



WOMEN'S NEWSLINK

Spring 2010 (No: 20)



News Update from I.C.C. Women's Link

FELLOWSHIP DAY
SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2010
THE MORAVIAN CHURCH HALL,
GRACEHILL. 10.00am – 3.45pm

Theme: 'Called to serve'

GUEST SPEAKERS

Rev. Jan Mullin (Northern Ireland)
Mrs Gillian Kingston (Southern Ireland)

~~ FELLOWSHIP DAY PROGRAMME ~~

- 10.00-10.30 Registration and Coffee
- 10.30-10.45 Welcome and Devotions
- 10.45-11.45 Session 1 Guest Speaker : Rev. Jan Mullin
- 11.45-12.30 PRAYER WALK
- 12.30-1.15 Light Lunch
- 1.15 – 3.15 Session 2 Guest Speaker : Mrs Gillian Kingston
- 3.15 – 3.45 Epilogue: Tea/Coffee : Departure

REV JAN MULLIN

I was born in England and into the Moravian Church in Windon where I served as a Sunday school teacher and organist. I left in the 60's for teacher training College and over the next 30 years taught in Wiltshire, Hampshire, Essex and Derbyshire. My final years in teaching were with children with behavioural problems – a job I loved. I responded to God's call to full-time ordained ministry and entered training in 1990. Before coming to Northern Ireland in 2005 I had served 5 congregations in the west of England. An 'enthusiastic ecumenist' I have served on many inter-church committees including the Women's World Day of Prayer National Executive and Churches Together in Britain in Ireland. I am presently in my 6th and final year as a part-time member of our Provincial Board in London.



I have a son and a daughter, son-in-law and grandson in England. My hobbies are bird-watching and reading detective novels – I have little time for the former, but my frequent business trips to England allow time for the latter! I am enjoying my time in Northern Ireland. I find the people warm and welcoming, the scenery breathtaking and I have a wonderful congregation.

MRS GILLIAN KINGSTON

I am married to Tom, who is a retired Methodist minister. We have three sons and a daughter, three daughters-in-law and a beautiful grand-daughter. (And not forgetting a dog and three cats!!)

I am the Methodist/Presbyterian Chaplain at University College, Dublin. I am Lay Leader designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland and immediate past President of the Irish Council of Churches. I am also Vice Chair of Christian Aid (Ireland).



I am also Vice Chair of Christian Aid (Ireland). I'm a trustee of the Irish School of

Women's Link President writes.....

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble".

Dear Friends,

We all needed to hold on to these words in recent weeks with bad weather and many older people suffering from 'Gate Fever' (the inability to get out past the front gate because of ice and snow). But much worse has been the situation in Haiti, the pictures we have seen on the television and the reports we have read of the suffering of the people in that island. We, I am sure, have done all that we could to help that situation both by our prayers and our giving to the Relief Agencies.

As we now move slowly towards Spring we look forward to brighter days and we remember as we approach Easter that Jesus, who died for us, is with us every day and in every circumstance of our lives.

I hope you will join with us for our Fellowship Day in Gracehill on 24th April and I look forward to meeting you.

With you in Christ's Service,
Winnie Moffett

Ecumenics and of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. I have been President of Women's Link.

I enjoy country life, classical music, art and reading (when there's time!)

MR MICHAEL EARLE

We were greatly saddened by the passing of Michael's wife Anne in September. Anne had been suffering from cancer. Michael has been General Secretary of ICC since 1992 and resigned his position in January to return to New Zealand to be with members of his family. A small gift was presented to Michael by Mrs Moffett our President; she thanked him for his encouragement and support to the Women's Link Committee and we wished him God's blessing as he rejoins his family decides his future path in New Zealand.

WOMEN'S LINK COMMITTEE wish to record their grateful thanks to I.C.C. for their support and to the staff at Inter-Church House, Belfast.

MRS MARIAN WOODS

Mrs Marian Woods recently retired as Editor of Newslink and will finish her term as our Executive member on the ICC committee in March. Marian is a member of the Moravian Women's Association and a former President of Women's Link and we thank her for her help and support over many years and also her husband Derick. Marian's mother Mrs Freda Walton was the first President of Women's Link.

Mrs Roberta Thompson (Past President) will succeed Marian as our representative member on the ICC Executive Committee.

4 NATIONS MEETING

The 4 Nations Women's Concerns Meeting was held at The Bield, a centre for Christian Spirituality, Blackruthven, near Perth in Scotland, in October. Representatives from CYTUN (Wales), NEWS (Scotland) CTE (England) and Women's Link (Ireland) met together to share news of their activities and to discover how issues and matters of concern have been raised and dealt with through women church organisations. Ireland has been invited to host the next meeting. Administrators for the Pauline Webb Fund were elected.

The Pauline Webb Fund can assist a young woman under 40 years with funding (subject to certain written conditions) who wishes to have an ecumenical experience by attending a conference outside her own denomination. Applications be made through Women's Link.

WOMEN'S LINK FELLOWSHIP DAY 2009

Fellowship Day 2009 was held in Edenderry Methodist Church, Portadown, and our theme was 'The Challenge of Change – My Story'. Speakers were Pastor Corrina Diestelkamp (Lutheran Church – Dublin) and Mrs Lynda Neilands (Belfast).

Pastor Corrina spoke of the challenge of change in her life as a child in Germany living in a divided society and of her student years. She spoke of her happy family life and her ministry shared with her husband Pastor Joachim in the Lutheran Church (Dublin) and throughout Ireland.



Mrs Lynda Neilands addressed our theme under a number of headings and in particular 'Seasoned by Scripture' using illustrations from the life of Joseph. She encouraged us to share stories of love in action in discussion groups; how God has spoken to us through Scripture; to share stories of God's perfect timing and we ended with prayer sharing requests for people held captive in many ways in society. Lynda's talents as an author have enabled her to share communication skills with old and young and her books have been a source of encouragement to people of all ages.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran women supported Reformation Day, the German Remembrance Sunday prayer service for peace and reconciliation at Glencree in Co. Wicklow, sharing with the German Catholic community in Dublin and Enniskerry Parish, and the Christmas Festival of Light organised by Dublin Council of Churches. They enjoy fellowship with many denominations in Ireland.

The Lutheran Church in Dublin very kindly provide a venue for our January meeting each year and Women's Link committee thank Dr. Joachim and Pastor Corrina for their welcome and hospitality.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE - NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Women's League continues to hold regular monthly meetings. Fellowship is enjoyed with ladies from other local denominations during visitors' evenings. Alzheimer's Society was selected as our Charity last year. We continue to visit the sick and elderly both in their own homes, in hospitals or in residential or nursing homes, we offer comfort to the bereaved and, when required, provide refreshments after funeral services.

MORAVIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

M.W.A. Day was held at Dukinfield, Manchester last April. Rev. Patsy Holdsworth, Belfast, was the guest speaker on the theme for the year 'A time for everything'. Projects chosen by the Central Committee for 2009/2010 are: Summer Youth Camp in Britain. A Battery back-up system for the church and manse at Kahmandu, Nepal. Work amongst women and children in Albania. The national charity – 'Starlight' – a charity realising dreams for seriously and terminally ill children. Training of a theological student at the TEKU University in Mbeya, Tanzania. Bricks for the new girls' dormitory at the Institute in Rajpur, India.

The M.W.A. Retreat (held in alternate years in England and Ireland) took place at Shallowford House and was attended by sisters from England, Ireland and Holland. The weekend was a time of Prayer, Bible Study and personal reflexion was an inspirational and uplifting experience.

The Irish District Rally was held at Gracehill in September. Mrs Lynda Neilands based her inspiring and uplifting address on 1 Peter 2 v. 3 'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light'.

The theme for the current year is 'The Challenge of Change' and we are looking at the way situations impact on our lives and our spiritual and Christian response as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary.

METHODIST WOMEN in IRELAND INSTALLATION OF NEW MWI PRESIDENT



L-R: Dorothy Marshall Presbyterian Women Central President; Winnie Moffett President Women's Link; Joy Graham Methodist Women Ireland; Margaret Crawford I-Ireland Mothers' Union President; following Joy's Installation as MWA President in Septem 009.

METHODIST WOMEN in IRELAND

Darling Street Methodist Church in Enniskillen was filled to capacity on Saturday 5th September for the installation of Mrs. Joy Graham as P of Methodist Women in Ireland. The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev. Donald Ker conducted the installation and brought greetings on behalf of the Methodist connexion. He paid tribute to the MWI members who meet faithfully in their groups and to whom the church owes a huge debt of gratitude for their commitment, dedication and ongoing generosity.

Joy's theme for her two years term of office is "Embrace his power: share His love". She addressed the congregation and spoke about the story of Naaman (2 Kings Chap.5) and the role played in the events by the little unnamed girl, who in spite of her challenging had embraced God's power and was sharing His love. Like her, we may be limited by our circumstances, but that does not restrict God from using us. We may feel insignificant, but if we let God take control of our lives He can use us for His glory. With God's help we can touch the hearts and meet the needs of others if we reach out in love. Joy challenged each one of us to go and share Jesus who ha the power to transform lives, so that we may be "women making a difference".

MWI PRESIDENT'S PROJECT 2009 - 2011 is the Horizon West Children's Hospice Appeal. Two years ago the Northern Ireland Hospice movement bought site at Killadeas, Co Fermanagh, where it is planned to build a children's hospice to open in January 2011. The hospice will be used for respite care of life limited and terminally ill children and their families in the western area. There are over 150 families in the western area waiting for this service to be set up, many of whom live in rural areas and suffer from social isolation. It will cost £1.2 m to build and equip Horizon west to the highest standards.

In 2010 MWI will be concentrating on furthering the United Nations Millennium Development Goal 5 - to Improve Maternal Health with Project 4 - Preventing Mother (parent) to Child Transmission of HIV and Aids in Chik , Southern Malawi. Chikwawa District has a population of half a million, highly vulnerable people due to chronic illness, malnutrition (drought/floods, animal damage to crops) lack of basic life necessities (clean water, latrines) high illiteracy rate, rising crime rate. Estimate 25% are HIV positive, almost double national rate of 12%. Every year more than 700,000 children become HIV positive through parent transmission. About 15-20% infected through pregnancy. 50% during birth 32% through breast feeding. With inexpensive drugs given during birth, and advise to breast feeding mothers it possible to reduce parent to baby transmission to 2%. To be able to help the women, the men must be involved, educated and encouraged to act as role models where suitable. Chiefs and Religious leaders must be mobilized to give a lead. This project is part of Tearfund and Eagles' Relief and Development Programme. Initially 8 villages are requiring aid.

75th ANNIVERSARY of WORLD DAY of PRAYER in Ireland

Ireland celebrated 75 years of "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" in 2009. This celebratory event, held in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin, in September was attended by women and men from all over Ireland. The Chairwoman of the World Day of Prayer International Committee, Annette Poitier, Bahamas, gave the meditation. The World Day of Prayer Inter-national Executive Director, Eileen King, USA, brought greetings from the world movement and also two European World Executive committee members. The theme of the celebration was 'Let Your Light Shine'. 75 candles of different sizes, shapes and colours were lit at various points during the act of worship symbolising not only the 75 years of WDP in Ireland but also the diversity of the women who take part each year both in Ireland and around the world. Other international guests as well as Church representatives from the Christian denominations, from whom the Irish national committee is drawn, attended. A special booklet of prayers was prepared for this event.



The celebration finished with afternoon tea and the cutting of the anniversary cake by the World Chairwoman and the Executive Director and the incoming and outgoing National Presidents.

Ellis O'Malley, (In-coming President Ireland)
Annette Poitier (Chair WDP International Committee), Eileen King (WDP International Exc. Dir.) Cherry Poynton (President Ireland)

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER NORTHERN IRELAND

In September several members of the N.I. Committee travelled to Dublin to join the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Southern Committee where we had the opportunity to meet Eileen King, Executive Director of WDP International Committee based in New York and Annette Poitier, Chairperson of the International who was also the main speaker. After a very interesting service there was time to socialize while enjoying some delicious refreshments. The next day many of us came together again in England for the European Conference hosted by the National Committee for England, Wales and N. Ireland. Approximately 80 delegates came from all over Europe and on the opening day 'Praise the Lord' was said in 28 different languages.

After a very moving Service in the women's prison last year Marlene Moore and Margie are hopeful that we will be invited to organise a service in March 2010.

The N.I. Committee held their conference in preparation for the 2010 service in September 2009 in St John's Presbyterian Church, Newtownbreda, Belfast. The Service For 2010 has been written by the women of Cameroon on the theme "Let everything that has breath praise God." The background literature and materials were available and we had the opportunity to practice the music and familiarise ourselves with the Order of Service. Marlene Moore led the Bible Study on the theme from the European Conference 'Strength for today and hope for tomorrow' and there was a power-point presentation about Cameroon.

The National Committee are already well underway with the material for the 2011 service written by the women of Chile with the theme "How many loaves have you?"

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

www.presbyterianireland.org/pw

Motto: Living for Jesus



Jill Briscoe was our guest speaker at our Women's Conference in Orangefield Presbyterian Church last spring. Over 600 attended. Jill's talk was divided into three sessions as she taught us from God's Word and related of her own life's journey. She shared stories of difficulties she had faced and how to cope when life's sudden squalls come our way. 'We pray that the Holy Spirit will work in a mighty way through every woman who attended and through all who will hear it on DVD. It is our prayer that the women who came will be encouraged and that that the broken-hearted will be lifted up'.

The Birthday Project 2009/2010 will support an integrated Programme for Widows' empowerment in Nepal with the emphasis on income generation and education. This project aims to bring hope and new life to widows. The home project will support the work of The Vine Centre. In former years a deaconess worked there, and a PW committee member serves on its Management committee. This project helps to support young mothers in the community by offering training in several areas and social events which help to bring families together.

The Annual Meeting 2009 was held in May. Mrs Dorothy Marshall commenced her term of office as our President and Mrs Edna Mcllwaine as Overseas Vice-President. The 2009/2010 Theme 'All Things New' was launched. This theme will encourage members to step out of their comfort zone and reach out to others with the Good News of the Gospel.

Mrs Noor Van Haften our Guest Speaker challenged Presbyterian Women to lower their

nets and step out into the deep for God. Jesus calls u
fishers of men.

followers and

Mrs Dorothy Marshall our Central President travels extensively throughout Ireland to fulfil many speaking engagements. She travelled to Malawi with Mrs Edna McIlwaine (Overseas V.P.) visiting various projects where PCI missionaries work.

The 2009/2010 theme is 'All things New'. A training manual has been produced and will give leaders and members a useful resource tool to enable the work of Presbyterian Women go forward.

In 2010 P.W. is organising Road Show events in five different areas open to all women to encourage women to share their faith with family and friends



Margaret Crawford All-Ireland President Mothers' Union attended the 2nd Regional Meeting in Uganda. Roberta McKelvey, (Provincial Representative Trustee MSH

organised the Regional Meetings), and Patsy Devoy (MSH) and Ruth Mercer (DP Armagh) attended. Avril Jennings (Diocesan President Cork Diocese) attended the 3rd Regional Meeting in Lusaka. Members throughout Ireland support the ongoing work of MU through their giving to the Overseas Development Fund, the Literacy & Development Fund and the emergency Relief Fund. Mrs Patsy Devoy (Ireland), is the Unit Co-ordinator of the Faith & Policy Unit at Mary Sumner House, London.

Appointments: Mrs Ruth Mercer is the new All-Ireland President and the Rt. Rev. K. Clarke, Bishop of Kilmore, is the new Central Chaplain at Mary Sumner London.

Mothers' Union Ireland resources its members through its Units – Finance & Central Services, Faith & Policy, Action & Outreach and its Marketing Unit. Members engage well with Social Policy and every diocese is involved in a variety of projects. MU work is supported by prayer and maintained by members' financial support. Suicide: Kilmore diocese concerned about the issues of teenage suicide produced a pack concerning teenage suicide; they have been supplying a DVD called 'Never Alone' as well as a contact/info card to schools. Dioceses gave support to Youth action, they supported and fed 250 Leaders and teenagers involved in Urban Soul 2009 on the street of Dublin and in Belfast provided breakfast for 'Street Reach volunteers. Baby necessities and a small gift for mum were provided for immigrant mothers. Baby clothes, casket blankets provided for maternity hospitals. Hats/scarves provided for Simon's Accessories.

THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS were held in Athy in September. The Mothers' Union marquee provided a sanctuary to tired parents for feeding babies and changing facilities and also to those with 'sore' feet!

Volunteers continue their work week by week helping families at The Foyle Contact Centre

(Derry) the Belfast Child Contact Centre and the Armagh Contact Centre. Trained Mothers' Union Parenting facilitators run Parenting courses throughout Ireland, providing fellowship and skills for parents to help them overcome problems and difficult situations. MU facilitators are willing to provide courses in the Cork Diocesan MU and the Youth department are funding and supporting a development worker to work with families and young people in the diocese.

LOBBYING: Lobbying is now an important part of Irish life, e.g. the promotion and support of the Christian Aid postcard campaign to the Irish government concerning the inordinate reduction in overseas aid. To date, much of MU Fair trade focus has been overseas – looking to the needs of the producers of our morning pa and glass of juice but last summer saw the launch of a home-grown movement called Love Irish Food – whose logo is 'Buying one more Irish brand makes all the difference'. In the present current economic climate, it's salutary to remember that many small business and suppliers are feeling the effects of the recession and by adding one more Irish brand to the trolley each time members shop can make a positive difference to local jobs and home-grown businesses. There's even a website <http://www.loveirishfood.ie/>.

Mothers Union 'Make a Mothers' Day' campaign was very successful in helping to raise funds to assist mothers and families worldwide. As the recession is starting to bite a year round ethical giving catalogue (Global Village Fair) is in circulation to complement the 'Mothers' Day' campaign.

Rev. Doris Clements kept members informed on work/lobbying at U.N. New York, through the International Anglican Women's Network:

Elimination of all forms of violence against women and children, especially trafficking.
Elimination of extreme poverty, by ensuring access to health care, safe water, and employment opportunities. Promotion of gender equality throughout the Anglican Communion. Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.
Promotion of gender budgeting, which is a key to all of the above.

Quiet Days, services, training evenings and a wide variety of activities enable members build up our Diocesan family by our membership of Mothers' Union, building community through friendship, encouraging one another in our faith journey as we reach out to others in Ireland and around the world in faith and action.

FOR WOMEN

We thank you and praise you, Lord, for the gift of womanhood.

The praise goes to you, Lord, for we are so privileged to have you as our Lord and Saviour.

When we think of the many women in this world who are not as fortunate as us, we pray that you would reach out to those who are downtrodden, who do not have any rights, who are ill treated and abused and lost in this world of sin.

Lord, help us to bear in mind that we, being women, can be a support to other women and can help them under your guidance. In Jesus' name, Amen.

- Bindu Kumari (India)

(From the WD of P (RI) 75th Anniversary Booklet of Prayers)

REGISTRATION

Women's Link Fellowship Day, Saturday 24th April 2010. Please return by 14th April to assist with catering etc. PLEASE COPY and share the directions to Gracehill with your friends.

Name _____ Tel. No _____

* £10/Euro 10 - Cheques may be made payable to 'Women's Link'

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Group (if any) _____ No. attending ____

Signature _____

Please return to: Women's Link, Inter-Church Centre,
48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ
DIRECTIONS TO GRACEHILL OVERLEAF

Further information is available from Women's Link Secretary
Joyce Bond (028 25861215) e-mail: jfa.bond@btinternet.com

WOMEN'S LINK OFFICE BEARERS: 2009 - 2010
President: Mrs Winnie Moffett 02890484369
Past President: Mrs Roberta Thompson 02825651554
Hon Secretary: Mrs Joyce Bond Tel: 02825861215
Hon Treasurer: Mrs Phyllis Watters Tel: 02891462587



Directions to Gracehill

If approaching Ballymena from the south on the A26, to avoid Ballymena Town Centre.....

- Continue on A26 for about 8 miles from the M2 junction until Ballee Roundabout.
- Take first exit signposted Toome, County Hall, Ahoghill and at all following junctions and roundabouts keep following signs to County Hall.
- Once you pass County Hall on your left (opposite Tullyglass Hotel) at next roundabout take first exit signposted A42 Galgorm, Gracehill, Ahoghill.
- Shortly after that the next roundabout is at Galgorm.
- Take second exit continuing on A42 signposted Gracehill, Ahoghill (first exit is into the Golf Club).
- After you go over the River Maine take second exit on the left – Church Road.
- The Old School and the Church (which by 24th will probably be shrouded in scaffolding) are on the right.
- Cennick Hall is behind the Church, down the drive immediately next to the Church.

There is limited parking at Cennick Hall. Other parking is street parking around the village. There are no restrictions (apart from the yellow box restrictions outside the school).