

November 2024

Mothers' UNION

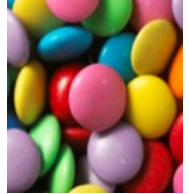
Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells



My Christmas Present to you!

Everyone who attends on 21st November will leave with a tube of Smarties. Once the Smarties are eaten, please return these tubes with 20p pieces. When Full you are donating £12 to MU



This is to let all Diocesan Members know that we now have two Diocesan Committee members who are taking over the role of regularly communicating with you.

These members are Sue Hoare and Rosemary Sage.

Thank You for all your prayers for me over the last 6 years. It has been a privilege to serve you **Madeline Hellier**

Mothers' Union Cathedral Prayers

Diocese of Bath & Wells @ Wells Cathedral

Thursday 21st November @ 11.30

Gender-Based Violence and

No more 1in3:

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-4 and

Philippians 2:4-5



IMPORTANT - Branch Leaders

Check your post and your emails

It is ESSENTIAL

**that all your members are informed and
vote by/on Thursday November 21st**

Diocesan members: Check your post + emails

Constitution Voting Paper

Following an Emergency Meeting on 14th October 2024, the Bath and Wells Mothers' Union Trustee Board passed a resolution to make administrative changes to the Constitution. These will give additional flexibility within the running of this organisation. All Questions need to be answered. Please respond by 21st November 2024.

* Required

1. Please enter your **Name** *

2. Please enter your **Address** *

3. **The Trustee Board requests your support to extend the period of office of some of their number, by up to 12 months in exceptional circumstances ***

YES

No

4. **The Trustee Board requests your support to transfer the general power of the Trustees to do anything which is calculated to further the Objects of the Charity ***

YES

No

5. **The Trustee Board requests that, if deemed to be in the organisation's best interest, it can at some point dissolve the Charity ***

YES

No

Or Vote on line.

As you will remember from page 2 of last month's Newsletter, all members are now being requested to comply with the legal process and cast their VOTE.

Here is the information about the Voting process for:

- Branch leaders,
- Members and
- Diocesan members

Copy this link which takes you to a simple on-line form for you to complete.

<https://forms.office.com/r/2nnx8W2hys>

Paper Copies for Branch Members are available from your Branch Leader.

Diocesan members have paper copies in the post



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Christmas Get-Together

St Thomas Church, Wells

Thursday 21st November

10am to 11am ~ Coffee & Tea

12pm to 2pm ~ Soup and Roll

***Cards, Gifts & Books Stall
Raffle, Mince Pies***

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Mothers' Union Bath and Wells (Charity No. 250180) has been called for Thursday 21st November from 12.30 at St Thomas's Church, St Thomas Street, Wells. BA5 2UZ.

Attendance can be via zoom

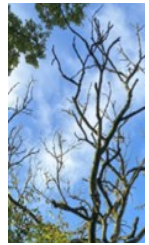


From our Chaplain - Rev'd Louise

We are well into Autumn; harvest festivals have come and gone, and as I write, the fields on Curry Moor are already flooded, and roads between Taunton and Wells are flowing with streams of water. It's too easy to grumble when we are inconvenienced by road closures and detours, so I must remind myself,

... Rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. (Joel 2:23)

Autumn is a season of colours and contrasts. Bright days give way to fog, and the glory of the autumn trees are suddenly stripped bare by the blustery wind. It is a season of death and promised rebirth. It is a season of harvest and bare fields; all is caught up in change, fecundity and decay. We are told, and we know, that dying is necessary for renewal - through breakdown and burial comes new life in due season. We praise God who makes all things new.



It was only a few weeks ago that we had a gloriously sunny day for our Quiet Day in Langport, as the leaves were just beginning to turn colour. Fourteen of us gathered to contemplate some of the insights of Julian of Norwich from one of her 'Showings', to reflect, to worship, to be creative, and to take time away from busy schedules simply to be present in fellowship with one another, and with God.



Throughout the day, we each held a hazelnut. When Julian held 'something like a hazelnut' she had wondered what its significance was and received the answer,

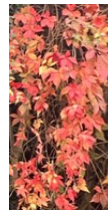
it is all that is created ... it lasts, and will last forever because God loves it. Everything that is has its being through the love of God.

And in the hazelnut, she saw three truths:

the first is that God made it; the second is that he loves it, and the third that he sustains it.

Just as the fields are flooded, so ***God's goodness floods creation, infusing all of his blessed works endlessly overflowing in all that is, for he is everlastingness.***

And so, the long dark nights are upon us, and there is a sense that two worlds are drawing close together: that which has been, and that which is to come. Which is why the Church made All Saints' day and All Souls' day on consecutive days – celebrating the unity of the church in heaven and on earth.



November is the season of remembrance; All Saints and All Souls are quickly followed by Remembrance Sunday – and in church we turn from green to red, just like the leaves!

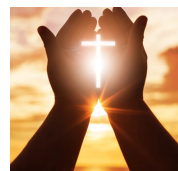
Blessings, Rev'd Louise

revlouise@tauntonminster.org 07976 234983

A prayer of Julian of Norwich: God, through your goodness, give me yourself. You are enough for me. I cannot honour you by asking for anything less. When I do ask for less, I am never satisfied. Only in you do I have all. **Amen.**



The next Quiet Day
Saturday 8th March 2025
@ St Andrew's Church Centre,
Clevedon 10.30 - 3 pm



The Future of MU in Bath and Wells Diocese.

Members are now actively VOTING. Branches that met during the 4th week of October, have received their paper Forms, the online Link, plus explanations.

My husband & I are now home following a quick visit to Ireland to celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary, so back to work! The remainder of all members will receive their Mailing soon. Don't be surprised by the wording: It is essential that the formal wording is presented in legal jargon. Do not worry that you are giving us freedom to make any changes we want. The best interest in Mothers' Union Bath and Wells is always the guiding principle to any changes that occur. We are not alone in making these changes. Winchester MU will be very close on our heels! *Madeline Hellier*

2024**November**

Tues 5th Trustees' Meeting – Blackdown Room
 Thurs 21st 10am MUe pre-Christmas Coffee Morning
 Final day to vote in person for our future
 Thurs 21st Cathedral Prayers - Cheddar

December

Thurs 5th Cathedral Prayers for Advent –
 Said Service in MU Chapel

2025:**January**

Thurs 16th Cathedral Prayers – 'Said' in MU Chapel
 Thurs 23rd -24th Committee gathering at Ammerdown

February

Thurs 20th Cathedral Prayers

March

Wed 5th Ash Wednesday
 Thurs 6th Committee Meeting tbc Blackdown Rm
 Sat 8th Quiet Day:- St Andrew's Church Centre
 Clevedon, BS21 7UF.
 Tue 25th Lady Day
 Sun 30th Mothering Sunday

April

Fri 18th Good Friday
 Sun 20th Easter Sunday

May

Thurs 8th Commissioning Service for New Committee
 12md @ St Andrew's Church, Cheddar.
 With Bishop Michael, our Diocesan Bishop
 Meet to Congratulate them afterwards over refreshments.

June

Mon 9th Annual Meeting

On behalf of **Taunton Minster MU** group - Just a Bite –
Andrea Davis invites you all to join them on
Wednesday 6 November @ 2.30pm

Talk by Robin Morrison:
"The Minster Peregrines"
Refreshments to follow
Bring and Buy table



Wednesday 4 December @ 2.30pm

Advent Service - led by

MU Chaplain Revd Louise Bale and Revd Gwen Smith

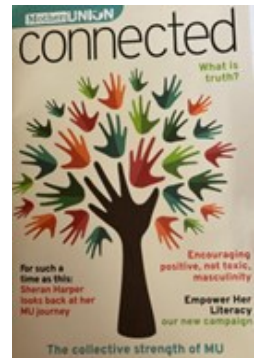
Refreshments to follow Bring and Buy table

Andreadavis967@gmail.com Tel: 07791 449624

Have you received your Autumn edition of Connected?

This issue is overflowing with heartwarming stories, inspiring testimonies, and a glimpse into the incredible work happening across our global MU family.

From insightful interviews and uplifting articles, to ideas for celebrating the holiday season with faith and joy. Don't forget to tell Veronica if your copy hasn't arrived.



Prayer Chain



**The one thing that all Mothers' Union Members can do, is PRAY.
Do you have something Special
to Give Thanks For?**

Send Tina an email

Are you worried about anything?

Send Tina an email - tina.m.stubbs@gmail.com

Don't do emails? Phone Veronica 01749 685131 and she will pass your request to Tina for you.

Sadly, I have not heard of any body wanting to consider this offer, which would lead to telling the WORLD about the MU.

Calling for Embroideries and Sewers

The Seafarers Centre in Portbury Docks, (where lots of your knitting ends up) has been redecorated etc.

I have been asked to find a volunteer or two, who can create a new Altar cloth for the Chapel, which will pick up the colours of the new Wall Painting.

The Altar is approx. 3ft x 20inches. A small frontal (4inches) is also required.

Please contact me and I can arrange a visit to the Centre to see the Chapel and meet the artist. Madeline 07967 961751

madeline.hellier@mothersunion.org



'It takes the whole world to know Christ'

Do you think a fish knows that it's swimming in water? I've been reflecting on this question not because it's some kind of Buddhist koan – the type of question that asks, 'What's the sound of one hand clapping?' Rather it's because I've been reflecting recently on questions of culture and world view. Do I see the world purely from the perspective of being who I am? (A 55-year-old white Englishman who grew up in a small village in the 1970s.) If that's the case, is what I see an accurate representation of the whole of

madeline.hellier@mothersunion.org

reality? Might other perspectives be possible? If I could see the world through the eyes of others, might my vision be richer, wider, deeper? Like a fish that suddenly realizes that seeing can happen not only through water, but through air as well?

Seeing things from the perspective of others was something that Jesus did. An example of this happens when Jesus heals a centurion's servant in Luke's Gospel (Luke 7: 1-10). The centurion comes from a background and culture that's entirely different to that in which Jesus grew up. Yet Jesus is blown away by the insight that the centurion has about who Jesus himself is. This leads Jesus to exclaim

'I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith!'

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has a link with the five Anglican Dioceses of Zambia. There's much to be celebrated in the friendship that we share: the joy and vitality of the Zambian Church, the opportunities our link offers to help some of the world's poorest communities. But for me, the greatest gift we gain is the opportunity our link offers to stand in the shoes of others and to see the world, our faith, and the whole of reality from a different perspective.

A wise person once said to me 'It takes the whole world to know Christ'. Our link with Zambia enables us to see more of the Jesus we share than we could ever hope to experience otherwise.



Bishop Michael Beasley *Our Diocesan Bishop*