

May - June 2026



Diocese of
Bath & Wells



Lighting the way
for generations
to come

Themes for Mothers' Union in 2026

Central Theme: **Join us: Join in.**

Lighting the way for Generations to come

Bath&Wells Theme: **Listen to the Heartbeat**



Refugee Week 2026 runs from June 15 to June 21



**Mothers Union Prayers @ Wells Cathedral
Thursday 18th June 2026**

Led by Sue Hoare & Yeovil members

Central Theme: Lighting the way
for generations to come.



This Month's Theme:

Refugees and Displaced People

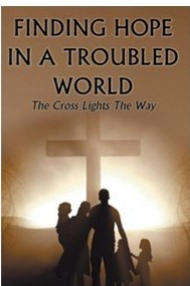
Quiet Day & Retreat

With Revd. Louise - our Chaplain

Fruitful Living - Tending the Fruits of the Spirit

Book your Place via mu@bathwells.anglican.org

or ring: 01749 685131



**Mothers Union Prayers @ Wells Cathedral
Thursday 16th July 2026**

Central Theme:

Lighting the way for
generations to come.

This Month's Theme:

Sharing Hope for
a Troubled World



Welcome to ALL new MU members who have been enrolled this year, our 150th.

We welcome Jill, Becky, Glenn & Carole; enrolled on 17th March at Holy Trinity, Yeovil.



I was sorry not to have been able to join these enrolments this time. Please remember to tell me of any enrolments and I will come and join you when possible. Please send me photos of any Celebrations.
Madeline Hellier



Welcome to Annie, Jean, Simi, Lesley and Rosemary who were enrolled into Taunton Staplegrove branch by Revd Peter Furber at St Andrew's church, on 10th May. The Branch leader Di Ruff (far right) supported them.

Thank You all for your Prayers & MU Work. Without you, we wouldn't be as strong in **Demonstrating God's Love in Action**.

To continue in God's Strength, we always need members to support the work of the Mothers' Union, both here in Bath & Wells, across Britain & All Ireland and across the world, in particular our Link Diocese.

Do you feel God's is calling you to a special Role or a Project? Need someone to talk it over with?

Louise Bale: 07976 234983 or revlouise@tauntonminster.org.

Ruth Cook: 01823 973787 or ruth.mucttee@yahoo.com

What we - as Mothers' Union Members - Do

We are continue to record our way through identifying how we, MU Bath & Wells members, honour our Mothers' Union Promises in working and demonstrating our Vision and achieving our 5 Objectives. In this Issue we will look deeper in to the objective in which we promise:-

To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children

So much of our work can be filed under this title. Usually it is the more dramatic activities, like campaigning against Domestic Violence or Alerting people to Modern day Slavery. The non-headline activities which many branches do are still a vital way of meeting the above Objective.

- ◇ Donations several branches make at Christmas to those sheltering in a Refuge:
- ◇ or the Period Poverty gifts in schools so the girls don't stay at home alone each month
- ◇ Or those weekly Carer & Toddler groups, toys for the children and coffee & chats for Mums:
- ◇ or the Baby knitting/sewing for hospitals & Food Bank.



All these activities listed above just help the Parents to relax a bit knowing that society does care. In particular, the help that MU gave to the families with young children, at the North Somerset Show, will have stopped some families having unhappy, smelly toddlers and Mum's feeding babies in uncomfortable Places.

Mothers Union in Action

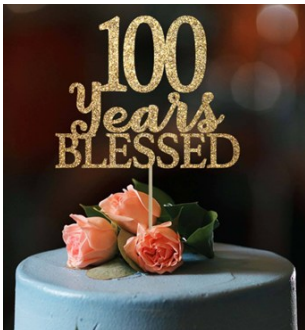
For a few years Wraxall Mothers' Union helped at the Baby Changing & Breastfeeding tent at the North Somerset Show. This year Wrington Branch took over. We helped in the tent in the afternoon.



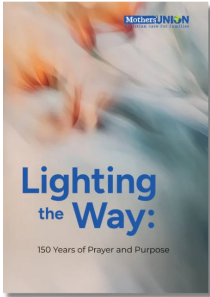
Tots @ Christchurch kindly provided the changing mats spare nappies and toys. It was well used with a queue forming outside on a couple of occasions. There was always someone in the tent, either changing a child or someone feeding one.

We aim to do it again next year with three changing mats!!

Chris Mahony



Dear Mollie Spear
Happy Birthday from all
your Mothers' Union
Friends



Lighting the Way Have you bought a copy?

Please share a favourite prayer from it as it's a beautiful new collection of 150 heart-felt prayers. They're gathered from Mothers' Union members across the globe, along with bishops and other distinguished voices from the UK and overseas.

Shaped around 15 key themes, it reflects the vital work and projects of Mothers' Union today, offering comfort, inspiration, and encouragement in these changing times. This unique prayer book speaks to the heart of faith, family, and community.

A must-have companion for prayer and reflection.

Chris Mahony still has some of these (£5.99) so do contact her - 01275 857724 or chris@woodview.org

Cleeve and Claverham MU
150th Celebration Flower Festival
Coming @ end of Summer



A Reminder: If you would like to join the Retreat, but can't afford it, we have a memorial fund in memory of Shirley Penn, who was once our Faith Lead, specifically to support those who wish to develop their relationship with God. Contact the Administrator @ Flourish House, Cathedral Park, Wells BA5 1FD for the Retreat Support Application Form.

Individual Person - Application form for Mothers' Union Retreat Support

Please provide the following information when applying for financial support to attend a Mothers' Union organised Retreat

No	Question
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1	Full name:
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	M.U. Membership:
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Mothers' Union Calendar 2026

MAY	
Thursday 24 th	Thy Kingdom Come 14 th – 24 th
Sunday 24 th	Pentecost
JUNE	
Wed 10 – Thurs 11	150 th Celebrations London
Thursday 18th	Cathedral Prayers Yeovil – Sue Hoare
Tuesday 23rd	Annual Meeting Flourish House 10am – 3pm
JULY	
Thursday 2 nd	DC Committee 10.30am
Thursday 16th	Cathedral Prayers
AUGUST	
Sunday 9 th	Mary Sumner Day
Monday 10th	Diocesan 150th Celebration Event Flourish House 12.30 – 4pm
Thursday 20 th	Cathedral Prayers
SEPTEMBER	
Thursday 3rd	Information Day
Saturday 12th	Celebration 150th Service in the Cathedral Evensong 5.15pm Banners to be processed
Thursday 17th	Cathedral Prayers
Thursday 17th	Cathedral Prayers DC Committee 1pm
OCTOBER	
Mon 12th–Tues 13th	MU Retreat with Quiet Day option
Thursday 15th	Autumn Gathering in Wells Museum and Cathedral Prayers
NOVEMBER	
Thursday 12th	DC Committee 10.30am
Thursday 19th	Cathedral Prayers
Sunday 29 th	Advent Sunday
DECEMBER	
Thursday 3rd	Cathedral Prayers

Mothers' Union Autumn Quiet Day/Retreat 2026

Theme: Fruitful Living - *Tending the Fruits of the Spirit*

Venue: The Ammerdown Centre, BA3 5SW

Date: Monday 12th – Tuesday 13th October

Conductor: Rev Louise Bale

Full Prices - tbc (may be less!)

Quite Day only: £20 including deposit of £10

full Retreat: £225 including deposit of £50

These two days will include some periods of silence.

To Reserve your place, Please Contact:

MU Office tel no: 01749 685131

Flourish House, 2 Cathedral Park, Wells BA5 1FD

or **email:** mu@bathwells.anglican.org

Book Your Place for MU Quiet Day/Retreat 2026

Quiet Day Only: Name

Retreat: Name

Address:

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Contact details:

Email:

Deposit paid - Cheque/BACS -

Special dietary /allergies/mobility needs:

.....

Signed:

Whit Sunday or Pentecost?

Have you noticed this year the Spring Bank Holiday weekend coincides with Whit-Sunday, or as it is now known as Pentecost, just as it did when I was a child.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-4

I love the special hymns written to help us remember the dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit (Ghost). The first of my favourites to come to mind, incorporates many words so relevant to St Luke's writing. Here is the first verse, just in case you can't remember it!

Come down, O **Love divine**,
seek thou this soul of mine,
 and visit it with thine own **ardour** glowing;
 O **Comforter**, draw near,
 within my heart appear,
 and kindle it, thy holy **flame** bestowing.



I have identified the words that speak to me, in particular **Ardour**, a rather old-fashioned word but is that because in the current "I want it now & the throw away" society, there is no intensity? In fact, describing someone as intense is at best a criticism and sometimes a slur. In a later verse I noticed the word "**lowliness**". That took me straight to the Magnificat (also St Luke's writing) and the beginning of the humanity of God the Son.

The picture I have shared is from the website - **art4prayer.com**. You see the tongues of fire are present plus a Dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This symbolism, while not included in the Pentecostal occasion, is used by St Luke in the narrative of the Baptism of Jesus.

When.... Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well please Luke 3:21-22

Using art to visualise the words is helpful to the viewer but challenging to the artist. I like this picture (found in Google Images) and feel they have really caught the "rush of violent wind"



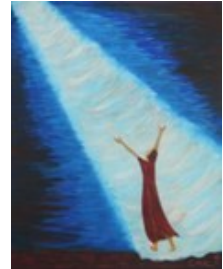
My next hymn is "**Come Holy Spirit our Souls inspire**"

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

Its not so much the individual words which inspire me but the atmosphere of worship that I feel. I think the music is important but sadly I cannot share that via the Newsletter!

Another favourite is **Breathe on me Breath of God.**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.



Reading through these verses, it struck me that when singing/saying this hymn we are praying a formal and yet simple prayer for ourselves. Something most of us don't often do (apart from urgent Arrow prayers!). This thought linked me to Psalm 23, where the words written by someone who is filled with the God's Holy Spirit, as we are asking to become.

In this our 150th year, can we fan our **Ardour** for the MU and God and **Inspire** others to **Join us Join In.**

With Love and Blessings - *Madeline Hellier*



For more information + offers of Donations contact Di @ 07462 967816

MU Vacancies

We have several key roles to fill in the Diocese and I would encourage you to think and pray about who is being called to these positions.

Diocesan President – This role is open to all members. The job description for this has been sent out already. We are looking for someone with a heart for MU and is willing to share our vision with members and others alike. Enthusiasm is the key!

Newsletter Editor – the Diocesan Newsletter provides a lot of useful information plus articles: aimed at Diocesan members others from Branch Leaders. We would like someone who can compile and create this up to six times a year and is a role that could be done from home.

Faith Lead – Revd Julie Sims has described this role elsewhere in this newsletter but this is an important position working with our Chaplain, Revd Louise Bale.

Diocesan Treasurer – Sally Bult has been an excellent Treasurer for six years. Her term of office is expiring. The requirements for this role will change when the SW Cluster is operational but we will still need someone with a love of figures and accounts.

The Diocesan President, Treasurer and the Administrator will need to attend Diocesan Committee Meetings.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact Ruth Cook, Chair of the Diocesan Committee on 01823 973787 or ruth.mucttee@yahoo.com



150 YEARS OF Mothers' UNION



Come Celebrate With Us

Monday the 10th of August
from 12:30 to 4:00
at Flourish House, BA5 1FD

Displays
MUE Stall

Refreshments
Cream Teas

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells

Diocesan Annual Meeting



Speaker

Gay Curtis

*Linked by
Purpose and Prayer*



Cake Stall Card & Book Stall Raffle

Tuesday 23rd June, 10:30am to 3pm

Coffee available from 10am

Flourish House, Wells

BA5 1FD