

What is Mother's Union?

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for over 140 years. Started by our founder Mary Sumner in 1876 in her local parish, we have grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries.

As a Christian membership charity, we demonstrate our faith in action. This happens as we work towards stopping poverty, stopping inequality and stopping injustice. Our members work at grassroots level around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

What does the central charity do?

As a registered charity we have campaigned at local, national and international levels to bring about real change for family life, women's and girls' rights, and the protection of children. We also support our members within the UK and across the world with a vast collection of practical and religious resources. In addition, we produce regular publications to keep members in Britain and Ireland informed and up-to-date with what's happening both overseas and closer to home.

Since the lockdown of 2020 we have been very active on digital channels and social media. This includes broadcasting midday prayers live on our Facebook Page which has had an increasing audience as the word has spread. We also run a monthly e-Newsletter, featuring a round up of current events and stories from across the movement.

What drives us to do the work we do?

At the heart of what we do is prayer and our members come together every day at midday to focus prayers for their communities, fellow members and for those in need. We believe that the power of prayer is transformational and supports our work around the world. Despite our name we are an inclusive organisation and we are very proud to have a growing number of men who have joined us.

Mothers Union Project Work in the Diocese of Newcastle

People's Kitchen. MU members make up Christmas gift bags of warm clothing and toiletries for the People's kitchen to distribute to homeless women and men at Christmas.

Changing Lives. Runs a GAP hostel (Girls Are Proud) for vulnerable young women. MU donates gifts bags at Christmas time.

Ukrainian and Syrian refugees. Young mothers arrive with little warm clothing. MU lends support with warm clothes, boxes of essentials for new-born babies and food hampers.

Cathedral Link. Members are knitting Baptism shawls for the Cathedral to give to refugee families. MU is also designing and making kneelers for the Chapel of the Ascension, and have knitted twenty 'M-Ewes' for their story-telling groups during St Oswald's Hospice 'Shaun the Sheep' campaign.

Walking With supports asylum seekers. MU has donated bedding, toiletries, clothes, & toys.

Refuges. MU branches support several local refuges. Families arrive with very few personal possessions and MU helps to provide underwear, sleepwear and toiletries. Christmas lunch has been provided for some. Also help towards a sensory room for traumatised children.

Fresh Start. Many ex-offenders are without homes to go to when they are released from HM Prison Northumberland. MU members provide them with a back-pack of essential items such as toiletries, underwear, T shirt, warm joggers and fleece, hat and gloves.

Fishermen's Mission North Shields. MU provides items such as hats, wellies and gloves.

AFIA (Away From It All). MU in Newcastle organise caravan holidays for families who are unable to afford a life-giving break away. These are greatly valued.

Hospital Emergency Bags are provided across the region with overnight essentials for those who arrive with nothing.

Green Canopy. MU planted a tree at Howick Hall to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

January midday prayers, Wednesday: Blessed Assurance

The Lord gives strength to his people, and the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Psalm 29:11

To you, O Lord, we bring our lives, Troubled, broken or at ease, A sacrificial offering for you to use.

Take away our selfishness and teach us to love as you loved, Take away our sense of pride and show us the meaning of humility. Take away our blindness and show us the world through your eyes. Take away our greed and teach us how to give as you gave.

Show us your ways, teach us your paths, That we might walk with you more closely. Our hand in your hand, our feet in your footsteps; From the baby in a stable to eternity.

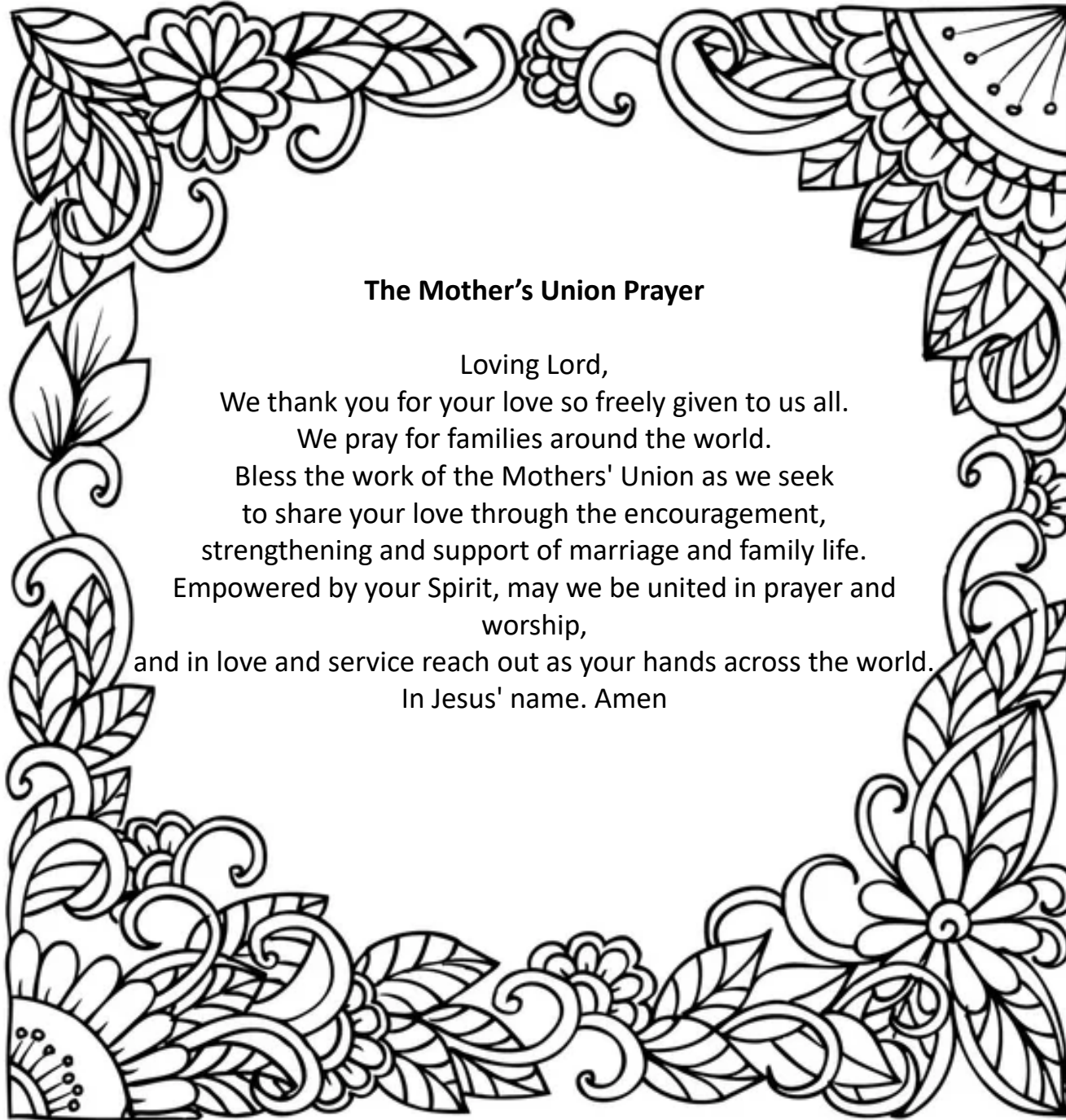
This we pray in your name.

Amen.



The Mary Sumner Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many
lives as possible for thee; and every life I
touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak, the
prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.



The Mother's Union Prayer

Loving Lord,
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek
to share your love through the encouragement,
strengthening and support of marriage and family life.
Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and
worship,
and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.
In Jesus' name. Amen