Spring has arrived and so has this edition of the CWL News. Lent has passed and we are now enjoying the Easter Octave. Let us all celebrate this New Dawn, giving thanks for the gift of eternal life given to us through the Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are reading this for the first time—then a very warm welcome to you. I expect you have been given this at our National Coffee Event. I hope you enjoyed meeting the Ladies and their Cakes and other goodies that they excel at. We look forward to welcoming you to your local meeting, where you will get to know a great group of Women eager to support one another and their Parish in service.

Branch Officers will have reported back to you on the Spring Conference and your Section will have also been sent the Minutes. Phew! What a busy weekend. One of the items sent to you would have been a booklet on the Life of our founder, Margaret Fletcher. It got me thinking about how far we have come as a group of women over the past 112 years. We started with the need for the Education of Women. During both World Wars, we answered the need to provide rest and support for Catholics in the Armed Forces. After the War, there was the need to help Refugees and then in the Sixties, we became aware of the need to help developing countries tackle hunger and so our founding of Family Fast Days started. Then there were the Summer Camps to keep us occupied. As a need arose, we have been there to respond and then to pass the ‘torch’ on to hands designed to take it forward. What great work we have been involved with.

In recent years we have been looking at our parishes and responding to their needs. Lots of work still to be done, especially in Welcoming all people to our parishes and looking out for the lonely and marginalised. Always responding to the need with Charity, Work and Loyalty.

Teresa, Angela and Brenda from Wymondham Section, East Anglia Branch, helping out a Lunch run by a collaboration of community groups for vulnerable and lonely people. A great example of What CWL does best!

Please note—all pictures and reports can also be found on CWL Facebook page and our Web site for you to enjoy.

Let friends know, too, that they can read all about us on social media platforms.
Yes, the snow had come but on 16th March members of Goodmayes Section, Brentwood Branch joined with ladies from the local Anglican, Baptist, Methodist churches to celebrate Women’s World Day of Prayer. The service had been deferred due to the Beast from the East weather but the Service was thoroughly enjoyed by all those taking part, particularly the rubbish throwers, and all those attending. Here are the 'Women', including CWL Trustee, Esther Brown, in her creole outfit!

The ‘Beast from the East’ delayed Women’s World Day of Prayer Services for many of us. But it was great that persistence prevailed and once the ‘beast’ had moved on, we got on with the business of celebrating this wonderful day of Christian Unity.

And so to Easter in our Parishes

Cottingham Section, Middlesbrough Branch, prepared, cooked and served a Passover meal for their Parish. It has proved a popular and moving annual event in the parish calendar.

Lowestoft Section, East Anglia Branch knitted the Last Supper. The knitters in the Section used a figure from a nativity pattern as a Template and another member made the ‘props’. It went on display during Holy week and proved so popular, that it is still there!

Welwyn Garden City Section, Westminster Branch Lenten Lunches: the ladies were very fortunate to have a lot of support from local parishioners and were able to raise approx. £600 to be shared between CAFOD, St Vincent de Paul Society and one of their local charities, the HCPT.

† Requiescant in Pacem †

2018

It is with great sadness that we have reported the death of Elphin Conroy. Elphin was a past National Treasurer and author of our ‘alternative’ CWL Prayer. May she rest in peace.

Please also remember in your prayers Stella Ann Adams and Merville Pidgeon, both past Officers from Portsmouth Branch who worked tirelessly for CWL.

We thank you, Lord, for their commitment to the League and their service to their Branches, Sections and National. Grant them Eternal rest in your abundant Love.
**CWL Relief and Refugee Special Committee**

The Relief and Refugee Committee have replied to the CWL Trustees’ requests following the Spring Conference. The Trustees are now confident that changes to be made will meet demanding data handling criteria as set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) coming into force on 25th May.

Sections are encouraged to continue to offer financial support to the League’s Relief & Refugee Special Committee.

Your donations to the Relief and Refugee Fund have supported many people in need since 1942, including those who are survivors of trafficking, torture and organised violence, helping them to engage in a healing process to assert their own human dignity and worth.

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**CWL Services Special Committee**

Interestingly, there have been two archive queries relating to the Great War and WW2 in the last couple of months—

Every September Norwich Cathedral takes part in the National 'Heritage Open Day' event which takes place in September. This year the theme for the event is 'Extraordinary Women' and will be linked with an overarching theme of the end of the Great War and the name of the exhibition will be 'They Served'. The Culture and Heritage Officer at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich asked whether we could assist with information about women who played a part in serving the soldiers during the Great War. Of course, the Powerpoint presentation and script on the Services Committee which gives the full history of canteening was despatched forthwith and has been received very gratefully.

Dr Alison Gray is doing some research on the Catholic Chaplaincy arrangements during both World Wars in the Orkney Islands. Specifically, she asked for information on a CWL-staffed canteen in Lyness on the island of Hoy in Orkney. CWL did indeed have a canteen in Orkney and our lady canteener, Dorothea Grant-Peterkin (nee Chapman), who died just over a year ago at the age of 103, started her canteening days there before going to Germany etc. Dorothea’s daughter, Henrietta, had given me this information but there are no records in our archives of our being involved in Orkney, or indeed any huts in Scotland. This leads me to believe that the archive records of the CWL in Scotland would be held separately there. CWL in Scotland ceased many years ago.

I was able to point Dr Gray in various directions and again sent the powerpoint presentation and some other information I had gleaned. She got back to me within 45 minutes absolutely thrilled with the information that had been provided for her. She lives locally in Orkney and had written two previous books one of which is about the Catholic Church in Orkney since 1560. She is endeavouring to give a fuller picture of the Catholic history and practice there during the two World Wars.
Picture Gallery from around the Branches

Conscious of the price of printing, this page is designed not to necessarily be printed with the News on pages 1, 2 and 3, but to give you the option of just printing a few to pass round your Section or showing on a Tablet or Lap top at the next Section meeting.

Lymington Section, Portsmouth Branch with their gifts for The Apostleship of the Sea, Southampton Port.

And now for something completely different... Morpeth Section, Hexham & Newcastle Branch, enjoying Burns Night with our very own National President, Margaret Valentine.

And still with Portsmouth and The Apostleship of the Sea, Mary Bowen of Wantage Section flying the CWL flag even though the Section is a long, long way from the sea.

Treasures, every one of them! Our Branch Treasurers at the Spring Conference with National Treasurer, Jeanette (front row left) and Colleen, National Treasurer Elect (back row 5th from left)

Could we be putting your picture here in the next edition? Of course we could! So just send in to the National Secretary, Jean, at natsec@cwhq.org.uk

We would be especially keen to see National Coffee event pictures and reports.

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