



## **Away From It All (AFIA) Holiday Scheme**

Mothers' Union AFIA holidays are a practical and important way to help support family life. Each year the MU offers on average 550 families a holiday through the AFIA holiday scheme. The scheme is funded by the members of Mothers' Union and enables around 850 adults and 1200 children to get away for a break in the UK each year.

The scheme is open to anyone who is under stress. Applicants do not have to be a member of a church or any organisation. It is also possible for people to apply personally or on the behalf of someone else.

Each diocese has a team of Mothers' Union members who organise the scheme. They will normally help with part of the cost of a holiday or with travel expenses. In some cases they are able to pay the whole cost but diocesan funds are often limited.

Each application needs the support of one of the following professionals such as a clergyman, doctor, head teacher or social worker. Other basic information such as when the family last had a holiday and the reason why they would like a break should also be included.

The holidays available take many different forms and vary from diocese to diocese. Some are more suitable for families, others for individuals, examples include:

- Specially organised family weeks with people on hand to help out with planned outings
- Time at a Mothers' Union caravan, usually on a site with full facilities by the beach
- Staying at a guest house or small family hotel
- Breaks at a holiday camp

The AFIA scheme tries to provide the most suitable holiday possible catering for everyone's needs to ensure all have a very enjoyable time. The scheme is also a very rewarding experience for everyone involved in the organisation and administration of the holidays. Practically all the dioceses in the UK run an AFIA holiday scheme and there are many thousands of satisfied holidaymakers as a result.