

Lady O'Neill, who originally donated the cup, died in July 2008 and the book will be dedicated to her. The O'Neill Cup 2009 is non-competitive.

## **BRANCH TRAINING / SUPPORT**

### **MU WORLDWIDE:**

'A Taste of Worldwide' was held in January 2009 in two venues in the diocese - Dunluce and Eglantine. This was an opportunity to enthuse members about the work of MU overseas and to up-date them on long term projects. Three 'Essential Programmes' are now in place:

1. **MU Literacy Development Programme** in Malawi, Burundi and Sudan. To date over 45,000 people have learnt to read, write and count through the Mothers' Union initiative which is part-supported by Comic Relief.
2. **Family Life Programme** in Uganda works with the most disadvantaged in that society (widows, orphans, and others) to teach skills which will give them food security. These include crop growing, animal husbandry and food nutrition and cooking.
3. **MU Parenting Programme** - a worldwide initiative which has reached over 13,500 parents from the Arctic Circle to South America to Africa and elsewhere.

It is important for members to realise the life changing impact their generous financial giving is making to families all over the world.

### **Branch Official Training**

In April 2009 we plan to hold two interactive evenings for new Branch Officials to encourage them in their roles and support their work.

## **DIOCESAN SOCIAL EVENING**

In March each year the Younger Members Committee in the diocese organise a fundraising event for the diocese. In the past we have had a 'Can't Cook, Won't Cook' event, a Fashion Show and this year, on 11<sup>th</sup> March, we look forward to an evening with Willie Drennan, an Ulster Scots musician, poet, singer and storyteller. Recently starring in his own show on BBC, we are delighted to have secured his services and expect to raise in excess of £1500 for the MU Relief Fund.