

# Holy Cross Mothers' Union



Men and women of all ages are warmly invited to join in the formation of a Branch of the Mothers' Union at Holy Cross Church. The organisation is an international and multi-cultural expression of the Christian faith and through it, people are able to be in touch and aware of members in every part of the globe.

Here are two examples of recent Mothers' Union activities:

## 1. How to make a mother's day

For Mothering Sunday 2008, Mothers' Union ran an ethical gift campaign. A Mothering Sunday card could be sent with the wonderful gift of an ethical donation to Mothers' Union projects around the world. For example:



- \* a fruit tree or a goat kid, for a mum in the developing world
- \* a literacy circle in Sudan, Malawi or Burundi
- \* an emergency relief kit for families in disaster-hit areas
- \* toys for child-contact centres in prisons, or groups for parents with children with disabilities
- \* a marriage preparation facilitator's training.

The card could be sent to a mum, or someone who had been a carer. Or given in memory of a mum or someone remembered with fondness and gratitude. A staggering £159,000 was raised through this campaign!

## 2. Grow Up Free from Poverty

FACT: Every three seconds a child dies of hunger or illness rooted in poverty.

FACT: 1 in 4 children live in absolute poverty around the world.

FACT: 40% of the world's population are children.

FACT: 12 million each year do not survive to see a 5th birthday.

FACT: 30,000 children die every day from the effects of poverty.



Take a moment to consider these figures. Put simply, what they mean is that for millions of children, adequate food, schooling, necessary clothes and medical care are simply beyond reach. Add to this the child headed households, the child beggars and prostitutes and ask yourself if something should be done about this. In 1990 the governments of the world agreed a set of targets to improve the health and education of children and reduce poverty. In 2000 these targets were relaunched as the Millennium Development Goals, to be achieved by 2015.

So, with more than half of the time gone, how are we doing? The answer is badly. In almost every case the situation is worse now than it was in 1990. Bad news for the worlds children. The Grow Up Coalition, of which Mothers Union is an active part, is determined the issues at the top of the agenda in the next decade. The Mothers Union is on the steering committee for the group which is made up of development agencies, faith groups and charities - all with a particular interest in the relief of poverty worldwide.



The Mothers' Union has produced a variety of resources, some of which are designed to provide information, or spiritual refreshment and encouragement. We also have packs available to facilitate group discussion and participation.

The aim of all the resources is to enable and empower members in communities to engage effectively and holistically around issues concerning marriage, family and parenting.

The benefits and resources of the Mothers' Union will be available once we have registered as a parish group so please look forward to being a part of it.

Most importantly, we would be meeting together to not only join in the good work for MU but also to support each other locally and offer friendship between us in the most supportive way possible.

The official launch of our Holy Cross Branch will be on Sunday 23rd November when Mrs Marlene Armitage JP, an honorary lay canon of Manchester Cathedral, will be our guest preacher at the Parish Mass. Following this, there will be a meeting of interested parties when a plan for activities will be agreed and a formal approach made to become a branch of the Mothers' Union will be discussed and hopefully agreed.

In the meantime, please speak to Katherine Flewitt or Neil Richardson if you wish to find out more or express an interest in joining.

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families