

Mothers' Union – Bath & Wells - Financial Report for 2023

The beginning of 2023 seems so very far away and a lot of water has passed under the MU bridge since then, however here is what the Income and Payouts were from our General Funding Account.

We started the year with £29,692 in the bank, made up of just under £11,500 restricted funds and £15,221 of operating funds from 2022.

During the year, the subscriptions from 640 branch and diocesan members brought in £17,407. Gift aid reclaimed on the 2022 subs and donations amounted to £2,429, the MUe grant paid in £950, additional donations towards running costs came to £2,692, which along with Retreat contributions of £1,425 and bank interest of £528 amounted to and unrestricted income of £25,431.72.

Our restricted income came from AFIA donations of £4,486.84, a cashed in Rowena Merson Fund policy of £5,000 and £64.87 interest on the other policy still invested. Diocesan Project donations of £424.31, a WWF donation that came in and went out to the correct account of £50, Child Contact Centre grants of £3,900, donations of £783.71 and interest on their investments of £611.26.

Overall £40,842.71 was paid into the account during 2023.

Our expenditure during those same 12 months was as follows:

From our unrestricted funds our Central subscriptions passed on to MSH amounted to £13,335. The day to day running costs of the Mothers' Union in this diocese amounted to £16,266.63, which includes administration costs, rent of desks and rooms in Flourish House, postage and photocopying/printing, our DP, Chaplain and MUe/Communication expenses, hire of halls for meetings, Retreat at Ammerdown, licenses, insurance and accountancy fees.

From our restricted funds we spent £2,549.75 on AFIA breaks and travel and £1,806.08 on running the 3 Child Contact Centres in Frome and North Somerset (although the one in Frome was only open for the first three months) The total expenditure for 2023 was therefore £33,507.46.

Our investments at the moment are:

Unrestricted funds £7,000

Restricted funds £18,000 in the Rowena Merson Fund and £30,000 in the Child Contact Centres Fund.

Interest on the policies, which are all on One Year Bonds, has increased through 2023 as the bank interest rate has risen.

We ended the year with £34,027.46 in the bank, which was better than in 2022, however with the falling number of members and rising costs generally, we did come out of 2023 spending just over £4,000 more on operational costs than we received in, which means we are eating in to our previous credits.

The accounts are with our accountants at present and are just awaiting the Annual Report and the completed branch accounts for consolidation. The audit is complete and ready for the Trustees to sign off, so I am very grateful to all those who have helped me compile it especially Trustee Margaret Willmott for her financial expertise.

This year the 2023 branch accounts have been much easier with far less needing to be corrected or sent back. I do hope branch treasurers are finding the experience easier as well.

Moving forward, I foresee that the 2024 accounts will be presented in much the same way as we are used to and from then on, with the birth of the South West Cluster group, we shall develop a new format with a Group Treasurer helping out and consolidating what come through from the diocesan treasurers.

THE MOTHERS UNION DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	AFIA	Rowena Merson Travel Bursaries	Child Contact Centres	Shirley Penn Bursary Fund	Other restricted funds incl Diocesan Projects	Total 2023	Total 2022
Receipts								
Subscriptions	17407						17407	16894
Gift Aid	2429						2429	2365
Mue Grant	950						950	863
CCC grant				3990			3990	700
Donations	2692	4487		784			7963	8102
Donations - MSH projects						0	0	1025
Donations - Diocesan projects						424	424	1097
Donations - Shirley Penn Fund					0		0	400
Donations - WWF						50	50	31
Retreat	1425						1425	2250
Interest	528		65	611			1204	864
Investment Receipt			5000				5000	0
Total receipts	25432	4487	5065	5385	0	474	40843	34581
Payments								
Subscriptions to MSH	13335						13335	13980
Finance & Administration Unit (1)	11831						11831	7908
Meetings and training	50						50	1514
Expenses of DP, chaplain & trustees	664						664	875
CCC expenses				1806			1806	2498
Mue rep & communication unit expenses	306						306	264
Retreat	2916						2916	2772
Grants to other charities for AFIA holidays	500						500	0
Transfer to Investment Bond			0				0	0
Bursary Payments - AFIA		1573					1573	3328
Bursary Payments - Rowena Merson			476				476	70
Bursary Payments - MSH projects						0	0	1025
Bursary Payments - Diocesan projects						0	0	2194
Bursary Payments - Shirley Penn Fund					0		0	500
Bursary Payments - WWF						50	50	30
Total payments	29602	1573	476	1806	0	50	33507	36958
Surplus/Deficit	-4,170	2,913	4,589	3,579	0	424	7,335	-2,367
Opening current account & petty cash	15221	0	2600	7285	425	1160	26692	29059
Closing current account & petty cash	11051	2913	7189	10865	425	1584	34027	26692
Unrestricted funds								
Hampshire Trust - One year bond (to Feb 24)	7000						7000	7049
Rowena Merson AFIA Travel Bursaries Fund								
Hampshire Trust - One year bond			18000				18000	18000
Hampshire Trust - Two year bond (to Jan 25)								5061
Child Contact Centres' Fund								
Hampshire Trust - Two year bond (to Feb 24)				10000			10000	10000
Hampshire Trust - One year bond (to Feb 24)				5000			5000	5035
Hampshire Trust - Two year bond (to Jan 24)				15000			15000	15000
	7000	0	18000	30000	0	0	58000	60145

THE MOTHERS UNION DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2023

Notes

Fund Descriptions

Away from it All (AFIA)

This is a Mother's Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members, to give opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life. Funds raised can be to:

Help fund part of the cost of a holiday

Cover a family's travel expenses

Pay for a whole holiday or a day trip

Organise family weeks for groups of families to have a break with activities and outings

Rowena Merson Travel Fund

This is an invested legacy left to Bath & Wells following the untimely death of a serving Trustee. It was decided by her fellow Trustees at the time to use it for reimbursing travelling expenses for the families benefitting from the AFIA breaks. The original donation is invested in a 2 Year Bond which can be cashed in and reinvested as the Trustees deem necessary. Until now the interest received has exceeded expenditure.

Shirley Penn Bursary Fund

This was created in 2021 following a generous funeral collection from the MU in Bath & Wells of a former Trustee. It was designated for the use of members who wished to deepen their lives spiritually by attending either one day courses or the Annual Retreat. It contributes to their overall expenses according to their means. The funds are topped up from time to time by the widower and members are free to raise additional funds if they so wish.

Child Contact Centres

These are invested funds, originally given as grants or donations, towards the running, by the Mother's Union in Bath & Wells, of voluntarily

organised Child Contact Centres in Frome, Nailsea and Clevedon. All are affiliated to the National Association of Child Contact Centres, strictly

monitored, and examined by their staff. To date, no-one is paid for their help, but each Centre has a highly trained coordinator who reports back to the diocesan MU CCC Committee twice yearly, of which one Trustee is a committee member. At present the funds not needed are invested in several 2 year bonds. Members across the diocese also raise funds to support this valuable cause.

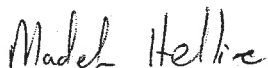
Diocesan Projects

This covers more locally inspired projects that members can be involved in such as knitting hats for use by the Seamen Mission, clothing for premature babies, trauma or Christine teddies, sewing "angel pockets" for still births, children's activity bags for churches, "fiddle blankets" for those dementia etc. Bath Deanery support an online Student Cookbook which is advertised to all new students at Freshers Week in the two Bath universities. These projects come and go according to the need of local communities, and unless members indicate the specific need, money raised goes into this fund for project expenses.

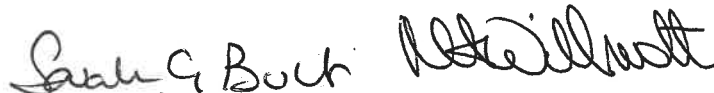
Specific points to note

(1) Expenses include secretary's remuneration, rent, insurance, accountant's fees, copyright and data protection licenses. Postage and printing costs include some costs for 2021/2 as well.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we approve the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2023 as presented to a meeting of the Board on3/9/24



Madeline Hellier - Diocesan President



Sarah Bult - Treasurer & Ger Margaret Willmott - General Trustee

THE MOTHERS UNION DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
Mothers Union Enterprises (MUE) Trading Account for the year ending 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sales	10027	9426
Purchases	9200	10500
Surplus (Deficit) on Sales	827	-1074
 Opening Bank Account	 172	 1246
Surplus (Deficit) on Sales	827	-1074
Closing Bank Account	999	172

Notes:

This is the trading account of the Mothers' Union our diocesan representative deals directly with MSH for stock, which is then sent out to branches, or displayed at meetings and events such as our AGM or Diocesan Synod, on a sale or return basis. It has its own bank account which the Diocesan Representative administers.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we approve the Mothers Union Enterprises (MUE) Trading Account for the year ending 31st December 2023

Madeline Hellier

Madeline Hellier - Diocesan President

Sarah G. Bult

Sarah Bult - Treasurer & General Trustee

THE MOTHERS UNION DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
Worldwide Fund Account for the year ending 31st December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations for General Fund and various projects	7374		8102	
Donations for Emergency Relief Fund				
Donations for Literacy & Development - S Sudan				
Donations not declared in previous year				
Bank Interest	44		7	
		7418		8109
Payments				
Transferred to Mother's Union, Mary Sumner House, for the various funds as donated		9995		9700
Surplus		-2577		-1591
Opening Balance		7475		9066
Closing Balance		4898		7475

Notes:

This is a fund administered by the Central Council in Mary Sumner House and all funds raised in Bath & Wells go towards MU work all over the world. It has its own bank account which the MU Diocesan WWF Treasurer administrates.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we approve the Worldwide Fund Account for the year ending 31st December 2023

Madeline Hellier

Madeline Hellier - Diocesan President

Sarah G. Bult

Sarah Bult - Treasurer & General Trustee

dated: 3.9.24

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Mothers Union Diocese of Bath and Wells

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Mothers Union of Bath and Wells (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under s. 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s. 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Adam Turrell
FCA ICAEW
Maxwells Chartered Accountants
4 King Square
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 3YF

Date: 3.9.24

Vision

Our Vision is of a world where

God's love is shown through

Loving, Respectful & Flourishing Relationships.

This is not a vague hope but a goal we actively pursue
by **Praying, Campaigning and Enabling.**

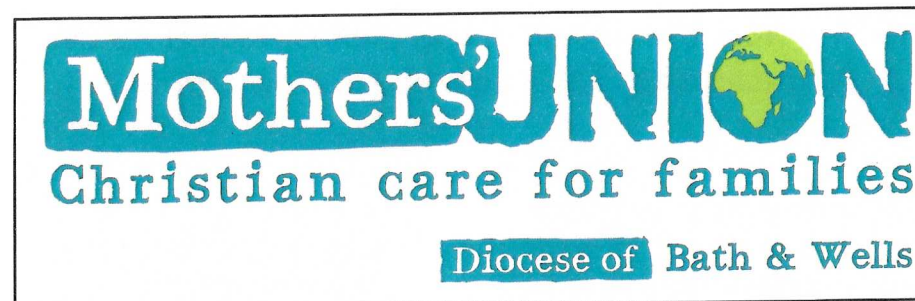
Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide.

We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

Our Aims and Objectives are:

- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service:
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children:
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity:
- To promote and support married life:
- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children:



In 2023 We had

639 Members in the diocese

496 Branch members

Found in **27** Branches

and

143 Diocesan Members
either as Lone Members
or part of **21** Groups

and

18 IMPC members

How we work towards achieving the following Objective
***Maintaining a Worldwide Fellowship of
Christians United in Prayer, Worship & Service***

Cathedral Prayers:

This is a ½ hour Service held in Wells Cathedral on the 3rd Thursday morning of each month. Each month the service is written and led by a different Branch/Deanery, following the guidelines written by the former Faith Trustee, to fit in with the Annual Theme produced by the Worldwide Trustee Board. It includes the Wave of Prayer, when every MU member prays for the members and work in 4 or 5 designated dioceses across the world, following the format found in the central Prayer Diary.

Wave of Prayer Service:

This service, written by a former MU Chaplain and our Link Dioceses Project Officer, who forwards the Service to our Link Dioceses - Umuahia and Ijebu in Nigeria: Shinyanga, in Tanzania: False Bay in South Africa: and Vellore Church of South India. The Service is used by the branches in all the Diocese celebrating our links together over 3 days. Again this year we were able to hold 3 services in Wells Cathedral in The Mothers' Union Chapel. We were delighted to see on Social Media, that members from our Link Diocese, in particular by South Africa & India, were using the form of service sent to them.

Branch/Group Prayers:

Due to the expansion of the Central Prayer Diary, our own leaflet is no longer required.

In several Parishes where there is no longer a Branch, many Diocesan Members often meet for a Coffee, Natter & Prayer.

The MU Chapel - Cathedral Prayers - The Lady Chapel



Wave of Prayer



Wave of Prayer Service 2023 Transformation Now!



As we unite in Prayer & Worship, in Love & Service,
we reach out as Your hands across the world and
Pray for our Link Dioceses



Child of God
receiving his Love

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Spreading
God's Love



How we work towards achieving the following Objective - cont

Maintaining a Worldwide Fellowship of Christians United in Prayer, Worship & Service

Prayer Chain:

This has been revived with a dedicated email address - prayerchain@mubathandwells.org - and uses Mailchimp. The aim is to have a Monthly Prayer letter, & short requests when needed.

Parish/Branch Eucharists/Prayers:

A range of these worship times occur in a variety of formats and venues across the diocese, from churches to garden centres.

Retreat:

As usual this took place over 3 days in October, being held at Ammerdown Conference Centre lead by Rev Julie Simms on "Meeting God Where You Are".



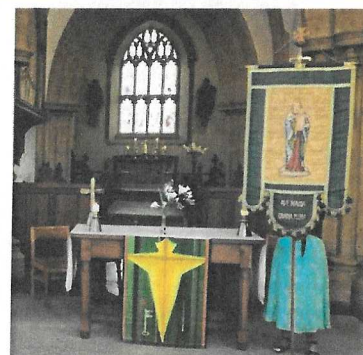
Quiet Days:

These were held by Branches in their own parishes.

Special Services:

Some deaneries had Festival Services, one was combined with a Mary Sumner Day Service.

As usual there was a Eucharistic Service before the Annual Meeting, when the new Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Michael Beasley preached.



Commissioning 2 Trustees



He was also able to Commission the 2 Trustees, who were unwell at last year's Commissioning Service



mu@bathwells.anglican.org

How we work towards achieving this Objective To help those whose family life has met with adversity:

AFIA:

2023 was a busy year. 6 families had a holiday, 2 were able to unite with their wider family. 3 families benefited with special "Days-Out" experiences.



Period Poverty:

This continues to be offered to 2 schools in Bath.

CRAFT:

Members continue to knit, supplying all our regular places.



Sewing continues especially for the Refuges.

Student Support/Cookbook:

In 2023 new postcards promoting 'MU Family Cookbook' online were given free to 4,000 Bath University students & 250 to Bath Spa University in Freshers week. Free hard copies of MU Family Cookbook' were given to families affected by rising living costs ('eating or heating') through various churches, refuges, other charities and food-pantries.



Child Contact Centres:

We started 2023 with 3 Centres: one centre in Clevedon and one in Nailsea, both operating since 2004: and one in Frome, a millennium project. Over the years, offers to volunteer are not as numerous as they initially were. Sadly, Frome could not find a co-ordinator when the current person retired and the centre was closed. Mothers' Union is now down to 2 centres. They too are advertising for coordinators. Families needing their service never seem to go away!



<https://mubathandwells.org>

How we work towards achieving this Objective
To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children

16 Days of Activism:

As well as branches supporting the 16 Days with Prayer, we were able to host an exhibition in Wells Cathedral; our thanks to the Chapter and Acting Dean. The exhibition had earlier been opened to the public by 2 branches plus MU.



Support for those using the Refuges:

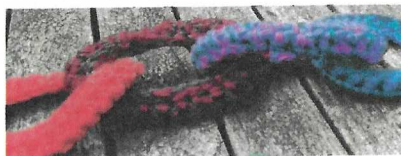
Vouchers continue to be steadily donated. All 3 Refuges are asked what they need and this year several branches made wash bags and then filled them.



Modern Day Slavery and Prison Week:

These Projects continue to be held in prayer.

The use of crafted Chain Links advertises the need for Prayer and Action



How we work towards achieving this Objective
To promote and support married life

Some branches work with the Priest by providing refreshments during Marriage Preparation sessions. Several branches give Couples MU Wedding Cards



How we work towards achieving this Objective
To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children

By showing God's Love to their children, parents learn about God's Love via our actions.

Children in Church:

Many Branches have children's Play Bags with biblical story books, colouring and soft figures for use during services. Where branches have closed, these are maintained by Diocesan members. Some branches followed The Mothers Union Suggestion for a Lent Calendar.



Baptisms:

Many Branches give something to the child or parents on the occasion of their Baptism: a Baptism Teddy, Card, Bible, or Prayer Book. In one branch, the teddies have a personal Sleeping Bag. Another branch gives the Godparents a set of tiny Booties. Again, DMs are continuing with this outreach when branches close.

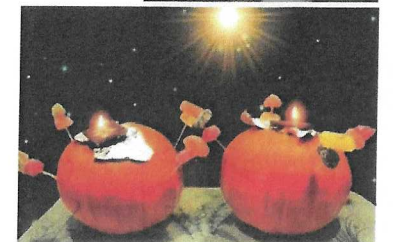


Local Schools:

Several branches run or help with After-School Clubs.

Local Community:

Mother & pre-school children groups are supported by branches across the diocese; By regular contact parents get to know these MU members and trust them. MU members are frequently part of teams offering the "Open The Book" and "Messy Church" (in its various forms). Branches regularly give gifts on Mothering Sunday, arrange the church Easter Hunt. Similarly the MU branches regularly create Christingles.



How We Work Towards Alerting Parishioners and Visitors to the Work of The Mothers Union

- † Branches keep their incumbent and PCC informed of the work that lay they do.
- † Most parishes have a Notice Board with a display of current MU activity.
- † Our Communication's Officer delivers extra display boards & leaflets when a parish has a special function.
- † Visitors to the Cathedral are invited to stop and join in our monthly Cathedral Prayers service.
- † We were delighted to see that the MU kneeler from the Mothers' Union Chapel became part of the Cathedral Crib Scene.
- † Our Facebook page continues although not as active as during Lockdowns; especially as the Controllers regularly change the systems!
- † Regular contact with the Diocesan Personnel continues with our Diocesan President speaking at the Autumn Diocesan Synod.
- † Our Diocesan President also spoke at a SOUP! Session in Wells, resulting in a £100 donation.
- † Contact is made with the Ordinands and Training Incumbents when possible.
- † The Diocesan President, the Communications Lead and the Treasurer attend Diocesan Synod and their local deanery Synods when possible.



www.youtube.com/channel/UCB-a2ek2KJ_j39BR-ackJbw
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MUBathWells>
 Instagram: Bath&Wells MU



WELCOME to MU Bath & Wells



Yeovil Branch



Just-a-Bite Group
Taunton Minster

Staplegrove Branch

A warm Welcome to other new members

MEMBERSHIP CARD

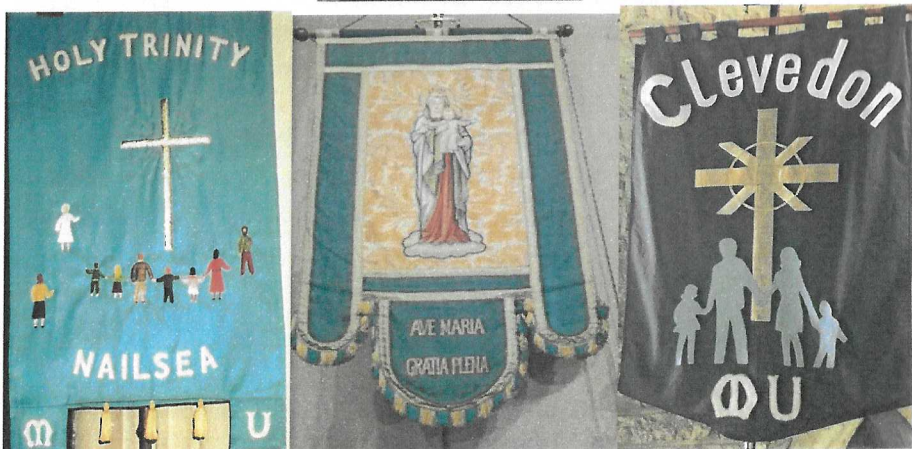
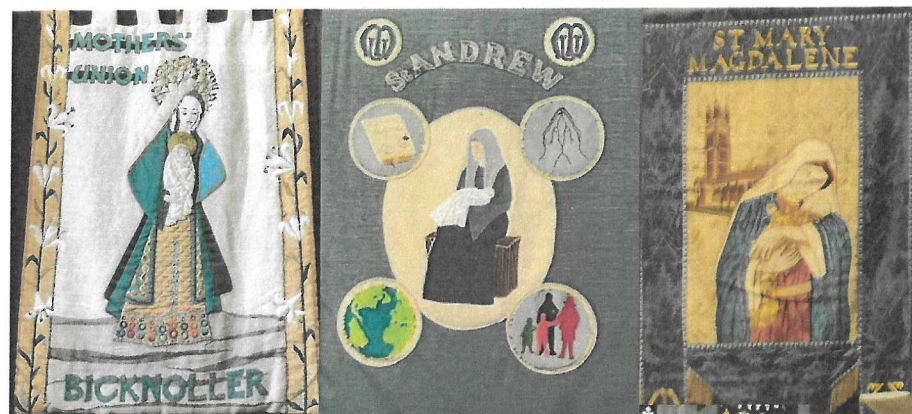


Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

[name] _____
 has been admitted as a member of
 Mothers' Union
 on _____
 [date] _____
 at _____
 [place] _____
 Glory be to God
 [admitted by] _____

Being a member of Mothers' Union is an expression of my support for Christian family life. As a member of Mothers' Union I will strive to support families everywhere in prayer and worship, and in love and service.

2023 Annual Report presented 2024

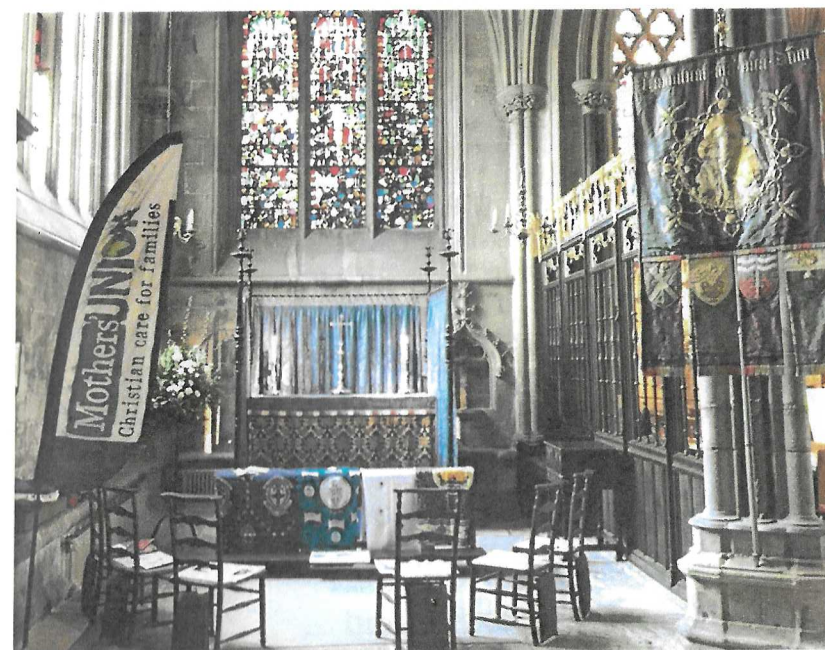


mu@bathwells.anglican.org

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells



Annual Report 2023

Registered Charity No. 250180

<https://mubathandwells.org>