

Action and Outreach Unit Report for Spring Council 20/04/13

The support of all our members across the diocese is much appreciated. Thank you so much for supporting our projects effectively and enabling Mothers' Union to make a difference for so many people across Manchester Diocese.

1. Manchester University Project

a) Wednesday Soup

Free soup and bread is prepared and served by Mothers' Union members to students at the Chaplaincy each Wednesday lunch-time in term-time. Tea and coffee are also available. This is a very worthwhile and successful project.

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP THE PROJECT RUNNING

If you can help on a rota basis, **please** contact **Margaret Morris** Tel: 01706 642846, e-mail : margaretandrobin@tiscali.co.uk

b) Student Welcome Week 2013



For the goody bags, we will need:

- Mugs
- Cup a Soups
- Coffee sachets
- Hot chocolate sachets
- Sugar sticks
- Tea bags
- Individually wrapped chocolate biscuits



Dates for your diary –

Wednesday 11th Sept.	Morning (10am start) Delivery of all donations to St. Peter's Chaplaincy Goods to be sorted ready for bagging up. Afternoon - If time, bagging up
Thursday 12th Sept.	Bagging up.
Friday 13th Sept.	Bagging up. Lunchtime soup and rolls & Goody bags for Manchester Metropolitan University International Students
Saturday 14th Sept.	Soup and rolls & Goody bags for Manchester University International Students.
Monday - Wed. 16th – 18th Sept.	Soup and rolls for students Giving out Goody bags around the Chaplaincy & on Oxford Road

Last year, as always, members responded magnificently in giving all the items we needed for the students.

As you can imagine, it is a huge amount of work and effort to produce 2500 Goody bags and serve refreshments to many hundreds of students over Welcome Week. We need more volunteers – Welcome week is a very worthwhile and rewarding experience.

We need teams of members to

- sort out goods
- assemble Goody bags
- make and serve Soup on Friday, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
- give out Goody bags

2. Prisons

- Christine Sharp (Parenting) has volunteered at three TfF Parenting Courses in Drake Hall women's prison in Staffordshire. We hope that she can run a Parenting Course for prisoners' families at HMP Manchester. The authorities are keen, but it takes time to set up new projects.
- Every other month, I continue to attend a Family Links meeting at HMP Manchester along with representatives from the Prison Officers and various other agencies. This is very informative and a vital part of keeping in the loop.
- Over £300 was raised at Catherine Hilton's Commissioning service. It will be used to provide items in the Visitors' Centre and Visits Hall for the children visiting HMP Manchester.
- We now have three members volunteering at HMP Manchester, Doris Eaton, Joan Shaw and Lynn Cotton. They are very much appreciated at the Visits Centre.

3. Hospitals Project :

Lynne Longworth, Mothers' Union Hospital Co-ordinator says

My 'Thanks' and also those of the different Hospitals go to you all for your time spent making these items. You really are appreciated. 'Thank You'

Please do contact me if you should require any further details and/ or information.

- **Memory Boxes** continue to be in demand. We provide white blankets, white teddy bears together with a gown and hat for these boxes. We would be very grateful if you could knit these items as we never seem to have enough, with gowns knitted in either pink or blue please.
- **Cardigans and Beanie hats** required.
- **Emergency Soap bags** containing a face cloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, a packet of tissues and a small brush/comb. May be used in A&E, Children's Units as requires by the local hospital.

Fish and Chip Babies

We have been asked for brightly coloured blankets [dark yarn] and hats [chunky yarn] to give to hospitals in Kenya and beyond who can't afford baby clothes and blankets, and who send new born babies home in newspapers – hence the name '*Fish and Chip Babies*'.

The yarn doesn't need to be baby yarn. Any brightly coloured dark or chunky yarn will do. Blankets can either be knitted in one piece or in squares [20 stitches, 30 rows on 4mm, old size needles]. 30 squares make one blanket.

A reminder of current contact numbers:

HOSPITAL	LINK PERSON	CONTACT NUMBER
Bolton	Jenny Murphy	01204 594539
North Manchester Neo Natal Unit	Freda Horrocks	0161 682 6001
	Barbara Hill	0161 658 0482
North Manchester - Maternity	Lynne Longworth	01706 829062
Oldham	Ione Genty	0161 652 0914
St Mary's, Manchester	Ann Smith	0161 766 3495
Tameside	Violet Bradshaw	0161 370 0546
Wythenshawe	Barbara Pye	0161 747 0269

4. AFIA

I attended an AFIA Day at Mary Sumner House in March, that highlighted the need for a new simple and clear Diocesan AFIA Policy. A draft will be presented to the Trustees for discussion, and hopefully this can be finalised at our next meeting in May.

Until the new policy is agreed and in place, no new applications will be accepted.

5. Virtual babies

This is continuing successfully at Status.

6. Hostels

Marion Ball will provide an up to date list of hostels and all necessary details in the autumn.

Angela Dand

Action and Outreach Co-ordinator.

