

# What in the World is MU doing? ...

## In Baghdad....

### the 'most dangerous MU branch in the world'

Mothers' Union, Baghdad, was founded on Easter Sunday 2006 by Canon Andrew White, Vicar of Baghdad, himself an enthusiastic member of Mothers' Union for over 15 years. It forms part of the diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, and is the single largest membership group - or branch - of Mothers' Union in the world. Its president is Nawal Georges whose husband Fayez is the church's lay pastor who looks after the church when Andrew White is absent. In 2004 Fayez's predecessor was murdered along with 10 others who comprised the church staff at the time.

Based at the most dangerous parish in the world, St. George's Church, Baghdad, the membership quickly grew to over 1700 members. It is not easy to be a person of faith in Iraq; people of all faiths face the risk of attack every day. Yet despite, or perhaps because, of the danger and the difficulties, the members faithfully come to meetings. Mothers' Union forms the mainstay of the church. Members meet together every month, then smaller groups meet up to three times each week, for fellowship and outreach work. MU has been distributing emergency food aid to people in Baghdad through its branch in the city.

As well as the food, MU provides 3 doctors and a surgery, 3 pharmacists and a functioning chemist and laboratory, a laundry and a sewing room with 70 sewing machines and fabric to make clothes and curtains, and a shop. Our members in Baghdad begin their days with Holy Communion, Bible Study and then they prepare food and run activities for the adults and children - Christian, Muslim ....everyone.

Promoting Stable Family Life is not possible in Baghdad, where Mothers' Union members don't have stability themselves. But they do everything they can to alleviate the instability's affect on the local community through the provision of meetings and services, mutual membership support, and fundraising for their community outreach initiatives, such as distributing food aid to those in need in the local community.

The MU members at St George's take great pride in being part of a worldwide movement. All of the Mothers' Union materials are translated into Arabic and the MU has taken on a very active role within the church, organising all the services and events.



Canon Andrew White leading Sunday services in St George's Baghdad.

