

October 2025

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells

## Themes for Mothers' Union in 2025

**Central Theme:** Join us: Join in.  
**Bath&Wells Theme:** Listen to the Heartbeat



### Mothers' Union Cathedral Prayers

@ Wells Cathedral

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
@ 11.30**

*Local Theme:* **St Luke's Day  
& Healing Ministry**

*Bible Reading:* **Luke 8: 40-42 and 49-56**

*This Month's National Theme:* **Keys of the Kingdom**



## New for our 150th Anniversary Our Own Diocesan Bookmark

Side 1

**150** YEARS OF  
**Mothers' UNION**  
Join us, Join in

Side 2

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells



**Collect yours at the October Gathering -See Page 5&10**

**Purchase more as presents for 50p**

## Thought for the Month

Have you heard of the Learning Pyramid? Briefly you remember 20% of what you hear; 30% of what you See; and 70% of what you Do Every morning while drinking my first cup of tea (I don't function until I have a large mug in my hand!) I read the email **Christian Art** <info@christian.art>.



A different Painting to look at each day linking to that day's Gospel reading.

Art and Christianity have long been friends, Wall Paintings, Stained Glass Windows, Icons, Carvings. My personal worship is certainly supported by Visual items, not just words. Today's reading, Luke 9:7-9 and is titled Herod's Perplexity. If Herod was Perplexed, or puzzled then he must have been curious; hence the picture shown titled **Curious**.

The script reminds us that many people named in the Gospels showed

Curiosity in Jesus, leading to commitment, eg: Zacchaeus and Nicodemus. Here's a different art form - a Mosaic of Zacchaeus.

Looking again at the Gospel reading, this time Herod was perplexed was about Jesus. Previously, it was

John the Baptist who had Herod being Curious; Mark 6:20.

***Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, & he protected him.***

***When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.***

Sadly, he didn't take that extra step of faith. Have you ever linked the word Curious with your faith? I hadn't until now, but now I am hooked!



Anthropology shows that most civilisations worship a deity. I immediately can see this Curiosity in the Old Testament with Moses and the burning bush: Exodus 3:3

***I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why.***

Coincidentally, my evening readings - *Everyday Faith - Church of England* - also uses pictures to support Worship. This week the artist Jyoti Sahi, an Indian Christian artist, is providing the pictures. I find his style is challenging but Curiosity made me look him



up on the computer! Seeing them larger helped. Here is one of Jyoti Sahi's paintings of Moses and the Burning Bush. The Tree of Life is a central theme in many of his pictures and this fact made me think again of Zaccheaus. Was the tree he climbed a Tree of Life? *Madeline Hellier*

## **What we -as Mothers' Union Members- Do**

*We are still working 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 at the objective in which we promise:-*

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

How would Mary Sumner feel if we failed her vision by not supporting families to be in touch with God.

Many branches "advertise" the work of the Mothers' Union during a Baptism, giving a card and often a present as well, to the child, parents and Godparents. If you are a Diocesan Member or a very small branch & worry about the finance, contact the MU Office.

[mu@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:mu@bathwells.anglican.org) 01749 685131

Sally, our Treasurer, may well be able to arrange support for you in this essential Project.



Some churches hang Play Bags so children can take them to their seat, using them as necessary. Once I was taking my Father to a mid-week Communion service while also looking after a grandchild. We were grateful for the Mothers' Union Play Bags! Visitors will also appreciate seeing them, as it's a sign of an inclusive church if families are welcome.

Your parish may have an active "Messy" church and Mothers' Union members are not



needed. However the organisers may be very grateful for some Knitted Items to participate in active Bible Stories. If possible please secularly attach a **Mothers' Union Cares†** label on them.

- Need knitting patterns?
- Not a knitter but need the finished items?

Again contact the MU Office as we have some in storage and Chris Mahony has lots of patterns.

[mu@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:mu@bathwells.anglican.org) 01749 685131

Do you have a small Infant or Primary School near you? It might be possible to arrange a present for all children starting or leaving the school. We could try and plan this as part of our 150th Celebrations.



Share ideas with me. Watch this space!

### **Stopping Injustice: Mothers' Union are working with the Clewer Initiative to end modern slavery by 2030**

Both Mothers' Union and the Clewer Initiative believe that the tools to end modern day slavery already exist within our local communities. We envision that the Church, which is present and at the heart of communities, has a primary responsibility in leading this effort. *See page 8*

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



# *Autumn Gathering*

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

**Wells & Mendip Museum  
8 Cathedral Green, Wells, BA5 2UE**

**Thursday 16<sup>st</sup> October**

**10am to 11am ~ Coffee & Tea**

**12pm to 2pm ~ Soup and Roll**

A perfect opportunity for you to pop  
in and pick up the End of Year  
envelope for your branch



## **ALL WELCOME**

## Calendar for 2025

Oct

**MU Bath and Wells is the  
Cathedral Charity of the Month**

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> **Autumn Gathering  
@ Wells Museum 10-1.30**

Cathedral Prayers - *Portishead Deanery*

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> MU Quiet Day 10 - 4pm

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> *Retreat Ammerdown Centre*

Nov

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting FH 10.30am - 2pm  
*TBC Management CCC Committee @ Clevedon*

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Cathedral Prayers

Dec

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Cathedral Prayers - 'Said' MU in  
MU Chapel (St Stephen's)

**Remember to celebrate milestones  
as you prepare for the road ahead  
Nelson Mandela.**



## 2026 - Celebrating 150 years of MU


**June 10th 2026** 150th Celebratory Evensong in  
St Paul's Cathedral

**June 11th 2026** **Annual Meeting gathering at  
Emmanuel Centre, next to MSH**

Book your accommodation soon

**October 2026 150th Anniversary Global Gathering**  
in Durban, South Africa

**THANK YOU  
FOR BEE-ING**



**SO AMAZING**

Don't miss saying  
**Thank You To Veronica**  
At the October Gathering  
Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>  
Come & Give Her your Personal Thanks

## Some News from Mary Sumner House

### What are COIs?

COI stands for Communities of Interest. A MU Community of Interest is a group of Mothers' Union members who are interested in a specific project or aspect of our work. As the MU has a lot of Projects and ways of working, we obviously have quite a few COIs each with its own interest.



Mary Sumner House arrange for zoom meetings for each Interest, usually 3 or 4 a year. Anyone can join them, not just Diocesan Committee Members or Project Leads. So if you would like to know more about how other Dioceses action our work, do contact the MU Office:

mu@bathwells.anglican.org 01749 685131

I will then contact the relevant Lead at MSH and you will receive the zoom link for the next meeting

*Don't confuse a COI with a CIO! Our new South West Mothers Union Charity will be a CIO - A Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is nothing special, that is just how the Charity Commissions now work!*

### What Happens in COI Meetings

The various COIs meet regularly, an average of four times a year, and members discuss best practices, share challenges, and work collectively to find solutions. Each COI helps ensure that the voices of our members are heard at a national level, and that good ideas and best practices can be passed on from one branch to another.

Why Your Participation Matters:

Being part of a COI, whether as a representative or through your branch, has many benefits:

- **Shared Learning:** Gain insights from other dioceses and discover creative ways to tackle challenges.
- **Networking:** Build relationships and connections across the wider Mothers' Union.
- **Skill Development:** Develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills that benefit your branch & personal growth.

- Influence: Help shape national priorities and ensure your local perspective is represented.
- Inspiration: Return to your branch with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and stories to share.
- Future Leadership: COIs are an excellent space to nurture and train new leaders, supporting the long-term sustainability of your branch.

### **Making the Most of COI Updates**

Leaders are encouraged to include COI updates as a regular agenda item in branch meetings. Representatives can share what's happening, collect feedback from members, and inspire more people to get involved.



Participating in COIs is more than attending a meeting, it is an opportunity to learn, contribute, and grow, both as an individual branch or diocese and as part of the M.U. family. Let's embrace these opportunities and use the COI platforms to strengthen our branches and prepare and mentor the leaders of tomorrow.

### **October Prayer Theme - Keys of the Kingdom Prison Ministry**

#### **For or against: slavery and salvation**

Much of our world operates around the challenge to be 'for' or 'against'. And generally, it is easier to be against things than for them! Look at the tendencies of the media, politics and religious disputes.

On October 18, Anti-Slavery Day, people across the UK will recommit themselves to the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking, one of the great evils of our time.

Like William Wilberforce and what we now call historic slavery, we need to fight against the oppression and exploitation of our sisters and brothers today. Abolition is the proper aim of being anti or against. And the challenge is growing with:



- More vulnerable people susceptible to false promises
- Increasingly flexible working arrangements which gives space for criminal agencies to provide goods and services based on exploitation and slave labour.

- Police and prevention resources being ever overstretch
- And our own insatiable appetite for cheap products

There is much we need to learn to oppose and abolish. But, in facing these almost overwhelming challenges we must not neglect what is primary for our Christian witness, the call to notice, reach out, rescue and restore. The call to love, to be for those who are hidden, neglected, hurting and ignored.

In Anti-Slavery Week, give time to thinking how you or your church or home group could better learn how to contribute to the fight



against modern slavery. The Clewer Initiative has some amazing resources to help us open our eyes and assist the authorities and reach out towards victims.

But, alongside these prayers and practices, consider how you could go the extra mile in the way of the Good Samaritan. Going beyond the indifference of the priest and the Levite, too busy to stop, notice, reach out, rescue; rather how can we better contribute to establishing systems like the partnership between the Good Samaritan and the innkeeper– systems to provide care and the basis of restoring proper health and opportunities to those whose cries represent the voice of Jesus for those willing to listen.



Be against modern slavery this October, but more be for those who need our friendship and our partnership.

**Bishop Alastair Redfern** Honorary Assistant Bishop

### **The Mothers' Union Working with The Clewer Initiative**

<https://www.mothersunion.org/projects/mothers-union-and-clewer>



## Advanced Notice

### Chris's Autumn Coffee Morning is Moving!!

#### It is now happening in Wells Museum.

The nearest car park is 2 Tor St, Wells BA5 2US. There is also street parking (pay at meter) on College Rd, Wells BA5 2TB.

### Chris's Autumn Coffee Morning has a new Date!!

#### It is happening on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Portishead Deanery are leading Cathedral Prayers.

The theme is St Luke's Healing Ministry + Prison Week

- \* **Come and Support** Chris's display on the Cathedral's Charity of the Month Stand.
- \* **Come and Hear Sally** with important Financial Information
- \* **Come and Collect**
  - \* End of Year's Brown Envelopes.

Have you grown a MU Sunflower? Thank You to Clevedon for sending me a photo. I was rather late planting mine!



## Better Late than Never! Matthew 21:28-32

*Finally I have space to share with you the financial report that Sally Bult gave at our Annual Meeting back in June!*

### Mothers' Union – Bath & Wells - Financial Report for 2024

This year I presented the Annual Financial Report in a slightly different way, still using the 'washing line' approach but this time putting the income and expenditure figures, in each category, alongside each other.

Subscriptions  
to diocese

**£17,206.00**

to Mary Summer House

**£13,882.00**

Leaving

**£3,324.00**

for office running costs

Our income for the whole of 2024 totalled £37,248.00 but what we spent came to £41,341, which meant we had a 'shortfall' of £4,093

which had to come out of reserves. Subscriptions were lower than in 2023, and after we had forwarded the central subscription amount to Mary Sumner House, only £3,324 was then

available to use along with additional donations, bank interest and the MUe bonus to make up the £8,361 we had to meet the Operating Costs of £10,150. This sadly meant an additional £1,789 from other sources was needed to 'break even'.

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

Members were busy throughout the year raising funds for various MU projects, £1,519 for Diocesan Projects of which £750 was spent. £2,501 for AFIA & the Shirley

In 2024

Funds coming in were

**£37, 248.00**

Funds going out were

**£41,341.00**

Shortfall taken from reserves =

**£4,093**

Operating the office in 2024  
Cost Bath & Wells MU

**£10, 150.00**

Rent and admin charges - **£5,978**  
Postage, licences, insurance,  
auditing and meeting costs  
**£2,915**  
Officer expense (President,  
Chaplain, MUe/communications)  
**£1,257**

Overspend of

**£1,789.00**

Donations given for  
Diocesan Projects

**£1,5,19.00**

Spent during the year

**£750.00**

AFIA holidays & S Penn fund

**£2,501.00**

Spent

**£2,173.00**

Penn fund, of which £2,173 was spent. £5,689 was sent in for the Worldwide Fund, which enabled, when added to funds from 2023, for us to send £9,489 to

### Make a Mother's Day &

Summer of Hope

**£1,050**

was sent in error to me rather than MSH so I just forwarded that on to them as was necessary.

M.S.H. for WWF. Many of the branches sent their donations to the Make a Mother's Day and Summer of Hope Appeals directly, but £1,050 came into the diocesan ac-

count which was then passed on to MSH. The Child Contact Centres cost us £2,646 to run and we donated a further £5,000 to the Somerset Child Contact Centres for them to take over the running of the Frome Centre, which we had sadly had to

relinquish. Money received in from grants, donations and investment interest to cover these costs

amounted to £3,172.

Our investments in the Hampshire Trust Bank at the end of 2024 are:

Unrestricted funds £7,000

Restricted funds £18,000 in the Rowena Merson Fund and £30,000 in the Child Contact Centres Fund.

The main accounts and branch consolidated accounts have now been audited by our accountants, Maxwells of Bridgwater, along

with the MUE accounts prepared by Chris Mahoney.

Moving forward, I foresee that the 2025 accounts will be presented in much the same way as we are used to and from then on, with the birth of the South West Cluster group, we shall develop a new format with a Group Treasurer helping out and consolidating what come through from the diocesan treasurers. **Sally Bult**

### Worldwide Fund

Donations given were

**£5,689.00**

donations sent to Mary Summer House (including part of funds raised in 2023) were

**£9,489.00**

£2500 was give as part of **The Big Give** which was doubled

### Child Contact Centres

**£30,000** invested with Hampshire Bank Trust - interest paid on maturity of policies: in 2024 it was - **£512.00**

Donations and grants were **£2660.00**

Running expenses were **£2,646.00**

And **£5000.00** was given to the **Somerset CCC**

Additional general donations for office expenses

**£2,975.00**

Bank interest

**£1, 133.00**

MUe bonus

**£929.00**

Total available funds for Running costs

**£8,361.00**