

What is good and bad about Mothers' Union? (45 minutes)

Set up 5 areas of the room, preferably with one person stationed at each, with sheets of paper for each of their answers (see separate Files Answers 1-5).

Ask everyone to respond to the following statements by going to one corner. If none of the answers works for them, ask them to give their own response.

5 people each with their own set of Answers on separate sheets of paper (4) plus pen

10 minutes

People holding answers to note on their paper how many came to their corner.

Why did you join Mothers' Union?

- Someone you knew was a member
- You read about MU and thought it sounded interesting
- You came across MU at Greenbelt/Fun Day/local or national event
- You wanted to make new friends
- You're not sure, you couldn't say no

You went to your first meeting

- Because you saw a notice about it in church
- Another member invited you
- You joined as a diocesan member, then were put in touch with local or diocesan meetings
- You don't go to meetings
- Because it was an interesting speaker

If you talk about Mothers' Union to your friends/family/work colleagues, you focus on:

- Overseas development work
- Working with families in UK
- Wave of Prayer/Midday Prayers – prayer and faith
- Campaigning (eg Bye Buy Childhood, 16 Days of Activism)
- Branch meetings

What you love most about MU

- Meeting other Christians
- The work and projects you read/hear about
- Support and friendship
- Opportunities to serve God
- Being part of something bigger

Corner 1

- Someone you knew was a member
- Because you saw a notice about it in church
- Overseas development work
- Meeting other Christians

Corner 2

- You read about MU and thought it sounded interesting
- Another member invited you
- Working with families in UK
- The work and projects you read/hear about

Corner 3

- You came across MU at Greenbelt/Fun Day/local or national event
- You joined as a diocesan member, then were put in touch with local or diocesan meetings
- Wave of Prayer/Midday Prayers – prayer and faith
- Support and friendship

Corner 4

- You wanted to make new friends
- You don't go to meetings
- Campaigning (eg Bye Buy Childhood, 16 Days of Activism)
- Opportunities to serve God through volunteering

Corner 5

- You're not sure, you couldn't say no
- Because it was an interesting speaker
- Branch meetings
- Being part of something bigger

Stay where you are, and in your group, make a list of the things that you find difficult to explain or understand. Are there things that you would like to change to make MU more accessible to others? Are there structures, attitudes or customs that you feel stop you participating more fully? How do you feel you benefit from being a member e.g. training, confidence, friendships, networks?

Now sit down again, if possible in your groups, and feed back on this last part.