

The work of the Mothers' Union



Local projects in Nantwich deanery

1. What is the Women's Refuge?

Answer: Since 1997, the Women's Refuge has been providing a safe haven, counselling and aid for families suffering abuse. It also runs a telephone helpline.

2. How does the Mothers' Union help?

Answer: Mothers' Union members provide people at the refuge with clothing, tinned and dried food, toiletries, and toys for the children. Once a year, members hold a coffee evening to raise funds to buy Asda vouchers for the families at the refuge.

3. What other local projects are Nantwich Mothers' Union members involved with?

Answer: Some members give bags of toiletries to Leighton Hospital, for use by people admitted in an emergency. Others knit baby clothes for babies in the neo-natal unit. Others give emotional support to the parents of neo-natal babies through a project called Twinkle Toes. Finally, some run bereavement support groups.

4. Are there any other projects that you would like to see in this area?

Answer: Other possibilities are projects for the elderly and perhaps projects specifically for the 25-40 age group, an age group that often seems to be overlooked.

AFIA in Chester diocese

1. What does AFIA stand for?

Answer: Away From It All holidays.

2. Who goes on holiday?

Answer: Families who have suffered domestic violence or who are underprivileged. Referrals are typically received from social services.

3. How many families has the Mothers' Union sent away this year, 2010?

Answer: 19 families.

4. Where does the money come from to pay for all this?

Answer: From Mothers' Union members and supporters.

Enterprise

1. What does Enterprise mean?

Answer: For the Mothers' Union, Enterprise means the marketing of Mothers' Union items such as cards and badges. It was set up some years ago to raise funds for the Mothers' Union. Included in its remit is the letting out of meeting rooms at Mary Sumner House in central London.

2. How can people buy Enterprise items?

Answer: They can send orders in via the diocesan Enterprise representative, Barbara Palmer, or they can order online (<http://shop.muenterprises.co.uk/browse.asp>) or by post.

3. Does Chester Diocese benefit from the purchases?

Answer: Yes. If ordering online or by post, it is helpful if people tick the 'Chester Diocese' box so that the diocese receives some commission.

4. What is the best-selling item?

Answer: Greetings cards. These are designed and printed by Mothers' Union staff.

Wave of Prayer

1. Is the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer like a Mexican Wave?

Answer: Yes, in the sense that the prayer moves from one place to another.

2. How do you know which dioceses to pray for?

Answer: This information is given in Mothers' Union booklets, in the prayer diary, and on the website.

3. Is the Nantwich Deanery part of the Wave of Prayer?

Answer: Yes. We have a Wave of Prayer service in each branch's church at different times on the special Wave of Prayer day.

Soup Kitchens.

1. Where are these soup kitchens?

Answer: In Cape Town, False Bay and Saldanah Bay in South Africa.

2. Who goes to them?

Answer: On average, 3000 adults and children each day.

3. How are these soup meals paid for?

Answer: By Mothers' Union members and by participating cafes, which donate 5p for each bowl of Mothers' Union soup sold at their premises.

4. Do they serve Mothers' Union soup at Chester Cathedral?

Answer: Yes, for one month of each year.

Relief Fund

1. Who does the Relief Fund help?

Answer: People caught up in emergency situations, such as droughts or cyclones.

2. What sort of things are provided?

Answer: Food, materials to construct shelter, clothing, medical supplies and mosquito nets.

3. Who tells the Mothers' Union headquarters what is required?

Answer: The network of Mothers' Union workers and members across the world.

4. In what ways do you think the Relief Fund is better than government aid?

Answer: Mothers' Union workers buy the items that they need locally, which means they cost less than if bought in the UK. In addition, many workers are volunteers, so staff costs are kept to a minimum.

Literacy & Development

1. How many years has this project been going?

Answer: 10 years. 73,000 people have attended so far.

2. Which countries are involved?

Answer: Three countries - Sudan, Burundi and Malawi.

3. Is Comic Relief involved?

Answer: Yes, Comic Relief has just donated £1 million over the next five years.

4. Is it just Mothers' Union members who are taught to read?

Answer: No. Men and women, whether members or not, are taught literacy and numeracy.

5. What are the benefits of the Literacy project?

Answer: People are given confidence and empowered, which helps their families as well as themselves.

Worldwide

1. How many Mothers' Union members are there now and in how many countries?

Answer: More than 4 million members in 81 countries.

2. Tell us something of the work that goes on worldwide.

Answer: Our work includes running literacy training, soup kitchens, health clinics, and parenting classes.

3. I understand that workers' salaries are being paid but not their travelling expenses. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. Because of the fall in the value of sterling, the Mothers' Union is currently unable to pay most travelling expenses.

4. What can we do to help?

Answer: The Mothers' Union is currently running a Wheels Appeal to raise funds to cover travelling expenses, and we can help by donating money to this.