Mothers’ Union Gathering 5th October, 2011

I’m delighted to be here at this important Gathering at which you shall consider the future of Mothers’ Union in Scotland. I want first to say how greatly the Scottish Episcopal Church values and appreciates the contribution which Mothers’ Union members and branches make to the life and mission of the church.

Jesus gathered people – gathered them for feeding when around 5000 people sat down on the grass. Resources were slender – just five loaves and two fish. But a miracle of grace and abundance took place. Jesus gathered them for teaching – in the Sermon on the Mount. The teaching of Jesus is central to the choices which we make in mission and ministry.

As you consider the future in hope, I want to say to you how much the Scottish Episcopal Church needs and values the contribution which you can make. We are in church in transition – positively so. Indeed in some ways we are a church in transformation. There is energy for mission in our dioceses under the leadership of our bishops. There is change and movement in many of our congregations. Nationally we are becoming a church which is proud and honoured to take its place in the mainstream of Scottish church life – and in the civic and cultural life of Scotland.

These are great and positive changes. I hope that as you prayerfully consider your future, you will think about the new possibilities which open up as you enter into your share in the mission and ministry of this church which is rediscovering its vocation. May God bless you in all that you do today – and in the future.