



Mothers' Union Standard Group Pack



Mothers' Union – Join Us, Join In!

This Mothers' Union's (MU) group pack is designed to serve as a simple, practical guide to support Britain & Ireland MU group leaders in your vital work of advancing MU's mission and vision. It is a practical guide to equip you with tools, templates, and information to operate effectively while staying aligned with the core values of our movement.

We hope it will inspire you to embrace the challenge of leading a group and empower you to guide your groups in making a meaningful impact in your communities.

As you explore this resource, please do share with us your feedback so we can ensure our resources meet your needs
membership@mothersunion.org

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the work of our movement. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of people in our churches and in our communities.



Types of Membership in Britain & Ireland

Mothers' Union is open to anyone and supportive of everyone, whoever you are – you do not have to have children, be married, be a woman, or regularly attend church. There are diverse ways to belong depending on what works best for you. However you get involved, you are becoming part of a global movement for change 4 million strong.

MU offers several types of membership to accommodate levels of time commitment and personal circumstances: new members can choose to become a global member (money paid centrally) or a diocesan member (who pays their membership to the diocese and gets the benefit of local support).

- > **Branch Membership:** members join a local branch, usually attached to a parish church. They attend regular meetings and participate in local activities. Open to anyone baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and who supports the movement's objectives.
- > **Diocesan Membership:** For people who cannot attend branch meetings but want to support the movement at diocesan level. Open to anyone baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and who supports the movement's objectives.
- > **Branch or Diocesan Friend:** As above, but for people not baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity.
- > **Indoor Member (IMPC):** Indoor members are members connected to a branch or diocese who cannot actively participate due to health or mobility issues, childcare, work commitments etc.

Joining MU through a local group as a local member or friend is likely to be the right path for people particularly interested in getting involved actively to make a change in their local community, and in joining together for faith, fellowship and friendship.

- > **Global Membership:** this is accessible by signing up via the MU website, www.mothersunion.org. This membership is open to anyone who wants to be part of the global movement, and supports its objectives without active involvement in local community outreach or volunteering

Membership benefits typically include

- > Mothers' Union publications – Connected magazine and our annual Prayer Diary
- > Regular updates on campaigns and projects
- > Access to membership resources
- > Invitations to events

The annual subscription fee varies by location and membership type, ranging from £30.00 - £42.00 for individual memberships. Global membership is £36 per annum.

Types of Groups

The strength of Mothers' Union (MU) lies in its deep-rooted presence within communities. Across the globe, our members unite to work, pray, and campaign together, fostering fellowship, a principle that has been central to our mission since the movement was founded in 1876.

There are numerous ways to bring members together to connect and collaborate.



Diocesan Groups

There are 64 dioceses in Britain & Ireland, each operating as independent charities. There is also a small staff team in Mary Sumner House (MSH) that support the membership and MU's global work. Dioceses are governed by their own locally elected board of trustees and Diocesan Presidents, ensuring a strong sense of local ownership and decision-making.

Each diocese sets their own membership subscription rate which includes a percentage paid to MSH for the provision of central services and our global work. Diocesan members who are not part of branches or groups will be supported by the diocese and will receive regular communications and invitations to diocesan activities.

Local Groups/Branches

Members of MU come together all over the world, each group meeting in its own unique way. Many groups meet as 'branches' linked to a parish church, others gather in cafes, restaurants, community centres, or members' homes; the possibilities are endless. There are no limits to where and when members and friends can meet. If you cannot physically attend a meeting, there are other ways to stay connected, such as participating in the daily midday prayer on our Facebook page.

New members are often welcomed at a group meeting or as part of a church service.

These groups focus on fellowship and volunteering on MU local projects.

Deanery/District Groups

These groups comprise of members from multiple parishes within a deanery (a subdivision of a diocese) or district. They tend to meet less frequently than monthly branches, often quarterly or bi-annually, facilitating wider networking and collaboration among local branches e.g. hosting the annual Lady Day and Mary Sumner Day services.

Fellowship Groups

There are informal groups that meet weekly or bi-weekly for regular fellowship and prayer; they offer more frequent opportunities for members to connect and support each other.

Virtual/Digital Meetings

For members unable to attend physical meetings, virtual or digital platforms are available, facilitating participation through online discussions, prayer sessions, and remote engagement.

Online groups allow members to connect, share resources, and participate in activities virtually, catering to members who may not be able to attend in-person meetings. These groups offer a way for individuals to participate in discussions, prayer, and fellowship without the need for physical attendance at meetings. This is particularly beneficial for those with mobility issues or scheduling conflicts.

Other MU Groups

MU is not limited to mother's or women. We welcome members and friends of all ages, including young adults who are beginning to express their faith and social conscience. MU groups engage in various activities that appeal to younger members, such as community projects, volunteering, and social justice initiatives. Regardless of the membership structure, all groups share a common goal of upholding MU's objectives and goals which are to end violence, end injustice and end poverty.

Starting a group



1. Understand our mission and objectives

The first step to starting a group is to understand the mission and objectives of MU.

2. Contact your Diocesan Representative

Contact the representative in your local diocese. They will provide you with specific guidance and support tailored to your area. A local diocesan MU is the affiliate body for a particular locality, which will outline the types of entities that can be formed, from informal fellowship groups to more formal groups or branches. New groups must follow a defined process to affiliate with the organisation. You can find your diocesan representative on our website www.mothersunion.org/find-your-local-group

3. Gather interested members

Reach out to others in your community who might enjoy being part of MU. MU is inclusive and welcomes anyone who support its aims. Talk to friends, family, and people at church. You could say something like "I'm thinking of starting a casual get-together to help people connect locally – coffee, chat, maybe a craft. Would you be interested?"

You can invite people to attend meetings without pressure to immediately join a membership. Take time to welcome newcomers openly and create a friendly environment.



4. Decide upon your structure

Branches or groups may opt for a formal governance structure which includes a leader, secretary, and treasurer. However, this is not necessary and often is an obstacle in a group starting and deters people becoming and staying involved. A more informal structure offers flexibility and promotes inclusivity. Some branches or group have a committee, in others everyone engages in decision-making and the management of activities.

Register your branch or group: register your branch with your MU diocese and arrange payment for membership subscriptions.

Plan your activities: decide on activities that you would like to do as a branch or group, such as prayer, fundraising, community outreach, or educational events.

No strict supervision is required from the diocese if the branch or group is not fundraising or doing outreach.

What is essential is that all branches and groups will need to adhere to MU's Safeguarding Policy. Please go to www.mothersunion.org/safeguarding

5. Hold a Preliminary Meeting

Organise a meeting with the interested members to discuss the vision and plan for your group. Meetings may have an element of reflection or prayer, aligning with the values of MU.

Find a place to meet; your home, a local cafe, your church hall, or even the local park (weather dependent) could work. The point is to be comfortable and relaxed.

6. Plan Activities and Events

Begin planning activities and events that reflect the values and objectives of MU. You can get guidance from your local diocese representative. Or find resources and support on the MU resources page www.mothersunion.org/resources

You may want to invite your diocesan representative to one of your meetings just so that they can guide and encourage you.

Keep the first meeting low-key: Loose agenda, no formal introductions. Just let people talk, share stories, and get to know each other.

Go with the flow: See what people are interested in. Maybe it is a book club, maybe it is volunteering, maybe it is just a monthly coffee date. Let the group decide its own direction.

Keep it simple: Do not worry about official titles or strict rules. The most important thing is to build connections and support within your community. The key is to create a comfortable, inclusive space that reflects MU's core objectives while maintaining a relaxed, informal style.

Remember: MU is all about supporting families and communities. There is no one right way to do it. Live out your faith, have fun, fellowship, and see what works for you and your group!

Focus on Shared Values:

Emphasise faith and care: Incorporate short prayers, reflections, or Bible readings, but keep them accessible and open.

Create a sense of purpose: Even in an informal setting, remind members that they are part of a global movement supporting women, families and communities around the globe to thrive with community-based projects and projects designed to help them to thrive.

Examples of Informal Activities

- Organise casual prayer walks or mindfulness sessions.
- Hold a potluck lunch to discuss a family-related topic.
- Host a toy or book swap for parents and carers.
- Volunteer as a group for a local charity, such as a food bank.
- Create care packages for new parents or elderly neighbours.



All these activities are also opportunities for you to promote MU and encourage people to join.

7. Ensure Compliance

Make sure to adhere to any legal requirements, such as risk assessments for events, data protection guidelines and safeguarding. You can find useful documents and checklists for this in the appendix, on MU's resources page and safeguarding materials.

A risk assessment should be conducted whenever your branch plans an event. It will help you to make the event safer for everyone - members and visitors. MU insurance will only cover your event if you have given details of the event and a copy of the risk assessment to your diocesan leadership. See appendix for a standard event checklist and a risk assessment form as well as safeguarding and data protection policy and guidelines.

8. Regular meetings and reflections

Establish regular meeting times that suit your members. Each meeting should have an element of prayer or reflection, along with discussions about your activities-based branch or group scheduled goals.



Welcome drop-ins. Let members attend meetings or events as they are able, without pressure to participate every time.

Focus on Inclusivity. Keep your meetings open and welcoming. Encourage everyone to bring their friends, regardless of their background. A more informal type of group, an “MU Lite” approach, can make it more appealing to a broader audience.

9. Staying Connected

We recommend that you stay connected with the wider MU community, especially your diocese. There are opportunities to participate in their activities and events like conferences, workshops, and training sessions.

You could also be volunteers in their community projects and programmes. This will help you connect with other groups and stay aligned with diocesan goals.

You can keep your group members and wider church family informed and engaged through newsletters, meetings, or social media.

Share your group's activities with your diocesan MU office periodically to maintain a strong connection and benefit from their resources and ideas for informal groups or initiatives.

10. Share your stories

All branches and groups are encouraged to share their activities with the global movement by regularly updating MU Live; a global database that reports to members our achievements and impact. You can either do this directly by requesting a login from membership@mothersunion.org or regularly update your diocesan office who will do this for you.

11. Let the Group Evolve

Adapt to members' needs: Be flexible in how the group grows and operates, allowing the group to take on its own character.

Celebrate small wins: Focus on the joy of being together and the impact you are making in your community, no matter how small.

Benefits of Adopting an Informal Structure

Adopting an informal style and approach to starting a group can create a welcoming, flexible, and accessible environment for members while still upholding the MU's core values and objectives. This approach minimises formal processes and structures while maintaining the group's purpose.

Checklist of key reminders

- Keep it simple: emphasise faith, connection and shared goals over formal roles or procedures.
- Understand flexibility: ask for guidance on how to align with the MU's core mission while maintaining a relaxed approach.
- Host casual gatherings: begin by inviting a few friends or community members for coffee mornings, prayer circles, or informal discussions.
- Use familiar spaces: meet in homes, cafes, parks, or church halls rather than formal meeting rooms.
- Avoid pressure: let attendees come as they are and participate as they feel comfortable.
- Focus on fellowship: make the group a space where members can relax, share, and grow together.
- Use simple communication: rely on informal chats, WhatsApp groups, or social media to stay connected rather than formal emails or newsletters.
- Minimal hierarchy: assign only essential roles (like a point of contact or someone to handle finances if needed).
- Flexible gatherings: plan occasional meetups instead of a strict calendar. Focus on what works best for members' schedules.
- Activity-based focus: organise practical activities like community outreach, craft sessions, or shared meals.
- Start with achievable goals: focus on a few small initiatives like organising some outreach in your community, visiting elderly neighbours, hosting a parenting workshop or domestic abuse awareness campaign.
- Collaborate with others: partner with existing local groups or your church to keep planning simple.
- No formal requirements: allow people to join without long-term commitments or membership fees if possible (let them come as quests and experience MU hospitality).
- Welcome drop-ins: let members attend meetings or events as they are able, without pressure to participate every time.
- Emphasise faith and care: incorporate short prayers, reflections, or Bible readings, but keep them accessible and open.
- Create a sense of purpose: even in an informal setting, remind members that they are part of a global movement supporting families.

GOVERNANCE AT LOCAL LEVEL

As above, branches and groups within MU are not required to have a formal governance structure. However, should your branch or group desire a more defined structure, the following guidelines offer options and best practices.

Governance Options

1. Informal Structure Loose Committee (if needed): Small branches or groups may function with a loose committee, where members volunteer to coordinate activities, communications, and responsibilities. Or everyone can be involved in decision-making and management. This setup provides flexibility and simplicity.

2. Formal Structure Formal Committee (Optional): For branches or groups seeking a more defined governance structure, forming a committee with designated roles (chair, secretary, treasurer) can give clear leadership and organisation.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Chair: Leads meetings, sets agendas, and ensures activities align with the Mothers' Union's mission, policies, and goals.
- Secretary: Manages correspondence, records meeting minutes, and handles administrative tasks.
- Treasurer: Oversees financial matters, including budgeting, accounting, and reporting.

Management of communications and finances

The flexibility of an MU branch or group lies in its ability to foster a supportive, dynamic community that transforms lives through faith, fun, fellowship, and collective action.

Maintaining communication with the diocese and MSH is essential for staying informed about various activities and initiatives and remaining engaged. The Connected magazine, Prayer Diary, and MU e-newsletters (you can sign-up to the regular news email on the MU website plus you will receive MSH Member Updates from your diocesan officer) are regular resources and updates provided by MSH. In addition to this, other ways to stay informed includes:

- Monthly e-newsletter: Stay updated by signing up on the main Mothers' Union website.
- Mothers' Union Facebook group: Connect with fellow members online and share experiences.
- Members' Days and Annual Gatherings: Receive information about these events directly from MSH..

Diocese Communications

- As a branch or diocesan member, you will receive newsletters and emails from your local diocese.
- Invitations to local events and to volunteer in local community projects



Finances

Branches or groups can choose to manage their finances through their own bank account or, or often much easier to, coordinate financial activities (such as collecting subscriptions) through the deanery or diocese. Dioceses will provide financial oversight, ensure proper compliance with regulations, and offers centralised support for budgeting and reporting. If you do wish to open a bank account at branch or group level, please seek formal permission from the relevant diocesan MU trustee board before doing so and adhere to any financial reporting requirements they stipulate.

Diocesan members as local members not affiliated to a branch or group, pay a subscription fee directly to the diocese.

Benefits of the diocese managing a branch/group finances and core services:

- Streamlined processes: Centralised diocesan management simplifies administrative tasks, allowing branches to focus on their core mission.
- Consistency: Ensures consistent practices and adherence to Mothers' Union standards across all groups.
- Support: Provides additional resources and support from the diocesan office, aiding branches in overcoming challenges and leveraging opportunities.

Whether you decide to opt for an informal or formal governance structure, the primary goal is to ensure that the branch or group operates safely and effectively. Using diocesan support for communications and financial management can further enhance the branch's or group's safety, efficiency and impact.

Insurance

Your diocesan MU has an insurance policy in place that provides public and employer's liability coverage. This ensures the protection of both members of the charity and the public, including beneficiaries impacted by our work. For full details, please contact your MU diocese.

To ensure the insurance coverage applies, approval must be obtained from your diocese before initiating any new outreach activities. Additionally, all fundraising activities should align with the guidance provided by MSH and/or your MU Diocese. Before undertaking any new activity, it is required to complete a brief written risk assessment, with safeguarding consideration, to ensure safety and compliance.

Engagement Structures

MU is a diverse and expansive organisation, operating through various structures to effectively manage and implement our mission across the globe. These structures ensure that we remain true to our values and goals while being adaptable to local needs and circumstances.

Regional and Provincial Structures in Britain & Ireland

Within Britain & Ireland there are five provinces. The regional and provincial structure in Britain & Ireland is organised as follows:

- Five Britain & Ireland provinces : Canterbury, York, Wales, Scotland, and All-Ireland.
- Each province has its own structure and governance, reflecting the structure of the Anglican Communion.
- The movement is led by a worldwide board of trustees, which includes up to 12 elected members, five of whom are from Britain & Ireland.
- Each province has a Provincial President who represents members in their respective province. The Provincial President represents the interests of their region within the Worldwide Council and play a crucial role in coordinating activities and strategies across countries/regions within their province.
- Within each province, there are dioceses. Provincial Presidents work closely with Diocesan Presidents, who oversee the branches and articulate the voice of members, within their diocese.
- The Worldwide Board of Trustees is accountable to the Worldwide Council, which comprises leaders from MU's regions/provinces globally.
- Each diocese, or group of dioceses where they have chosen to cluster, in Britain & Ireland is a legal entity. It is autonomous and have a Diocesan President and a Board of Trustees. Their role is to provide leadership, governance, and strategic direction for the diocese. They are responsible for overseeing the administration of diocesan affairs and ensuring that the mission and values of the diocese are upheld.
- Individual branches or groups are usually based on parishes or small groups of parishes, with levels of coordination often corresponding to deaneries and archdeaconries, linking branch organisations with that of the diocese.
- This structure ensures representation at various levels, from local branches up to the worldwide level of the movement.

Grassroots in Britain & Ireland

The strength of the Mothers' Union lies in its grassroots membership, with branches embedded within communities.

Safeguarding and Mothers' Union

As we work with vulnerable children and adults. It is therefore of the utmost importance that there is continuity across MU in our approach to safeguarding. This can only happen if everyone plays their part, by reading, understanding, and most importantly, adhering to our safeguarding policy and procedures in anything they do as MU.

MU has both a worldwide policy and a tailored safeguarding policy and procedure for Britain & Ireland. After further consultation and taking account of feedback from members, the latest version of the policy can be found at www.mothersunion.org/safeguarding

We all agree there is nothing more important than ensuring the wellbeing of children, families, and adults with whom we work. Keeping ourselves safe is also of major importance, and the aim of the policy and procedure is to provide a framework and guidance to enable a safe and secure working environment where everyone, members, volunteers, and those we serve, can thrive and benefit from our programmes and activities.

Safeguarding training is available further information or if you have any questions or safeguarding concerns, please contact safeguarding@mothersunion.org

Fundraising

By raising funds for your local MU or for MU globally (managed by MSH) you are choosing to do something incredible, a catalyst for MU to support women and communities to transform their own lives.

Why it Matters

By holding any type of fundraising activity at either branch, diocese, or provincial level your generosity enables us to continue our vital work. From providing literacy and savings programmes through to supporting survivors of domestic abuse and advocating for policy changes that positively benefit women and families around the world. Every contribution makes a significant impact. Together, we can create lasting change and build stronger, more resilient communities.



How You Can Help

We have created a fundraising pack contains everything you need to get started. Whether you are planning a community event, a sponsored challenge, or a coffee morning, your efforts will make a real difference. Inside this pack you will find:

- Ideas and inspiration for fundraising activities.
- Tips for organising successful events.
- Advice on Gift Aid.
- Template forms and materials to help run your event.
- Information on how to send in the funds you raise.



You will need to share some details with the Fundraising Team at MSH and then a link to download the pack will be sent to your email.

Supporting you

Support is available along the way. You can contact the Fundraising Team at fundraising@mothersunion.org or by calling 02072 225 533. We also love to hear about your amazing events (and it is even better if you have some pictures to share as well).

Britain and Ireland Communities of Interest (COIs)

MSH manages member consultative groups on membership, communications, operational and governance topics, and national programme work in Britain & Ireland. Each diocese should provide a representative on each COI and that representative should report back on news and activities to the diocese. Please see the Appendix for a detailed listing of COIs.

Britain and Ireland National Programmes

MU in Britain & Ireland is actively engaged in various transformational projects aimed at strengthening communities, supporting families, and advocating for change. We are in the process of consolidating our main projects into MU national programmes, with a policy and procedural framework, resources and tools, education, and training. These include:

AFIA (Away From It All)

This national programme for AFIA will share learning, ideas and information and provide guidance and support to local dioceses who are providing holidays, short breaks and day outs for families who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life.

Focus: Families in crisis.

AFIA activities: Organising fundraising events, coordinating with local holiday venues, and supporting families during their breaks.

MSH manages the Community of Interest for AFIA.

Joining this community is mandatory for all diocesan AFIA Coordinators and those involved in organising AFIA breaks.

Domestic Abuse (Rise Up)

MU launched the RISE UP campaign in 2023, which stands for:
Respond Inform Support Empower

This initiative raises awareness about domestic violence and ensures that churches display domestic abuse helpline numbers.

Focus: Support for survivors people currently experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse activities: Promoting advocacy campaigns, holding support groups for survivors, and educational workshops on recognising and preventing domestic violence.

Local dioceses also work with local refuges and in partnership with local charities.

MSH manages the Community of Interest for Domestic Abuse.

Joining this community is recommended for diocesan representatives leading on domestic abuse work.

Modern Slavery

Mothers' Union is actively engaged in combating modern slavery through various initiatives and partnerships.

More on a national programme to follow.

Prison Work

Focus: This national programme will focus on prisoners, ex-offenders, and their families to rebuild their lives with the aim to reduce reoffending and assist with reintegration into society.

Prison-based activities: Organising visits to prisons to provide emotional and practical support to inmates, assisting families in maintaining contact with incarcerated loved ones and supporting children of prisoners, offering education, vocational training, providing packs for ex-offenders as they leave prison and life skills workshops to help inmates prepare for life after release.

MSH manages the Community of Interest for prisons.

Joining this community is recommended for diocesan representatives leading on prison work.

Metamorphosis for churches

This programme of resources for training and workshops equips individuals with the inspiration, confidence, and skills to work for transformation in their local churches and communities across Britain & Ireland. It includes interactive learning, prayer, and Bible study, fostering personal and communal growth.

Flourishing Families

The Flourishing Families group consists of MU leaders who are redesigning the organisation's parenting programme into the new "Flourishing Families" initiative. This global group provides strategic direction as the programme is piloted and expanded, ensuring it meets the needs of families worldwide.

Flourishing Families activities: This programme is piloting in various regions with a view to scaling up successful approaches and providing strategic guidance to ensure the programme's global relevance and effectiveness.

Appendix

For new members

New members

Congratulations on joining the Mothers' Union! As a member, you are now part of a global Christian movement dedicated to supporting families and promoting stable family life. There are numerous ways to get involved and make a meaningful impact within the organisation and your local community.

Involvement can take many forms, whether through active participation, volunteering, or simply supporting the organisation's mission. Every contribution, no matter how small, can significantly impact the lives of families and communities in Britain & Ireland and across the globe.

- **Attend local branch meetings**

One of the ways for a new member to start is by attending local group meetings. These typically occur monthly and provide opportunities to connect with other members, learn about ongoing projects, participate in discussions, and engage in fellowship.

- **Join a Local Group**

New members can join a local Mothers' Union group or branch near where they live or work. The interactive map on the MU website can help locate nearby groups. Joining a local group allows participation in community projects, volunteering opportunities, monthly meetings for discussion, prayer, and fellowship.

- **Pay a Local Membership Subscription**

Local membership involves paying an annual subscription fee, which is set by your local diocese. This grants access to locally relevant newsletters, Connected magazine, the annual Prayer Diary and other member benefits specific to that area.

You may have joined locally as a Diocesan Member or Friend and do not wish to be affiliated to a branch or group. You will receive the member benefits outlined plus and news from your local dioceses and have the opportunity to get involved and volunteer if you wish.

You may have joined MU as a Global Member any from MSH. You will receive the member benefits outlined above, Connected and the Prayer Diary, plus updates directly from MSH.

1. What should I expect at my first Mothers' Union meeting?

Here is what you can expect at your first Mothers' Union (MU) meeting as a new member:

Branch or Group Meeting

Meetings typically take place monthly, often in a church hall or community centre. The format can vary, but usually includes opportunities for worship, prayer, guest speakers, discussions on relevant topics, and updates on MU initiatives and projects.

Welcome and Introductions

As a new member, you will be warmly welcomed and introduced to the other attendees.

You will be provided with an overview of Mothers' Union's aims, objectives, and the local branch's activities.

Fellowship and Community

An important aspect of membership is the sense of fellowship and community amongst members. Meetings provide a space to connect with like-minded individuals, share experiences, and support one another in your faith and family life.

2. How can I find a local Mothers' Union group near me?

a) Visit the Mothers' Union website (www.mothersunion.org) and click on "Get Involved" > "Find your local group".

b) On this page, there is an interactive map that allows you to search for groups near your location. You can also search by alphabetical ordering of Dioceses.

c) Enter your postcode or city in the search bar, and the map will display the Mothers' Union Diocese closest to you.

d) For more information or to find out about the available groups in your local diocese, complete the contact form for someone to get back to you.

f) If you cannot physically attend meetings, the website mentions there may be other ways to participate remotely, such as through daily prayer.

g) If you cannot find a suitable group near you, the website provides information on how to start a new Mothers' Union group or branch in your area.

Are there any online communities or forums for Mothers' Union members?

Yes! You can join MSH's Mothers' Union Facebook groups or your local MU Facebook page if available which serve as informal online communities for members to connect and interact. We have the daily virtual Midday Prayer meeting on Facebook that members can join and interact with one another.

Communities of Interest Groups (COIs)

COI Groups are specialised groups which are focused on themes, issues, or activities that align with our mission and objectives. These groups allow members to connect with others who share similar passions and interests, enhancing their ability to make a positive impact in specific areas. COIs include Membership, Communications and a number of national programmes including Domestic Abuse, Prison Work, Faith, and Flourishing Families.

By joining a COI, members can connect with like-minded individuals, contribute to meaningful discussions and causes, and make a positive impact in their community. These groups are managed by staff leads at Mary Sumner House.

If you are interested in joining a COI, please speak with your Diocesan President.

Each diocesan representative on a COI reports back to their diocese.

Key Communities of Interest Groups Appendix

1. Membership COI

Focus: A place for sharing new and innovative ways of being Mothers' Union, enthusing and inspiring current members and attracting new ones, taking the membership initiatives developed via the Reimagining process. They are informal groups looking at aspects of membership, which diocesan contacts can join.

Activities: Organising discussions to address the issues of membership

Contact: membership@mothersunion.org

2. AFIA (Away From It All)

The purpose is to share learning, ideas and information and provide guidance and support.

Contact: Afia@mothersunion.org

3. Domestic Violence Awareness

Contact: riseup@mothersunion.org

4. Faith Community of Interest

Focus: Fostering spiritual growth and Christian values within families and communities. This community will be a support for diocesan faith contacts providing a sharing point for information and resources. There will be an opportunity for them to be included in producing MU faith materials where possible.

Activities: Bible study groups, prayer circles, and retreats that provide spiritual support and guidance.

Contact: faith@mothersunion.org

5. Finance /Treasurers COI

Focus: The Finance COI provides guidance and support to those responsible for financial matters within the dioceses. This group ensures that diocesan representatives have access to the necessary resources and expertise to manage their financial responsibilities effectively. The COI also oversees the maintenance and updating of key financial documents on the website, particularly in preparation for the new triennium.

Activities: Offering guidance on financial management practices and policies to diocesan representatives, ensuring key financial documents are stored and easily accessible on the website, regularly updating financial resources and documents to reflect the latest standards and practices, especially in preparation for the new triennium.

Contact: finance@mothersunion.org

6. Communications COI

Focus: The Communications COI encompasses all aspects of communications within the organisation. Members of this group, known as "communications champions," are responsible for promoting effective communication strategies and practices. A role description for these champions will be developed, and specific outcomes and objectives will be agreed upon collectively.

Activities: Developing and promoting effective communication strategies across the organisation, creating a role description for communications champions to clarify responsibilities.

Contact: communications@mothersunion.org

7. Flourishing Families

Contact: development@mothersunion.org

8. Prisons COI

Contact: Prisons@mothersunion.org

9. Craft COI

Focus: The Craft COI serves as the central resource for guidance and information on compliance with Toy Safety Standards and CE labelling for handmade toys. Additionally, this community facilitates the sharing of craft ideas and patterns among members, fostering creativity and skill-sharing.

Activities: Providing guidance on meeting Toy Safety Standards and CE labelling requirements for handmade toys, sharing craft ideas, patterns, and best practices among members, serving as a resource for craft-related queries and compliance issues.

Contact: membership@mothersunion.org

10. Membership Directory & Database COI

Focus: This COI supports dioceses in accessing and managing the online membership directory and database. It provides training and assistance to ensure that diocesan contacts can efficiently use these tools.

Activities: Offering training sessions on using the online directory and database, providing ongoing support for diocesan contacts to manage member information, ensuring accurate and up-to-date membership data across the organisation.

Contact: database@mothersunion.org

11. Fundraising COI

Focus: The Fundraising COI aims to support local fundraising efforts by providing ideas, training, and resources. This group also serves as a platform for members to contribute to the development of fundraising plans and materials.

Activities: Sharing ideas and best practices for local fundraising events and initiatives, offering training on engaging with trusts and other fundraising channels, involving members in shaping the organisation's broader fundraising strategies and materials.

Contact: fundraising@mothersunion.org

12. Governance COI

Focus: The Governance COI provides guidance and information on trustee responsibilities and compliance with charity and other relevant legislation. This community ensures that all trustees are informed, with a specific diocesan contact serving as a liaison for updates.

Activities: Offering resources and guidance on governance and compliance issues, providing updates on changes in legislation and best practices, facilitating communication between diocesan trustees and the central governance team.

Contact: governance@mothersunion.org

13. Safeguarding COI

Focus: Each diocese is required to have a safeguarding contact to oversee activities involving children and vulnerable adults. The Safeguarding COI offers resources and support for these contacts and provides opportunities for networking and sharing best practices.

Activities: Providing resources and guidance on safeguarding responsibilities, facilitating regular meetings for diocesan safeguarding contacts, ensuring trustees are aware of their safeguarding obligations and best practices.

Contact: safeguarding@mothersunion.org

Other ways to support the growth of Mothers' Union

MU-e (Mothers' Union Enterprises)

A separate trading entity, MU-e, is responsible for deriving income through the letting of conference rooms at MSH for events, conferences, and private hire and through an online shop.

E-Retail

The online shop is run through Shopify and sells a range of gifts, stationery, books, clothing, jewellery, toiletries, and other miscellaneous items - mueshop.org

Make a Mothers' Day Appeal

This is an annual Mothering Sunday fundraising campaign aimed at supporting community projects that empower women and families everyday globally.

Summer of Hope Appeal

The Summer of Hope Appeal is an annual fundraising campaign designed to support various projects and initiatives worldwide. The appeal encourages members and supporters to donate and participate in events to raise funds. These funds are used to strengthen communities, assist the most disadvantaged, and advocate for the rights of families.

Christmas Appeal

The Christmas Appeal is another key fundraising campaign focusing on supporting our global initiatives during the Christmas season. This appeal typically involves encouraging donations to help fund projects that provide practical and emotional support to families and communities in need.

Mary Sumner Day

Mary Sumner Day, celebrated on August 9th, honours our founder, Mary Sumner. This day is marked by various activities and events that celebrate her legacy and the ongoing work of the MU movement. It serves as an opportunity for members to reflect on their mission, engage in prayer, and participate in community activities that highlight the impact of the Mothers' Union.

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. MU members participate in this initiative by encouraging members to join in prayer and reflection during this period.

Templates:

1. Risk Assessment template with checklist.
2. Information on Safeguarding, including a form for reporting incidents.
3. A Balance sheet for simple bookkeeping
4. Basic good practice guidelines for food handling and preparation