

July - August 2026

Mothers' UNION

**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**



FINDING HOPE
IN A TROUBLED
WORLD
The Cross Lights The Way



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

*Let us hold fast the confession of our
hope without wavering,
for he who promised is faithful.*

Hebrews 10:23

Faith



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 20th August 2026



Central Theme: Lighting the way
for generations to come

This Month's Theme:

Be Still - a time to Rest, Reflect,
Rejoice Replenish





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

Information Day

3rd September

Flourish House, Wells, BA5 1FD



Timetable

9:30 Coffee/Tea

10:00 Faith

11:30 Break for coffee/tea

12:00 Marketing and MUE

2:00 Break for coffee/tea

2:30 Projects/Action & Outreach

4:30 Finish



150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in



**Join us for the whole day or just pop-in
to the sessions that interest you**

Coffee and Tea will be provided but bring your own lunch

150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in

Celebration Service
at
Wells Cathedral



Saturday
12th September 5:15pm



Listen to the Heartbeat

Fruitful Living - Tending the Fruits of the Spirit

Quiet Day 10am – 4pm

Monday 12th October at Ammerdown BA3 5SW.

Morning Coffee, a super 2-course Lunch, Afternoon Tea.

Cost: Deposit - £10 Total Cost - £30

To Reserve your place: Please Contact: MU Office
tel no: 01749 685131: email - mu@bathwells.anglican.org
Flourish House, 2 Cathedral Park, Wells BA5 1FD

Retreat

The Retreat's reserved rooms have now been filled

BUT we may well be able to have more rooms.

If you would like to come to the Retreat please contact

MU Office tel no: 01749 685131:

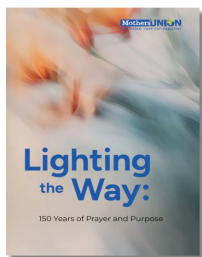
email - mu@bathwells.anglican.org

Flourish House, 2 Cathedral Park, Wells BA5 1FD

Meanwhile, Book for the Quiet Day!

Rooms may become available.

mu@bathwells.anglican.org 01749 685131



Lighting the Way Have you bought a copy?

Please share a favourite prayer from it as it's a beautiful new collection of 150 heartfelt 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 & reflection. Chris Mahony still has some of these (£5.99) so do contact her - 01275 857724 or chris@woodview.org

Cleeve and Claverham MU 11th- 12th September 150th Celebration Flower Festival



This year The Mothers Union celebrates 150 years since it was founded by Mary Sumner in 1876. During these 150 years, the Mothers' Union has been making a meaningful

difference in the lives of millions in this country and worldwide through its unique, faith-based and community-led approach to tackling poverty, injustice and violence. To recognise & celebrate this anniversary, the Cleeve and Claverham Branch of the Mothers' Union will be holding a Flower Festival at Holy Trinity Church from 11th to 13th September. We hope that you will put this date into your diaries and come and see Holy Trinity, adorned with a wonderful display of flowers. There will be some super refreshments available throughout the Festival. *Text from Parish Newsletter.*



Cream Teas

Wed August 12th
@ 2pm
Holy Trinity Yeovil
Lysander Rd BA20 2BU



Mothers' Union Calendar 2026

JULY	
Thursday 2 nd	DC Committee 10.30am
Thursday 16th	Cathedral Prayers
AUGUST	
Sunday 9 th	Mary Summer 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
NOVEMBER	
Thursday 12th	DC Committee 10.30am
Thursday 19th	Cathedral Prayers
Sunday 29th	Advent Sunday
DECEMBER	
Thursday 3rd	Cathedral Prayers

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

MU Vacancies

*We have several key roles to fill. Please think and pray about is it **YOU** being called to one of 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: Direct to Diocesan members and to Branch members via their Leaders.

We would like someone who can compile and create this up to six times a year. This 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 and she hopes to be handing over the reigns in September.

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

Welcome to the written report covering 2025 and, in some cases, the first part of 2026.

The Annual Report for 2025 which shows how everything we do, identifies how we are showing God Loves everyone, especially those in need. The photographs included in that document demonstrate how we achieve our Objectives and is available to view on our diocesan website - <https://mubathandwells.org>, and each branch have several hard copies to share around the members.

If you want your own copy please contact the Admin office
- mu@bathwells.anglican.org

Worldwide Links Report

False Bay in South Africa is presently experiencing the effect of severe flooding which has damaged or destroyed power, communication and transport links, as well homes. Joy Houtzamer, Diocesan President reports that “we are all trying to support and help disaster management by collecting food, soup kitchens and supplying clothing and shelters for the affected families. It's only the beginning of predicted harsh winter but I believe God is in control. My group of churches in Grassy Park are in a very poor rural area

Bishop Moses, addressing Diocesan Formation Week, said “Removed from many of the usual distractions of daily life, we were given space to reflect, pray, learn, worship and journey together in fellowship. Overcoming the storm’s challenges, both literally and spiritually, the Formation Week became a place of renewal, encouragement and deepening faith.”

Reverend Maria van Staaden, MU Zonal Trustee, opened the Mothers’ Union Ecochamps Conference which drew members from across Southern Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Mozambique. Speakers addressed Gender and Climate; The Future impact of Climate Change on Southern Africa and Environmental and Health Impacts of Plastic.

Dioceses of Umuahia (south east) and Ijebu (west) Nigeria. St Silas Church, Old Umuahia Facebook

page posts show Mothers' Union to be thriving but Mothers Union has no contact with any MU branches there because of the country's estrangement from the Anglican Communion. We must continue to hold them in prayer

Diocese of Vellore, Church of South India Womens' Fellowship.

The established 30 year relationship between Cambridge-shire's churches and Vellore diocese enabled me the benefits of sharing that intimacy and the itinerary of events to celebrate the diocese's Golden Jubilee.

The Church of South India and the participation of the Women's Fellowship Board provides for and supports children's education and shelter, women and girl's skill training centres, and medical treatment and training. They train Bible women to take Bible study into rural and tribal communities and work with women and their families to improve their situations. The Diocese and the Women's Board pay the wages of the bible women, the school teachers and skill trainers.

Christianity forms 3% of the three faiths, Hindu being the greater. The population of Vellore is 90 Dalit vulnerable to prejudice.

Gay Curtis, Worldwide rep

XX

Action and Outreach Report

Since our last Annual meeting I have attended our first information in September last year, unfortunately illness meant I could not attend the second in February. However, these two days proved very useful, not only imparting information about the various projects but also to discover all the many and wonderful ways in which the members and branches are supporting families through active help.

We continue to see the knitting projects very well supported with members making blankets, twiddle muffs, hats for the Seaman's mission and many more. The Refuges continue to receive either goods or supermarket vouchers. Members also continue to support and help at Foodbanks.

The branches are extremely generous in fundraising for projects both worldwide and for more local projects especially AFIA.

Although we only had a very limited deadline, members responded to a government consultation concerning children and young people's access to social media entitled 'Growing up in an Online World', the results of which are due to be published soon.

I have facilitated sharing with four branches since last November, looking back to how MU was when we joined, the things we do now and imagining the future and how that might look in the next 150 years. Our main concerns may be summed up in how we can continue to be relevant in such a fast moving technology-driven world. How can we help families to communicate meaningfully with each other and support schools and teachers who seem to be responsible for so much that was used to be dealt with within the family? Challenging yes, but also exciting how the Lord will help us as MU members to rise to the challenge.

Revd Julie Sims

XX

Communications and Literature

The branches and Diocesan Members are kept informed with regular emails.

There have been two information days, which are open to all, to keep branches and members informed about the Mothers Union.

Posters and displays of all sizes can be produced on request and are available for events and notice boards.

We had a display with free literature at the Nailsea Fair and hope to do so again this year.

MUe is available for all events and branch meetings. I have a series of members who keep a stock of cards on a sale or return basis. I am grateful for their work. There are a couple of churches who have a stock of cards, again on a sale or return basis.

We get a sales related grant on all of our MUe sales which goes in to Diocesan Funds.

Every 2 months we send an average of twelve bags of toiletries, clothes, toys, and household wares to the refuge in Weston super Mare. There is a gift service at Christ Church Nailsea each Christmas where the gifts go to the refuge.

Chris Mahony

XX

Report from Diocesan Committee about 2025

January 2025 was the 1st year in the new Triennial and at a two-day Retreat/Business meeting, the new Trustee Board along with the Diocesan Committee were formed in anticipation of the South West Mothers' Union Cluster being formed during that year. The Trustees were

Kathryn Tucker – B&W Trustee & our named SW Cluster Trustee until 31-12-27

Madeline Hellier – DP & Trustee role extended for 1 year

Sally Bult – Treasurer & Trustee role extended for 1 year

Revd Louise Bale – MU Chaplain – ex-officio

Committee members were: Ruth Cook (Chair), Gay Curtis, Sue Hoare, Chris Mahony, Marlene Phillips, Moira Read, Rosemary Sage, Revd Julie Sim

Meetings occurred 6 times through the year, and took on various responsibilities for the organising of the MU in this diocese. We updated policies, took part in Cathedral Prayers, organised two Quiet Days and a Retreat at Ammerdown

Sadly the setting up the new South West Cluster Charity (being led by staff at Mary Sumner House) encountered difficulties, especially with the Bank and the Charity Commissioners, and was unable to "Go Live". This left us needing to appoint two Trustees to remain as an active Charity until the South West Mothers' Union Cluster is fully formed.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work and support during this first year.

Ruth Cook, Chair

Mothers' Union – Bath & Wells - Financial Report for 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	AFIA	Rowena Merson Travel Bursaries	Child Contract Centres	Shirley Penn Bursary Fund	Diocesan Projects +MSH	World Wide Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Receipts									
Subscriptions	16,220.00							16,220.00	17,206
Gift Aid (1)	2,459.88							2,459.88	-
Mile Grant	848.41							848.41	929
CCC grant				4,000.00				4,000.00	2,600
Donations	2,807.12	2,595.98		9,030.00				14,433.10	5,421
Donations - MSH projects						557.77		557.77	1,050
Donations - Diocesan projects						558.28		558.28	
Donations - Shirley Penn Fund					130.00			130.00	215
Donations - WWF							5,502.06	5,502.06	6,942
Retreat	3,315.00							3,315.00	1,645
Interest	1,382.19		938.07	1,213.49				3,533.75	
Investment Receipt									
Total receipts	27,032.60	2,595.98	938.07	14,243.49	130.00	1,116.05	5,502.06	51,558.25	37,527
Payments									
Subscriptions to MSH	13,230.00							13,230.00	13,882
Finance & Administration Unit (2)	6,647.07							6,647.07	8,304
Meetings and training	1,126.99							1,126.99	589
Expenses of DP, chaplain & trustees, Provincial/Zonal	2,756.30							2,756.30	855
CCC expenses (3)				6,785.74				6,785.74	7,647
Mile rep & communication unit expenses	340.73							340.73	391
Retreat	3,916.38							3,916.38	-
Grants to other charities for AFIA holidays									710
Transfer to Investment Bond									-
Bursary Payments - AFIA		1,413.30						1,413.30	1,180
Bursary Payments - Rowena Merson			1,000.00					1,000.00	-
Bursary Payments - MSH projects						608.23		608.23	1,050
Bursary Payments - Diocesan projects						258.28		258.28	250
Bursary Payments - Shirley Penn Fund					117.00			117.00	284
Bursary Payments - WWF							6,704.30	6,704.30	5,689
Total payments	28,017.47	1,413.30	1,000.00	6,785.74	117.00	866.51	6,704.30	44,904.32	41,341
Surplus/Deficit	-	984.87	1,182.68	61.93	7,457.75	13.00	249.54	6,653.93	3,814
Opening current account & petty cash	9,262.67	3,409.74	7,188.58	6,390.18	356.00	2,353.46	1,252.68	30,213.31	34,077
Closing current account & petty cash	8,277.80	4,592.42	7,126.65	13,847.93	369.00	2,603.00	-	36,816.80	30,213

Mothers' Union – Bath & Wells - Financial Report for 2025

Our income for the whole of 2025 totalled £51,558.00 whilst our overall expenses came to £44,904.00.

Subscriptions had once again reduced in numbers compared with previous years, and once we had forwarded the central subscription amount to Mary Sumner House, left us with £2,990 to use, along with additional donations, bank interest, Gift Aid repayment and the MUe bonus, to make up the £10,487.00 we had available to meet the Operating Costs of £10,870. As this meant the shortfall for 2025 was only £383, it was a much better situation than in 2024.

Those 'operating costs' were made up of rent, secretarial administration, postage & printing, licences, insurance, auditing, meetings and Officer expenses.

The Annual Retreat at the Ammerdown Centre and the Quiet Days brought in £3,315.00 which along with a small subsidy of £68 towards 'day attendees fees' managed to break even. The deposit for the 2026 Retreat was also taken out of the 2025 accounts.

Members continued to be busy throughout the year raising money for various MU projects. £558 for Diocesan Projects (of which £258 was spent), £2,595 for AFIA & £130 for the Shirley Penn fund, (of which £1,530 was spent).

£5,451 was donated for the Worldwide Fund, which enabled, when added to funds raised for specific MSH Appeals such as 'Make a Mothers' Day' and 'Summer of Hope', (by branches who don't hold active bank accounts), for us to send £6,704 to Mary Sumner House for work overseas.

A bursary of £1,000 was made available from the Rowena Merson Fund to enable Diocesan Committee member Gay Curtis to travel to our Link Diocese of Vellore in India, taking our Christian greetings.

The Child Contact Centres cost us £1,785 to run and we donated a second sum of £5,000 to the Somerset Child Contact Centres for them to continue managing the Frome Centre, which we had sadly relinquished in 2024.

Money received in from grants, donations and investment interest to cover these costs amounted to £14,243 (which included the surrender of a £5,000 investment policy to facilitate the second donation given to the Somerset Child Contact Centre Board and the generous gift to us of £4,000 from the closure of the South Bristol CCC)

Our investments in the Hampshire Trust Bank at the end of 2025 were:

Unrestricted funds £7,000

Restricted funds: £18,000 in the Rowena Merson Fund and £25,000 in the Child Contact Centres Fund.

The main accounts and branch consolidated accounts are in the process of being audited by our accountants, Maxwells of Bridgwater, along with the MUe accounts prepared by Chris Mahony.

Because of the considerable delay with getting the **South West Cluster** group up and moving, and the appointment of a new Director of Finance in Mary Sumner House, I foresee the 2026 accounts next year will continue to be presented in much the same way as we have been used.

Sally Bult – MU Diocesan Treasurer Bath & Wells

XX

Notes from the Annual Meeting of the Mothers Union, Diocese of Bath & Wells Held 9-6-25 at Flourish House

The day opened with a Eucharist led by the Diocesan MU Chaplain Rev Louise Bale. There were approx. 50 members present. Madeline Hellier (Diocesan President) introduced the new Diocesan Committee members.

Madeline asked members to sign up to the Prayer chain & reminded people of the Quiet day/Retreat at Ammerdown in October. This was nearly at capacity. Cathedral Prayer themes are taken from the Central Prayer Diary. As the new national database is now in place, members are urged to make sure that membership subs are paid early, by the end of January at the latest. Cheques may be postdated and collected in December.

Update on the SW Cluster progress. Madeline acknowledged the efforts of Branch Leaders in collecting the votes needed. The current plan (and hope) is that the Cluster will become live in October 2025. If not formalised by the end of 2025, we will have problems. It is essential that 3 trustees remain in place for the Diocesan charity until the SW Cluster can take over.

Madeline presented the Annual Report booklet to the members; a copy will go to each branch and group. It will also be available on the website .

Now 9 Diocesan Committee members are in place, but more help is needed. The Child Contact Centres are under threat as more support is needed there. The next triennial will see further voting for new members of the committee.

What next? Madeline saw a need to make the MU blossom and suggested that every branch plant an acorn to signify our need to grow. We need to make sure all our members know what we do in the UK and around the world. She encouraged us to invite at least 1 MU speaker each year to our branch, and reminded us that the Diocese will pay the expenses of that speaker.

All were asked to remember and recollect our promise to observe the 5 objects and our Vision. Ways to work towards these Aims were suggested:

Period Poverty campaign- Ask for Muriel

Rise up campaign to highlight and fight against domestic violence – sign up

Church Busy bags – advertise the MU

Knitting labels

Encouragement to keep our church website up to date with MU information.

Issue an individual invitation to a prospective member.

Finances: Sally Bult gave her “Washing Line” illustrated account of the Financial Report.

After lunch Julia Jamieson Canterbury (G) zonal trustee gave a challenging talk about her own path to the MU and how to inspire others.

The meeting closed with prayers and the Grace.