



## In His Steps

Following Jesus in  
Strathalbyn, Langhorne Creek,  
Meadows and Milang

October 2018

This issue of our Parish Newsletter features the activities of the Mothers' Union both locally and in the wider world.

The call to "Listening, Observing and Action" is one to which we all should be responding if we wish to be Jesus' disciples in this world. A world which is so greatly in need of the love and kindness and healing which he can bring through us.

# Mothers Union Listening, Observing and Action.

In August 2018 about seventy people from the Pacific Region attended a conference in Auckland organised by the Mothers' Union.

Through sharing stories, bible study and interactive activities we learnt what is being achieved in various areas in the name of Mothers' Union.

We **thought** about who we help and who we could be helping; what is being done and what could be done; how it is done and how it could be improved.

Our different life styles throughout the region resulted in many varied ideas and yet the underpinning of Mothers' Union meant that these ideas were similar in necessity.

We all had to travel large distances to visit other branches but not all of us had to walk through rivers and watch for crocodiles.

We all had the hungry and destitute in our districts crying out for help. We all had families to love and larger regions of families and friends to share with.

We all found prayer to be the centre of all plans. We all found some ideas way too confronting to get started yet many have achieved great results.

We heard of the successes of the "families equip" or similar parenting courses being used with great results. Family life from day to day is very different within our zone yet is the very heart of our caring.

The listening and observing skills shown to us are expected to be used by us back in our own Dioceses and we are requested to send data to Mary Sumner House, the centre of Mothers' Union in London, for collation and then shared with us all.

I am so pleased to have attended as the representative of the Diocese of the Murray. The conference content was inspiring and was enhanced by the wonderful opportunity to meet so many interesting, loving people from other parts of the world. Now that I have met them they are so much more to me than names on the wave of prayer leaflets.

*Jocelyn Williamson*



The Mothers' Union delegates in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland on Sunday 19 August.



# ADVOCATE, PEACEKEEPER AND INTERPRETER

## Providing Social and Emotional Support to Children

“I am the advocate for the person who doesn’t have a voice. I am a peacekeeper and interpreter to the two sides of the story. I am that calming influence when emotions get in the way of seeing clearly.”

For over six years, Kerry Crowden has provided a Chaplaincy Service to Meadows and Macclesfield Primary Schools, and more recently to Eastern Fleurieu Ashbourne Campus.

“There was one child who had severe separation anxiety each day when his mum dropped him off at school.

“I thought that sharing an activity together might help so over four weeks we built some tall ships together while he shared his feelings and fears.

“When I felt that we had established some trust, I shared with him about how ships weren’t built to be tied up at the end of the dock where they were safe. They went out into rough seas and sailed long distances to deliver their cargo before they returned to port safely and docked again.

“This was just like each morning when he would let go of his mum’s hand. Like the ship he would sail through the day without her, and she would be waiting for him to dock again at home time.”

This valuable time spent with Kerry enabled the child to settle in to school and helped him overcome his anxiety.

A parent recently commented about the Chaplaincy Service she received “during a difficult time last year Kerry was an amazing support to our whole family. It is wonderful to know that she is there for our children if they need someone to talk to.”

Your gift to SMG will enable School Chaplains like Kerry to provide social and emotional support to students, staff, families and the whole school community.

**Schools Ministry Week:  
STARTING October 21-28  
and beyond...**



Pastoral Care Worker, Kerry Crowden with Students.

## Mothers’ Union 16 Days of Activism

Last year some branches of Mothers’ Union in this Diocese joined in the 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign — 25th November to 10th December — by holding prayer services or meetings to help advocate an end to gender-based violence, both in this country and abroad.

I would like to see some of our branches take part in this again this year. The facts and figures on this are horrific and the World Health Organisation says violence against women is one of the biggest issues of our time.

It would be good if we could hold a special service or event in the parish and speak to our local media about

doing a story about it, so the word is spread to other people in your district.



Did you know for instance that 43% of women in the European Union have experienced some form of psychological violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime?

It is also estimated that 133 million girls and women have experienced

some form of female genital mutilation across Africa and the Middle East?

There is a lot of information and creative prayer ideas on the Mary Sumner House website, which you can find at <https://www.mothersunion.org/>, but if you are unable to access this please contact me .

*Eileen Smith*

## The Anglican Parish of Strathalbyn

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev’d Thomas Karamakuzhiyil

Mobile: 0449 639 919

Newsletter Editor: The Rev’d Alex Stone

Website: <http://strathalbynanglicans.org.au/>

Email: [admin@strathalbynanglicans.org.au](mailto:admin@strathalbynanglicans.org.au)

Telephone: (Parish Secretary) 0412 311 629