is an Ecumenical group.

As for The UCM, Sheilagh was always a faithful member and was over the moon and

felt honoured when she was voted in as National President at the time of the Millennium. During 1999 The UCM raised money for CAFOD and in 2000 they invited Sheilagh and Jill Mitchell, international officer, to accompany them to see the radio stations they had set up in Guatemala with our donation. The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) holds a gathering of all the countries every 4 years and Sheilagh attended that too, but I can't remember where she went! Her President's Pilgrimage was to Santiago de Compostela and was very uplifting, and included walking some of the pilgrim way.

The work that Sheilagh did in the parish, in the diocese and with and for The UCM was recognised and she was presented with a Papal Award.

Her life made a difference to so many and she will be greatly missed. God bless you Sheilagh and may you rest in heavenly peace.

Margaret McNicholas
Past National President

Competition Winner

Exmouth Foundation member Liz Johnson was surprised and delighted when she opened her May edition of the Catholic South West newspaper to find that she had won a write-in competition. Readers were asked in no more than 200 words to write about their faith using the symbols of a fish, a shell and the colour blue.

Liz was inspired to write a poem.
"Trapped within the limitations of my understanding of love and forgiveness I cover on the ocean floor.

Protected by the hard but porous shell of ignorance and insecurity, pinning me down with memories of the present and the past I exist without meaning or purpose.

Piscine bubbles rising to the surface are my only link to the things that I strive to feel and understand as my feathery gills filter the mass of experiences and sensations of my earthly life to try and interpret a purposeful meaning.

A single word – SAVIOUR – permeates the fissures in my shell and my primitive but overpoweringly grateful and receptive mind floods with sensations of belief and self-knowledge.

I am free at last, released from my bonds, to ascend through the dark blue of the ocean depths to the lighter expanse of blue sky and the glory of redemption and the joy and promise of eternal love embracing me now and forever."

"I had no expectations of winning but I felt compelled to write the poem" said Liz to fellow members, " I thought I might as well send it in."



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Shrine of Our Lady of Doncaster

The original Shrine of Our Lady of Doncaster stood within Whitefriars, the Carmelite Priory established in 1351 on land given to them by John Nicbrothere of Eyam and Richard le Ewere of Doncaster. The Priory occupied several acres of land bounded by St. Sepulchre Gate, Printing Office Street, Cleveland Street and the High Street. Priory Place now crosses the site and excavation work during the construction of the Post Office and Telephone Exchange revealed parts of the Priory Church and the site of Friars Cemetery.

Doncaster, being on the Great North Road afforded some strategic importance to the Priory and a convenient stopping place for travellers. King Henry V11 on his progress north after his coronation stopped there and heard Mass at Our Lady's Shrine. Other Royal visitors included Henry 1V in 1399 and Edward 1V in 1470. By this time the Shrine had grown in importance as a place of prayer and of honouring the Mother of God, not just for Royalty but also for the ordinary people who placed great faith and trust in Lady's intercessions.

One particular incident occurred on the 15th July 1524 when a number of people got into great difficulty, being blown down stream by heavy wind and swollen river whilst attempting to cross the Don. Having seen one of their horses drown they feared the same fate. All, with onlookers on the river bank, prayed to Our Lady of Doncaster that they would be saved, which they were, against apparently, insurmountable conditions.

But as the sixteenth century wore on Henry V111 acceded to the throne, things changed. In 1536 the zealous hosts of the Pilgrimage of Grace, behind their banner of the Five Wounds of Christ, gathered to the north of Doncaster. Meetings between the King Representative, the Duke of Norfolk and the Pilgrims representative took place in Whitefriars and on Doncaster Bridge. Bishop Latimer recognising the importance of the Doncaster Shrine named Our Lady of Doncaster as one of the five significant statues and suggested that they be burnt. Within weeks all the statues had been removed and burnt in the presence of Thomas Cromwell in Chelsea. The Shrine to Our Lady of Doncaster had been destroyed. The Priory itself was surrendered on the 13th November 1538.

Some 300 years later in 1853 the Parish of St Peter in Chains was established in Prince Street and in 1867 a Lady Chapel was added. A year later a new statue of Our Lady was placed there, thus reintroducing the Shrine to Our Lady of Doncaster. The initial church was replaced by a new Church of St Peter in Chains, opened on Palm Sunday 1973 by Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster.



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