November- December 2025

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells

Themes for Mothers' Union in 2025

Central Theme: **Join us: Join in.**

Bath&Wells Theme: **Listen to the Heartbeat**

Thursday 18th November @ 11.30

Mothers' Union Prayers @ Wells Cathedral

Theme: **16 Days of Activism**

Let the oppressed go free

Bible Passages:

Luke 4: 16-19

Thursday 4th December @ 11.30

Mothers' Union Prayers @ Wells Cathedral

Theme: **The Annunciation**

Mary: Watch and Wait -
looking forward with Joy

Bible Passages: **Luke 1: 26-38**

Thank You
Nick Hellier Photography

Have You Received Your Connected Yet?

If not: Please contact me at

mu@bathwells.anglican.org
or ring Tel: 01749 685131

Which is Your favourite article?

Which one has challenged you?

Thank You all for your Prayers & MU Work. Without you, we wouldn't be as strong in **Demonstrating God's Love in Action**. To continue in God's Strength, we need some members to step up. Look out for adverts for an **Administrator**, an **Editor** for the Newsletter & a **Diocesan President**. If you are interested, or know of someone who could do one of these roles, contact Ruth Cook: 01823 973787 or ruth.mucttee@yahoo.com

from: Taunton MU Diocesan members

An Invitation

to: An Advent Service
at: Taunton Minster
When?: Wed 3rd Dec
What time?: 2.30pm

All welcome - Refreshments afterwards!

New for our 150th Anniversary

Our Own Diocesan Bookmark

Side 1

Side 2

These will arrive in the New Year
with our Wave of Prayer Service.
I am sorry they missed the October Envelope. MH
you can purchase more as presents for 50p

On arriving at Holy Trinity Church, Cleeve on Remembrance Sunday 2025, I was blown away by the Creation housed under the Altar. It identifies that the soldier is facing 3 crosses. A reminder that Jesus died to save us, just as this soldier's comrades died to save him. Visit @MUBath&Wells Facebook page for a bigger picture

I have kindly been given permission to share the Reflection written in conjunction with the Tableau. - Madeline Hellier

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Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground
unperceived by your Father. *Matthew 10:29*

Many years ago, before charity shops, when a jumble sale was the highlight of village life, I went to Cleeve Village Hall hoping to find some treasures. I always made for the bric -a-brac stall and there, at the front of the table, was a pocket sized book with a faded, tatty, green fabric cover, marred by a circular brown mark.

Intrigued, I picked it up and found that it had been stamped with the inscription **Stalag VIIIB**. This small book was a New Testament and had belonged to a P.O.W..

I opened the cover and there, on the inside, the prisoner had written, in faint but beautiful handwriting, a prayer.

Underneath he had added '**Not one sparrow falleth**,'

These words have stayed with me ever since. Obviously this phrase from Matthew's Gospel meant a great deal to this prisoner. Locked up, not knowing when the war would end… would he see his loved ones again…
how were they managing…..
were they safe?

Yet he found comfort in this simple phrase; it doesn't matter how insignificant you are, whatever your circumstances, dire or not, God knows every one of us and is there for all of us. These words were so relevant to this young serviceman over eighty years ago, and are still very meaningful for us all today. JR

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I didn't understand the inscription mentioned so had to look it up. Stalag VIIIB: A German prisoner-of-war camp in Lamsdorf, Silesia (now Łambinowice, Poland) was recommissioned in 1939 to house Polish prisoners from the German invasion of Poland, which started World War II in September 1939. Later during World War II, it held approximately 100,000 prisoners from Allied countries remembered in particularly for the brutal conditions, including the forced march of prisoners in early 1945. *Madeline Hellier*

The Big Give (cont)

Help women like Miriam break the cycle of poverty and save for a new tomorrow

Every online donation between Tuesday 2nd and Tuesday 9th December, will be doubled, thanks to the Big Give.

That means your gift will go twice as far, helping twice as many families build a future filled with dignity, security and hope. This Christmas, your donation can create true, lasting change for women like Miriam, and entire communities in Uganda.

You can read Miriam's story on the Central website

www.mothersunion.org/appeal/christmas25

Calendar for 2025

Nov: Thurs 20th Cathedral Prayers

Tues 25 - Dec 10 -- 16 Days of Activism

Wed 26th Management CCC Committee @ Clevedon

Dec: Thurs 4th Cathedral Prayers – 'Said' in MU Chapel

Calendar for 2026

Jan: Thurs 15th Cathedral Prayers – 'Said' in MU Chapel

26-28 Wave of Prayer Services

Feb: Wed 18th Ash Wednesday

Thurs 19th Cathedral Prayers – Taunton

Mon 23rd Information Day - Flourish House - Drop In

March: Sat 7th Quiet Day - Venue to be confirmed

Thurs 19th Cathedral Prayers – Portishead

June: Wed 10th Celebration Evensong St Paul's Cathedral

Thurs 11th Annual Gathering near MSH

Tues 23rd Bath&Wells Annual Meeting

Aug: Mon 10th Diocesan 150th Celebration Event - FH

Sept: Thurs 3rd Information Day - Flourish House - Drop In

Sun 12th Celebration 150th Cathedral Evensong

Oct: Mon-Tu 12-13 Quiet Day/Retreat @ Ammerdown

The Mothers' Union Diocese of Bath & Wells
- Registered Charity No 250180

Diocesan Membership - 2026

Your personal details are used to inform you of the MU work and will not be passed outside the organisation. They will be kept secure.

Please return the form found on the next page

Mothers' Union Diocese of Bath and Wells
and Post to **MU Administrator**. Mothers' Union Office, Flourish House, Cathedral Ave., Wells. BA5 1FD

We are looking forward to receiving your subscription which supports the work of the Mothers' Union across the world

Full annual membership for 2026 has remained again at £30 and includes

Regular issues of the Diocesan Newsletter
Open invitation to any Mothers' Union Meeting/Service
Annual Prayer Diary posted by Mary Sumner House
2 issues of **Connected,** the Magazine posted by M.S.H.

You are welcome to pay EITHER
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Please let me know when you have made the transfer:
mu@bathwells.anglican.org

Due to the setting up of the Cluster we need everyone to complete the form on the next page.

If you haven't been receiving the monthly Newsletter by post, it might be because you are on our email list.

If this is so, please let us know your correct email address or inform us that you now wish to receive a posted Paper Copy.

The Mothers' Union Diocese of Bath & Wells
- Registered Charity No 250180

Diocesan Membership - 2026

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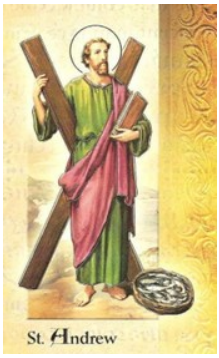
This issue's *Thought of the Month* is written by Ruth Cook, who chairs our Diocesan Committee which will be running Bath & Wells diocese when we finally get to join the South West Cluster.



St Andrew's Day

On 30th November we celebrate St Andrew's Day – he is the Patron Saint of Scotland and Greece and a host of other countries.

Our Cathedral in Wells is dedicated to St Andrew and so is my home parish in Taunton.

Andrew is mentioned specifically on three occasions in the gospels.

He is one of the first to meet Jesus, and his immediate action is to go and find his brother Simon. "We have found the Messiah" he tells him and he brings Simon, who is to become Peter, to Jesus. Where would the church be without St Peter?

When Jesus is preaching and there are five thousand hungry men to feed, it is Andrew who spots a young lad in the crowd who has five loaves and two fish. Andrew is the one who brings him to Jesus and from that action, all the men are fed, plus the women and children also in the throng, and an astonishing twelve baskets of food are collected up afterwards.

The third occasion is when some Greeks are in the crowd. They tell Philip "We want to see Jesus" and he responds by taking them firstly to Andrew who then makes sure that happens. These Greeks may be seen as showing that Jesus came for the whole world, and not just the people of Israel.

There is a pattern here; Andrew brings people to Jesus; from that action, lives are changed and miracles do happen.

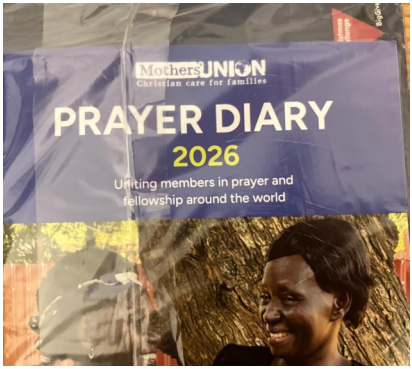
It seems to me that Andrew is a disciple that Mothers Union members can mirror.

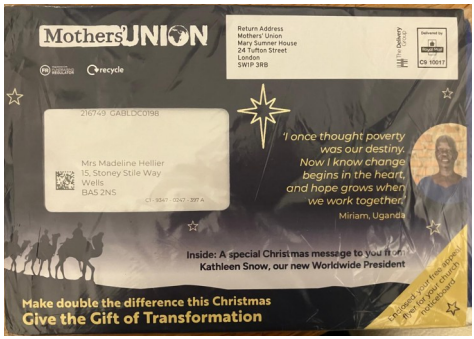
We too can bring others to Jesus; we can look out for the quiet person in the crowd, and we can welcome those from other nations and faiths. Who knows what will happen when we tell others about Jesus and then trust Him for the outcome?

This year, St Andrew's Day is overshadowed by being the same day as Advent Sunday. Poor Andrew is shifted to the Monday and is in danger of being overlooked. Let us though, remember him and his example and let us have some St Andrews in our midst, wearing their MU badge.

Ruth Cook Chair of the Diocesan Committee

Have You Received Your 2026 - Prayer Diary?





If not: Please contact me at
mu@bathwells.anglican.org
or ring Tel: 01749 685131

Don't forget to transfer our
Bath and Wells Monthly Prayer Diary
When we reach January 1st 2026

1	Backwell	Worldwide President
2	Banwell	Canterbury Provincal President
3	Barton St David	Diocesan President
4	Bath & District	Worldwide Trustee Board
5	Beckington	South West Cluster
6	Bridgwater	Diocesan Committee

madeline.hellier@mothersunion.org

What we -*as Mothers' Union Members*- Do

We are continue to record our way through identifying how we, MU Bath & Wells members, honour our Mothers' Union Promises in working and demonstrating our Vision and achieving our 5 Objectives. In this Issue we will look at the objective in which we promise:-

To help those whose family life has met with adversity

How would Mary Sumner feel if we failed her vision by not showing **God's Love to Families** at their time of need?

In this issue of the Newsletter we look at how we, as MU members we can support the United Nations' **16 Days of Activism Campaign** which runs from **25th November to 10th December**. We join with over 6,000 organisations from over 185 countries to **Raise Awareness** of and call for an end to **Gender-Based Abuse** in all its forms.

Gender-based violence is one of the major forms of abuse of human rights.

It can affect anyone at any time.

It takes many forms and is mostly hidden behind closed doors. We believe that we must bring this into the light.

So how can You and I raise awareness?

Chris has lots of the *Nomore1in3* badges. Please wear one. Don't have one? Don't worry, we can bring some to sell at Cathedral Prayers. If a badge is too heavy or bulky for you, then wear a purple ribbon. These small coloured ribbons have become very popular but there aren't enough colours for all. This means someone might think you are supporting a different Concern. What an opening to explain that you are raising Awareness on Gender-based Abuse. If they are thinking about Prostate Cancer or suicide or another, then please offer to pray for them as well!

Feel you need to do more? Then study the 16 Days of Activism Calendar. Lots of ideas there to help you keep your MU Promises. *Madeline Hellier*

#NomoreIn3 16 Days of Activism

End abuse and violence now

DAY 1 Pray for survivors and victims of domestic abuse.	**DAY 2** Visit the Restored website.	**DAY 3** Visit the Women's Aid website.	**DAY 4** Read Refuge's - Spotting the Signs webpage.
DAY 5 Put together a moving in /on pack for your local refuge.	**DAY 6** Pray for the RISE UP! campaign.	**DAY 7** Print a RISE UP poster and put it on a toilet door in your church OR check and refresh current posters.	**DAY 8** Plan a reflective for your church. Souls of our Shoes, Red Chair or Silks are great examples.
DAY 9 Talk to friends about gender-based violence.	**DAY 10** Research your local refuge & share this with your group.	**DAY 11** Download the Bright Sky App.	**DAY 12** Knit purple hearts.
DAY 13 Commit to Thursdays in Black.	**DAY 14** Attend a prayer vigil.	**DAY 15** Buy or make a white ribbon for yourself and all your allies.	**DAY 16** Read the Michael Kauffman poem.

Christmas Joy for <u>all</u> People – by Bishop Michael

We fear that we live in a world of increasing polarisation. Conflicts between and within nations play their part. The amplification of division and hostility by social media algorithms doesn't help. Culture wars exacerbate matters further. Sometimes it feels like common ground is disappearing from underneath our feet like a sandbar being overwhelmed by the tide.

In such a climate, it's good to return to the message that heralded the arrival of Jesus, found in Luke 2:10

I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for <u>all</u> people

says that angel who announces the saviour's birth. Jesus' story quickly includes all types and sorts of humanity.

From local shepherds to exotic visitors from afar. I wonder what the conversation was like as they all crammed into the stable to see the newborn child?

Jesus's story quickly shows that not only is he for all people but that he needs all people. His family must have needed assistance when they fled as refugees to Egypt. Jesus must have needed help when his parents left him behind on a family outing to Jerusalem aged twelve. Jesus was constantly calling on and engaging with others as he went about his teaching and ministry.

What might counter the polarisation of our day? Amongst our greatest resource is to seek out the emotion that accompanied the news of the saviour's birth – joy. When we encounter joy – from that cup winning goal to the marriage of much loved friends – such moments are never the time for division and enmity. We're all far too busy shouting and hugging each other! The invitation of Christmas is to experience such joy afresh. Often, we see joy most obviously in children's experience of the season. Might we seek it for ourselves too? For joy breaks down divisions, overcomes barriers, reminds us that we are one.

'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people' says the angel. A very merry and joyful Christmas to you all. **Michael Beasley** *Bishop of Bath and Wells*