

SHREWSBURY

From Westminster to Llandudno

ON Saturday 18 April 2009 members of St Wilfred's foundation and Diocesan President Pat O' Connor gathered before 8-30am in the church hall dressed in our Sunday best (after all, we are going to London).

We were ready and looking forward to the journey to London to attend the special mass of the retiring National President, Maureen McVann in Westminster Cathedral.

We waited, and waited, but the coach did not turn up! After frantic enquiries to the coach firm it appeared our driver had gone missing!!

We eventually all returned to our respective homes, clutching our packed lunches to eat in solitary state, very disappointed to miss this special event.

It turned out that our driver had been taken to hospital. The coach company returned our money and also gave us a 'freebie' when we enjoyed a day trip to Llandudno on Saturday 20th June, driven there by the now fully recovered coach driver. All's well that ends well!

*B Postlethwaite,
St Wilfred's Foundation, Northwich*



An unexpected trip to Llandudno

Cancer Research UK Race for Life

This is the second year that I have participated in the Cancer Research UK's Race for Life held at Alyn Waters Country Park, Wrexham in June.

Before the race we were encouraged to 'warm up' with several brisk exercises. There was such excitement and a carnival atmosphere with many in fancy dress or 'in the pink'.

1500 women and children ran or walked the

5km route in support of family or friends suffering with or having died of cancer related illnesses.

Their individual messages brought a lump to my throat and I was delighted to have raised £180 in sponsorship for this very worthwhile cause.

Study Day

On Saturday 26 September Shrewsbury Diocese held their Study Day which followed the National Theme.

The day commenced with midday mass said by Fr John Gaul, parish priest at St Joseph's Malpas which was followed by lunch.

Helen Young, speaker from NHS Direct, who has delivered several of these talks to other Diocese, then gave an interesting and informative talk on the dangers to children in the age of technology.

Diocesan Treasurer changes role

About 50 members attended the Diocesan AGM at All Saints Church, New Brighton following mass celebrated by Fr Michael Murray, our spiritual advisor.

During the meeting Mrs Joan McElvogue finished her five-year term of office as Diocesan Treasurer and transferred to her new role as Birkenhead Area Secretary. Mrs Pat O'Connor, Diocesan President presented Joan with a beautiful Lilly plant and Mass card in recognition of her time and work on balancing the books! Mary Latimer will undertake the Diocesan Treasurers role on a temporary basis from September until a replacement candidate can be found.

*Marian Hughes,
Diocesan Media Officer*

Forty Years Young

IN May 1969 a small group of women formed the new foundation of St Mary Magdalene's Helsby and held their first meeting October of that year.

A graphic account of the occasion appeared in the Shrewsbury Diocesan Year Book for 1970.

Following the closure of St Mary Magdalene's in 1979 the Foundation took the title of St Luke's, ready for the move to their new church in Frodsham, which opened 2 years later, in 1981.

By chance, the 40th Anniversary coincided with the Foundations Day of Recollection at the Poor Clare's Monastery at Hawarden and it was decided that there was no better place to celebrate. Our 2 founder members, Betty Williams and Pauline Furlong were asked to do the read-



Betty Williams, Pauline Furlong and Angela Donovan

ings at Mass and we were included in the Bidding Prayers.

A beautiful cake was ordered with a photograph of our banner as decoration and a bright ribbon round it. The cake was cut and together with a welcome cup of tea was enjoyed by the Sisters and all those who attended.

We went home with gratitude in our hearts for all The UCM had meant to us over the years.

*Betty Williams,
St Luke's Foundation, Frodsham*

Annual Mass

The Annual Mass was celebrated in the lovely church of St Anne at Rock Ferry, Birkenhead on Sunday 13th September 2009. Fr. Michael Murray, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor was assisted by Deacon John Boggan.

Over one hundred members from 16 foundations were present as well as invited guests from Wrexham, Salford and Liverpool Dioceses.

There was a warm welcome afterwards in the Parish Centre with hot food followed by some enjoyable entertainment from the members of the Sacred Heart Foundation, Moreton. It was a memorable afternoon.

*Joan Starr,
Stockport Area Secretary.*

Strawberry Fair

On 20 June St Joseph's Mothers, Malpas held

a Strawberry Tea at St Plegmund's Mass Centre in Tattenhall near Chester. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and the event was well supported. We served local freshly picked strawberries and cream plus cakes which were delicious and enjoyed by all. We also had stalls for sale of cakes, tombola, bric a brac, and cushions together with a raffle.

At the end of the day we were pleased to have raised over £400 for our chosen charity, Francis House Children's Hospice in Didsbury, Manchester.

*Rose Rich,
St Joseph's Foundation, Malpas*

New Banner for Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Joseph's Foundation, Seacombe.

Our UCM banner badly needed replacing. We approached two of our parishioners Paddy Torpey and Joan Hyslop who were already gaining a reputation for some beautiful needlework they had done in our parish. They generously agreed to make our new banner. Paddy's sister, Mary O'Dell painted the lovely faces of Mother and Child.

After many hours work spread over a few months our beautiful banner was finished, just days before we were going to Walsingham this year. It was a true labour of love!

Eileen Walsh, Secretary



A Labour of Love

SALFORD

Diocesan Pilgrimage 2009

A NUMBER of UCM members joined the Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Bishop Brain, accompanied by 25 priests and approximately 700 people of the Diocese. The daily programmes were very well organized and the Masses and ceremonies were joyful, devout and at all times extremely emotional. Mention must be made of the young people who travelled as helpers and were untiring in their care, concern and involvement with the sick pilgrims and it was a pleasure to see their enthusiasm and eagerness to help, despite very hot weather. They were a credit to their parents, the Diocese and their schools/colleges and we all acknowledge the exceptionally hard work and service they contributed to make this a very happy pilgrimage.

Our thanks to Bishop Brain for his leadership and inspiration and to Fr. Anthony Kaye and his team who work hard throughout the year to make the pilgrimage such a great success. The music directed by Fr. Simon Firth was superb and hearing 700 Salfordians singing Immaculate Mary was

an awesome experience. Roll on July 2010!

Maureen Hurst, President UCM

Diocesan Trip to Bridgnorth.

We had an early start from Radcliffe as we had to pick up two more foundations; we arrived at Much Wenlock for a coffee break a little later than scheduled as our driver got lost. We had coffee and biscuits in the pottery and then had time to look round the tiny town with its black and white houses, limestone buildings and priory. There is a museum, a guildhall complete with whipping post, a lovely church and lots of antique shops.

We had a beautiful carvery lunch at "Ye Olde Punch Bowl" and then went on to Bridgnorth where we had free time to go sightseeing or shopping. Bridgnorth, founded in the 11th century, has seven sets of ancient steps, old cart ways and a Victorian funicular railway. The River Severn runs along the lower part of the town and there were many little teashops. Everyone had a very enjoyable day and we would like to thank Shirley for organizing the day out.

*Marie Rushworth, Secretary
St Mary & St Philip Neri, Radcliffe,*



Members from St Mary and St Philip Neri Foundation In Bridgenorth

SOUTHWARK

Charity Walk

PREMA RAJ and Jenny Gyles from Holy Cross Foundation, Catford, took part in a charity walk and raised £470 for St Christopher's Hospice.

Photo shows them celebrating with other members. Well Done!



Prema and Jenny with members of Holy Cross Foundation, Catford

Madeline Wood-Ralph RIP

Madeline was a founder member and the first President of Sittingbourne Foundation which began in 1958. She received her 50 year certificate last year. Madeline always supported the UCM and joined in various functions. She was a member of the over 50's social club, a wonderful lady and will be missed by all her friends.

Theresa De Souza

WESTMINSTER

Northwood Foundation

NORTHWOOD Foundation was joined by Deputy Archdiocesan President, Mrs. Norrie Fox, for the celebration of their 40th anniversary. The evening began with Mass offered by Father Tim Hutton, at which members were joined by fellow parishioners, other UCM members and ladies from five other local churches. This was followed by a party in the parish hall, during which the grandchildren of founder-member Mrs Heather Keegan gave a lovely display of Irish dancing.



Foundation President, Margaret Linney, cutting the Celebration Cake

Evelyn Benjamin RIP

Evelyn was a very remarkable lady and had great devotion to Our Lady. She was one day short of her 98th birthday, a wonderful member of UCM and a wonderful and caring friend to all who knew her.

The meaning of the name Evelyn is translated as life/light, both of which she brought to many during her long life. May She Rest in Peace.