

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families



Give a gift that grows
this Mothering Sunday



Gifts that Grow

Order yours today

Three simple stages:

1st 

Select your gift from our catalogue. You can buy multiples of the same gift or buy different gifts. Each gift can be bought 'in memory' of a loved one too.

2nd 

Fill in the form, enclose your payment and send using the freepost envelope attached. If you're a UK tax payer, tick the Gift Aid box to make your gift worth 25% more.

3rd 

We will send you a standard or seeded Mary Sumner Rose designed Mothering Sunday greetings card to send to your loved one.

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Add an extra £1 to your gift purchase and we'll say thank you with a Mothering Sunday greetings card embedded with seeds. These beautiful cards are a joy to have in your home or to give to a loved one. With a little love and care, your biodegradable card will transform into wildflowers that you can enjoy during the year.

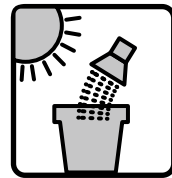
From seeded greetings cards into beautiful wildflowers.



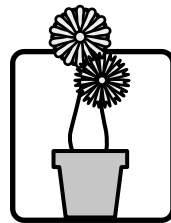
Soak card in water overnight



Cover lightly in soil



Water regularly and keep in sunlight



Watch Wildflowers grow

Dear friends,

Mothering Sunday is a special time to say thank you to all mothers and caregivers for the selflessness with which they nurture, love and help us to grow.

For many years our Make a Mother's Day ethical gifts have made a difference by supporting communities around the world. This Mothering Sunday, celebrate someone special with an ethical gift. Our theme this year is Gifts that Grow, gifts that support mothers like Philomene and Julienne who I met recently in Rwanda, and whose uplifting stories of growth and development you can read inside.

As well as in Rwanda, there are seeds being sown in the UK, where an inspiring group of children have set up their own Mini Mothers' Union in Liverpool. With your support, we hope in time to see their Mini Mothers' Union initiative blossom throughout the UK and beyond.

Your Mothering Sunday gift can help empower women, children and communities worldwide to tackle the challenges they face and make positive changes that grow and last. You can also dedicate a gift in memory to someone who has been – or has been like – a mother to you. You can even add a flowering seed greetings card to make your gift extra special.

With all our thanks and warm wishes,



Naomi Herbert
Regional Development Lead,
Mothers' Union



A woman, Philomene, is shown holding a large, thick tree root. She is wearing a striped shirt and a patterned skirt. A small tag with a red ribbon is attached to the top of the root.

Your
gift of:

£7.50 could give women in Rwanda the skills and confidence to speak and lead. Increasing women's voices and agency has been proven to increase their ability to make decisions and take advantage of opportunities that can improve their communities

Gift of confidence:

Philomene is a 52-year-old mother and farmer who also looks after her husband who is disabled. When she first joined her local Mothers' Union group in 2004, she had been nervous and afraid to speak in front of others. With the support of her savings and credit group, she overcame her fear and now she confidently leads meetings when it's her turn.

This Mothering Sunday, you can give someone like Philomene the gift

For an extra £1 receive a card embedded with wildflower seeds



Savings and business skills:

Julienne is 75 years old, lives on the outskirts of Kigali, Rwanda and has a son. But he lives apart from her, and Julienne needed a safe and reliable home to live in alone. Her local Mothers' Union savings group has been a true blessing, providing Julienne with a secure place to save enough money so that she could build a house. Without this support she could have been facing instability in her retirement.

A woman, Julienne, is standing in the doorway of a small, simple house. She is wearing a colorful patterned dress. A small tag with a red ribbon is attached to the top of the doorway.

Your
gift of:

£17 could support a woman like Julienne to attend and be part of a savings and credit group, allowing group members to save collectively and provide each other with loans to buy household items, start businesses, care for others in the community and build a secure future for their families

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£31 Your gift of: could help to protect girls from early marriages and provide them with the support to continue with education which can unlock a world of opportunities.

A Childhood:

Every year, 12 million girls marry before the age of 18. Child marriage is a human rights violation that robs girls of their childhood and can impact on their personal development and wellbeing. It's a practice that still happens across many countries, cultures and religions.

In Kenya, Lucy* was only 14 years old when she was married off by her family. Her biggest dream was to complete her education, which is frowned upon after marriage. *names and images have been changed to protect privacy

Train a parenting coordinator:

In 1876, Mary Sumner founded Mothers' Union which today is a grassroots movement with a global vision. When her first grandchild was born, she remembered the difficulties she had faced when she was first a mother. Her vision was to bring mothers of all social classes together to support one another. Today, there are more than 4 million members of Mothers' Union worldwide, grown from the seed of Mary Sumner's vision.

£101 Your gift of: could help train a parenting coordinator in Papua New Guinea that can equip parents and carers with skills to build more fulfilling relationships with their children. Helping parents to provide a stable family environment for their children has been shown to reduce violence, crime, and other stresses in the wider communities.



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A lasting legacy:

Rosa (age 12) and Ella (age 11) are following in their mother Dianne's footsteps and, together with other children in their community, have formed the first Mini Mothers' Union in the UK. They are already making an impact in their community and they have big plans to help nurture the environment and the world they are growing up in.

At Mothers' Union we believe children are central to community life and your gift can help them grow in strength, spread their message just like Mary Sumner and protect the future for other children around the world.

Your gift of:

£41 could support the ongoing work of Mothers' Union in the UK and around the world, continuing the legacy of our Founder, Mary Sumner through the next generation.

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A gift of peace:

Since gaining its independence in 1960, the mineral conflict war in the Democratic Republic of Congo has devastated the country, leaving many women and children vulnerable and fearful for their lives with little hope for the future.

Your gift of:

£82 could help build peace by supporting local Programme Officers to provide trauma healing workshops to victims of civil conflict.



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Remembering

Mothering Sunday is a difficult time of the year for many people. Some of us will be remembering our mothers, grandmothers and caregivers, the sacrifices they made for us and the many ways they prepared us to take our first steps. At Mothers' Union, we also remember our founder Mary Sumner and the tremendous legacy she left behind her. A grassroots movement with a global vision.

Mary Sumner was 92 when she died, and from the first meeting she held in a Hampshire rectory to the international movement that Mothers' Union became, she continued to preside over it into her nineties. Having sown a seed, she tended to it with the same love and diligence with which she raised her children and supported her husband's ministry.

Making a donation in memory of a loved mother, grandmother or mother-figure is a wonderful way to celebrate their life. It's a special way to make their memory live on through our work.

You can dedicate any of the gifts in this catalogue to remember a loved one. You can also add the name of your loved one in our remembrance book. Please tick the box on the order form and leave her name.



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A Mothering Sunday Poem for you

Your arms were always open
when I needed a hug.

Your heart understood
when I needed a friend.

Your gentle eyes were stern
when I needed a lesson.

Your strength and love guided me
and gave me wings to fly.

~ Sarah Malin

To order your Mothering Sunday
'gift that grows' visit
www.makeamothersday.org

Registered Charity Number 240531

Gifts that Grow



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Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3RB
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