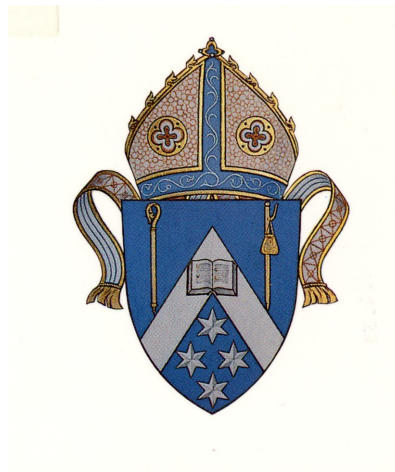


THE BANNERS
OF THE
MOTHERS' UNION BRANCHES AND
CARITAS GROUPS
OF
THE DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE





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Editor's Note

It has been a great pleasure to accept the request to compile this Record of the Mothers' Union Banners in the Branches of the Diocese of Melbourne.

Anne Kennedy, Diocesan President, suggested this project and she has been instrumental in obtaining the photos and information. The MU members in the branches have shown much co-operation and attention to detail.

As the work on this project has progressed it has proved to be most interesting and inspiring.

One of the submissions contained this paragraph:

“In October 1938, Mrs Wood (speaker) said that Mrs Head and Council would like to see every branch with their own banner. She described a Service in England when over 200 banners were carried in the Cathedral”.

Likewise, in St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne today, it is inspiring to see the many banners in procession at the Lady Day Service held each year.

*Doug Myers
MU Supporter
St. Matthew's Glenroy*

Pictures: *used for decoration have been obtained from the Editor's collection of photos from various parts of Victoria.*

Covers : *“The Mary Sumner Rose” - - - D. Myers*

Foreword

It is the vibrancy, colour and movement of the banners that provide such a memorable picture of the face of the Mothers' Union on the Diocese of Melbourne. I have been privileged to see the long procession of banners of all styles and icon images, representing so many parishes and branches of MU in Melbourne.

The banners and the women! Though men are now welcome to participate, the abiding tradition is that of the women of the Anglican Church, lay and more lately ordained, who through the years have faithfully carried the message of the gospel in witness, in prayer and in many gatherings and activities which have been both friend-raising and fund-raising.

Behind the banners lie the lives of the women of the Mothers' Union and rich histories of the branches. The branches themselves tell the stories of connection and meaning.

I commend this book to you as a colourful depiction of MU in the Diocese of Melbourne and as a tribute to the thousands who have contributed since its inception.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Melbourne." The signature is written in a cursive style, with a large, stylized initial 'P' that loops around the first part of the name.

The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier
Archbishop of Melbourne

MOTHERS' UNION

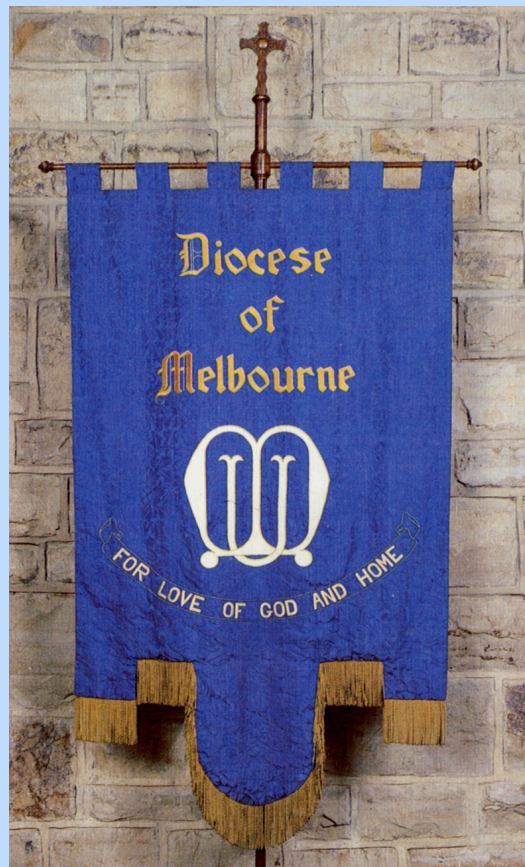
Its **AIM** is the advancement of the Christian religion
in the sphere of marriage and family life.

Its **FIVE OBJECTS** are:

1. To promote and support **married** life.
2. To encourage **parents** in their role to develop the faith of their children.
3. To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Mothers' Union Melbourne Diocesan Banner

This beautiful Banner, was designed and made by Mr. A. Olding of Melbourne, c. 1954.



The Banner is an outstanding piece of ecclesiastical art.

The Madonna and Child in the central panel is worked in cream fairford brocade.

The Madonna's robe, which is in blue fairford brocade, has a large amethyst set into the clasp at the neckline.

This jewel is from a necklet belonging to Mr. Olding's mother, a past member of Mothers' Union.

The side panels depict the Tudor rose in beautifully shaded pink colourings set in trails of shaded green leaves. This motif is in keeping with the Tudor rose decorations used so extensively in the Cathedral.

The Diocesan coat of arms is at the base, while the back of the banner is made of blue fairford brocade and has a large MU embroidered on it. The motto of the Mothers' Union is worked in fine stitching:

"FOR LOVE OF GOD AND HOME"

This MU Diocesan Banner was dedicated
by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. J. J. Booth,
during the Mothers' Union Quiet Day Service in 1954.

The Service was attended by a record 1150 communicants.
In his address, Dr. Booth stressed the importance for mothers to bring
the spiritual training into a child's life instead of worldly cynicism.

The dedication of the banner was an outstanding event!
The Honorary Diocesan Secretary, Mrs. H Stephens accompanied by the
MU Diocesan President, Mrs. J. J. Booth
and deputy President Mrs. H Barkley, handed the
Banner to His Grace, The Archbishop, for the Service of Dedication.
When this was concluded, the Archbishop handed the Banner to
Mrs Booth as President.

It was then carried to the Sanctuary by a Server.



*Melbourne Mothers' Union and Caritas Banners
Leaving St. Paul's Cathedral
Lady Day Service March 2009*

The Caritas Banner

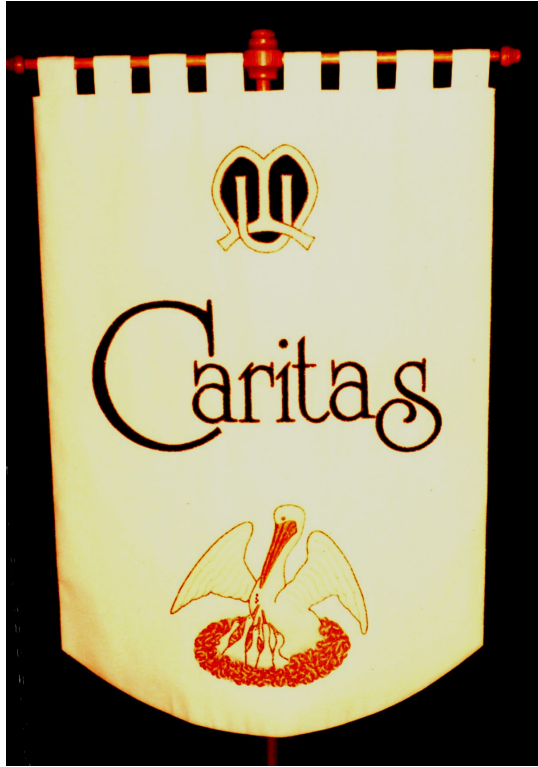
The Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Melbourne commissioned a Diocesan Banner for the Caritas groups.

The banner was executed by Mrs. Glenda Owen, who was a member of CARITAS at St. Martin's Hadfield and a member of the CARITAS Advisory Committee of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Melbourne.

It was decided to use the symbol of Caritas - the pelican, on the banner.

According to legend, the pelican, which has the greatest love of all creatures for its offspring, pierces its breast to feed them with its own blood when there is no food.

It is on the basis of this legend that the pelican came to symbolize Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, because of His love for all mankind. In this sense, it also symbolizes the Eucharistic Sacrament.



The Front of the Banner

The Mothers' Union emblem is worked in royal blue and white velvet, edged with black yarn and gold thread.

Blue is the liturgical colour for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord. The white is for purity of heart and life.

The colour theme is continued in the Caritas logo.

The dominant symbol is the "Pelican in her piety" self-giving love is the key thought and illustrates the meaning of the name Caritas.

The birds are worked in white velvet and are appliquéd onto the background.

Gold threads have been used to highlight their features.

The nest is constructed from hand woven beige and brown silk cords.

The Back of the Banner

The lettering on the back of the banner is hand worked in satin stitch using Gold thread.

(This section alone taking over seventy hours to complete.)

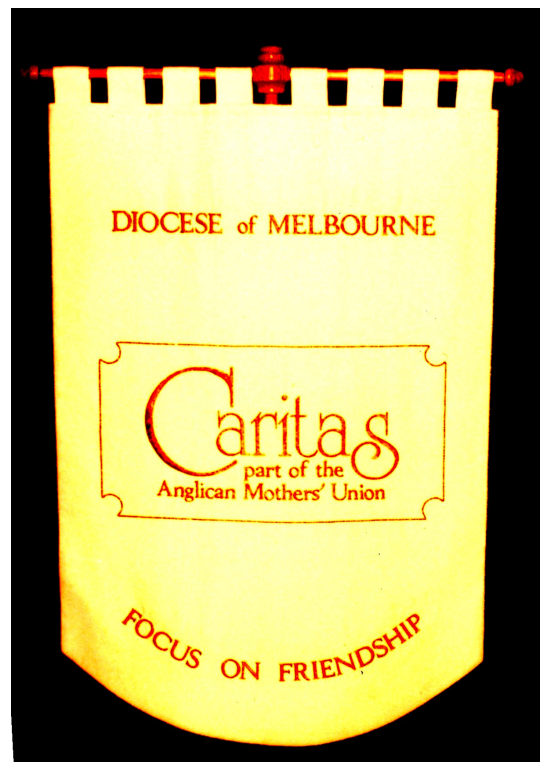
The logo is faithfully reproduced, highlighting the theme "Caritas" and its continuing association as "part of Anglican Mothers' Union."

The by-line interprets the emphasis of Caritas groups:

'FOCUS ON FRIENDSHIP'

The banner was dedicated at the Annual Lady Day Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Service in St. Paul's Cathedral by the Mothers' Union Chaplain, Bishop David Shand in 1982.

The Dean of Melbourne, The Very Reverend Tom Thomas, received the banner on behalf of the Cathedral and the Chapter.

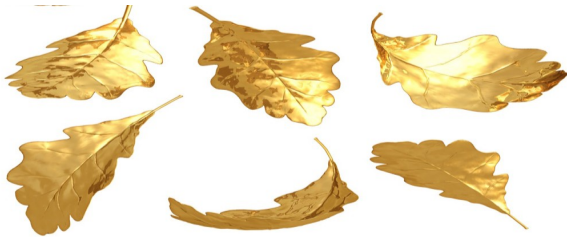


Diocesan Members' Banner

This Photo of the banner, being held by Marj Wall and Erline Balmer, was taken in Erline's garden before it was presented to the Diocesan Members at their meeting in November 1991.

The Banner

Was made and worked by Elizabeth Wall and the pole was fitted by Ted Wall.



MU Diocesan Travelling Banner

Early in 2002 it became apparent that there was a need for a more portable banner to avoid possible damage to the Diocesan Banner in the event that it may be required outside the cathedral.

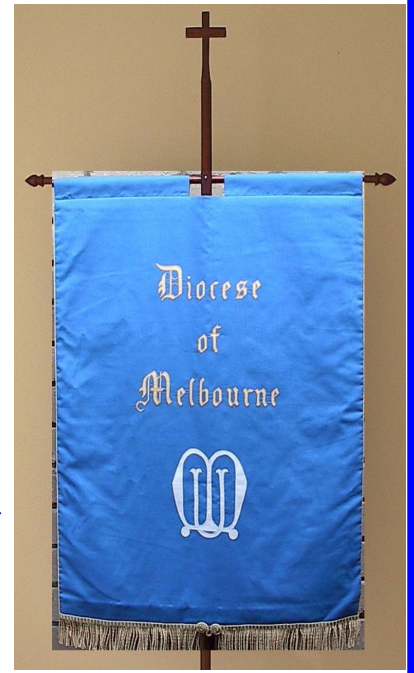
The Banner

June Ryan, from the Embroiderers Guild, with both her concept and interpretation made this truly beautiful banner along the lines of the existing Diocesan Banner.

The banner is simply based, with mother and child on the front. The side and top panels are blue with gum leaves and flowers and the MU logo at the top.

On the plain blue back is; 'Diocese of Melbourne' above the MU logo.

It was many hours in the making and was shown to the Embroiderers Guild in February 2002.



Bp Shand dedicated the Banner at the Lady Day Service, March 21st 2002, at St Paul's Frankston.

The new Travelling Banner is kept in the MU Shop/Office, and is available for use when MU is being represented on a Diocesan level outside the Cathedral, and it is appropriate to have a banner.

St Matthew's Glenroy/Hadfield with St Linus' Merlynston

There are now Three Banners:

St Matthew's ~ St Martins ~ St Linus

* * * * *

MU St Matthew's Glenroy Branch

The inaugural meeting was held in the Plumpton Ave Church of St. Matthew, October 18th 1956.

Mrs Alice O'Brien was the guest speaker at this meeting and she also attended the 50th anniversary celebrations of this branch in 2006.

The first enrolment was in April 1957.



The Banner

The St Matthew's Banner was presented to the Mothers' Union on May 7th 1961 by; The Rev'd John & Mrs Mavis McAuley in memory of their son, Peter John. The memorial plate fixed on the staff reads:

*Peter John McAuley
19-7-1946
R I P*

Glenda Owen skilfully replaced the cracked and damaged insert in the original banner, by hand-working this lovely fabric insert.



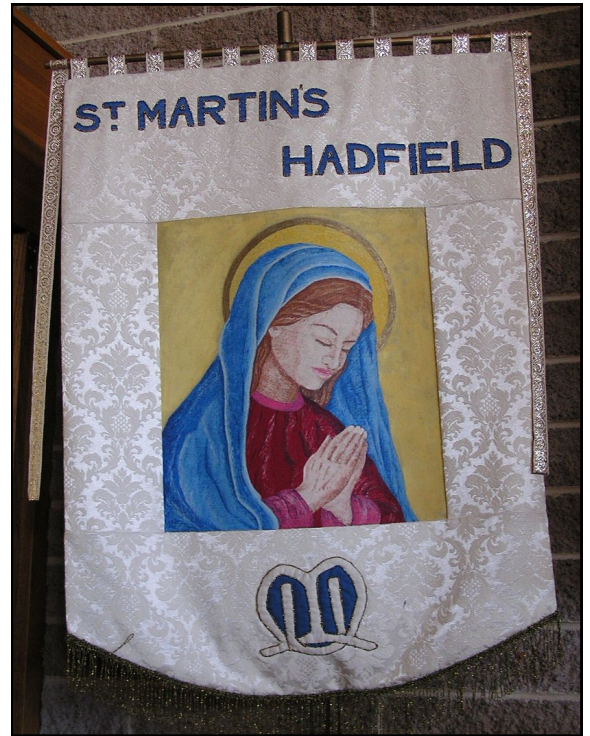
MU St Martin's Hadfield Branch

St. Martin's Mothers' Union started c.1966. It was born out of a group of young parents who supported the newly formed Sunday School in Hadfield. A Young Wives Group, or as it was then called, A Young Members' Department of the Mothers' Union. When St Martin's Closed in February 1997, the members from that centre joined with St Matthew's MU Glenroy.

The Banner

The centre panel was painted by
Gwen Spicer,
Colleen Wetzel worked the MU motif,
Glenda Owen provided the fabric
and lettering and assembled the banner.

The Banner was brought to St Matthew's and
it now stands in St Matthew's Church.



MU St. Linus' Merlynston Branch

The Mother's Union at St Linus started 18th August 1931.
This group has since celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

St Linus' Merlynston amalgamated with
St Matthew's Glenroy in September 2001.

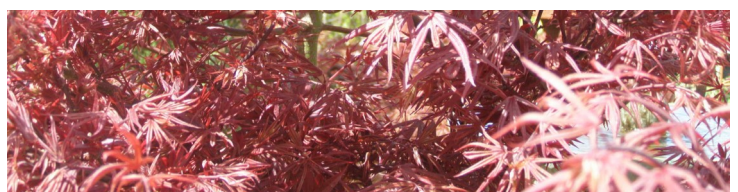
Before the amalgamation, some Pascoe Vale MU members
were meeting with St Linus.

After the amalgamation, the three groups resolved
to join and meet at St Matthew's MU Glenroy.

The Banner

The banner was made by Mr. Ray Evendon.
After many years it was found to be in need of maintenance.

So Vena Wilkins, with guidance from Glenda Owen
carried out the repairs in the early 2000's.
The banner is displayed in St Linus Merlynston.



MU St. Andrew's Aberfeldie

The Branch started on 13th March 1924, not long after the parish was formed in 1923.
At the first meeting of 10 ladies, Mrs. Carrington, the wife of the Vicar was appointed Enrolling Member.
The Secretary and Treasurer were Mrs. Colwell and Mrs. Trippet respectively.



The Banner.

The banner was made by
Miss Hammond of the
Diocesan Book Society for £25.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawley
donated the staff,
and the members donated the
cost of the materials
for the banner.

Rev'd Horner Dedicated
the banner on
13th December 1953.



MU All Saints Mitcham

The Mothers' Union Branch known as All Saints Mitcham was formed in 2006 when
the Parishes of Christ Church Mitcham and All Saints Nunawading amalgamated.

The Christ Church Mothers' Union branch was formed in 1924,
and the MU branch at All Saints Nunawading was formed in 1961.



The Banners.

All Saints banner
was
designed and made by
Mrs. Doris Wallis and
Mrs Una Taylor in
1976.

Christ Church banner
was made by
Mrs. Frances Warren.

It was dedicated to
the memory of
Mrs. Florence Bell in
1985.



MU St. Matthew's Ashburton

The Mothers' Union branch at St. Matthew's was started on 20th October 1947.

The Banner

The original banner, in 1983, was becoming very worn so it was decided to raise funds to cover the cost of having a new banner made.

Sister Marie of the Retreat House Community designed and made this banner.

A service to dedicate the new banner and also to admit new members was held in the church on the 11th November 1984.

This beautiful banner depicts the Mother and Child on a pale blue background with 'St. Matthew's Ashburton' embroidered on the back. The gown is beautifully embroidered using pearls and other special skills.

The new Banner was first carried by Mrs Kath Hills at the Lady Day service in the Cathedral 1985, and at subsequent occasions including the Australian Mothers' Union Centenary conference 1992.

* * * * *



MU St. Alban's, St. Albans with Deer Park

St Alban's MU began in February 1991 when the Deanery President, Enid Hansen, spoke to a group of ladies, and encouraged and instructed them with the knowledge of the movement. Win Lovelock was chosen as President, Dolly Dean as Secretary and Elizabeth Stevens as Treasurer.

The Diocesan President, Beth Hookey then admitted ten people and welcomed another who was already a member at another branch.

The Banner

In 1993 it was decided that it was time to have a banner. Much discussion on pattern and colour followed.

Thelma Nuske and Win Lovelock kindly made the banner. Max Nuske provided the woodwork and the poles for its completion..

By the end of June 1993 the banner was ready.



MU St Aidan's Parkdale

The formation of the original daytime MU group first met sometime after 1925 and before 1950.

This information was gleaned from a booklet written by Janine Stewart (The Vicar's wife at the time) and Betty Crawford.

This group now meets in the evenings.

The Banner

This banner was designed by Con Lister from a postcard. Her late husband "did all the parts that were not sewn" i.e. the brush strokes on the face and the wooden frame.

Con celebrated her 90th birthday in 2008 and she is thrilled that this record is being inserted here.



MU St Francis-in-the Fields Mooroolbark

The Mothers' Union in this parish began with the formation of a Young Members' Group in 1961.

Five years later the group decided to become a branch of Mothers' Union.

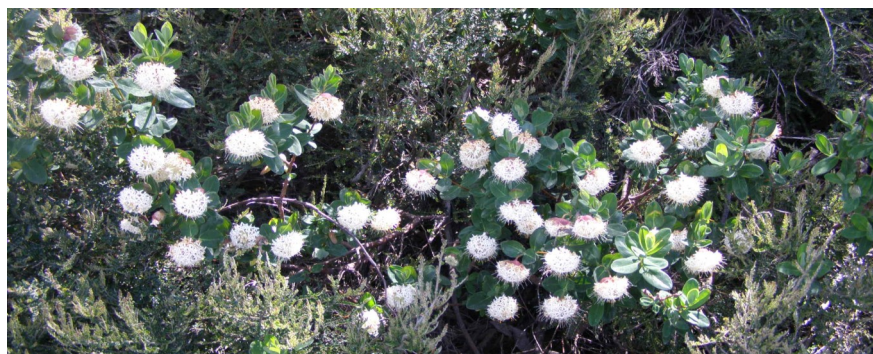
The last recorded minutes were in 1968. It went into recess for some time.

In July 1974, the branch was brought out of recess.

The Banner

In 1981, Miss Edith Collins, at the age of 93 provided the funds for a Branch Banner.

It was designed by the members and made by Ray Evenden.



MU St Peter's Murrumbeena

The MU banner at St Peter's, having served the group for many years, was in need of restoration in 2007. Beryl Evans, a member of the Embroiderers' Guild, arranged for herself and Eleanor Burton to take the banner to the Ceremonial Group of the Embroiders' Guild for assessment.

The advice was; that a new banner would be the best way forward.

The New Banner

The 'Banner Fund' was launched.

Bev Lane, one of the embroiderers, and Eleanor Burton then bought the necessary material, fringing, cord and tassels with money donated to the 'Banner Fund.'

The making of the banner proceeded with Beryl Evans and Eleanor Burton liaising with Bev Lane.

Norma Bain and Jill Presser also helped with the sewing. Siegfried and Carol Stehle made and finished the new poles.

On Sunday 7th September 2008 the new banner was displayed in the church for the first time.

Eleanor and Graeme Burton donated the shortfall of the cost in loving memory of Nell Thomas, Eleanor's mother.

The new banner was blessed during the 10.30 am service
Sunday 12th October 2008

* * * * *



St. Cuthbert's Grovedale with St. Wilfrid's Mt Duneed

St. Cuthbert's Caritas Group began when the church building was at Marshalltown c. 1978.

Mrs Loraine Gross, still a member, was one of the original members, along with Mrs. Cynthia Matthews and Mrs. Allison Poyser.

At St. Wilfrid's, the first Caritas meeting was held on the 8th March 1984.

Mrs Margaret Murray and Mrs Margaret Stones were two of the original members.

The Banner

The two churches amalgamated c. 1994 and sometime after that we commissioned our present banner.

It has the names of both parishes.
The Caritas badge has two hands shaking,
a representation of the statement beneath:

"Friendship in Action"



MU St. George's Reservoir

The morning group of this Mother's Union branch started with seven members, in 1953.

A Young Wives evening group was formed in 1958 for mothers in the work force.

In 1972 there were two divorcees in the group, so it became an Evening Mothers' Union Open group. This allowed these members to remain under the umbrella of MU. This was to change some years later.

In September 2000 the groups joined as one MU Branch and meetings were held in the mornings.

The Banner



The original banner was Mary and Child, and the picture began to crack with years of use.

This new and modern banner was by Ruth Darnley.



MU Holy Trinity Coburg

The Branch was formed in November 1918 with 22 members, and through the influence of Mrs. Clarke Hudson, the membership rose to 135 in 1932.

This was the largest branch in the Diocese.

At the October meeting in 1938 the Speaker, Mrs. Wood, indicated that Mrs. Head and the Council would like to see every branch with their own banner.

The Banner



From the October 1938 meeting, a collection box for a banner was started. When the box was taken to the bank in June 1940, it was found to contain £3/12/9.

The President reported on a visit to St. Thomas' Essendon to see their banner, and the Secretary displayed samples of banners from Church Stores, Sydney.

In July 1940 it was decided to purchase a banner from Sydney for £5, and to buy the fittings in Melbourne. Mr R. Evendon made the fittings for a cost of 10/- for materials.

The Rev'd G Gilder dedicated the banner on 22nd September 1940, in the presence of a large congregation.

* * * * *

MU Holy Trinity Kew

The original banner served the branch for a number of years until 1985. It had become well worn and it mysteriously disappeared from the church - possibly stolen.

The Banner

The present banner was made in 1985-6 to replace the earlier one. Betty Kemp designed and made the new banner, with Doris Clipper working the centre tapestry.

In 2005 the words, 'HOLY TRINITY KEW' were added to the plain blue back of the banner. At the same time, a label was added noting the names of the makers and the date it was made.

The dedication was carried out by the Rev'd Andrew St. John on 18th August 1985.

The banner now stands in the west transept of the church near the font.

* * * * *



Caritas St. John's Malvern East

The Mothers' Union commenced in 1901, and along the way it appears to have embraced a junior branch, the Fellowship of Marriage in 1937, and a Caritas group about 1980.

The Banner

Our banner was completed in August 1942.

This MU branch celebrated its 90th year at St. John's in 1991.

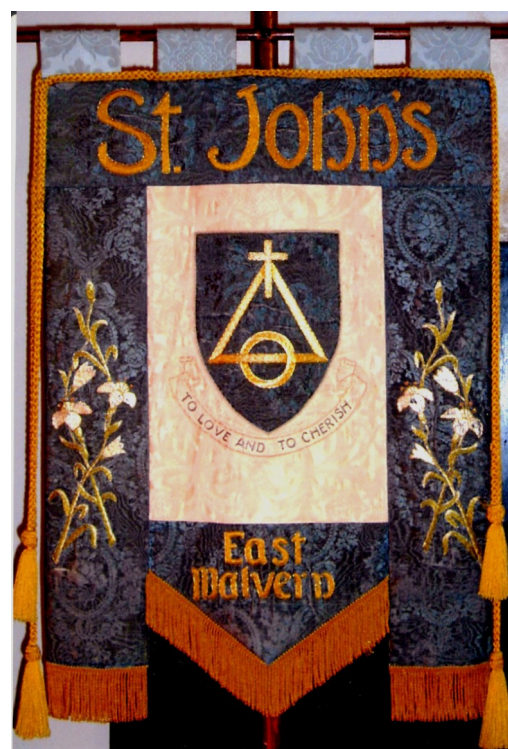
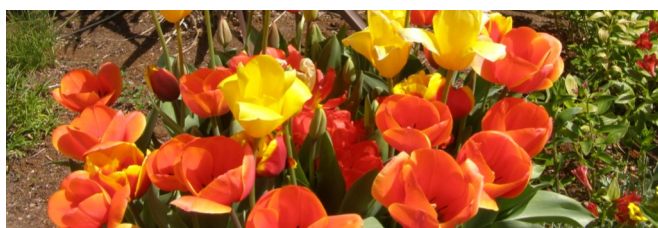
At this time its members were elderly and no longer able to function as a group.

Those who were able were absorbed into the Caritas group.

The MU group closed in September 1991.

Rosemary Wickett writes in 2009:

"Caritas is still a vibrant active group, and every Lady Day I carry the MU banner proudly at the Cathedral service, conscious not only of its history, but of the other people who have carried it before me."



MU Holy Spirit Watsonia

This banner could be many years old. It was first made for Holy Trinity GFS. c. 1971.

The GFS Banner

Betty Cummings (Church Organist) and her mother, Mrs. Green, obtained the materials and the design and completed most of the hand embroidery. Elsie Storr completed the handwork, and her husband, John, made the brass fittings and the woodwork. The banner served the GFS until they discontinued.

The Banner

Some years ago, c. 1982, the Rev'd Peter Omond discovered the banner in storage and suggested that it could be converted for use as an MU banner.

The MU President, Margaret Polglase and Eve Beck designed a "Mother and Child" emblem for the front, and an MU emblem for the back.

Elsie Storr did the padding and the embroidery, and Alan Jones made the stand so that the banner could be displayed in the Church.



The GFS Banner can be seen displayed with this group of girls.



MU St. James Dandenong

The World Centenary of the commencement of the Mothers' Union was commemorated in 1976. In March the following year the St. James Branch of MU proposed to make a banner to mark this event. The design chosen was the emblem that was used during the centenary celebrations.

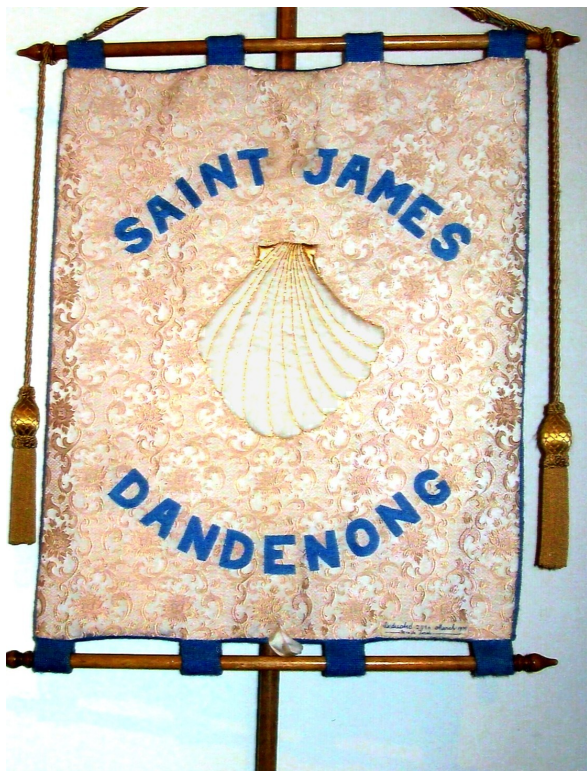
The Banner

It was decided to work the banner in tapestry.

Doris James sketched the chosen design for the banner on canvas.

Her husband, George, made the frame to hold the work, and he further made the cross for the top of the pole.

Doris worked the greater part of the background. She also taught several members the stitches, to enable all to share in the work.



The Reverse of the Banner

The reverse side was designed by Lola Marsh. She used the symbol of the 'scallop shell.' This symbol ensured shelter and food to all pilgrims who wore strings of scallop shells around their necks.

St. James, son of Zebedee the Patron Saint of Spain, made many pilgrimages to Santiago wearing scallop shells.

Doris James' skilled fingers completed the needlework on this side also.

The banner was dedicated on Mothering Sunday 1979.

Members and friends who worked faithfully to make the banner were:
Doris James, Thelma Keys, Lola Marsh, Carol Matthews, Olive Bail, Betty Williams, Doris Blake, Beryl Sharpe, Enid Bytheway, Wendy Bytheway, Dobbie Smallwood, James Smallwood and George James.



MU St. Eanswythe's Altona

This Branch began 13th September 1938, and went into recess 15th October 1946.

It opened again on 16th March 1978
with 20 members.

The Banner

This beautiful banner
was made by
Mrs. Ethel Oats (BEM)
the founder of the Embroiderers'
Guild of Victoria.
She was assisted by
Mrs. Norma Berry and
Miss Lesley Uren who did the design.
The banner was given by
Mrs. Joyce McGuckian, as a
memorial to
Mrs. Lillian Carter, an MU member in
England and also an embroiderer.

This banner
was dedicated on 8th February 1981
by Rev'd Noel Whale.



The design in the front

Madonna and Child, and at the base
the MU Symbol and the
white rose of York in honour of
Mrs Carter from Yorkshire.

The reverse side

St. Eanswythe, the patron Saint [Celtic].
The total working hours to make the banner was 70.
The frame and cross together with a collapsible
staff were made by Mr Freddy Roadley

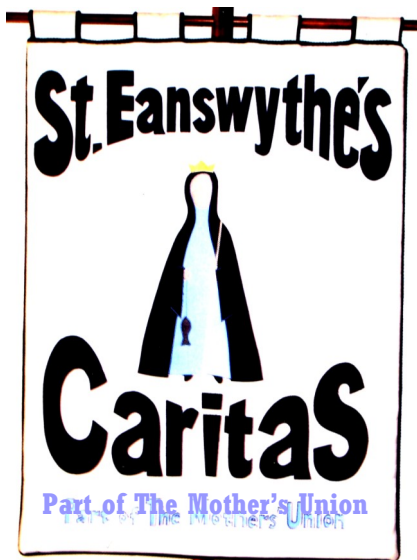
Caritas St. Eanswythe's Altona

Caritas in Altona began as "Young Wives" in September 1961 (St. Eanswythe's Day.)

The Banner

The banner was made by Zoya Davies, a member of this Caritas Branch.

It consists of white linen, and all the
lettering is machine appliquéed in shades of
blue silk.



The welcoming hands represent
the Caritas motto,
"Friendship in Action"

The motto is machine appliquéed
in flesh coloured silk over a gold silk cross.
This represents our Christian Faith.
During the making of the banner Zoya's
eldest daughter, Rachel,
passed away suddenly.

In March 2001, the banner was blessed
by Rev'd Chris Pullen and it was
dedicated to the memory of Rachel.



MU Caritas St. Oswald's Glen Iris

St. Oswald's Caritas group commenced as "Young Wives," at the home of Mrs J. Forster (The Vicarage) in May 1971, when the Diocesan, Deanery and District leaders were speakers to about 15 young wives.

The Banner

The Banner was made and completed prior to February 1990, when it was dedicated to the memory of June Carter.

June was one of our members.

The concept of the banner came from Elizabeth Zeerda and it was simplified by Jenny Goodall, who modified the design and made it possible for the embroiderer to interpret it in material and thread.

Marie Cheevers, from the Embroiderers' Guild, took many months to carefully work the design and bring it to life.

June Carter's memory inspired several of the features of the banner.

Her front garden full of the flowers she loved, especially the pink Cecil Brunner roses.

The butterflies were chosen to symbolise eternity, and our loving thoughts of her.

The cross in the centre of the banner represents the Church, which is the centre of our group.

* * * * *



MU St. James' Ivanhoe

St. James' branch of the Mothers' Union was commenced in 1923.

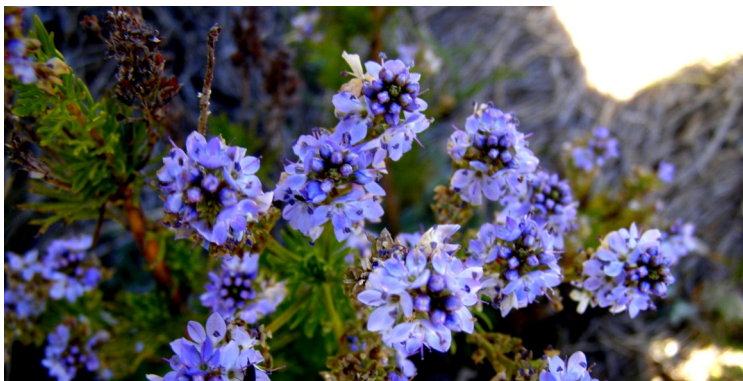
The Vicar's wife was the instigator and the first President.

The position of president has since been filled by Vicars' wives a number of times over the years

The Banner

The banner was made in Sydney c. 1961.

It was dedicated on Mothering Sunday the same year.



MU St. Luke's East Frankston

St. Luke's ladies took on the task of making new kneelers. Funds were raised from various sources including a loan from the vestry, and an MU banner was included in the project.

The Banner.

Lyn Hoskings taught the ladies how to do the various stitches.

They practised on samples until they were perfect.

Lyn designed all the kneelers and the MU banner. She obtained permission to copy the stained glass windows of the Church.

The banner was put on a large frame and the ladies worked from the sides.

Lyn worked the petite point and the chain.

The figures are shaded so they represent all the coloured people in the world.

The orchids represent Frankston, which once was covered by bushlands and heath lands that had many varieties of orchids.

These still can be found in the flora reserve.

The blue represents the sea.

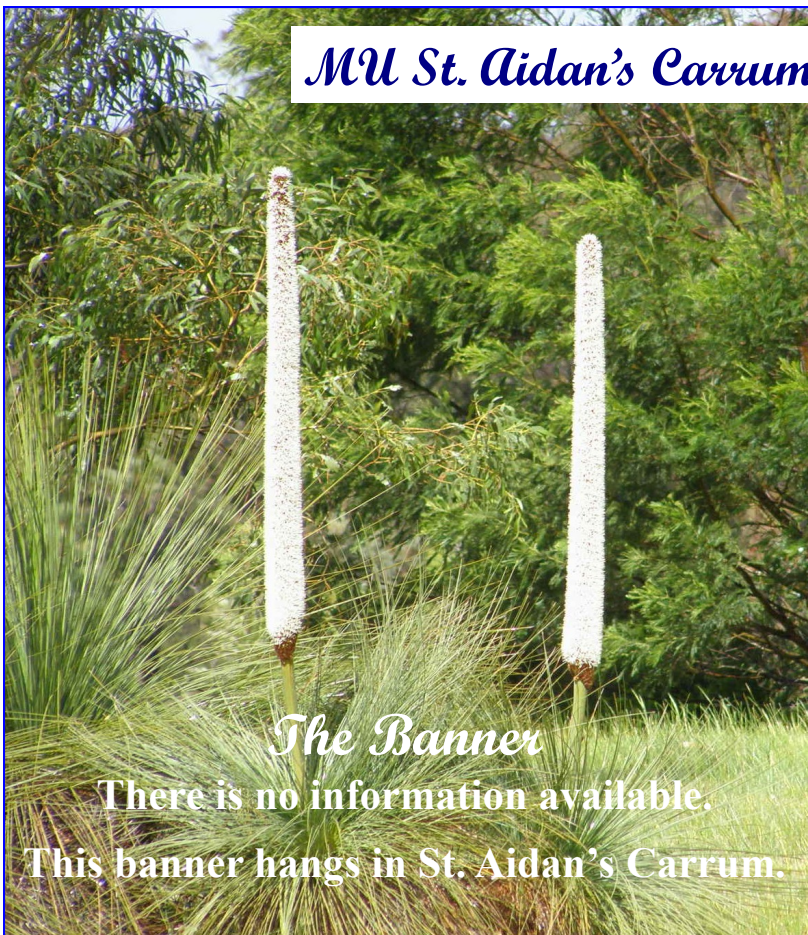
The chain links all the people in the World.

It required much skill when sewing so that each side matched.

The Banner was made in 1994.



MU St. Aidan's Carrum - in Recess



The Banner

There is no information available.

This banner hangs in St. Aidan's Carrum.



MU St. Mary the Virgin Sunbury

Mrs. Bronwyn Scott-Branigan started this Mothers' Union branch in 1990.

The Banner

As President, in 1991, Bronwyn instigated and designed the banner.
She did the stitching with the help of several members.

It has pride of place in St. Mary's Sunbury and the members are very proud of it.

They also feel it is a lovely idea to compile this album of banners so that others can enjoy their beauty and their stories.



MU St. Dunstan's Camberwell

This Mothers' Union Branch was formed at St. Dunstan's in 1935. It was instigated by Mrs. Gladys Miriam Drought, the wife of the second Vicar of the Parish.
A committee was formed on 10th February with Mrs. Drought as President and Enrolling member.
The first Admission Service was held on August 21st.

The Banner

Mrs "Billie" Minter, one of our members,
made the banner in 1959.
and it was dedicated in time for Christmas.



MU St. Aidan's Box Hill South

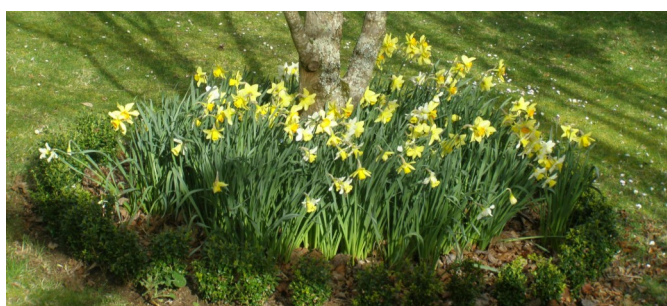
St. Aidan's Mothers' Union was formed in 1957. It was nurtured by St. Peter's Box Hill.
(Refer to St. Peter's Box Hill page 17.)

Shortly after the branch celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2007, the group rejoined St. Peter's MU.
Six members of St. Aidan's were presented with 50 year badges during its last years.

The Banner

The banner design was created by members of the branch and under the direction of Mrs T. Newing, several members took part in the embroidery and sewing.

The Banner is carried each Lady Day at the Cathedral with pride, by St. Aidan's members.



MU St. John's Bentlyigh ~ In Recess

This Branch has been closed for many years.

Mavis Roberts, the last secretary of the branch advises:

"The MU records should be in the archives of St. John's Bentlyigh.

When the Branch closed, the remaining five members joined with St. Christopher's East Bentlyigh, but time has taken a toll and I am the only remaining active one."

The Banner

Mavis Roberts joined Mothers' Union on the tenth of September 1958.

She is not sure if the banner was with the branch then, but she does know that the banner was made by Mrs. Hilda Smith.

Hilda's daughter still attends St John's and she remembers her Mother going down to Black Rock to buy the materials.

She cannot say where the design came from.

The banner has been carried on many occasions in St. Paul's for different MU ceremonies.

The banner still stands in St. John's in good condition.

* * * * *



MU St. George's Malvern

The Banner

This banner was designed and worked by Robyn Mountcastle, a parishioner of this church and a well known tapestry artist.

The Symbolism.

Lilies; The emblem of purity has become the flower of the Virgin.

Colours; Blue, the colour of the sky, symbolising heaven and heavenly love, the colour of truth and the traditional colour of the Virgin and, Green, is for spring.

The Triangles; (barely visible) ; Represent the Trinity.

The Quatrefoil; Associated with the four evangelists.

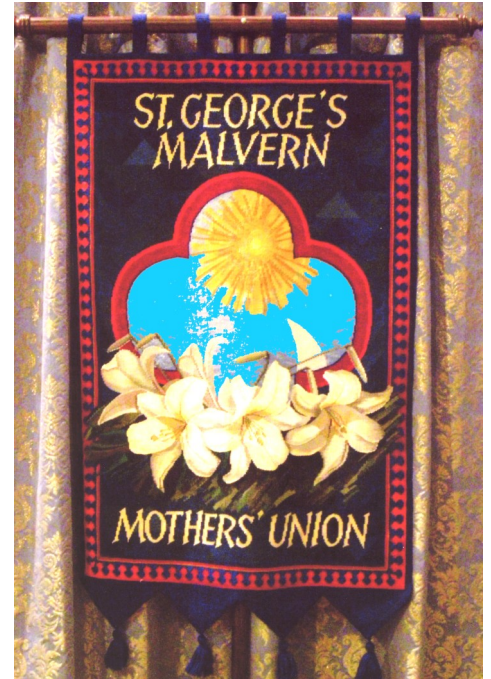
Sun/Moon; Attributes of the Virgin Mary referring to the woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet. often represented in scenes of the crucifixion.

The Border; Often brings us back to Malvern and gives the banner a connection with the surroundings:.

(The lovely tessellated rooftops of Victorian and Edwardian homes.)

* * * * *

Note: A previous banner is shown at page 42.



MU St. Peter's Box Hill

The Mothers' Union had its beginning during the time of the Rev'd. and Mrs. Laidley.

It was in 1934 that Mrs Brown, already a Mothers' Union member in England, arrived in the parish.

Mrs. Laidley asked Mrs Brown to begin a branch of Mothers' Union at St. Peter's.

Mrs Brown, began by enlisting the help of Mrs Jessie Unsworth and Mrs. Bartlett to contact mothers.

The new branch was formed with about twenty members.

The 75th Anniversary was celebrated in 2009.

Some time before that, St. Peter's, St. Aidan's and St. Philip's merged to become the Anglican Parish of Box Hill

Since then, the combined MU continues as a, very active group of about 40 members.

The Banner

The banner was given in memory of Mrs Jessie Unsworth, who passed away on 28th May 1946.

Mrs Unsworth was a foundation member who served as Secretary for many years.

The banner was designed by Mr. Merv. King and the embroidery was the work of Mrs Neil Worth.

The Bishop of Geelong, the Right Revd. John McKie dedicated the banner in February 1956.

(The daughter of Mrs Unsworth, Jess Hodges, wrote this banner information in 1992.)



MU Holy Trinity Surrey Hills

This branch of Mothers' Union was formed in the Parish of Holy Trinity, Surrey Hills and Mont Albert in April 1908, by Mrs. H. Langley, wife of the first Bishop of Bendigo.

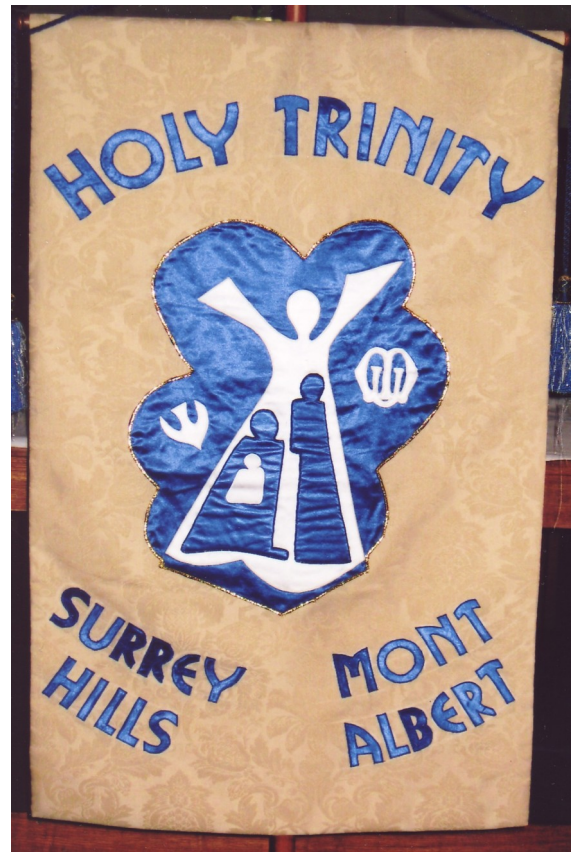


The first Banner

This beautiful banner was dedicated on the
19th June 1949
by the Bishop of Geelong.

This banner deteriorated over time and is very
fragile.
It has been carefully stored.

*(From the two 'photos supplied,
a composite picture is reproduced above.)*



The present Banner

Was embroidered and
assembled by
Mothers' Union members.

The new Banner was dedicated
on 15th April 1998
at a Eucharist conducted by
Rev'd Bill Gill.

* * * * *



MU All Saints' Newtown & West Geelong

St. John's West Geelong closed in October 2004, and joined with All Saints' Newtown to be known as All Saints' Parish of Newtown & Geelong West.

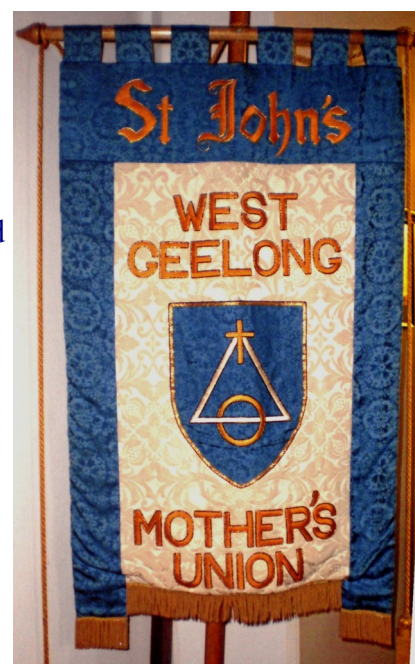
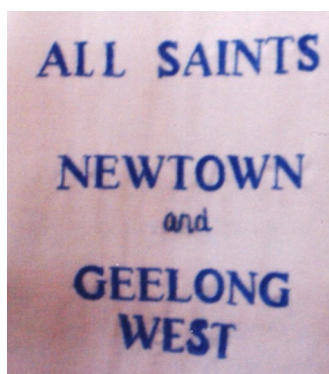


The Banners

At a special service in August 2006, St John's banner (right) was decommissioned.

All Saints' banner (left) was recommissioned, and all members renewed their commitment as MU members of All Saints' Newtown & West Geelong.

The wording on the reverse of the current banner is shown here.



MU St. Andrew's Rosanna

This Branch began from an open meeting at St. Andrew's in April 1948.

A 'Fellowship of Marriage' group was formed with Mrs. Strickland as the first president.

By April 1949 there were ten members admitted and another five were prepared for admission.

By 1957, membership was about 47, and the group was called The Young Wives Group.

In February 1958 it was agreed to form the St. Andrew's Mothers' Union.

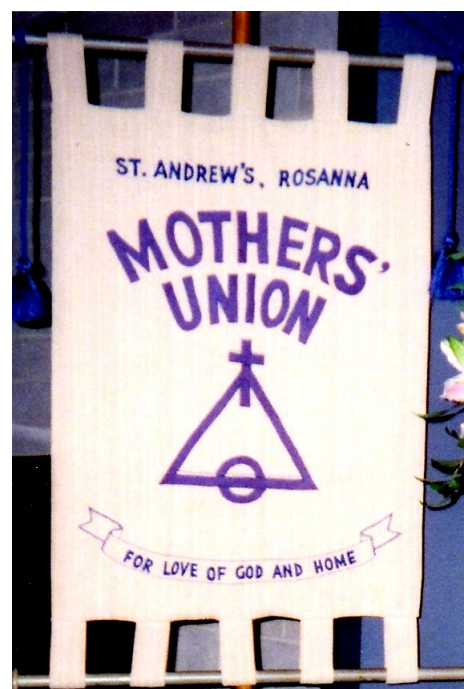
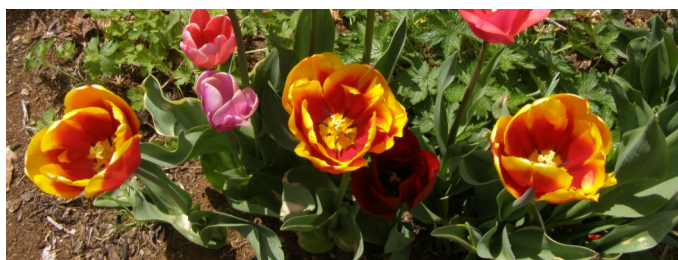
The Banner

In 1968, suggestions for producing or purchasing a banner were put forward.

Donations were called to cover the cost of materials and to enable the banner to be hand made.

In July 1969, Brenda Griffith displayed the banner which was designed and worked by students at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School under the direction of Mrs. Bonnie Hurry.

The banner was dedicated in November 1969 by Rev'd Eric Constable.



MU St. Marks' Sunshine

Mrs Florence Burnett, of St. Mark's organised this Mothers' Union branch in August 1948,
In 2008 the branch celebrated 60 years in service.

Vida Caddick (President) tells how the members' lives have been greatly enriched
through membership in the Mothers' Union over the years.

The Banner

Morna Sturrock was commissioned to make this
beautiful banner c.1994 when the district was
suffering from the closing of the
H. V. McKay Farm Machinery Business.
The business that made Sunshine!

This influenced us to include the Rising Sun.
The heads of wheat represent bread, the Body of Christ.
The plumes flowing from the centre of the cross
represent the Blood and the Holy Spirit flowing out to us.

The Revd. Fred Dearnaley blessed the banner
at the meeting on 22nd March 1995.
Three days later it was carried at the Lady Day Service
in the Cathedral.

* * * * *



MU St. Alban's West Coburg

This branch was formed in 1930, and it was then known as West Moreland. This was a branch of
St. Augustine's Moreland in the Brunswick Deanery, and later incorporated into Coburg/ Preston Deanery.

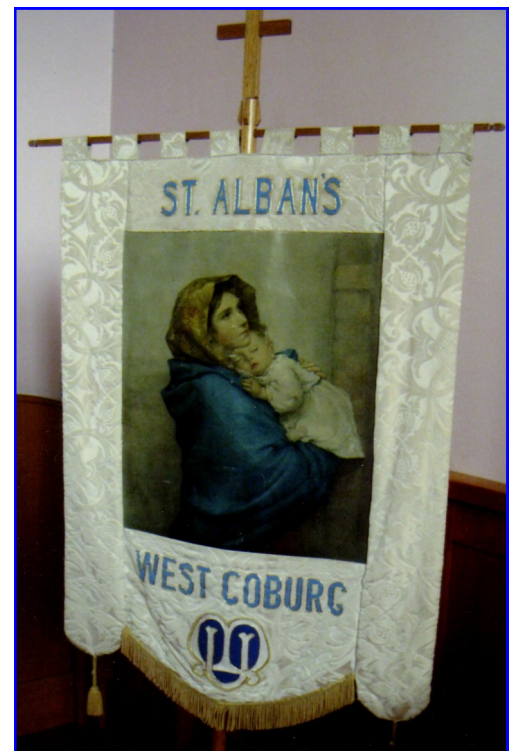
For many years the branch was guided by clergy wives.

In 1959, by reaching out
to many mothers of young children in the parish,
Mrs Morton together with Mrs M. Batty formed a Young Members
Department of Mother's Union, meeting in the afternoon.
Many members then decided to join this afternoon group.

A valued correspondence link with the
Mother's Union branch in Shaftesbury, Dorset U.K.
has been maintained for more than 50 years.

The Banner

The banner is always on display in the Church since c. 1960.
It was made by Mr Ray Evendon.



MU St. John the Baptist Lilydale

The Mothers' Union branch at St. John's was started in November 1982.



The Banner

The banner was hand made by members of St John's Mothers' Union under the guidance of Jeanne James.

It was the "Year of the Family." So the family group symbol was used; Father, Mother, Older Child and Younger Child.

The **father** is at the rear, like a back stop in partnership with the **mother**. They are "The Body of the Family"

The **older child** extends slightly beyond the boundary, and is depicted as beginning to move out from the family to the outer world, but is still supported by the strength of the family.



The **younger child** is leaning back resting in the family security.

They are all intertwined because of the influence that they have on each other. There are no racial features because we are all one in Christ in the family of God.

The oval enclosing the group is blue representing the Mothers' Union.

The banner was completed in 1993 and dedicated by the vicar Rev'd Heather Marten.

It was carried for the first time in the Lady Day procession in 1994.

* * * * *



MU St. Agnes' Glenhuntly

The Branch was formed in 1909 by Mrs W. E Morris, Diocesan Secretary, with fourteen ladies. The leader was Mrs Phillips and the secretary was Mrs Davis. This MU branch celebrated 100 years in September 2009.



The Banner

In 1979, the President, Betty Jolly, suggested that St. Agnes Mothers' Union should have their own banner. The idea was promoted, and after much research the design was accepted.

The banner was then made by our gifted and devoted Sacristan, Mr Ross Menhennitt.



MU St. Nicholas' Mordialloc

After several preliminary planning meetings, the Branch conducted the first official meeting on 20th March 1985.

It was formed with Patricia Beattie as the first President.

The Banner

During the time that the Vicar's wife, Mrs Patricia Beattie was President, and some time prior to 1992, this banner was designed.

Members of the group contributed, and eight members took part in stitching the panels. It was then assembled by Marilyn Wilson.

The completed banner was dedicated on 3rd May 1992 by Rev'd Ron Beattie at the National Marriage and Family Day service.



St. Silas' North Balwyn

St. Silas's Mothers' Union has two banners. The first was found to be unsuitable for transport to various functions, so a decision was made to leave it in the Church, and look for an opportunity to have a really portable one made.

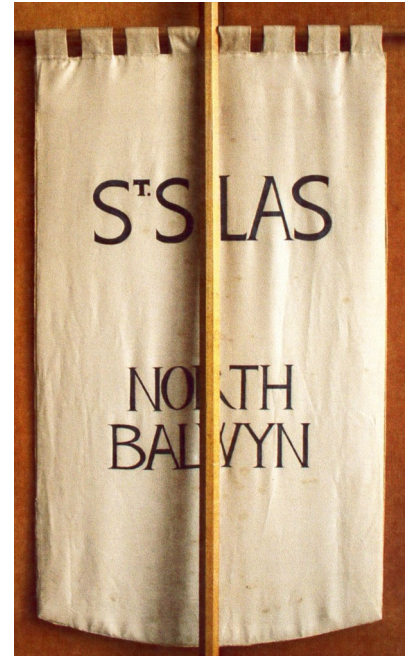
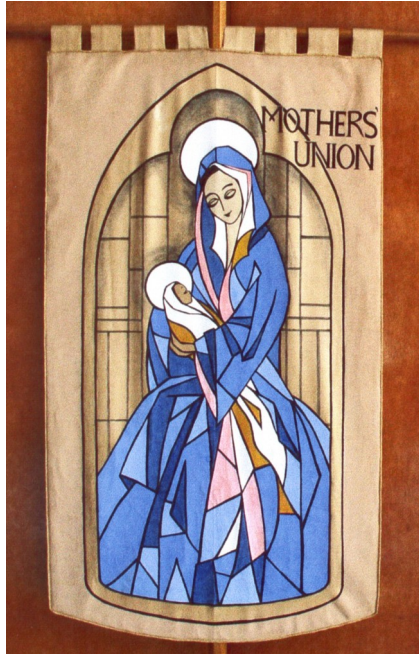
Banner No 1

The dedication of the first banner was at a Deanery Meeting in the new St. Silas's Church on 24th June 1963.

It was painted by Margaret Harris, a sister to the loved Vice President, Dorothy Trollope.

Margaret, an experienced commercial artist in the textile industry, used acrylic paint to create the Madonna and Child in colours to match the windows in our new Church

Many checks regarding the durability of the medium were made when the banner was in its preliminary stages, even obtaining affirmative advice from renowned artist Len Annois.



But when it was transported to be displayed in public, cracks began to form in the art work.

So this banner is permanently adorning the walls of St. Silas and is evidence of the existence of Mothers' Union in the Parish.

Banner No 2

The dedication of the second banner took place on the usual meeting day MU Service in November 1980.

This beautiful banner was designed and stitched by a very experienced and well known embroiderer Mrs Wark.

The colourings and shape of the church windows were used in the design. The name, St. Silas and the MU Emblem, were made of gold leather.

The banner was given to the branch by President Val Sharkey in memory of her loved husband, Brian.

It is proudly carried in all MU Banner Parades.



* * * * *

MU St. Paul's Whittington

Newcomb/Whittington branch in the Geelong Deanery was formed as a Caritas group in 1983.

In 1991 when a Mothers' Union member moved to the area, it became a

Mothers' Union branch, and three new members joined.

Later, due to wanning interest, and unable to find office bearers, the group became a "Bible Study Group."

At that time two members transferred to the Leopold branch of MU.

The Banner

In 1992 the new Vicar came and encouraged the MU Group to have a Banner made.

The books recording the details of this Branch are on longer available, so this information has been gathered from past members.

We are indebted to Muriel Grinter for supplying this information.

She has been a member of the Leopold MU since 1976, but has always worshiped at St. Paul's Wittington.

The following entry is from St. Mark's Leopold.

* * * * *

MU St Mark's Leopold

This Branch Of Mothers' Union was formed in November 1975.

The Banner

In 1976, soon after the branch was formed, Mrs Isla Adamson designed and made this banner.

She was assisted by Mrs Myrtle Filbay and Mrs Bev Paech.

The members chose red for the background so it would stand out in the church and highlight the Mothers' Union symbols to be used.

The banner has the Mothers' Union Coat of Arms embroidered on it.

The background is blue, signifying the United Kingdom Society;

The Mother and Child symbol was the original

Mothers' Union badge;

the portcullises on either side represent the Arms of the City of Westminster in which Mary Sumner House is situated, the blue wavy lines indicate the Overseas work and the chevrons at the base of the shield are from the arms of the Sumner family.

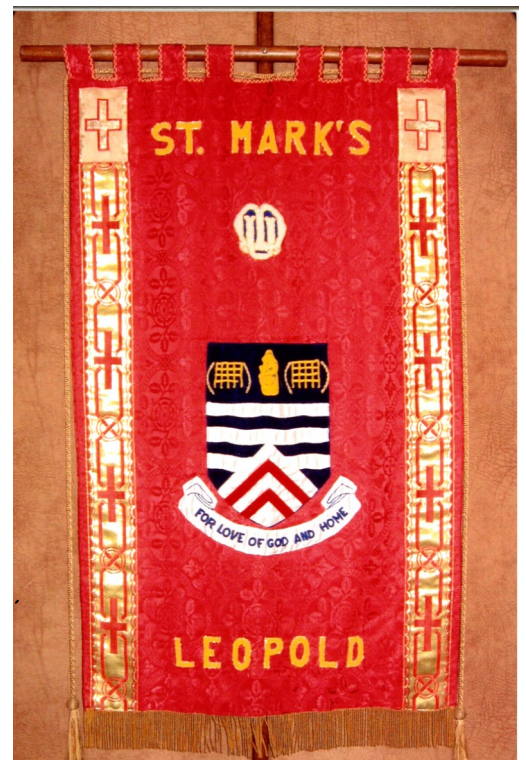
The banner was first carried at the Cathedral Lady Day Service in March 1976.

The three ladies who were responsible for making it were the banner bearers.

Since then it has been carried in many Lady Day Services and at special Geelong Services where there have been banner processions.



Mary Sumner Rose



MU St. Paul's Boronia

This branch began in 1953 when it was part of the Ferntree Gully parish.

In 1962 it separated from Ferntree Gully and became the Parish of St Paul's Boronia and St Mary's The Basin.

After the separation the branch became known as St. Paul's Boronia Mothers' Union.

The branch is linked and corresponds with branches in Noa Island and Livingstone in Zambia South Africa.



The Banners

The first banner was made by a member in 1980.

In 2008 a new MU Banner was completed.

It was designed by the members, and made by member Annette Hill.

The new banner was dedicated in 2009.

A Mothers' Union float was displayed in the 1987 Boronia Rotary Christmas Parade. when

"Peace Prayer Cards" were distributed.



* * * * *

MU St Augustine's Mont Albert North

This Branch was in existence prior to World War II and, during the war many food parcels were sent to St. Mary, Redcliffe in England. This formed a strong relationship. In appreciation, St. Mary's Mothers' Union Redcliffe sent materials for an MU banner to be made at St Augustine's.

The Banner

The materials were sent out from St. Mary's, including the centre piece of the Virgin Mary.

Mrs Vi Collins made the first banner from these materials.

Since then this banner has been re-made but the centre piece is the original one from England.



MU St. Faith's Burwood

The inaugural meeting of St. Faith's Mothers' Union was August 1950, and after some years, c. 1957 the decision to acquire a banner was taken.

The Banner

Mrs Shirley Yeatman and Mrs Lilian Tevlin commissioned the Sisters of the Holy Name at Cheltenham to design and embroider the banner.
The cost was £50 and this was raised through street stalls.



The banner was blessed at the Evening Service on 7th April 1958.

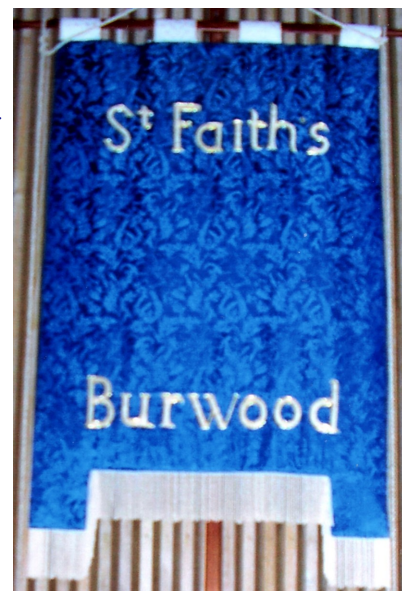
By 1995, the banner needed some repair.

The sisters at Cheltenham were consulted and Sister Maree began its restoration.

The cost was \$800 which was raised through a luncheon and sale of goods to the congregation.

The two members who made the original decision to acquire the banner were in attendance at a Service of Rededication in April 1997.

* * * * *



MU St. Michael's and All Angel's Beaumaris

St. Michael's branch began as a Young Wives Group in 1954.

A year after the temporary church was erected. The new church was completed in 1966.

There was no resident priest, so the Vicar from Cheltenham conducted services.

His wife, Mrs. Yvonne Dann was our first President.

When the Rev'd Vern Cohen came to Cheltenham, the group became Mothers' Union and Mrs Joan Cohen was President and Enrolling Member.



The Banner

This Banner was modified from a GFS banner.

Some time in the early 1980's

Two members, Mrs. Win Wilson and Mrs Joy Tate, worked on the disused GFS banner.

Also giving the back an 'iron-on' name.



MU St. Oswald's Glen Iris

The branch was formed in 1931, and in 2009, celebrated its 78th year as a branch. It started as two groups, one meeting in the day time and the other in the evening.

On the death of one of our stalwart members, and also at the time when our Vicar and his wife left, the two groups combined to become an evening MU group.

This continued until 2006 when meetings again returned to the daytime.

The Banner

This banner was made by Mrs. Vi Collins of Surrey Hills to replace the first banner which was unfortunately destroyed.

The design was drawn by a member, following the design of the statue of 'Our Lady of Walsingham, England.

The design on the back shows that it was made in the year of the Centenary of mothers' Union in Australia. The dedication was in 1992.

Vi kindly donated her work and the branch covered the cost of materials.



* * * * *

MU St. Andrew's Corio - Norlane

St Andrew's Parish was formed in 1998 from; The Nativity Church Corio, St Michael and All Angels Norlane and St. Silas' North Geelong. St Michael's had an MU Branch but did not own a banner.

The Banner

The banner was made by Mrs Sandra Trewartha and Mrs Betty McGrath.

The poles were made by Mr David Gibbons, the husband of a member.

The symbols on the banner show: The British Isles, Two Links of a chain with the word 'Canada', Australia and The MU Logo.

(The original link branch was St. Paul's Hampton, Canada)

In the centre is a copy of St. Andrew's foundation stone. The fishing boat is a reminder that St. Andrew was a fisherman.



MU Holy Trinity Ringwood East

This Branch was in existence well before Holy Trinity Ringwood East amalgamated with Christ Church Heathmont and the Parish of Djerrnong was formed.
In January 2000 the MU Ladies of the Heathmont Branch, joined with St Paul's Ringwood.

The Banner

In 1979 a group of MU ladies went to a Lady Day service and saw all the banners in the Cathedral.

From this, the branch decided to raise funds for a Mothers' Union Banner of their own.

Mr. Harry Spencer offered to finance the project.
The Banner was made by Mr. Ray Evenden and it was dedicated at the 10 am service on 21st October 1979.

Rev'd Ray Kenny conducted the service and the address was given by the Diocesan Mothers' Union President, Mrs Nancy Black.
Mrs. June Capon was the President.

The banner was always in Holy Trinity Ringwood East, but since the amalgamation it is displayed in Christ Church Heathmont, and it is paraded in the Cathedral on Lady Day.

* * * * *



MU St. David's Moorabbin

St. David's Mothers' Union started in September 1986.

At a meeting of the women of the parish, 5 ladies attended plus there were 6 apologies.
It is anticipated that five of the original members will be eligible for 25 year certificates c. 2011.

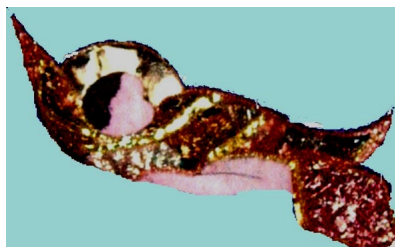
The Banner

Discussions for a design of a banner began in 1992.

It was decided to approach 17 year old Troy Prince, a student studying Graphic Design, to submit some designs.

Troy's mother was an MU member and his father a vestryman.

Troy came up with several designs and it was decided to accept this one "The Baby in the Mother's Hand."



Sister Marie, from the Community of the Holy Name, embroidered the banner in April 1993.

* * * * *



MU St. Augustine's Mentone

St. Augustine's MU was started by the Vicar's wife, Mrs. Morton, in 1967 and before that, there were combined meetings with St. Aidan's Church Parkdale (*refer to page 6*) Some long term members remember that St Augustine's had an earlier branch but all files were lost in a fire.

The Banner

The banner was donated and made by Mrs. Gwen Orr in 1975. It was dedicated to the memory of her mother, Mrs Maybury. The appliqué and embroidery on the front are in blue velvet, and the back panel was made from a piece of Mrs. Nancy Todd's wedding dress.

Gwen was a Past President of the Branch and a great worker for the Mothers' Union.

She rejuvenated the Banner not long before she passed away in January 1998.



MU St. John the Divine Croydon.

This branch of the Mothers' Union was opened at St. John the Divine in April 1920. Mrs Lilly (President) and Mrs Costor (Foundation member and Treasurer), both served for around 28 years until 1948.

The Banner

This banner is thought to be at least the fourth over the time of the branch.

It was designed and made by Mary Crawford in 2005, from fabric given to her during her visit to the U.K.

The back of the banner is of blue satin and it is quite unadorned.

*In April 2000 the branch hosted the
MU Service for the Australian Council.
This was led by the Australian President: Jan Livingstone.*

* * * * *



MU St. John's West Brunswick

The Branch started in April 1930.

The Vicar was the Rev'd Sinclair, and a meeting of interested mothers was held in the kindergarten rooms at St. John's. Eighteen ladies attended and the speaker, Mrs Miller, expanded on the objects of the Mothers' Union and it was decided to form a new branch. With Mrs Sinclair as President, membership soon increased.

The Banner

In June 1945 there were moves to obtain the first banner, and by April of 1946 it was completed at a cost of £3/0/8½. Cannon Robinson dedicated the banner on 23rd June 1946.

As the 50th anniversary approached, it was decided to replace the old banner with a new one.

This one was dedicated on 6th March 1980.

But, sadly, after only 10 years, a fire in March 1990 destroyed a large section of the church and also the MU Banner.

When this banner was destroyed, Glenda Owen designed and made a new banner in April 2000.



MU St. Paul's Ringwood

The Banner

Glenda Owen refurbished this banner in May 1983.

New fabric was used and the original Madonna panel was retained.

The lettering and the MU logo were embroidered.



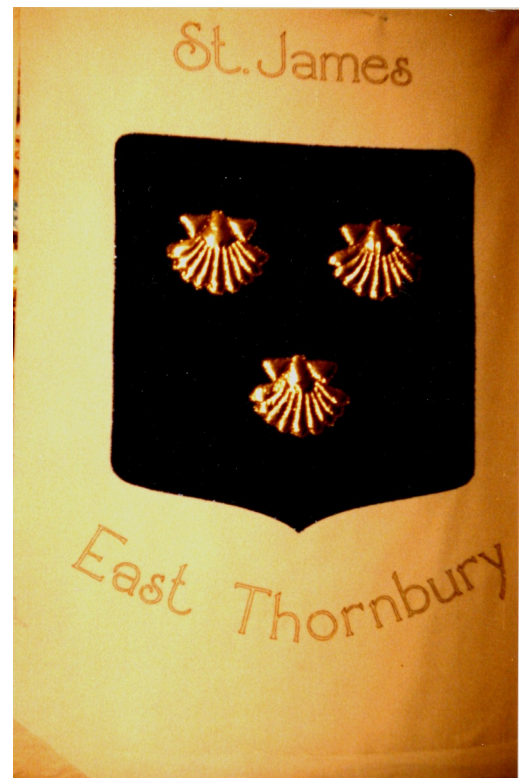
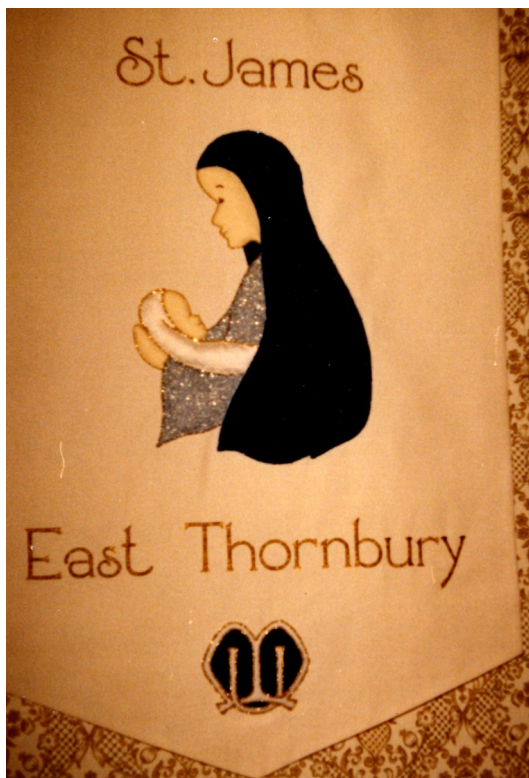
MU St. Philip's Avondale Heights

Glenda Owen made this MU banner for St. Philip's but, when the Church was closed and sold in the late 1900's, the banner was carefully stored. It is hoped that the banner is now in the new Church at Brimbank.



MU St. James' East Thornbury

Glenda Owen made this banner for St. James in September 1985.



MU St. Peter's Mornington.

In July 1956, the vicar, the Rev'd George Hall, called a meeting to form a branch of the Mothers' Union. The attendance was 20 women, and it was decided to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2.15 pm.

The first admission service was held on 7th November the same year.

The branch went into recess for a few months in 1976 but reopened in that year.

A Young Wives Group and a Caritas group were nurtured for periods from 1960 and 1991 respectively.

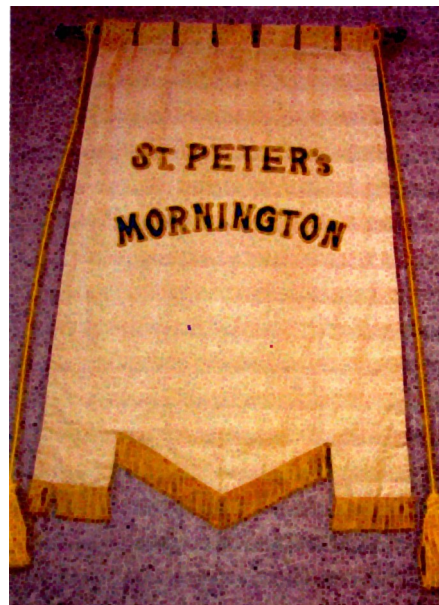
The Banner

The banner was made by Miss Jackson c/o Rev'd David Guen, Carrum Downs. She finished it on her 81st birthday, 27th February 1964.

The vicar, the Rev'd Albert Bellamy, dedicated the banner, and the guest speaker, Mrs Collins, spoke on the "Meaning of the Mothers' Union Coat of Arms"

"For Love of God and Home"

* * * * *



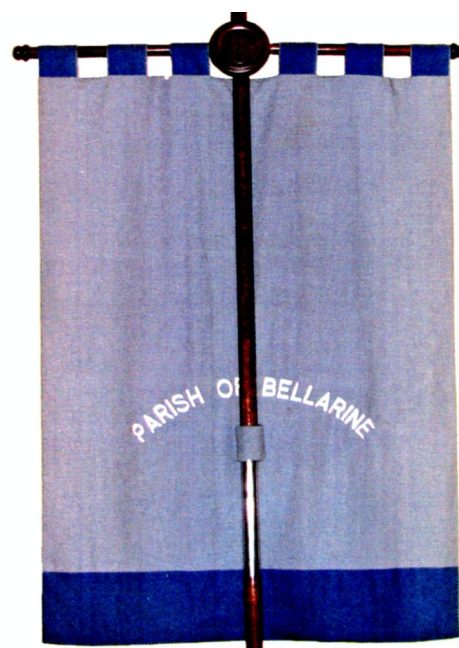
MU St. James Drysdale

The Parish of Bellarine

The Banner

The banner was designed and made by Gaynor Hannah in 1998.

Linen/ cotton blend fabric was used. It was embroidered with a design depicting the Bellarine Peninsula and the three churches in the parish.
John Brumley made the pole and stand.



MU St Aidan's Noble Park

The branch began with an inaugural meeting in October 1961.

The Vicar was Rev'd Sean Marshall-Wood, and the first President was Mrs. Marshall-Wood.

The Mothers' Union started with 14 ladies, and within 12 months it increased to 26 members.

After 25 years, in 1986, an MU roll, listing Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Life Vice Presidents, was presented to Rev'd Radford. The roll was blessed and dedicated in loving memory of two members; Mrs Barratt, 12 years Treasurer and Mrs Dale.



The Banner

In 1967, the Mothers' Union and the Young Wives Group shared the cost of the Mothers' Union banner.

The Rev'd Edgar Wood made the banner during the time of his ministry at Noble Park.

The Banner has the lovely painting of the Madonna 'Mary and Child' Jesus Christ.

During 2005 the branch went into recess. It reformed in 2006 with Dorothy Booth as president.



MU Church of Emmanuel Oakleigh

The Mothers' Union was established at Emmanuel in 1954. A Young Members' group also started in 1955. These women were enrolled in 1962. In the late 1970's the groups combined as one.

The Banner

The banner was made in the late 1970's and contains the logo from the Centenary of the founding of the Mothers' Union.

Venues have shifted from Emmanuel to St. Gabriel's and back to Emmanuel in accordance with other changes in the Parish.



Holy Trinity Kensington Mothers' Union

In the early 1980s Holy Trinity Kensington joined with the congregations of the McCracken St. Methodist and the Uniting Church in Australia.
The Revd Jane Robertson was Priest in Charge of an Anglican/Uniting congregation under a local covenant known as Christ Church Kensington.

The Banner

It is not known when the Mothers' Union branch or the banner came into existence.

The oldest surviving former Mothers' Union member is Mrs Win Chellew, who, many years ago was given a certificate for 28 years of Kensington MU membership.

She came to the area to live during WW2 and recalls that the banner was already in use.

The banner has recently been conserved by a member of the congregation.



MU St. John's Footscray

The Mothers' Union at St. John's began c. 1924, and in August 2009 celebrated 85 years.
The branch did not go into recess during the second world war.

The Two Banners

The original banner was made and dedicated on December 10th 1944.

It is now encased due to deterioration and kept in the Nave of the Church.

The current banner (shown) was commissioned, designed and made by Mr. Olding of Hampton in 1976.

Verna Quayle, who has been a member for 48 years and President/Secretary for the past 30 years, has provided this information on behalf of this ageing group of 9 active members.



MU Christ Church South Yarra

This branch probably closed in the early 1980s.

Audrey Austin, still an MU member but now of the Diocesan Members group, currently meeting at the Cathedral bi-monthly, has provided the following:

Audrey reminds members that Mary Sumner founded the Mothers' Union in 1876.

Nineteen years later, in 1895, the first branch in Melbourne was opened at Holy Trinity, Balaclava. (See page 43)

Three years later, in 1898 a branch was opened at Christ Church with 27 members meeting quarterly. Mrs F Poolman was secretary.

By 1901 there were 124 MU members at Christ Church, being the largest branch in the Diocese.

When the membership dropped to 8, in 1944, the branch went into recess until 1956, when Mrs S. Ball reformed the Group.

In 1978 about 18 Christ Church Members celebrated a very happy 80th birthday.

Many past members attended as well as Mrs. Bingham, the one time headmistress of the Grammar School.

* * * * *



MU St. Stephen's Mount Waverley

The Branch began some time before April 1978, when, the members viewing the many banners in procession at St. Paul's Cathedral Lady Day service decided that a banner should be made for the Parish.

The Vicar's wife, Mrs Diane Edwards, encouraged the concept within the group.

The Banner

The banner was designed and embroidered by Mrs Newell with the assistance of Mrs Jean Fletcher and Mrs Beryl Parkhill.

The design of the banner incorporates the Madonna and Child.

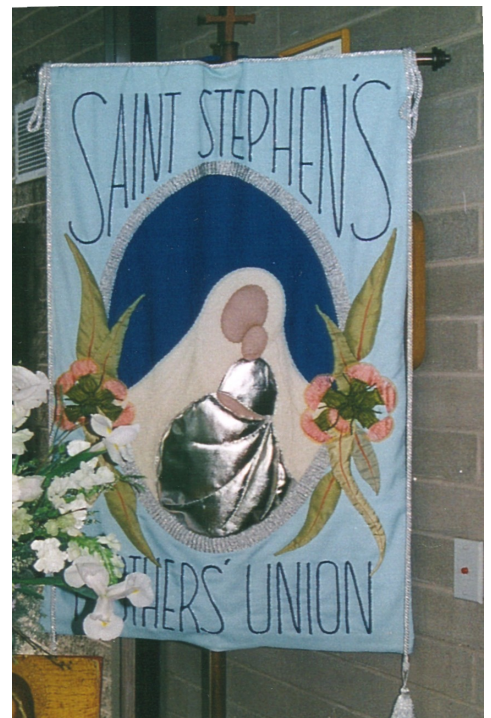
It is also personalised for the Parish by the inclusion of floral motifs; foliage, blossom and gumnuts of the flowering eucalypt that grows beside the Church Peace Court. These trees delight the congregation with their beauty year by year.

On the back panel of the banner, each branch member embroidered her initials, jointly forming a decorative border.

Father St. John Edwards dedicated the banner on Sunday 15th March 1981, at a very joyful service.

It was attended by Mothers' Union dignitaries and our local congregation.

* * * * *



MU St. Barnabas' Glen Waverley

The Parish was formed in 1995 when St Paul's Glen Waverley and St James' Syndal amalgamated.
At this time a combined Mothers' Union branch was formed.

As of 2009, a number of members can date their association back to the late 60s and early 70s.
A deanery President of Waverley Knox (1989-91) is among them.



The Banner

The banner was made by
Ros Cambridge and
Nancye Crawford
in 2002.



MU St. James' Syndal

St. James amalgamated with St. Andrew's Glen Waverley and St. Paul's Glen Waverley,
to form St. Barnabas Glen Waverley in 1995.



The Banner

The banner was made
by the
Anglican Sisters
of the
Holy Name,
Cheltenham.



MU St. Paul's Glen Waverley

St Paul's Branch commenced in 1961, and amalgamated with St. James' Syndal and St. Andrew's Glen Waverley, to form St. Barnabas Glen Waverley.

The inaugural meeting of 20 ladies was held in August 1961.

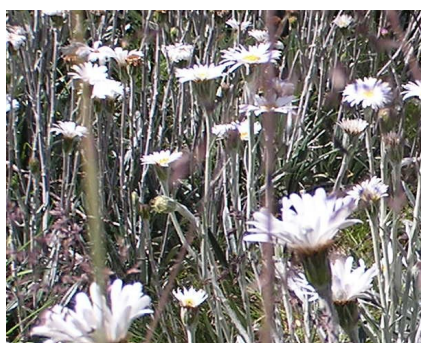
The members were asked to pay sixpence each for tea and biscuits.

By 1962 there were thirty two members and the subs. were five shillings.

The Banner

Nancy Hall designed and made the banner in 1986.

The Holy family is shown on the front and the swords of St. Paul are on the back.



MU Caritas St. Andrew's Glen Waverley

The St. Andrew's group began as a Young Member's Department early in 1964, lead by Hazel Rowe. At the time of the 21st birthday celebrations, the group was a Caritas Branch and lead by Wendy Surtees.

The group continued as such until the amalgamation of the Parish in 1995, to become St Barnabas.

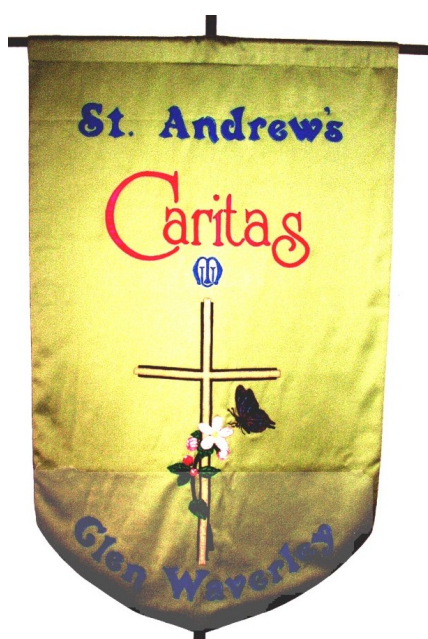
At this time a combined Mothers' Union Branch was formed.

The Banner

The background is eucalyptus green for new life,
the butterfly, for life resurrected from 'death' to glorious life.

The cross is outlined in wood brown, the name and MU logo in blue, the Caritas logo is in deep pink. The apple blossom is a symbol of floral gifts of friendship and an historical link with the original apple orchards of the district.

The reverse side has a fine silhouette line of a church curving out to a group of figures holding hands symbolising "Outreach" plus the words: "Friendship in action".



MU St. Christopher's East Bentleigh

St. Christopher's Mothers' Union began in 1956.

Some years later, when MU St. John's Bentleigh was unable to continue, a number of members joined this branch. (See Page 16)



The Banner

At the Eucharist prior to the annual meeting in November 2006, this new banner was proudly displayed and presented to St. Christopher's MU, and it was enthusiastically received.

The motif on the banner depicts the Legendary Saint, the bearer of the Christ Child, and the Patron Saint of pilgrims and travellers.

The Church and the Branch are named after St. Christopher, thus reflecting, not only the values of the MU Movement, but of the branch as a whole; that we "bear each others burdens"



MU All Souls Sandringham

Mr Maurice Evans was given the challenge to design a Mothers' Union banner depicting the baptismal theme - "Out of Darkness into Light"



The Banner

Mr Evans was asked to depict a family looking from darkness into the bright rays of the cross.

The attitude of the figures to convey the magnetism of the holy cross which radiate; light, warmth, love, hope and consolation.

The back of the banner shows the All Souls logo, a shield with four doves, and inscribed; **All Souls Sandringham.**

Mrs Jill Presser lovingly brought Mr. Evans' design to life,

with her gifts of creative needlework and the blending of colour.



The appliqué is a mosaic of linen, raw silk, cotton, synthetic material and embroidery. The MU members contributed to the cost of materials, and they are thrilled with this beautiful banner.

* * * * *

MU St. Barnabas Balwyn

A Mothers' Union branch was started at St. Barnabas in 1903 with 25 members.

St. Paul's Canterbury, known as a daughter church of St Barnabas, had a Mothers' Union branch in 1906. Meetings may have been held alternatively for a time.

By 1906, each church had its own Mothers' Union Branch.

The Banner

The only details of the origin of this banner is that Mrs. May Rogers did the embroidery.

When Mrs Stephens left the district in 1940, she presented this banner to the branch as an offering of thanks for her happy association with St Barnabas Mothers' Union..

(Refer to Caritas St. Paul's Canterbury, this page.)



MU Caritas St. Paul's Canterbury

A Mothers' Union branch existed at St. Paul's from about 1906 or before.

A Fellowship of Marriage was started at St. Paul's on 16th July 1937.

In 2009, the group was solely Caritas with 31 members.

The Banner

Fundraising for an MU banner took place as early as 1936 with an initial donation of £2/10/0.

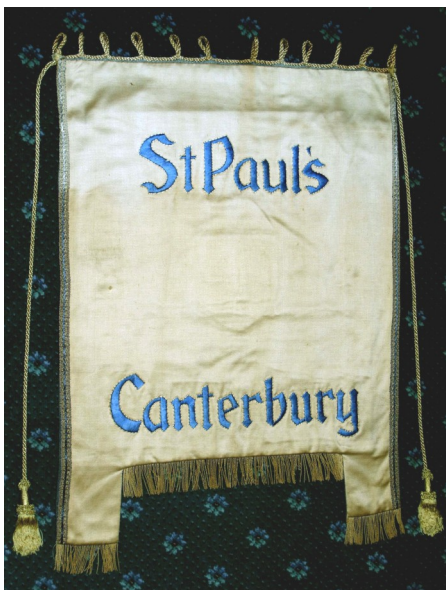
In 1946, a banner was purchased for the sum of £13/13/0.

The Vicar, Rev'd A. F. Falconer dedicated the banner on 18th August 1946.

Visitors from four branches throughout the Deanery and also the Diocesan Secretary, Mrs Newall, attended the service.

Some 600 hundred women were in attendance when the banner was first carried in the Lady Day service at the Cathedral.

Funds were needed for the Diocesan banner at this time and St. Paul's Canterbury Mothers' Union decided to contribute to the cost.



MU St. Mark's West Reservoir

St. Mark's Mothers' Union operated from 1943 to 2005.

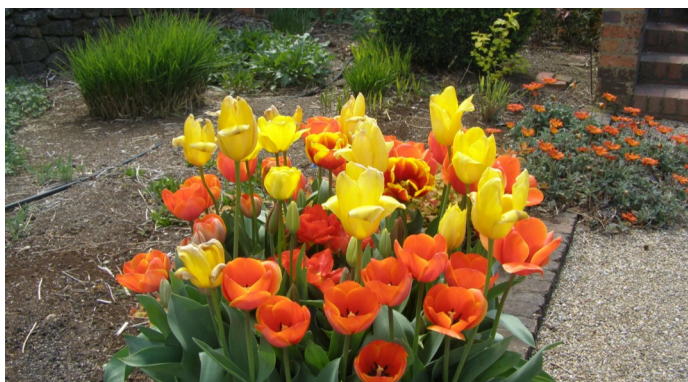
This branch then combined with

St. Mary's East Preston and All Saints Preston to become Darebin MU.

The Banner

Some time between 1955 and 1960
this banner was conceived.

The embroiderer, Grace Smout,
is pictured here
supporting her handiwork.



MU St. Mary's East Preston

This banner was with St. Mary's when they
combined with All Saints.



MU St. Georges' Malvern

No history is known of **this banner**.



MU Christ Church Ormond

A Mothers' Union group began in 1937, and continued as a strong active group until, due to the shortage of office bearers in 2003, it closed and the members joined with the MU at St Agnes Glenhuntly.

The evening branch was started by the Vicar's wife, Mrs Dawn Harvey in 1961/62.

It began as a Young Wives group and has continued strongly.

The First Banner

This banner was made about 1948 from the cloth of the vestments that the Rev'd Cultha had used when he was Vicar of Christ Church from 1925 to 1933.

On his death, Mrs Cultha, who still attended Ormond Mothers' Union, gave the vestment and the stole to be used to make the banner.

The Second Banner

At about the time of the Centenary Celebrations of the first Mothers' Union coming to Melbourne, the evening group of MU at Ormond decided to mark the occasion by having a new banner.

This was only an idea for a number of years until a member, Yvonne Brannon, a keen patch worker, offered to make the banner.

Yvonne chose a design by Marcia Hohn called "God's Eye" and she set about her task.

The banner was completed in 2009 and dedicated in 2010.

* * * * *



The Sanctuary Holy Trinity Balaclava

The Mothers' Union first came to Melbourne in 1892, to this parish of Balaclava.

The MU banner is seen in this photo which was taken some time later.

In the building there is a brass plaque commemorating the Centenary of this important occasion.

The Banner

While this banner is not the original one, it would have been in use for many years.

The branch has gone into recess and the banner is stored.



MU Caritas St. Edward's Blackburn South

The Parish of St. Edward's was established in 1961 and the Mothers' Union group commenced in November of the same year with Nancy Wade as the first leader. In 2009 the group was led by Trish Phyland.

The Banners

There are two banners. Both were made by May Berry and Beth Gibbs, supported by the Vicar, Rev'd Michael Goodluck. The larger one stands in the church, and its design was followed for the front panel of the smaller banner when it was made about 2004.

The gold cross stands for the victory of the cross through Christ, and it is reflected in the faces of the women. The circle of light in which the scene is set represents the encircling light of Christ.

The three women - one in prayer, one bent over in service and one reaching up in worship, are symbolic and



represent the work and aims of Mothers' Union and Caritas.

The reverse of the banner features the name of the parish with the crown of St. Edward the Confessor King.

This logo can be seen on various items around the church, and it is much revered.

* * * * *



MU St Paul's Geelong

The first Branch of Mothers' Union at St. Paul's disbanded c. 1966.

About 40 years later, in 2006, the Branch restarted with a membership of 17, mostly new to MU. The first branch did not have a banner, so the members of the new branch were keen to have one to be carried at special MU functions and to be kept on display in the Church.



The Banner

Much discussion was held and members shared their ideas. Eventually a beautiful banner was made by Mrs Maureen Smith. (Pictured here.)

It was paid for by donations from members and other parishioners.

The Banner, is a beautiful work of art and it is proudly carried in MU processions.



MU & Caritas St. Matthew's Cheltenham

The present Cheltenham branch of MU was formed again, in 1979 after having been in recess.
Most of the records of the original branch, and sadly the original banner,
were lost or destroyed.

The Banner

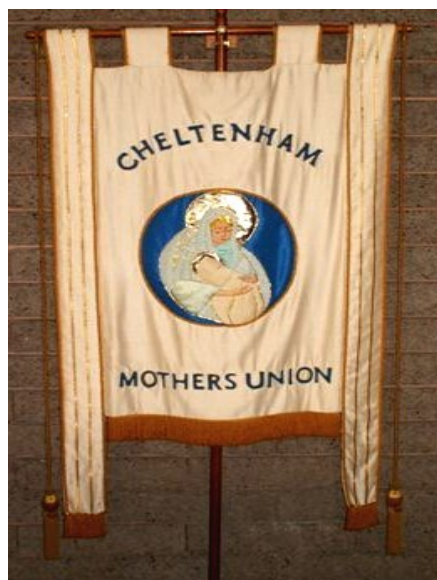
In 1981 a donation was received to be put towards the cost of a new banner.
A memorial to Mrs Ruby Mary Brown, who was a founding member.

Then, after many fund raising events,
Mr Rex Patrick, a parishioner of
St. Matthew's, a talented artist and
the architect of the new church,
designed the centrepiece,
the Mother and Child.

The Embroiderers Guild
made the banner and it was dedicated
on the 20th December 1981.

It was carried for the first time at
St Paul's Cathedral on Lady Day,
26th March 1982 and was proudly
carried each year until 2007.

* * * *



The Caritas Group at Cheltenham

The history of the Caritas group is not available except that it was originally known as the
Young Members' Department.

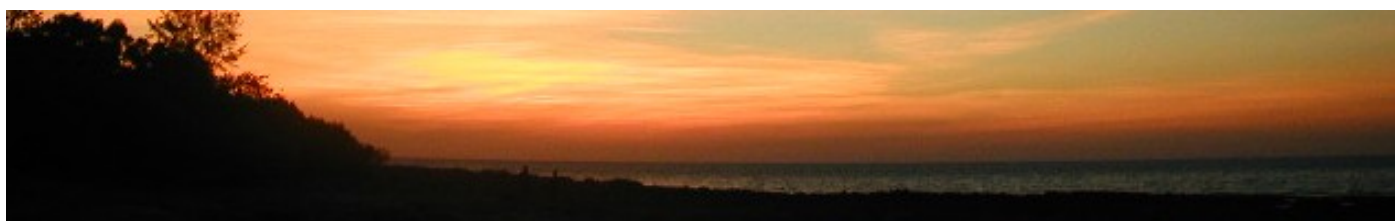
The Banner

Margaret Stansfield can clearly
remember carrying the original banner
several times at Lady Day.

That banner deteriorated,
and it was disposed of when this new
banner was purchased.

This is thought to have been soon after the
MU banner was dedicated in 1981.

* * * * *



MU St. Thomas' Moonee Ponds / Essendon

This Branch is in recess.



MU Holy Trinity Pascoe Vale

The history of this banner is not available.
It is carefully stored.



MU Christ Church Essendon

The Christ Church branch of Mothers' Union commenced in 1916 with Mrs Schweiger as the President and Mrs M Moody the Secretary.
The Vicar from 1916 - 1922 was the Rev'd Edward Schweiger.

In September 1937, Christ Church 'Fellowship of Marriage' was formed, to enable all married women, with or without children, to belong to a group.

The Mothers' Union was disbanded in June 1971.

The Banner

It is not known if the banner was hand made or purchased.

However, it was refurbished by Christine Robbins during the late 1990's / 2000's.

The Banner is presently mounted on the wall of the Chapel at Christ Church Essendon.



MU St. Peter's Brighton Beach

In 1938, Mrs Hancock, the wife of Archdeacon William Hancock, the retired Archdeacon of Melbourne, asked Mrs. Marie Breen if she would commence a branch of Mothers' Union at St. Peter's. With the blessing of the Vicar, the Rev'd Bernard Eva and Mrs. Eva, Marie arranged for this to be done. At a service conducted by Archdeacon Hancock and the Rev'd Eva, eighteen ladies were admitted as members of Mothers' Union.

When the 50th anniversary was celebrated in 1988, two original members, Dame Marie Breen, a former Senator for Victoria, and Mrs Monica Bocking, both still attending regular meetings, along with about 60 guests packed the church for a special service of commemoration.

The Banner

It is not recorded who made the banner, but it is thought that perhaps an embroidery group, prior to the Embroiderers Guild, may have been involved.

During the incumbency of the Rev'd Bernard Eva, permission to admit and erect a Mothers' Union Banner in St. Peter's Brighton Beach was granted, in 1946, by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr J.J. Booth.

* * * * *



MU Karen St Thomas' Werribee

The Karen people, refugees from Myanmar in Burma, were Mothers' Union members in their home country. The women took MU to the refugee camps, and then to their new countries including Australia. MU is a source of strength and spirituality as they adapt to new lifestyles.



The Banner

The **colour** of the background, blue, means to be faithful and trust in God and to trust in each other.

At the top of the banner, the **flag** is to tell all people that God is our Saviour.

The **cross** is the remembrance of God.
He loves us and gave His life for sinners.
The cross is handmade in the Karen tradition meaning unity.
All are in God's love and care.

The traditional **horn** sounds to collect the people for worship.
At other times it means to be all ready to go somewhere.

The **drum** is the heritage of ancient Karen people.
The sound of the drum means all ready to meet each other.
Every ceremony the drum is used.
The **frogs** on the drum mean peace.

The translation is "loose" but does incorporate the meaning of the banner.

MU St. Paul's Frankston

The branch was formed in 1953 when Rev'd Albert Church was Vicar.

Mrs Church formed the branch and was made the enrolling member.

Evening meetings were commenced in June 1962, and continued to at least 1974.

A Friendship Group was started in 1978 and an evening Mothers' Union commenced again in February 2001 under the leadership of the Deanery President, Mrs Barbara Wellock.

The Banner

At the October meeting in 1959, following moves to obtain a banner, Miss Jackson offered to make one, and after 6 months of highly skilled work, she presented the new banner to the Mothers' Union.

The cost of the banner was £4/10/0 for material.

The pole and bar, to mount the banner, was made at the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence for £1/10/0.

This was funded by a donation from the Rev'd D.E.W. Green, and the members contributed to make up the remainder.

The small picture in the centre of the banner was painted by Sheila Radburn and is enlarged here.



The banner was presented by Miss Jackson and Mrs Tayler and dedicated at a Family Service in July 1960. It now has pride of place behind the altar in St. Richard's Chapel, St Paul's Frankston.



MU Holy Trinity Doncaster

The branch began in 1937 with the Vicar's wife, Mrs Pay, calling together a group of wives to begin a ministry to women and their families. Mothers' Union members provided baptismal support and follow up.

Other ministries included: Sunday School teaching, Girls' Club leadership, and regular visits were made to hospitals and inner suburban high-rise flats.

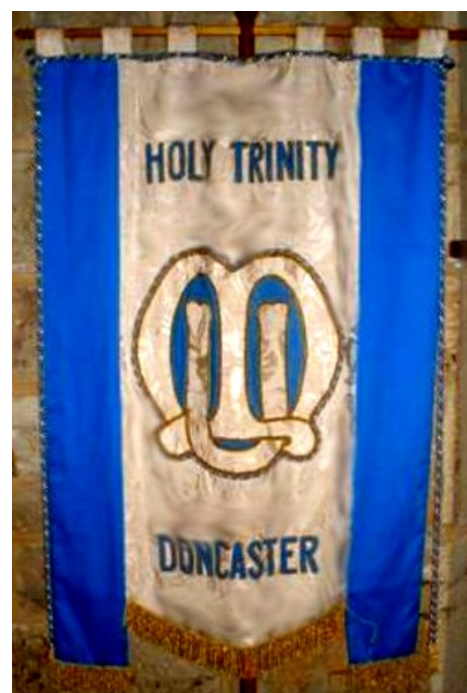
The Banner

In the 1960's

Mrs Florrie Jones, with the help of Mrs Fran Barlow, made this banner.

Note: In the TV show, *Neighbours*, the "famous wedding" of Scott and Charlene was filmed in this church.

This MU Banner was clearly displayed in the background.



Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.



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