



News Sheet

Issue 2 2011

Happy Birthday, Sheela

A happy crowd of well-wishers gathered at St James' Toowoomba for a surprise party to celebrate Sheela Turner's 90th birthday in April.

After a service conducted by Archdeacon Gary Harch members enjoyed a fellowship lunch with Sheela as guest of honour.

Among the surprise guests were Diocesan President Shirley Beale, and past presidents Avis Matheson, Eve Knott and Erna Lee as well as several past and present members of Executive and Toowoomba deanery.

But the biggest and best surprise was her husband Canon Les who managed to slip out of hospital to join in the fun. It was a joyful occasion and an opportunity to express our love and gratitude to this wonderful and gracious lady, our life vice president Sheela



Our President Writes . . .



We have completed the journey to Easter, the 40 days of discipline which we try to observe in our various ways. In previous years this has been a fairly simple and straightforward observance for me, moving from the beginning of Lent when one traditionally decides

to 'give up' or 'do something extra' as a discipline, through the joyous celebration of Mothering Sunday with its attendant baking of Simnel Cake, helping the children make cards/bookmarks for the Mums, and joining in the annual Teddy Bear's Picnic, and then the symbolic placing of palm branches and making palm crosses for Palm Sunday celebrations.

The quiet reflective time of Holy week when we prepare for a Passover Meal, the Night Watch, the sombreness of Good Friday, the waiting of Saturday and then the wonderful family time of Easter Day-when we remember that Christ is risen, and is with us till the end of time, and we are able to celebrate with our families the certain-ness of forgiveness, love and a new beginning. (Sometimes we easily forget the symbol of the Easter egg as 'new life' and can be lured into giving 'bunnies' 'chickens and such' instead).

At times events intrude on the observance of Lent, and this year has been such a time, routines have been changed world-wide and national events have altered our perception of 'permanence'. Thousands of people have been affected physically and mentally and may never recover. This leads of course to the question of what in the world is really important?

The prophet Micah lists the absolute basics 'required' by the Lord.

Micah Ch.6 v 8. *What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

May we all live simply so that all may simply live.

Shirley.



*From
the
Editor*



Thank you for sending your news and photos, and also for the kind comments about the first issue for the year. It has been most rewarding to receive such positive feedback.

In the turmoil of natural disasters and civil unrest in our troubled world at this time, some may feel confusion and distress.

Remember the words from Hebrews 13:5

God said I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.

Love and prayers

Susan



VALE

GLAD MAUDE BARLOW 1921—2010

Glad joined MU in Bundaberg in August 1954 and became a member of Southport MU when her family moved there in 1961. For 56 years Glad gave dedicated, enthusiastic and totally committed service to MU. She was president of Southport and Southport/Biggera Waters and her strong leadership was appreciated during some difficult years.

In 2004, Glad was presented with her 50 year badge and scroll by Eve Knott. We praise God for her dedication to MU and her warm friendship. Her memory will always be treasured.

Chris Blake



JOAN AMELIA BOX 1922-2011

Joan joined MU in 1973 and remained a faithful member for 37 years, receiving her 30 year scroll from Diocesan President Eve Knott in 2004.

Joan was secretary for many years and her quiet dedication and excellent abilities were a wonderful contribution to the work of MU as was her full participation in all we did. She was also very involved with the parish in other ways.

Of Joan we can truly say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Chris Blake.

Situations Vacant

Several Executive positions are vacant and it is important that these positions are filled by the end of 2011. These positions are:-

Diocesan President and positions selected by Diocesan President (*Diocesan Chaplain, Diocesan Treasurer, Diocesan Secretary & Minute Secretary*)

Overseas & Northern Outreach Coordinator, Prayer & Spirituality Coordinator, Social Responsibility Coordinator and Publications (MU Bookshop)

Northern Region Vice President, Southern Region Vice President, Brisbane North West Deanery President, Sunshine Coast Deanery President, Bunya Deanery President

Please give this your prayerful consideration. Please contact me if you want to know more about the duties of each position. We need to have some indications by August when we will send out nomination forms for all positions.

Shirley

DOLLS' HOUSE FOR SPIRITUS REFUGE

The Mothers' Union in Brisbane has promised to supply children's play equipment for the new Spiritus Women's refuges which are to be built later this year. What could be more appropriate than a wooden dolls' house? Children who have come from a difficult home environment can use a dolls' house to act out their feelings and frustrations.

Fr Ivan Lahey, husband of Dorothy Lahey, secretary/treasurer of the MU Branch at Symes Grove, Zillmere, creates wonderful wooden dolls' houses in the men's workshop there, helped by other residents. Towards the end of 2010 I asked Fr Ivan if he would make one for the Spiritus project, and he willingly agreed.

Spiritus thought this a good idea, as long as they did not have to store it!

So it was that I received a call from Dorothy on New Year's Day to say our dolls' house was ready! It arrived at our home complete with solid wooden furniture made by Fr Ivan, and furnished



with curtains, pictures on the walls and even tiny lights which fascinate our grandchildren.

It will happily sit in our home until needed by Spiritus, and we are most grateful to Fr Ivan and his helpers at Spiritus Symes Grove.

Frances Clark

St Paul's Stanthorpe Branch Recommissioning

The recommissioning of St Paul's MU in Stanthorpe was held on Sunday 27th March, during the normal Sunday Eucharist. Diocesan President Shirley Beale and Diocesan Chaplain Fr Ian Mundy were able to attend. We had a huge range of visiting MU members from Toowoomba, Warwick, Pittsworth and Logan.

The service commenced after Fr Ian's Sermon, with the Celebration Candle Liturgy, then Renewal of Commitment to Membership, Reopening of the Branch, Commissioning of Office Bearers, then admission of a new member, Geoff Marshall. At the conclusion of the Eucharist, a light lunch was held in the Parish Hall. Truly a wonderful and fulfilling day for us all.



Meg Marshall

Lady Day 2011

St John's Cathedral was packed with members from around the diocese on Lady Day. The music and choir were inspirational. Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, in his sermon spoke of the 'absent presence' in the Annunciation and in the work of MU. The central characters in the story of Gabriel's visit to Mary which set in motion the birth of our Lord and the Way to our salvation were not acting alone but doing the will of God. It is the same with the many projects of MU.

As the development workers, educators and health care professionals work to support and improve the lives of families around the world, we are mindful of the 'absent presence' at work.

'There is another character, off stage, invisible, never seen directly, who overshadows all this and sends words of life and light into places of despair and darkness. The One who long ago sent an angel and announced hope for humankind. The One whose son revealed we are not abandoned.'

At the conclusion of the service, a cheque for \$10,626.45 was presented by Shirley Beale to the Archbishop for Spiritus to provide educational toys and playground equipment for the proposed new shelter for homeless women and children.



Shirley Beale with Archbishop Phillip and Amanda Croker of Spiritus.



Fr Harry Reuss, Pam Harding, Margaret Kimmorley and Bev Blazely

St Peter's Southport

A special service was held at St Peter's Southport on November 17th 2010 when Pam Harding presented Margaret Kimmorley with a scroll to celebrate her 60 years of loyal membership of MU. Margaret joined in Kingaroy when her husband was transferred in the Police Dept. She moved to Sherwood and finally to Southport.

Bev Blazely

St Andrew's Caloundra

Busy Bees Playgroup seeks to provide support, care and friendship to families in the Caloundra area in a safe and fun environment.

MU members enjoy a regular dose of second childhood when they help out twice a week. Children from new born to Prep age meet on Monday and Thursday mornings to enjoy craft, story time, singing, play and puzzles.

Morning tea is yummy and many new friendships are formed. During 2010, between 20 and 40 littlies attended each day.

Gai Crabtree



Children enjoy sharing toys and story time. MU members agree this is a very rewarding experience.



Happy Birthday Thelma



On 25th January 2011, Mrs Thelma Lonergan a resident of Carinya Hostel, Miles celebrated her 100th Birthday. This grand lady is a foundation member of Miles MU and is a member of St Luke's Guild. Thelma has worked tirelessly for the church since she first sat in a pew aged 13. She was married in St Luke's to her husband Bill and they enjoyed 50 of marriage before his passing. Her daughter Kay was baptised confirmed and married at St Luke's.

Thelma took care of the church linen, making and sewing repairs as necessary. Once she crocheted 70 pairs of bed socks to pay for linen for the new altar. She helped with cleaning and flower arranging, and catering. We at St Luke's have enjoyed her company over the years and are very proud of this wonderful lady.

Gillian Rees

CHAPLAIN'S REFLECTION



Easter celebrations of 2011 are now past. So what remains? Christ does!

The Lord's resurrection, is many sided in its splendour and meaning and when it is described in the memorable language of Luke this is all the more true. Take the words of the disciples to Jesus "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening" Luke 24.29. While the rising of the Lord is the occasion for incomprehensible joy, it also underlines what his death had told them: he is no longer with them as he had been. But the story beautifully shows us that though risen he is still with us; he definitely has decided to "stay with us."

He can be met, served, and loved in the stranger we meet along the way, in the friends yet to be made on our journey through life. Risen, he is more easily available everywhere, no longer simply in Palestine or the first century. He is present in all those we serve and honour in this life. And further, he stays with us in the breaking of the bread, in the Eucharist, both in the word we hear and the bread and wine we eat. And beyond that he is with us in the community of which we are a part.

We can go further still and remind ourselves that celebrating his presence with bread and wine at a table also tells us that his risen presence is now all around us. We need not look for visions in the sky but can find him in the ordinariness of life, in both its sorrows and joys, its magnificence and its lowliness, its triumphs and tragedies. The crises of life especially urge us to call out: "Stay with us." Our celebration of Easter at the very least tells us that risen, the Lord is always with us, always present, in crises and in joy. There is great comfort in that blessed assurance.

Blessings, Fr. Ian.

Getting acquainted



Shirley met the new members of executive for a sleep-over at the James Byrne centre to share information and get acquainted. Seems like they enjoyed the fellowship (and a good hot cup of tea!). Back row: Barbara Brice, Shirley, Ann Scott, Margaret Liley, Ann Stallman and Jan Garrard. Front row: Issabelle Larcombe, Bev Parry and Mary de Vries.

Diary Notes

7th June **Exec Meeting**
10am *St Francis College*

21-24 June **State Conference**
TSS Southport

1—5 Aug **Wave of Prayer**

2 August **Exec Meeting**
10am *St Francis College*

16 Aug **Country Council**
10.30 am *St Matthew's Gayndah*

15th Nov **Council Meeting**
10.30 am *Darnell Room*

Habitat for Humanity

The guest speaker at the Diocesan AGM Rev Trevor Foote spoke about the work of Habitat for Humanity. This is an ecumenical Christian humanitarian organization working with people of all religions, races and creeds to provide housing for low income families, believing in a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. It was established by an American couple in 1976 and has changed the lives of people all over the world. A Habitat home is built somewhere in the world every 24 minutes .

The chapter doesn't give handouts but 'hand-ups' by building or renovating homes in partnership with families in need. The family puts in an agreed amount of labour (sweat equity) and a small deposit. Habitat assists with expertise and financing and is assisted by corporate sponsorship, donated material and voluntary labour which all contribute to lower costs of building or renovating a



Shirley Beale and Beth Rigby thank Rev Trevor Foote

home. The home is sold to the family at close to market value on a no interest mortgage and the funds used to build more homes.

Each Habitat family couldn't otherwise afford their home and the stability this brings to their life. More information can be found at www.ipswichh4h.org.au

Jennifer Murray

Closing date for the next issue 30 June 2011

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Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life