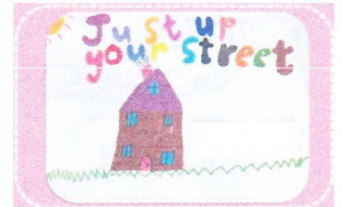




Just Up Your Street

Building communities (Manchester)

In the diocese of Manchester Mothers' Union members realised that poverty was close to home when a mapping exercise carried out by the Greater Manchester Poverty Commission revealed that some parishes in their diocese are amongst the seventh most deprived in the country. Simultaneously a curate from one of these struggling parishes talked to the members about the difficult family circumstances she was encountering and asked if there was any way Mothers' Union could help and so *Just Up Your Street* was born!



The main thrust of the project is providing resources not manpower for a range of initiatives. Currently in 11 areas in the Manchester, Rochdale, Bolton and Salford Archdeaconries the project includes craft resources, monthly community afternoon tea, toddler group, community centre support, community cafe, support for rough sleepers, clothes line and toys for Christmas.

The initiative is constantly evolving and the idea is that it can be for whatever members feel there is a need. It has encouraged members to look closely at their communities, deanery and/or archdeaconry to identify how they can help.

“With Just Up Your Street we have been able to reach into parishes where there is no Mothers' Union and we are increasingly getting enquiries from around the diocese which is so encouraging.”

For general guidelines about setting up and developing outreach initiatives, go to the members' section of the Mothers' Union website www.mothersunion.org