

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells



Annual Report 2024

Registered Charity No. 250180

<https://mubathandwells.org>

<https://www.mothersunion.org>

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Mothers UNION
Christian care for families
Our 2023 Annual Report is now online, read it now...
Diocese of Bath & Wells
Charity Number 20388

Our Diocese | Projects | Faith & Policy | Marketing | Newsletters | Diary | Photos | Resources
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Our Diocese

Welcome to the Diocese of Bath & Wells Mothers Union.

Bath & Wells

 **DIocese of BATH & WELLS**

The Diocese of Bath & Wells lies in the South West of England and consists of the Archdeacons of Taunton, Wells and Bath. Its border follows that of the ceremonial county of Somerset.

In Bath & Wells we have 750 Mothers Union members in 42 branches meeting and supporting a wide variety of projects both in and out of the diocese.

Mothers' Union

The Mothers Union is a worldwide Anglican-led organization whose purpose is to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

The essential heartbeat of the Mothers Union is its commitment to prayer. Members worldwide are united in a daily 24 hour Wave of Prayer.

Members bring a wide variety of practical help and support to the Church and the community.

It offers the fellowship of a regular branch meeting or a diocesan link.

Membership is open to all who have been baptised in the name of the Trinity and who support the aim and objects of the Society.

Our Diocese | Projects | Faith & Policy | Marketing | Newsletters | Diary | Photos | Resources
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mu@bathwells.anglican.org

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells

In 2024 We had

605 Members in the diocese

478 Branch members
found in **25** Branches

plus

11 IMPC members

and

116 Diocesan Members
either within one of the **5** 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 maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service:
- 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 promote and support married life:

**Maintaining a Worldwide Fellowship of
Christians United in Prayer, Worship & Service**
How we work towards achieving the following Objective

Branch/Group Prayers:

Branch prayers are now guided by the expansion of the Central Prayer Diary. Several Parishes, where there is no longer a Branch, the Diocesan Members regularly meet for a Coffee, Natter & Prayer.

To support individual members, an A5 card was created as a monthly calendar which identifies a specific Branch and a Diocesan personnel for each day in a month. The Card is designed to act as a bookmark in the Central Prayer Diary

Cathedral Prayers:

This ½ hour Service continues to be held in Wells Cathedral on the 3rd Thursday morning of each month. Each month the service is written and led by a different Branch. It includes the Daily Wave of Prayer, found in the central Prayer Diary, when every MU member prays for the work and members in 4/5 designated dioceses across the world, .

Wave of Prayer Service:

This service, was written by a former MU Chaplain and our Link Dioceses Project Officer. It was then forwarded to our Link Dioceses - Umuahia and Ijebu in Nigeria: Shinyanga, in Tanzania: False Bay in South Africa: and Vellore Church of South India. The Service is used by the branches in all the Dioceses celebrating our links together over 3 days. This year we again held 3 services in Wells Cathedral in The Mothers' Union (St Stephen's) Chapel. We were delighted to see on Social Media, that members from our Link Dioceses, in particular by South Africa & India, were using the form of service sent to them.

2024 Annual Report presented 2025

The MU Chapel - Cathedral Prayers - The Lady Chapel

Bath and Wells Mothers' Union Monthly Prayer Calendar			
1	Backwell	Mothers' Union members Worldwide	
2	Banwell	16	Nailsea, Christ Church Those who visit Our Website. Lead: Derek Mahony
3	Barton St David	17	Porlock Away From It All breaks. Lead: Marlene Philips
4	Bath & District	18	Portishead Child Contact Center & Lead:
5	Beckington	19	Somerton Cookbook
6	Bridgwater	20	South Petherton MU Literature Officer: Chris Mahoney
7	Chard, St Mary's	21	Taunton- Staplegrove Prayer Chain: Tina Stubbs
8	Cheddar	22	Taunton- West Monkton Worldwide Links & Lead: Gay Curtis
9	Cleeve & Claverham	23	Wraxall Craft Work & Lead:
10	Clevedon United Benefic	24	Wrington Your Personal Benefice Clergy
11	Crewkerne	25	Yatton, St Mary's Archbishop of Canterbury
12	Furnham Chard	26	Yeovil, Holy Trinity Bishop Michael & Bishop Ruth
13	Keynsham	27	Nailsea Holy Trinity Group Assistant Bishops
14	Kingsbury Episcopi	28	Taunton Minster Group Ordinands
15	Martock	29	Wells City Group Cathedral Staff
		30	Weston-super-Mare Group Flourish House Staff
		31	Wincanton Group Diocesan Link with Zambia



Wave of Prayer Cathedral Services

To be held in the Mothers Union
(St Stephens) Chapel

Friday 26th January

14:00 – 14:30

Saturday 27th January

11:00 – 11:30

Sunday 28th January

12:00 – 12:30



Wave of Prayer Service 2024



**"I will not forget you
See I have engraved you
on the Palm of my Hand" (Isaiah 49:16)**

Please receive the outline of a hand,
write your name in the space provided.
On the other side write

- the name of a person or
- a situation

 you particularly want to bring to God today.

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

How we work towards achieving the above Objective - cont.

Prayer Chain:

This is now being run by one of the members, with prayer needs being sent direct to her and then resent to all on the group (using BACS to preserve data information)

Special Services:

- † There was a Eucharist before the Annual Meeting. The Celebrant was Assistant Bishop Trevor. He was also able to Commission the new Diocesan Chaplain.
- † Some deaneries held Festival Services, one was combined with a Mary Sumner Day Service.
- † Two area business meetings started with a Eucharist.
- † Bishop Michael called for our 24hour Diocesan Wave of Prayer. As well as supporting their parishes, MU members held a half-hour service in the St Stephen's & MU chapel on Saturday afternoon.



www.facebook.com/MUBathWells/videos/1541416686779125



Quiet Days:

Some Branches held Quiet Days in their own parishes. A diocesan one was held in October led by our new Chaplain. Craft work aiding the silent reflections



Retreat:

Due to the poor attendance last year, it was decided to have a rest year and not organise one in 2024.

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

How we work towards achieving this Objective

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.

They received a Bronze Medal for their work.

The Souls of the Shoes Exhibition continues to circulate around the diocese, demonstrating the way those who suffer

Domestic Abuse often hide their situation for fear of further abuse or encountering unbelief.

SOULS OF OUR SHOES EXHIBITION



If someone discloses abuse to you, you should:

- R**espond Respond to a disclosure of abuse with compassion and calm
- I**nform 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**
- S**upport Support in a safe manner, listen and believe
- E**mpower Empower them to grow and heal
- U**nite Unite the members of Mother's Union and churches to help end domestic abuse
- P**ray Pray for all affected by domestic abuse

IMPORTANT Do not tell a victim to leave.



Support for those using the Refuges:

Vouchers continue to be steadily donated. Refuges are asked what they need and this year several branches made wash bags and then filled them.



Modern Day Slavery and Prison Week:

These Projects continue to be held in prayer. The use of crafted Chain Links advertises the need for Prayer and Action



To help those whose family life has met with adversity:

How we work towards achieving this Objective

CRAFT:

Knitting is still popular with members. Items created are mostly hats for seafarers, for babies and for Retirement Homes.

Taunton Minster are knitting squares. Once 48 squares have been collected, they are joined together.



* FREE PATTERN * EASY TO MAKE *

TWIDDLEMUFFS
for dementia care



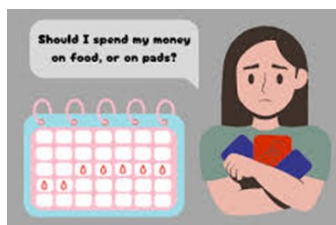
The name of the recipient is embroidered on. A button saying "Handmade with Love" is also sewn on. They are then given to a house-bound member of the congregation.

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

Period Poverty:

This continues to be offered to two schools in Bath. One school likes to receive supermarket vouchers, the other prefers to give the MU contact a Shopping List.

A MUriel Poster is available for other branches to expand this project into other local schools.



Ask for MURIEL

If you are in need of help with your Period, Please go to Reception and ask for a package That MUriel has left for you. You will be given a bag containing items to help you.

#God's Love in Action



#MotherUnion

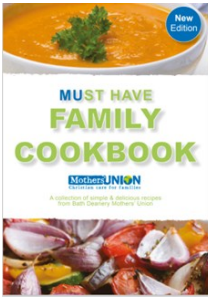
<https://mubathandwells.org>

To help those whose family life has met with adversity

How we work towards achieving this Objective *conc*

AFIA:

2024 was a quieter year. We arranged a holiday for 1 family; 1 child had 3 horse riding sessions by using our "Days Out" experiences; 1 lady was able to go on a church weekend; A local charity offering holidays, was only able to arrange 2 family holidays with our support.



Student Support/Cookbook:

In 2024 the postcards promoting the 'MU Family Cookbook' online were given free. Free hard copies of 'MU Family Cookbook' were given to families affected by rising living costs through various churches, refuges, other charities and food-pantries.

Child Contact Centres:

We started 2023 with 3 Centres: one centre in Clevedon and one in Nailsea, both operating since 2004: and one in Frome, a millennium project. Over the years, offers to volunteer are not as numerous as they initially were. Sadly, Frome could not find a co-ordinator when the current person retired and the centre was closed. Mothers' Union is now down to 2 centres. At the end of 2024, we were able to employ a new Coordinator for the North Somerset Centre.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Tea party for the past & present volunteers, were arranged to celebrate 20 years of this special work in helping families to stay in touch even when the

parents are no longer talking to each other.



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

In stor

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.

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 .

Local Schools:

Several branches run or help with After-School Clubs.

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 Hunt. Similarly the MU branches regularly create Christingles.

2024 Annual Report presented 2025



Church Mice
Toddler Group

Wednesdays
9.15 to 11.15

A toddler group for 0-4 years with tea, coffee, biscuits and fruit snacks, plenty of toys and activities. Term time only. All are welcome!
Holy Trinity Church, Lysander Road

£2 PER FAMILY

For more information contact the Church Office on

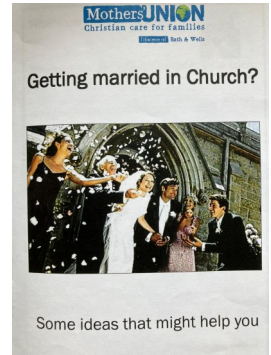
To promote and support married life

How we work towards achieving this Objective



Some branches work with the Priest by providing information booklets and refreshments during Marriage Preparation sessions. Several branches give Couples Mothers' Union Wedding Cards and when possible Anniversary Cards.

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



The Big South West Wedding Fair

Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet

CONTACT ORGANISER GET TICKETS

TWO DAY WEDDING FAIR! Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October 2025, 10.30am-3pm. The Royal Bath & West Showground, BA4 6QN. "Hands down, the best

[Read full description](#)

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

- † 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, and once this year, conducting the opening Worship.



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

- † We were delighted to see that the MU kneeler from the Mothers' Union (St Stephen's) Chapel is part of the Cathedral Crib Scene.
- † The MU banner and Cards Display Board are in a prominent position in the Diocesan Offices (on the way to the toilets) along with details for paying online.
- † Our Communication's Officer delivers extra display boards & leaflets when a parish 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; especially as the Controllers regularly change the systems!
- † Branches are encouraged to invite the Clergy and churchwardens to their meetings. Ensure they know that if they are busy, they are welcome to join just in time for a cup of tea and a piece of cake!
- † Branches are requested to have contact with their Benefice Website manager to ensure that their Mothers' Union Information :

- a) is included.
- b) is on the front line.
- c) includes contact details.
- d) includes when & where you meet
- e) includes a link to MU website.
- f) includes a short description of MU.
- g) is kept UpToDate.



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<https://www.facebook.com/MUBathWells>

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells

MU Bath&Wells
205 likes • 231 followers

Intro
We are part of the international Mothers' Union Christian organisation with over 4 million members

Featured

MU Bath&Wells
23 August 2021
24hour Diocesan Wave of Prayer from 7pm 6th September and into 7th September...

MU Bath&Wells
21 May 2021
View the album containing the photos of the "Souls of our Shoes" These are just a taster

<https://www.youtube.com/>

Bath&Wells Mothers Union
@bathwellsmothersunion0603 • 11 subscribers • 22 videos
More about this channel ...more

Home Videos Live Playlists

For you

17th June 2021 Cathedral Prayers
19 views • 3 years ago

January 2021 Cathedral Prayers
20 views • 4 years ago

July Cathedral Prayers
13 views • 3 years ago

October Cathedral Prayers
12 views • 4 years ago

Videos

Bishop Michael Wave of Prayer 2024
17 views • 6 months ago

Anti-slavery Day Service
16 views • 3 years ago

July Cathedral Prayers
19 views • 3 years ago

17th June 2021 Cathedral Prayers
19 views • 3 years ago

May 2021 Cathedral Prayers
16 views • 4 years ago

April Cathedral Prayers
20 views • 4 years ago

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