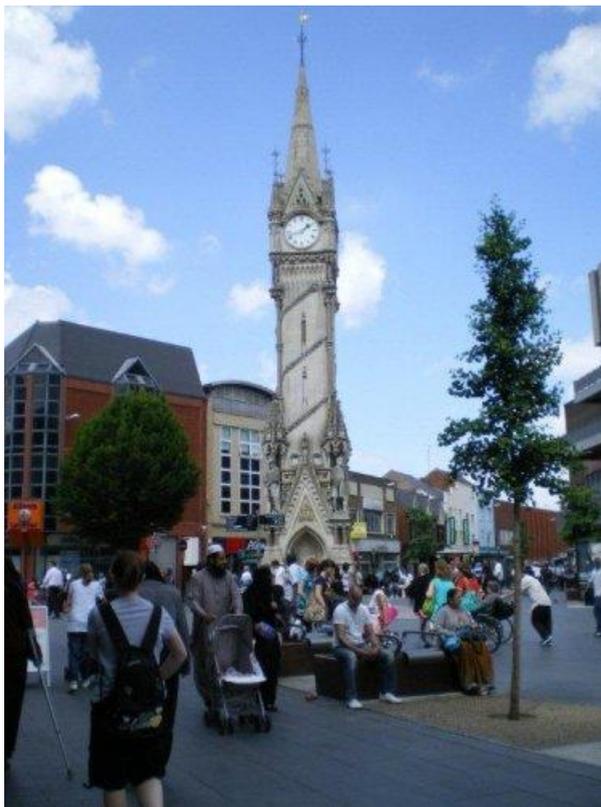


## MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESE OF LEICESTER



## **AWAY FROM IT ALL HOLIDAYS**

### **(Chalet Holidays Scheme)**

Every year we send 20 families on a seaside holiday. We have run this scheme for many years. To be eligible, families should not have had a holiday together for at least three years. Bereavement, trauma, family crisis, or low income meet the criteria, and *family* can include a supportive friend or relative if needed. Referrals come from Mothers' Union members, clergy, teachers, social workers, health visitors or community workers, who refer families with their permission. Members help by raising funds, collecting groceries for starter packs which are given to each family, and providing suitcases and bathing costumes for all age groups. We have also compiled a basic cookery book using the ingredients from the starter packs.

## **PRISONS**

Mothers' Union members help in the play-room, a facility for children visiting HMP Leicester. Some members have run Relationship Courses in the past, and are prepared to do so again when possible, and others assist the Prison Chaplain with administration. At Glen Parva Young Offenders Unit, members run Alpha Courses and Relationship Courses. We also knit teddy bears which are given to children visiting Leicester Prison.

## **EASTER EGGS**

For many years, the diocese has collected Easter eggs for needy children. This is not done centrally now, but branches still collect and distribute eggs locally.

## **TEDDY BEARS**

As well as providing knitted teddy bears for children visiting the prison, we also give them to social workers for vulnerable children suffering trauma and in care, and to the police in Leicestershire and Rutland for the victims of accidents and abuse. These teddies are very much appreciated. Patterns can be obtained from the Action & Outreach Unit.

## **CRAFTS FOR HOSPITALS**

Mothers' Union members knit beanie hats and jackets for premature babies. Please note that jackets must not be lacy, as small babies can catch their fingers in holes in the jackets. We also knit blankets which are passed on to SANDS, a charity supporting parents whose children are stillborn or die in infancy. Some members stitch 14-inch quilts for the neo-natal units in Leicester.

## **UNIVERSITY COOKBOOK**

This project aimed to produce a basic cookery book incorporating food hygiene rules and shopping information as well as economical, easy and nutritious recipes suitable for young people looking after themselves. We launched it ourselves during Freshers' Week 2010 at the University of Leicester and it was very popular. We are now in the process of producing an online cookery book.

## **SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS**

We collect items for Mother & Baby Bags of toiletries and clothes for families in need, as well as anything for Homemaker Packs (e.g. linen, utensils) for people moving out of hostels into permanent accommodation. Paperback books and children's books can also be used in hostels for the homeless and women's refuges. We also welcome children's clothes and knitted items such as hats and balaclavas, gloves and mittens, and jumpers for children aged 3 to 8. Items may be taken to Jean Denyer-Powell, Holly Cottage, Loddington, Leicester, LE7 9XE (01572 717984) or brought to Mothers' Union Council Meetings. Please do not leave anything at St. Martins House. Monetary donations may be made by individuals, branches or churches via the Mothers' Union Office.

## **WELCOME PROJECT**

This is a diocesan project working with asylum seekers in Leicester, and Mothers' Union is supporting their work with women and children. They meet each Tuesday afternoon from 12.30 to 3pm at The Church of the Martyrs, Westcotes Drive, Leicester. Their greatest need is for nappies for older babies and toddlers.

## **GIFTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH UNITS**

Bars of chocolate (approx. 100g and Fair Trade if possible) are gift-wrapped and collected before Christmas ready for distribution to Leicester's Mental Health Units.

## **HALLOWE'EN AN ALTERNATIVE**

This is a resource pack of ideas for keeping the eve of All Saints Day as a Christian festival.

## **PARENTING**

We do not have programmes running at present, but if requested, we have access to material and training through Mary Sumner House. Please contact the Action & Outreach Coordinator if interested.

## **LOVING FOR LIFE**

A programme providing training for marriage preparation in the UK and Ireland. Facilitators are trained by Mothers' Union and work with clergy in their local parishes. We do not have a programme running in the Leicester Diocese at present.

## **CHILD CONTACT CENTRES**

Mothers' Union members volunteer or run Child Contact Centres for families where parents are no longer living together and cannot agree on access arrangements for their children. Children can meet their non-resident parent in a safe, non-threatening environment.

## **BYE BUY CHILDHOOD**

This campaign aims to encourage parents, carers and the wider community to address the problem of inappropriate marketing aimed at children, and to take this into consideration when making purchases for themselves or buying things for their children. It also encourages people to be aware of advertising and to challenge shops and supermarkets who try to target children in this way.

## **MOTHERS' UNION WORLDWIDE**

Mothers' Union has over four million members in eighty-three countries who do all they can, through volunteering, giving and prayer, to support families, to promote family life and to reach out within their communities to people who are isolated or in trouble or need.

## **OVERSEAS LINKS**

Mothers' Union in Leicester Diocese is linked with Mothers' Union in 7 other dioceses worldwide:

<b>Botswana</b>	<b>Western Izon</b> (Nigeria)
<b>Central Buganda</b> (Uganda)	<b>Kitale</b> (Kenya)
<b>Mount Kilimanjaro</b> (Tanzania)	<b>Kiteto</b> (Tanzania)
<b>Port Moresby</b> (Papua New Guinea)	

We maintain postal or e-mail links and pray for them, just as they pray for us. Our UK link is with Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Chichester.

## **PASSIONATE ABOUT PARENTING**

Courses run worldwide supporting parents in the task of bringing up their children in a Christian context.

## **FAMILIES IN CRISIS**

Our Relief Fund enables Mothers' Union to respond quickly to disasters. In 2010, £36,500 was sent to Burundi, Cameroon, Malawi, Nigeria and Sudan.

## **HIV/AIDS**

Mothers' Union trains volunteers to promote health education and support sufferers and their families and carers in countries where this is a major problem.

## **LITERACY, DEVELOPMENT & FINANCIAL EDUCATION**

About 80,000 people have attended our circles in Burundi, Malawi and Sudan. 54,000 have been accredited as literate through this scheme.

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

Mothers' Union is an international Christian organisation that seeks to support marriage and family life worldwide through prayer and practical help. In over 80 countries our members share a heart-felt vision: to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Produced by Leicester Diocese Action & Outreach Unit

Mothers' Union Office:

St Martins House,

7 Peacock Lane

Leicester

LE1 5PZ

Tel: 0116 261 5360

Mothers' Union Office open Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday,  
9.30am to 12.30pm

Email: [MU.Lec@LecCofE.org](mailto:MU.Lec@LecCofE.org)

Website: [www.canterburyprovincemu.org.uk/leicester](http://www.canterburyprovincemu.org.uk/leicester)

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