



Mothers' Union – Who are we!

Mothers' Union is a global community of, predominantly, women, who share one goal:

To provide Christian care and love to the most vulnerable members of society whilst seeking to make the world fairer.

There are many ways to do this, and many groups in our society who need our love and support, which is why the work of MU Leicester is spread across a number of projects.

Our global network of members also allows Mothers' Union to work in a very efficient way when large projects are launched, as we have members in 84 countries world-wide, and can start working at grass roots level to affect more widespread change.

Closer to home, we have a group of unsung heroes, our Indoor Members, who lead the way by upholding our projects in their personal prayer time.

Supporting the Homeless Community in Leicester

Members of MU Leicester support vulnerable and homeless women by knitting hats, gloves & scarves and by collecting toiletries and underwear.

“These items are very well received and enable us to provide for those who have nothing. Rest assured your stitches are keeping women warm and looking well cared for.”

**Sarah
Specialist Midwife**

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Away From It All

Every Summer our AFIA committee arranges to take **ten Leicestershire families** away for a caravan holiday on the Lincolnshire Coast.

Transport to the caravan park is provided, and the families are supported for the duration of the holiday by the AFIA team. They arrange treats for the families during the week - offering care and support - whilst making it clear that **their caravan door is always open!**

The holiday is paid for by **Mothers' Union members' donations** and **fund-raising events**, and by **grants** from other local charities. In the past two years we have been very grateful to receive grants from the **Poor's Platt charity** in Barwell, whose support allowed some of their local families to enjoy an AFIA holiday, and **Rudolph, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue** charity.

“It is a lovely project to be involved in and has a real feel-good factor to it.”

Eileen, AFIA committee member

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Baby Basics

Baby Basics Leicester is a volunteer led project aiming to **support the most vulnerable new mums and families**, who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burden of looking after a new baby.

Families are referred to Baby Basics by **social workers, midwives and health visitors** and vary from families who are struggling to afford the last few items they need for their baby, to families who need everything.

Our MU Leicester members support Baby Basics by **donating toiletries**, for both mums and babies, and **hand knitted blankets**. These blankets do have particular specifications that must be adhered to, so please ask before you knit!

“It is lovely to see the filled Moses baskets going out and knowing what joy they bring to the families who receive them.”

Linda - MU Leicester member

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Link Dioceses

Each Mothers' Union Diocese is linked with partner Dioceses around the world.

The Link Dioceses for MU Leicester are:

- MU Temotu - Solomon Islands**
- MU Eastern Zambia**
- MU Mombasa - Kenya**
- MU Gwagwalada - Nigeria**
- MU Ekiti-West - Nigeria**

It is not always easy to keep in touch with our link dioceses, but our members continue to pray for their members, for the valuable work they do and for an improvement in our communication with them.

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Modern Day Slavery

In 2022 **MU Members** knitted 10,771 chain links, each one represented a possible **MDS** victim in our county. These chains were displayed in churches around the Diocese and at **Leicester Cathedral** to help raise awareness of **Modern Day Slavery** in Leicestershire.

MU Leicester is currently supporting **Clewer's Make it Slavery Free** initiative. Members have been asked to adopt one or more of these actions

Tell your children/ grandchildren about **County Lines**.

Check that we are buying from **slavery free** companies.

Put up a notice about **MDS** at your church or community centre.

Slavery proof existing projects.

Enrol a member of your branch or church on a **safeguarding course** so they will learn to spot the signs of exploitation.

Tell another person about **Modern Day Slavery**.

Make sure your contractors do not exploit their workers.

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Supporting families at HMP Leicester

In December 2022 we were contacted by the PACT (Prison Advice Care Trust) team at HMP Leicester, who asked if we could donate children's gifts, games and puzzles, to support a Christmas family day, allowing children to share some precious time with their father's.

PACT is a national charity that supports prisoners and their families by providing rehabilitation and sustaining family relationships during their period of incarceration. **Children, especially, are the unseen victims of crime and suffer greatly when one of their parents is in prison.**

The gifts that were donated by our members then provided the opportunity for each of the prisoners to give their child a Christmas present and, more recently, our members donated 104 Easter eggs to HMP Leicester and HMP Gartree.

There is great value in events such as these as they encourage good behaviour - only prisoners with the best behaviour records were eligible to attend the event - and research has shown that prisoners who keep in touch with their families during imprisonment are much **less likely to re-offend** in the future.

"We know supporting work around prisons isn't always a popular cause, so we are especially grateful for your support. It is really motivating to understand you share our concerns about the impact of imprisonment on children."

PACT Family Engagement Worker

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