

Dear Friend, Member of IMPC or Member who hasn't been able to attend meetings recently,

At our afternoon meeting on 22nd April, Stuart Gay and David Johnson showed slides and talked about Coastal Watch when 19 were present. On 27th May, 11 attended the Church Drive which we enjoyed in groups on a hot afternoon. We also had a quiz.

On 24th June, Roger Hussey talked about Fraud and Safety to 14 members. Our evening group and friends enjoyed the outing to see Barnum on Tuesday 9th June. On the evening of 14th July, we had an Open House in my garden, when 14 enjoyed a lovely sunny evening giving us time to chat and enjoy snacks and were so pleased to see Marian Gee, our last Branch Leader, who was visiting Blackpool. Three of 3 of us attended the Deanery 150th Celebration at Christ Church Thornton on 17th June. At the last 2 afternoon meetings and the July evening, we collected donations for the 150th Anniversary Appeal. This is for Central Mothers' Union and for the MU Blackburn Diocese Caravan. It is hoped to replace the caravan for Away From It All in time for the 2027 season. I am grateful to all who made donations and we have collected £176.



We had a lovely afternoon for our Open 150 years MU Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday 22nd July. Over 30 came and some who knew very little about the MU. Sadly only 3 children came but they had fun on their table. They took home MU balloons and pencils. We had posters to show what we do worldwide, links to Blackburn for our Wave of Prayer, AFIA, explanations about Rise Up and the literacy work with widows in South Sudan and our Indoor Members Prayer Circle. We also had a table with a historical photo of the MU in Poulton in 1899, as well as a veil still used in the 50s and 60s by members. There was also a poster explaining how the MU has been an advocate for change over its 150 years. There was a superb selection of cakes: many baked by our members. So this letter has a number of photos of that day.

We look forward to celebrating our 150th Anniversary at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday 8th August at 2pm. We plan to take our banner and travel by train.

We continue to collect items for the Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool Women's Refuges and a Men's Refuge. They are very grateful for all we collect.

Some light humour

At the church picnic, the Vicar blessed the food and said, "Lord, thank You for this feast." Five-year-old Lily whispered, "And please keep the ants from joining the fellowship."

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! **Acts 2:38!** (*Acts 2:38 (ESV) says "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins."*)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer handcuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture verse at you.'

'Scripture?' replied the burglar. **'She said she had an axe and two 38s!'**



On the left a photo taken at the service held on June 10th at St Paul's Cathedral in London. 1500 members and partners gathered to reflect on the legacy of the Mothers' Union and look ahead to the next season of its work.

On the right the MU in Machakos, Kenya



Celebrating 150 Years in Machakos, Kenya
Mothers' UNION

Theme –Be still - a time to rest, reflect, rejoice, replenish

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” - Matthew 11:28

Christ, our companion, in the heat and busyness of this day, we come to You. We bring the weight we carry - the worries, the pressures, the demands. Lay Your gentle hand upon us, and free us from what we cannot hold. Lighten our spirits, and help us continue in Your peace. Amen.

More photos of the Open Celebration
The children's table



Please pray for the MU Service in Blackburn Cathedral on 8th August at 2pm. I have sent a number of photos of St Chad's over the years to the exhibition.



I hope you have managed to enjoy some of the lovely summer weather though it has been very warm at times. This time I have not produced a quiz or a word search as we had so many photos for you to see.

Best wishes

June

