

Did you know that the Mothers' Union is open to anyone, male or female, married or single, parent or not, who has been baptised in the Trinity and supports the aim of the organisation? The aim of the Mothers' Union is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of family in its many forms.

The Mothers' Union was started in England in 1876 by Mary Sumner, the wife of an Anglican clergyman, in response to her own awareness of the enormous responsibility that motherhood brought. Her vision was of providing a forum whereby all classes could unite in faith and prayer to support mothers, helping to fulfil their responsibility for the material and spiritual well-being of their children. Today the MU has a membership of 3.6 million people, women and men in 77 countries, all working towards improving and supporting family life in their communities through prayer and practical support. We have a voice at the United Nations and are consulted by government on issues affecting family life, such as the recent flexible families bill. Here in the Chester Diocese we are involved in local projects supporting families on womens' refuges, neonatal units, prisons, contact centres, at the Cheshire Show and in a wide range of local initiatives. The wave of prayer takes place throughout every day, which means that there is always an MU branch praying somewhere in the world. Here in Chester we sustain this wave of prayer in the month of March.

Our long standing branch meets monthly, on Thursday afternoons. More details are on the church notice boards.

Our new branch is known as **EMU** (Evening Mothers Union) This was set up because due to child, family or work commitments, many of us just couldn't get to the afternoon group. EMU gives us the opportunity to continue the work of the Mothers' Union, build friendships with each other, support each other, learn, laugh and have a fun evening out.

EMU meets monthly during school term time. It is usually on the last Wednesday at 8pm in St Chad's church.

Subjects have included short talks about local church or community projects, Christian charities, the preparation of chocolates (with samples), card making, watercolour painting, hand bell ringing, jewellery making and occasional meals out. We have had lots of fun and lots of laughter with our new 'skills'!

Non-members are very welcome to come along, join in and see what it is like.

We have a small charge for sessions to cover costs and raise funds for the work of MU.

## 2009/2010 DIARY DATES

### October 21st

'Origami' by Chris Carlson - 8pm

### November 25th

AGM followed by 'Prayers with a difference' 8pm

### January 16th (Saturday)

Breakfast Bring & Buy 9.30am - 11.30am

### January 27th

'New Year' meal out - venue to be arranged

### February 24th

Jewellery making with Judith Brown - 8pm

### March 24th

'Uganda, God & me' - Janet Hutchinson (The way of the Spirit) - 8pm

### April 28th

'China Painting by Joyce' - Joyce Ratcliffe 8pm

### May 26th

'Cake Decorating' - Paula Crocker - 8pm

### June 30th

'Food 4 U!' - Nutrition advice and cookery demonstration - Ann Reeves from Forum Housing- 8pm

### July 14th

'Summer meal out' - venue to be arranged

**BRANCH LEADER**

Barbara Morris  
Tel: 648 8296

**SECRETARY**

Chris Rostock  
Tel: 648 1112

**TREASURER**

Fiona Hurley  
Tel: 648 7515

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Karen Robson  
Julie DeBoorder  
Jayne Oliver

**DEANERY LEADER**

Mrs Sheila Melton

**DIOCESAN PRESIDENT**

Mrs Jean Shelmerdine

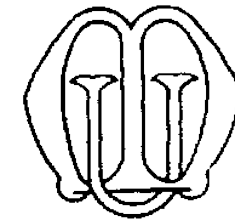
**The Mothers' Union Prayer**

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.***



**There are eleven branches in the  
Wirral North Deanery Mothers' Union  
and two of them are in our parish**



**CHESTER DIOCESE**

**THE EVENING MOTHERS' UNION  
THURSTASTON AND IRBY BRANCH**

***EMU***

**Programme 2009/2010**

Meetings at St Chad's  
Roslin Road, Irby  
8pm