

**So Margaret.... could you introduce yourself in case there's anyone watching who doesn't know you 😊**

Peter & I have lived in Kirby Hill for nearly 30 years We worship at All Saints, Kirby Hill. Peter is organist there and I am involved in lots of church groups and committees. Many of you will know Peter from the choir at Boroughbridge and when he plays for your services in the absence of your own organist. I have been a MU member on and off since 1986. Branch Leader at Boroughbridge for 6years and a Trustee for MU in the Diocese of Leeds for almost 3 years.

**So... today we are thinking about what it means to walk in faith, and I thought it would be interesting to talk today about the Mother's Union and how it might help people on their faith journeys so could you tell us... What is the Mother's Union and what is your connection with it?**

I remember my Grandmothers being part of MU when I went to church as a girl. They always seemed to be involved in catering. 'The tea brigade!! Although we can still make good tea & cakes MU is known for so much more now. We are a World-wide Christian membership movement supporting families and communities in need in the UK and worldwide since 1876. Our 4 million members are active in 84 countries and work tirelessly to serve their communities whilst offering Christian care for families, regardless of faith or background. There's been a MU in Boroughbridge for about 110 years. Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships we try to actively do this by praying, campaigning and fundraising. Fighting for lost childhoods in Bye-Bye childhood, campaigns against modern-day slavery, looking after those suffering domestic abuse and enabling poor communities at home & abroad by enabling independence through work and setting up businesses.

Since becoming Branch leader at Boroughbridge I have tried to lift the profile of MU locally. Supporting local food banks, collecting toiletries for the Homeless project in Harrogate and Women's refuges. We support Away from it All ( AFIA) holidays where families in need can take a holiday. There are two caravans at the Haven site in Filey funded through the Leeds Diocese for that purpose. The branch recently provided sets of books to all our local primary schools to help children face some difficult life events like death in the family, serious illness, death of a pet and families splitting up. We support local prison work and have events to raise money for MU projects at home and abroad. We started All Saints Girls in recent years as an off-shoot of MU in the hope of letting younger people know about MU..... organising social events that would appeal to younger members of our communities. Our wonderful monthly group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the afternoon. It is faithful, prayerful, generous and fun even it only involves tea & biscuits after a speaker. Over the years, members in Boroughbridge have raised thousands of pounds to support MU work. We care about each other and others. Justin Welsby called MU the heart and love of our churches and I believe that to be true

**Do you feel the Mother's Union has supported you in your life of faith?**

It is a privilege to be involved in Mothers' Union. Everybody who is involved from the World-Wide President down to some children in Liverpool who started a MINI MU have a faith, care and a vision to act for the good of many. It adds another dimension to my prayer life and helps me to act in a more Christ-like way which I believe is expected of all of us who have taken a Christian path in our lives.

**How can people find out more about the Mother's Union's work?**

Talk to me. Contact MU direct on the [mothersunion.org](http://mothersunion.org) or via the Diocese. You'll find my details in The Link and Kirby Hill benefice's BTP every month. Posters which advertise our monthly meetings (when we can start again) have my details too. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.....just turn up and we would love to see people from all of our churches supporting Mothers' Union work. Membership is open to men as well as women and baptism into the holy trinity is expected but if you're not it can be arranged eventually!!