

## **Mothers' Union Website**

Mothers' Union is an international Christian organisation in over 80 countries. Through four million members we bring hope to hundreds of thousands of families every year by supporting marriage and family life, especially through times of adversity.

We work with people of all faiths and none. We are firmly rooted in the voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration.

During 2016 Mothers' Union celebrates 140 years since it was founded by Mary Sumner as a support network for families. Members continue this work with a focus on enabling communities to identify and meet their own needs. We actively pursue our work through prayer, relief and development programmes, parenting groups, community health education and campaigning for social justice.

## **National Campaigning**

Mothers' Union sends an official delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

## **Bye Buy Childhood – valuing children as children not consumers**

The Bye Buy Childhood campaign launched in 2010, aims to empower families to challenge the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood through positive action. Since the launch we have seen significant action taken by Parliament, industry and regulators. New research shows that parents and carers still feel their children are bombarded with commercial messaging.

In July 2015 Mothers Union asked members of the General Synod to engage with the concerns parents are voicing over the impact of commercialisation on children and the well being of the family.

## **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence**

Each year, 16 Days of Activism unites individuals and organisations to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, all forms of violence against women and girls. Mothers' Union believes in particular that prevention needs to focus on teaching children and adults about loving and respectful relationships.

For further information on campaigning go to [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)

## **Mothers' Union in Cornwall**

**The Self Esteem Fund** – we are working in partnership with 'Action for Children', an organisation supporting Young Carers in Cornwall. The Mothers' Union Self Esteem Fund has

the capacity to help approximately 20-30 young people each year, providing simple but significant things, such as a desk for doing homework or parts for a bicycle.

**Away From it All Holidays** – we provide seaside breaks for families who are experiencing stressful times, who otherwise are unable to have a holiday.

**Teddy Horsley** – each year branches with a connection to a local Church of England primary school provide all new entrants to the Reception Class with a knitted Teddy Horsley bear and one of the small books from the Teddy Horsley series.

Mothers' Union also provide toiletries and household goods for Refuges and hand knitted items for premature babies at the Neo-Natal Unit at Treliske Hospital.

**Family Fun Days in Truro Cathedral** –with the full support and assistance of the Cathedral Chapter and Staff the Mothers' Union organise a Free Family Day in the Cathedral, with activities to suit all ages.

**For more information about Mothers' Union in Truro Diocese please contact the Diocesan President John Cotton on 01288 352896 or email [thecottonsjands@gmail.com](mailto:thecottonsjands@gmail.com)**