

## Joining is Easy!

You can become part of our worldwide organisation to support family life today! Membership is open to anyone, male or female, single or married, providing you have been baptised as a Christian and support our aims.

In joining Mothers' Union you are usually admitted in an official ceremony where you will be presented with a membership card and badge. There is an annual subscription payable each January. You will receive Mothers' Union magazines, which are included in this fee.

Diocesan Office:  
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Website: [www.mothersunionchester.co.uk](http://www.mothersunionchester.co.uk)  
National Website: [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

**Your Local Branch is:**

**Your Local Contact is:**

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

## Diocese of Chester

### What is Mothers' Union?

Mothers' Union is an International Christian Charity, which supports families worldwide. The purpose of Mothers' Union is to be especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life. Some members attend meetings where they come together in prayer and support for each other as well as helping many of the global and local projects, with which Mothers' Union is involved.

### Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Chester

For practical purposes, the work of Mothers' Union is organised in four parts:

**Faith & Policy:** Retreats, quiet days, Wave of Prayer, prayer chain, prayer diary, Indoor Members, Social Policy discussion papers.

**Action & Outreach:** Away From it all Holidays, supporting prisoners and their families, Virtual Babies, Cheshire Show Tent, Parenting groups, Wedding Fairs Stall, supporting refugees and relief funding for emergency aid.

**Fundraising & Communication:** Christian literature and cards, national magazines, Families First and Families Worldwide, Diocesan newsletter Mothers' Union Matters, Diocesan website, exhibition and promotional material.

**Finance and Central Services:** administration (Diocesan Office), financial management, Diocesan meetings and events, elections, archives, Diocesan Membership, training.

## Diocesan/Branch Projects

Alongside fundraising for overseas projects, each diocese within the UK has its own unique charity number. The Diocese responds to local needs by raising funds and putting local programmes into place. Some of the projects Mothers' Union in Chester Diocese supports are:

**Away From it all Holidays:** Giving families, who are normally unable to have a holiday, a short break in a caravan.

**Cheshire Show Tent:** A Parent and Child facility for baby changing and feeding.

**Parenting:** Groups sharing practical advice on bringing up children.

**Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institute:** Running a crèche for children of visitors. **Styal Prison:** Baby Boxes for new babies.

**Virtual Babies:** Visiting schools and giving pupils the experience of caring for a new baby.

**Wedding Fairs:** Promoting church as a venue for wedding services.

*"HELPING THOSE FACING ADVERSITY" is a phrase Mothers' Union members take to their hearts.*

*Members reach out with whatever help they can to refugees, asylum seekers, women escaping sexual trafficking or domestic violence or those affected by poverty.*

## Overseas Projects and Countries Involved

Mothers' Union is the largest mission organisation in the Anglican Communion with 4 million members in over 80 countries. Where membership numbers have been reducing in developed countries, they continue to grow in other areas of the world. Through its programmes worldwide, Mothers' Union works with some of the most neglected, marginalized people in the developing world. The money raised for the Worldwide and Relief funds goes towards many overseas projects including: Literacy, Financial and Parenting programmes, Wheels for Workers, Mosquito Nets, support for victims of HIV/AIDS, improved Agricultural schemes and Family Life Development.

## Membership

Members are not all mothers or even all women! We have female, male, single, married, parents, grandparents and young adult members. By becoming a member you are joining a network through which you can serve Christ in your own community and beyond through prayer, financial and emotional support. The only requirement is that you are baptised in the Trinity and agree with our Aim and Objectives. There are three types of membership: Branch, Diocesan and Central.

Most members join through a **Branch**, which is attached to their church. Some churches run more than one type of branch meeting alongside each other so that members with different lifestyles can meet at times to suit. **Indoor Members** may be people who can no longer attend meetings or join in the practical side of Mothers' Union's activities, but they pray for our work.

Others who may not have a local group nearby or who do not feel able to attend meetings choose **Diocesan Membership**. They receive information on projects, programmes and events in the diocese.

Others join as **Central Members**. This can be done on-line via the website or through completing a joining form. These members receive information, publications and letters to keep them up to date with all that is going on.

## What's Involved?

Most branches meet together once a month for worship, to be together, to enjoy friendship and fellowship and to support each other. More often than not a speaker will have been invited to give a talk on a subject linked to Mothers' Union work, giving a wider picture of the work in which Mothers' Union is involved. Branches promote and raise funds for Mothers' Union projects and support these with prayer.

