

Supporting Couples

Members of some churches regard weddings solely as a source of income, and yet they are an opportunity to help and support a new family and show them Christ's love. We can use the opportunity to show them how special we think they are. Everybody likes to feel special.

Liaise with clergy

We don't want to tread on anyone's toes, but clergy will often welcome support from Mothers' Union members.

Prayer Cards for Couples Preparing For Marriage

Give the couple a prayer card with their names on. Mothers' Union, Diocese of Lichfield sell them at £1 for 10 or make your own, including a picture of your church.

Helping Couples at church with Their Wedding

Organising a wedding can be stressful and expensive. There are lots of ways you can offer to help, these are just a few;

- If you know the couple cannot afford flowers for church ask what their colour scheme will be and decorate the church with those colours, or if you have flower arrangers, ask them to use those colours in their arrangements;
- Offer cups of tea and coffee to wedding guests either as they arrive [especially in bad weather] or while photographs are being taken;
- Let them throw confetti and have members sweep it up after they have left.
- If the wedding is small and you have the facilities, consider catering the wedding breakfast – an afternoon tea isn't too difficult.

Valentine's Day Service

Hold a service to celebrate marriage and invite all the couples who were married in the church during the previous year. Encourage them to bring their photographs. Mothers' Union members could cater for a special romantic tea afterwards, or serve a glass of 'bubbly' and cake.

Pray For Couples

Prayer is at the heart of all that Mothers' Union is and does. Ask your clergy for a list of wedding dates and names and circulate this among your members – Indoor members would love to pray for the couples.

Cards

Send the couple a card on their wedding day and if possible on their anniversary – at least their first anniversary. This lets couples know that we have not forgotten them, we are still holding them in prayer and that we care about them.

A Bag for Life

Below is a template for a tag for the bag – it is self-explanatory of what to put in the bag. Use a white paper 'sandwich bag' with handles, attach the tag with a pretty ribbon and bow.

With love from the members of Mothers' Union www.mothersunionlichfield.org.uk

A **CANDLE** – to light your path

A **BIBLE** – to guide you along the way

Some **PARTY POPPERS** – to help you have fun and celebrate life

A **BOTTLE OF WATER** – to quench your thirst and give you life in abundance

Some **BULBS** – to plant to help you live a life of hope and expectation

Some **CHOCOLATE** – to break and share