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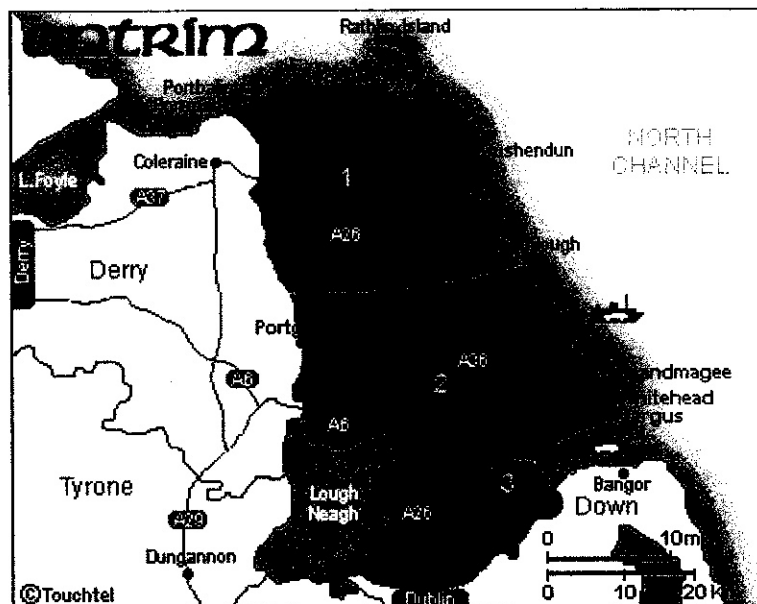
Diocesan Annual Report for 2022

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INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of Connor is located in County Antrim, Northern Ireland and stretches from Ballycastle on the North Antrim Coast to Lisburn, south of Belfast.



The Diocese is a mix of seaside, rural and city life. The Diocese has 72 parishes and Mothers' Union has 43 branches spread across the Diocese.

The Diocese operates through 6 areas, each with an area chairman:

North Connor, Mid Connor, East Connor, Mid Belfast, South Belfast, Lisburn and Derryriagh

AIM & OBJECTS OF THE MOTHERS' UNION

The aim and purpose of the of the MU is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through promoting stable marriage, nurturing family life.

Mothers' Union members do this by working towards five objects:

Promoting and supporting marriage.

Encouraging parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.

Maintaining a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship, and service.

Promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.

Helping those whose family life has met with adversity.

MU MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mothers' Union is an International Christian membership charity which promotes the well-being of families worldwide. Our vision is to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

We achieve this by:

- developing prayer and spiritual growth in families
- studying and reflecting on family life and marriage and their place in society
- resourcing our members to take practical action to improve conditions for families, both nationally and in the communities in which they live

STRUCTURE OF DIOCESE

Membership

Connor Diocese has 944 members – 903 ordinary members, 37 Indoor Members and 4 Diocesan members in 43 branches.

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

The Diocesan President, in accordance with the direction of All Ireland Council, shall be elected to commence her term of office on the First day of January in the year preceding the triennial elections. A term of office shall be three years with possible election to a further three years.

DIOCESAN VICE-PRESIDENTS

There shall be four elected Vice-Presidents who will be invited by the Diocesan President to take a particular interest in a specific unit.

If still resident in Connor Diocese, the immediate Past Diocesan President shall be invited to attend meetings of the Trustee Board and Executive Committee for one year following her completed term of office.

The spouse of the Bishop of Connor shall be invited to attend Diocesan Council.

The Bishop or Chaplain appointed by him/her shall be invited to attend Trustee Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings and Diocesan Council without voting rights.

MEMBERSHIP OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council shall consist of the following:

The Diocesan President, the Immediate Past Diocesan President, the Bishop or Chaplain appointed by him/her, the spouse of the Bishop of Connor, four Diocesan Vice-Presidents, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, Unit Coordinators and Contacts, Area Chairman and Secretaries, Area Representatives of all Diocesan Units, Branch Chairmen, Branch Secretaries and a Young Member from each branch, and MU representatives on other organisations.

Any member serving the Society beyond the diocese will also be invited to attend.

Diocesan Members will be invited to attend.

The Diocesan President should be advised of all Unit and sub-Committee meetings.

MEETINGS OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council shall meet at least twice per year.

A special meeting of the Council may be called at the discretion of the Diocesan President. If the Honorary Secretary receives a request by fifteen members of Council to discuss specific business, a special meeting will be called for that purpose only.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Not less than fourteen days' notice shall be given of the meeting of the Diocesan Council.

VOTING

A member of Council who holds more than one office may vote only once.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

If a member wishes a specific item to be discussed at Council, notice must be given to the Diocesan President at least three weeks in advance of the meeting.

TERMS OF SERVICE

All Diocesan Officials including the Secretary and the Treasurer shall serve for a term of three years and shall then be eligible to serve for a further term. They shall be ineligible for re-election to the same office if they have already served in it for six years, either consecutively or at intervals.

A member may be co-opted to fill a casual vacancy for the remainder of the term for which the person replaced was elected. The co-opted member shall be eligible to be nominated for a further triennial. However, if the remainder of the casual vacancy is less than one year, the co-opted member shall be eligible to be nominated for two triennials.

All voting must be completed by 1st October and subsequently at three-year intervals. Each name included in the voting paper must have received a minimum of three nominations.

The Diocesan Officials, with the exception of the President, shall commence their term of office from the first day of January in the year following their election.

The Triennial Elections will be held as follows:

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT Elected in previous year and will commence her term of office on: 1st January 2022

DIOCESAN OFFICIALS Nominations will be invited in early September and voting to be completed by 30th September. The officials will commence their term of office on: 1st January 2023

AREA CHAIRMEN The Diocesan Council shall elect the Area Chairmen to commence their term of office on the First Day of January of each triennial: 1st January 2023

AREA SECRETARIES/TREASURERS/REPRESENTATIVES The Area Secretaries, Treasurers and Area Unit Representatives shall be elected by the Area Committee and shall commence their term of office on the First day of January of each triennial: 1st January 2023.

BRANCH OFFICIALS to be elected triennially and commence their term of office on: 1st January 2023.

If a member holds a position at Diocesan level, she may also hold an All-Ireland position in the same Unit.

All office bearers shall be communicant members of Church of Ireland or of a church in communion herewith.

MANAGEMENT

The affairs and finance of the Diocese shall be managed by a Trustee Board elected by Council. The Trustee Board shall debate, consider and determine all matters of policy and strategy to be affected on behalf of Connor Diocese.

They will monitor, review and evaluate the work of the Society in the diocese.

They will review, consider and respond to all resolutions received from Diocesan Council, together with reports and recommendations from Council and the Unit Co-ordinating bodies.

Diocesan cheques should be signed by 2 from 3 signatories to the account. Where possible one of the signatories should be Diocesan President

DIOCESAN TRUSTEE BOARD

The Trustee Board shall meet as required but not less than twice per year. Any additional meetings of the Trustee Board may be called at the discretion of the Diocesan President. Seven members shall constitute a quorum.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD

The Diocesan Trustee Board shall consist of the following:

The Diocesan President, the immediate past Diocesan President for one year, Bishop of Connor, or Chaplain, Diocesan Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Unit Coordinators.

The Trustee Board shall have power to invite members to attend for a specific purpose and for a specific period, in order to report, advise or represent Mothers' Union policy.

Representation on other organisations shall be determined by the Trustee Board.

TRUSTEE BOARD

Trustee Board Members 1st January 2020 - 31st December 2022

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Sally Cotter
33 Deerfin Road
BALLYMENA
BT42 4HP

Tel: 028 2563 1303
Email: mupresident.connor@gmail.com

EX-OFFICIO VICE-PRESIDENT

Nadine Davison
Bishop's House
27 Grange Road
Doagh BALLYCLARE
BT39 0RQ

Tel:
Email: nadinedavison@googlemail.com

DIOCESAN CHAPLAIN (Ex-Officio)

The Venerable R Stephen McBride
10 Vicarage Gardens
Station Road
Antrim BT41 4JP

Tel:
Email: archdeacon@connor.anglican.org

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION UNIT

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jean Sheridan
11 Marmont Crescent
BELFAST
BT4 2GQ

Tel: 028 9593 6378
Email: jean.sheridan@ntlworld.com

UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

Alberta Miskimmin
1 Kingsland Park
BELFAST
BT5 7FB

Tel: 028 9079 8033
Email: albertamiskimmin@hotmail.com

DIOCESAN SECRETARY

Irene Gates
9 Castle Park
ANTRIM
BT 41 4LT

Tel: 028 9446 6430
Email: mothersunion.connor@gmail.com

DIOCESAN TREASURER

Emma Ferris
33 Vaddegan Road
NEWTOWNABBEY
BT36 7SW

Tel: 028 9084 3215/07803 728609
Email: emmaferris1993@btinternet.com

FAITH & POLICY UNIT

VICE-PRESIDENT

Evelyn Lewis
145 Mountsandel Road
COLERAINE
BT52 1TA

Tel: 028 7034 0929
Email: evelyn.lewis1@btinternet.com

UNIT COORDINATOR

Joyce Bond
3 Rectory Green
BROUGHSHANE
BT42 4LH

Tel: 028 2586 1415
Email: joyce_bond@btinternet.com

ACTION & OUTREACH UNIT

VICE-PRESIDENT

Alison Skillen
25 Berkeley Hall Square
LISBURN
BT27 5TB

Tel: 028 9267 0257
Email: a.skillen5560@gmail.com

UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

VACANT

FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

VICE-PRESIDENT

Geraldine Montgomery
12 Carncoole Park
BELFAST
BT14 8JU

Tel: 028 9071 5778
Email: montgomery_ge@yahoo.co.uk

UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

VACANT

Address for correspondence:

Diocesan Secretary: Irene Gates, 9 Castle Park, ANTRIM BT41 4LT

WEBSITE: www.connormothersunion.org

MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

Diocesan President, Vice Presidents, Unit Coordinators, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, Representatives and Contacts from Units, Area Chairmen and Chaplain (with no voting rights).

WORKING PARTIES

The Trustee Board shall have power to form working parties which may include persons other than members of the Mothers' Union, to be used in an advisory capacity. Working parties shall have specific aims and completion dates.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY, HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

A Child Protection policy shall be in place and reviewed annually. All activities and initiatives shall be in accordance with the guidelines as specified in the Church of Ireland's Safeguarding Trust document.

Under Health & Safety regulations, a risk assessment form should be completed for a venue where members of the public have been invited to attend a MU function. The form should be retained for one year. Forms should be completed for venues where Trustee Board, Executive Committee, Diocesan Council meetings or Area Social events are held.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

AUDITORS

The Diocesan Treasurer will produce an annual balance sheet on the affairs of the Society in Connor diocese, which shall be examined and audited annually by Auditors appointed by the Trustee Board.

BANK:

ULSTER BANK

11 – 16 DONEGALL SQUARE EAST

BELFAST BT1 5UB

AUDITOR:

Ms Christine Howell

8 Ramore Park

BELFAST BT 10 OFB

Registered with the Charity Commission for N. Ireland – NIC 101658

EXPENSES

Once in each triennial period, the expenses of the Diocesan President, Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Treasurer shall be reviewed to confirm that all expenses are being covered.

A Unit may organise an event to the maximum amount of £500 without consultation. If funding in excess of this amount be required, a detailed proposal should be made to the Finance & Administration Unit for approval.

Mothers' Union shall not be used to donate branch funds for appeals on behalf of other societies without the sanction of the Diocesan President. (Reg.12, Constitution of Mothers' Union, 2002)

A Branch may support the needs of its own parish but subject to the Aim, Purpose and Objects of Mothers' Union.

Any material produced on behalf of MU requires the permission of Diocesan President and requires scrutiny from the All-Ireland representative.

Summary of Diocesan Activities

In 2022 members of Connor Diocese continued to engage in a wide range of outreach work within their communities. All these activities demonstrate support for people at different stages of their lives and reflect the Aims and Objects of Mothers' Union.

In January three Diocesan training sessions for branch treasurers and in February three sharing sessions were held, using the Zoom facility. On 19 May we had a Diocesan Movie Night in St Patrick's Ballymena. The Mothers' Union Annual Gathering was held in the International Conference Centre, Belfast on 24 September with two services in St Anne's Cathedral on the previous day. Some members from the Diocese attended the Women's Getaway in November and we also marked the Global Day for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in November. During the year one branch celebrated its 100th anniversary and another its 80th anniversary.

Prayer and worship underpin all activities undertaken by members.

The Theme for 2022 was "Transformation Now!". This theme was used in all services.

In March North Connor Area held its Area Service. Our Annual Festival Service took place on 20 March in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. The preacher was Rev Canon Robert Deane, All-Ireland Mothers' Union Chaplain.

On 24 May there was a prayer walk for members of the Trustee Board and Executive Committee. An Indoor Members' Party was held on Saturday 35 June and on 1 September members joined with All-Ireland MU in a Quiet Evening via Zoom.

In October Mid Belfast Area, Lisburn and Derriaghy Area and Mid Donnor Area held their Area Services and North Connor held their Area Service in November.

The Prayer Chain has continued to be widely used by the general public.

Indoor members continue to receive birthday cards on their 80th, 90th and 100th birthdays and also the interim years - 91 -100+ from the Diocesan President. Cards from the All-Ireland President are sent for 80th, 90th, 95th and 100th and 100+ birthdays and from the Worldwide President for 80th, 90th and 100th birthdays. Members also received cards for their 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th and 70th Wedding Anniversaries.

PROJECTS

Members continue to provide "Christian care for the Family" and fulfil the Mothers' Union Object "helping those whose lives have met with adversity" through many and varied projects.

These include:

- Supplying emergency wash bags to patients in A&E wards in local hospitals
- Providing comfort packs for relatives of patients in palliative care
- Knitting cardigans, hats etc. and octopus for babies in Neo-natal wards
- Sewing Snugglies for cribs
- Knitting teddies for young children in A&E wards
- Knitting Fiddle Muffs for dementia sufferers in nursing homes
- Volunteering in the Central Belfast Child Contact Centre
- Reading with children in Primary Schools
- Organising Mums and Toddlers groups
- Organising Knit and Natter groups
- Supporting Baby Basics

OUTREACH

AFIA Away from it All.

Three families were helped using this scheme.

Worldwide

Members continue to generously support the Overseas Fund which supports the Literacy and Financial Development Programme, the Family Life Programme and the Parenting Programme.

Members also support the Centenary Fund which annually gives grants of to married ordinands who have families and are studying at The Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin.

The Diocesan President visited several branches and attend services during the course of the year, and was encouraged by the enthusiasm of members for their support for Mothers' Union and the various projects.

Sally Cotter

Diocesan President Connor Mothers' Union.

January 2022

Registered with the Charity Commission for N. I. 101658

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Sarah E. Cotter Sarah E. Cotter

Diocesan President

Irene Gates Irene Gates

Diocesan Secretary

Date 22 June 2023

Signed Alberta Wiseman Date 22/6/2023