

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells



Annual Report 2025

Registered Charity No. 250180

<https://mubathandwells.org>



In 2025 We had

605 Members in the diocese

478 Branch members
found in **22** Branches

plus

11 IMPC members

and

125 Diocesan Members
either within one of the **4** Groups
or as isolated Members

Vision

Our Vision is of a world where

God's love is shown through

Loving, Respectful & Flourishing Relationships.

This is not a vague hope but a goal we actively pursue by

Praying, Campaigning and Enabling.

Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

Our Aims and Objectives are:

- To promote and support married life:
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children:
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity:
- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children:
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service:

How We Work Towards Alerting Parishioners and Visitors to the Work of The Mothers Union

† We continue to see that the MU kneeler is being used by the Cathedral in the Crib scene.



† We were able to reinstate the MU being one of the Cathedral's monthly Charities.

† The Cards Display Board (with MU Banner) is daily used in Diocesan Offices (on the way to the toilets) with online paying details.



† Our Communication's Officer delivers extra display boards & leaflets when a Branch has a special function.

† Contact is made with the Ordinands and Deacons at the time of their Ordinations.

† Our Facebook page continues although not as active as during Lockdowns;

† Branches are encouraged to invite the Clergy & churchwardens to their meetings even if they only join in time for a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a chat with members!



† Branches regularly reminded to have contact with their Benefice Website manager to ensure that their

† Mothers' Union Information...

- is included.
- is on the front line.
- includes contact details.
- includes when & where you meet
- includes a link to our MU website.
- includes a short description of MU.
- is kept UpToDate.

- Services and events
- News and notices
- About us
- Safeguarding
- Bell Ringers and the Choir
- Who's Who at St. John's?
- Baptisms
- Funerals
- GDPR and Contact and Trace
- Mother's Union
- The Evergreen Group
- Weddings
- Youth Mission

- Our Clergy
- Magazines ▾
- What's On ▾
- Services
- Diary
- How Do I?
- Mission
- Mother's Union ▾
- Activities ▾
- Pictures

How We Work Towards Alerting Parishioners and Visitors to the Work of The Mothers Union (conc)

- † Most parishes have a Notice Board with a display of current MU activity.
- † Visitors to the Cathedral are invited to stop and join in our monthly Cathedral Prayers service.
- † Regular contact with the Diocesan Personnel continues with our Diocesan President and the Communications Lead attending Diocesan Synod sessions



How We Work at being Part of a WorldWide Organisation



The M.U. diocesan treasurer and the Diocesan President were both delighted to be able to join a gathering of the South West M.U. Dioceses where we met with our new WorldWide President. She was accompanied by the Zonal Trustee and Provincial President

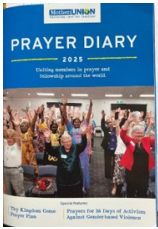


Our Worldwide Links Officer not only regularly updates us on "our" link diocese but also keeps us informed on other overseas activities such as Driving Transformation - Mothers' Union using literacy as a vehicle for change.

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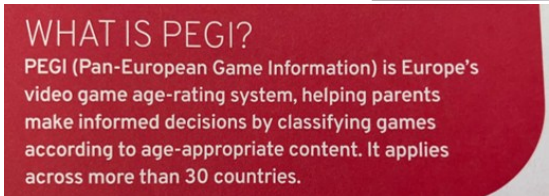
How We Work at being Part of a WorldWide Organisation (conc)



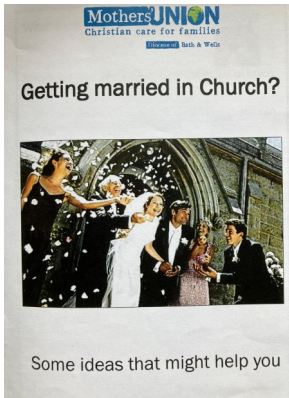
All Members individually receive via post from the Central Charity, the Annual Prayer Diary and the biannual magazine - Connected.



Branches are encouraged to make one meeting, a study of one of the articles in more depth, such as:



To promote and support married life How we work towards achieving this Objective



Some branches work with the Priest by providing information booklets & refreshments during Marriage Preparation sessions.

Several branches give Couples MU Wedding Cards and when possible Anniversary Cards.

Plans are being made to once again, run Mothers' Union Stalls at Wedding Fares.



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

How we work towards achieving this Objective



Modern Day Slavery and Prison Week:

These Projects continue to be held in prayer. Crafted Chain Links advertises the need for Prayer and Action

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

What else can I do?

Spread the Word

Unseen

Posters

Keep informed

HIDDEN VOICES

Clewer Initiative
with the M.U.

Pray

If someone discloses abuse to you, you should:

Respond Respond to a disclosure of abuse with compassion and calm

Inform Inform the person where they can get help. If a person is in immediate danger call **999**, otherwise direct them to their county domestic abuse helpline or the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on **0808 2000 247**

Support Support in a safe manner, listen and believe

Empower Empower them to grow and heal

Unite Unite the members of Mother's Union and churches to help end domestic abuse

Pray Pray for all affected by domestic abuse

IMPORTANT Do not tell a victim to leave.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Rise Up 16 Days of Activism

The Mothers' Union members meeting in Taunton Minster, led the way in alerting the public to the danger which women and children can find themselves in: that of witnessing Domestic Abuse at first hand.



Support for the Refuges:

Vouchers continue to be donated esp. at Christmas & Easter. Refuges are asked what items they need. Branches also make wash bags before filling them.



<https://mubathandwells.org>

**To help those whose family life
has met with adversity:**

How we work towards achieving this Objective

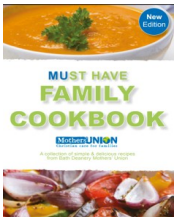
CRAFT:

Knitting is still very popular with members. Items mostly created are hats for seafarers, for babies and for Retirement Homes. Cheddar Branch Knitted teddies who come with their own book and the Baptism Teddies have a Sleeping Bag. They also Knit hand puppets for Nativity story. Taunton Minster are knitting squares. Once 48 squares have been collected, they are joined together. The name of the recipient is embroidered on. A button saying "Handmade with Love" is also sewn on. They are then given to a household member of the congregation. The Knitted Cross Squares remain valued gifts.



Sewing also

continues especially making wash bags for the Refuges and garments for babies.



The Student Cookbook is often used now its available online.

This allows us to offer stock hard-copies to families using Foodbanks. They are also given the online link.

<https://mubathandwells.org/resrc/cookbook>.



To help those whose family life has met with adversity

How we work towards achieving this Objective *conc*

AFIA:

2025 was still quiet with no requests coming via our Central Charity. We arranged a holiday for a family of 4; A pre-school group used our "Days Out" to have an outing; A Mum and Daughter had a Spa Day, plus a Lady following Trauma.



Student Support/Cookbook:



In 2025 the postcards were updated by creating a QR Code taking users straight though to the Cookbook.

Hard copies of MU Family Cookbook' were also given to families affected by rising living costs through various churches, refuges, other charities and food-pantries.

Child Contact Centres:

The two Bath & Wells Mothers' Union North Somerset Child



Contact Centres are being run by the new Coordinator.

Our long-term family is still with us, however is at the stage of gathering evidence to support unsupported family time. The non-resident parent's hope is that they will no longer need our services in the New Year.

Although this results in reduced use of the Centre, it is good news that the CCC has achieved its aim with this family.



To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children

How we work towards achieving this Objective

Local Community:

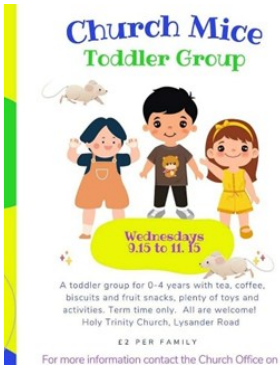


Mother & pre-school children groups are supported by branches across the diocese; By regular contact parents get to know these MU members and trust them. Several branches are supporting Mary's Child, a

charity which, among other activities, has a bank of equipment for babies and toddlers. Mostly donated. But some things eg nappies need to be bought. MU members are frequently part of teams offering the "Open The Book" and "Messy Church" (in its various forms). Branches regularly give

gifts on Mothering Sunday, arrange the church Easter Egg Hunt.

This year we supported a pre-school group called Church Mice, in their first outing to a Children's Farm Park. The support came from diocesan funds and Branch funds.



Baptisms:

Many Branches give something to the child or parents on the occasion of their Baptism: a Baptism Teddy, Card, Bible, or Prayer Book. In one branch, the teddies have a personal Sleeping Bag. Another branch gives the Godparents a set of tiny Booties. When branches close, DMs are continuing with this outreach .



To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children

How we work towards achieving this Objective (conc)

By showing God's Love to their children, parents learn about God's Love via our actions.

Children in Church:

Many Branches have children's Play Bags with biblical story books, colouring and soft figures for use during services. Where branches have closed, these are maintained by Diocesan members.



"Messy" Church:

Knitted hand puppets are sometimes used to illustrate Bible Stories.

Local Schools:

Several branches run or help with After-School Clubs.

Maintaining a Worldwide Fellowship of Christians United in Prayer, Worship & Service

How we work towards achieving the following Objective

Cathedral Prayers: This ½ hour Service continues to be held in Wells Cathedral every month. Each service is written and led by a different Branch. The theme for each Service leads members to reflect on how our Objectives guide our Prayers and Work.

To promote and support married life:



Mothers' Union Cathedral Prayers

Diocese of Bath & Wells
@ Wells Cathedral

Thursday 20th February
@ 11.30

This Month's National Theme: **Membership**

Local Theme: **Love and Marriage**

Bible Reading: **Colossians chapter 3:**



2025 Annual Report presented 2026

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



Thursday 18th November @ 11.30
Mothers' Union Prayers @ Wells Cathedral

Theme: 16 Days of Activism
Let the oppressed go free



Bible Passages:
Luke 4: 16-19



To help those whose family life has met with adversity:



Mothers' Union Prayers
@ Wells Cathedral



Thursday 19th June @ 11.30

Local Theme: Supporting Family Life
esp The Child Contact Centres

Bible Reading: Mark 10 v 13-16

This Month: A Touching Place



To encourage parents to develop the faith of their children:



Mothers' Union Cathedral Prayers
@ Wells Cathedral



Thursday 20th March @ 11.30

Local Theme: Baptism: Children & Prayer

Bible Reading: Luke 11:1-4

This Month's National Theme: The Power of Love through Christ



To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service:



Mothers' Union Prayers
@ Wells Cathedral

Thursday 17th July @ 11.30

Theme: God Created - People Care

Bible Reading: Genesis: 1&2



Maintaining a Worldwide Fellowship of Christians United in Prayer, Worship & Service

How we work towards achieving the following Objective

We Welcomed New Members: *using the M.U. Membership Service*

Leader: I ask new & present members ...
Will you uphold and support the mission
and objectives of the Mothers' Union?

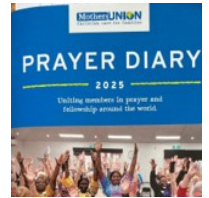
All: I will, with God's help.

Leader: will you welcome, support and
pray for each other?

All: We will, in the power of the Spirit.



Branch/Group Prayers: The Central Prayer Diary
along with the Diocesan Prayer Calendar provides
guidance for Branch Prayers and for Diocesan
Members, lone members plus some who continue
to meet for a Coffee, Natter & Prayer.



January 2025 in Wells Cathedral

Wave of Prayer for False Bay, South Africa; Shinyanga, Tanzania;
Vellore in South India, Umuahia & Ijebu South West in
Nigeria and Bath & Wells in Britain & All Ireland

Wave of Prayer Service 2025



The Theme for 2025-2027 is
Join us and join in

Sunday 26th - 3pm Evensong @ Cathedral
Monday 27th - MU service in MU Chapel
Tuesday 28th - MU service in MU Chapel

Theme: - Join Us & Join In .



Such a blessing when Sunday 26 was day 1 of our
Wave of Prayer and the service was integrated into Evensong.

Maintaining a Worldwide Fellowship of Christians United in Prayer, Worship & Service

How we work towards achieving the above Objective (cont)

Prayer Chain:

Continues to be run by one of the members, with prayer needs being sent direct to her and then resent to all on the group (using BCC to preserve data information)



Special Services:

- † Annual Meeting started with a Eucharist
- † We were very grateful to the Dean who supported us by incorporating our Wave of Prayer one Sunday Evening, with our Chaplain, preaching.
- † As 2025 was the first year in a Triennial, Bishop Michael Languish held a service and commissioned three Trustees and 9 Diocesan Committee Members. The refreshments, supplied by Cheddar Branch, and Displays were appreciated.



2 Quiet Days and 1 Retreat:



These were well supported and led by our MU Chaplain. Countryside strolls, jigsaws & Craft work aided the silent reflections.

Receipts and Payments Account to date for 2025

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds	APFA	Rovera Merson Travel Bursaries	Child Contract Centres	Shirley Penn Bursary Fund	Diocesan Projects AMSH	World Wide Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Subscriptions	16,220.00							16,220.00	17,206
Gift Aid (1)	2,459.88							2,459.88	-
Male 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	1,519
Donations - Shirley Penn Fund					130.00			130.00	215
Donations - WWF	3,315.00						5,502.06	5,502.06	6,942
Retreat			918.07	1,213.49				3,315.00	1,645
Interest	1,182.19							3,531.75	
Investment Receipt									
Total receipts	27,012.60	2,595.98	918.07	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 Dioc. chaplain & trustees, Provincial/Zonal	2,756.30							2,756.30	865
CCC expenses (3)				6,785.74				6,785.74	7,647
Male rep & communication unit expenses	340.73							340.73	391
Retreat	3,916.38							3,916.38	391
Grants to other charities for Asia holidays									710
Transfer to Investment Bond									
Bursary Payments - APFA		1,413.30						1,413.30	1,180
Bursary Payments - Rovera 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	750
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	856.51	6,704.30	44,904.32	43,341
Surplus/Deficit	- 984.87	1,182.68	- 61.93	7,457.75	13.00	249.54	- 1,252.68	6,651.93	- 1,814
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	7,128.65	13,847.93	369.00	2,603.00	-	36,116.80	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

<https://www.mothersunion.org>



<https://mubathandwells.org>



Our Projects demonstrate God's Love to Families who have met with Adversity



Family/Student Cookbook

Gender-based Violence & Refuges

Child Contact Centres

time Away From It All

Modern Slavery
WESEEYOU.
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE



Knitting & Sewing

Period Poverty

MU Worldwide
Literacy
Parenting
Local Issues

Support for Clergy and Parishes

<https://mubathandwells.org>