



**Faith in Action in Sheffield Diocese**

Reg Charity number 1063619    [www.sheffieldmu.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldmu.co.uk)

## **SHEFFIELD DIOCESE MOTHERS' UNION**

**Registered Charity No 1063619**

**Trustees Report for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

**SHEFFIELD DIOCESE MOTHERS' UNION**  
**Trustees Annual Report**  
**Year ended 31 Dec 2025**

**The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2025**

The affairs of the charity are governed by the terms of the central Mothers' Union Royal Charter, granted in 1926 and which is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (240531).

**The Board of Trustees** manages the charity and during 2025 Trustees met 5 times. All the meetings were hybrid, in person and on Zoom. We also held a Spring Council and an Autumn Council when all members were invited to attend, as well as a Mary Sumner Day Service in Sheffield Cathedral.

The members of the charities Council tri-annually elect the Trustees, consisting of the Diocesan President, members of the Trustees Board, Deanery Leaders, and Branch Coordinators. They debate, consider, and determine all matters of policy and strategy to be affected on behalf of Sheffield Diocese Mothers' Union. The Diocesan Bishop appoints the Chaplain.

Trustees manage and supervise the finances of the Society and review and evaluate the work of the charity.

They receive, consider, and respond to all resolutions received from the Diocesan Council.

Procedures are in place for the regular training of Trustees to ensure good practice and awareness of their responsibilities. Training is also given to Deanery and Branch officials at regular intervals.

The Charity has a Treasurer who prepares the financial statements. Expenditure must be authorised, and cheques require two signatories. All expenditure must be supported with an invoice or receipt.

The Trustees were elected in January 2025

**Trustees**

Diocesan President	Jo-Anne Van Levesley
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Vice –Presidents:

Archdeacons of Doncaster	Tanis Cockerham
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Archdeacons of Sheffield & Rotherham	Angela Parker
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Honorary Vice-President	Norma Priest
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Honorary Vice-President	Pat Simpson
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**Unit Co-ordinators:**

Outreach and Fundraising	Representatives from all Deaneries
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Data and Media	Elizabeth Dean
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Faith and Policy,	Margaret Vivian
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Safeguarding	Pat Simpson
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Training & Membership Development	Jo-Anne Van Levesley
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## **Deanery Leaders:**

Doncaster, Adwick, Snaith & Hatfield  
Ecclesall & Attercliffe  
Ecclesfield  
Rotherham & Laughton  
Tankersley

Margaret Culloden  
Sally Wood  
Margaret Vivian  
Annette Walker  
Anne Balme

## **Diocesan Officers (Not Trustees)**

Treasurer  
Secretary  
Chaplain  
Webmaster  
Mothers' Union Enterprises  
Indoor Members Representative  
AFIA representative  
Wath Deanery Contact

Phill Jackson  
Steve Bisby  
Canon Richard Parker  
Elizabeth Dean  
Margaret Culloden  
Gill Fellows  
Angela Parker  
Janet Henshaw

## **Bankers**

The charities bankers are the Cooperative Bank PO Box250 Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT.

## **Independent Examiner**

This role was undertaken by.

Michael David Fenton BA(Hons) FCA BFP PG DIP  
25 Church Lane, Darley Abbey, Derby DE22 1EX

The Charity does not hold any property and for administrative purposes the contact address is the home address of the Secretary, Steve Bisby, 71 Earlesmere Avenue, Balby, Doncaster DN4 0QD.

## **Membership**

Membership is open to all who:

- a) Have been baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity
- b) Declare their support for the aims and objects of the Society.

In 2025 Sheffield MU consisted of 27 Branches, a Diocesan group and a group for Sheffield IMPC-from branches that had closed, Thurgoland and Wombwell closed at the end of 2024. There are 582 members in total. The organisation, whether at Diocesan, Deanery or Branch levels, aims to reach out to those in need of all ages. Due to the retirement of some Trustees, we decided to restructure the Action & Outreach and Fundraising & Communication Units with a single unit run by representatives from each deanery and along with Finance and Central services and Faith and Policy we continue to facilitate our aims. All the work is underpinned by prayer.

To enable all members to be well informed a magazine, Newline is produced, printed, and distributed three times a year.

## **Restrictions imposed by the Governing Document concerning the way in which the charity may operate.**

Branches of the charity have the power to support the needs of their parishes, subject to the aim, purpose, and objects of Mothers' Union. However, branches are not permitted to be used as a channel for charitable money permitted to be allocated to such organisations from branch funds.

## **Risk management**

The Trustees have throughout their term of service recognised their responsibility to identify the key risks to which the charity was exposed and to ensure that measures were in place and monitored to mitigate against these risks. Adequate insurance cover has been in place to protect the charity against monetary loss.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The purpose of the Mothers' Union is to be especially concerned with all that strengthens marriage and Christian family life.

The Aim of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

To carry out this Aim the Objects of the Mothers' Union are:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
3. To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship, and service.
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

## **Activities during 2025**

This was the start of a new Triennium and a new Trustees board.

We held our Commissioning service at Sheffield Cathedral in May as well as a Mary Sumner day service at Sheffield Cathedral in August which was well attended.

We continued supporting 5 women's refuges as well as Baby Basics and Rotherham Families First who provide essentials for families. We again held vigils in 3 areas of our diocese where members drew people's attention to the campaign No More One in Three. We continued our work with the Read Aloud project and worked with the National Literacy Trust to provide books for children across the diocese.

A group of members attended the Commissioning of the new Provincial President in York Minster. We were pleased to host a meeting with the new Worldwide President in June when we showcased the work of Sheffield MU and listened to Kathleen's hopes for the next Triennium. We delivered Clergy packs to the incoming clergy – raising the profile of Mothers Union and talking about the work we do across the Diocese.

Again, we took part in a Christmas Tree Festival held in Sheffield Cathedral.

We look forward to the celebrations in 2026 marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mothers' Union.

## **Reports**

### **Outreach**

**AFIA.**(Away from It All Holidays) Of all the projects Mothers' Union supports, AFIA is the only one that has no other funding.

During 2025 we have organised and paid for ten caravan holidays for those who have not had a holiday for 4 years or more. There were **17 adults and 25 children** who benefitted from these holidays. Each of the 10 families were given a hamper with basic supplies for the holiday.

**BABY BASICS** support vulnerable families in Sheffield and Doncaster. We have delivered 120 items including baby clothes, jumpers, hats and blankets have been delivered; hand knitted by our members. Many branches also deliver without informing us. **120 items**

**CART** (Christian African Relief Trust) The shop continues to fund containers to Malawi and a container is still used as a school. We have delivered over **150 items as well as 100 used tools for Tools with a Mission**

**CLEWER.** Our contact with South Yorkshire Police Trafficking Dept continues and they contact us with urgent needs. We had no requests in 2005 although we did pass on 6 washbags donated by a member.

**FAMILIES FIRST- ROTHERHAM** also support vulnerable families mainly in Rotherham. They take used clothing in good condition as well as new items and we have provided **500** items of bedding, clothes and knitted goods.

**OVERSEAS.** We continue to write to our Overseas links in Diocese of Central Zimbabwe, Lango in Uganda, Kebbi in Nigeria, Tamale in Ghana, and Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands sending Easter & Christmas cards with a letter.

**PRISON.** We once again have written and delivered **1100 Christmas cards** to each inmate at HMP Moorlands. This year we had several letters of thanks for the cards with messages showing the impact they have had

**READ ALOUD PROJECT.** We have partnered with the **National Literacy Trust** who donate books for us to distribute to areas of need. We have delivered **350 books to families and 50 Worry worms** for books for children that have concerns.

**REFUGES.** All branches across the Diocese are very generous and continue to support our 5 Refuges. Rotherham and Barnsley Refuges have no storage, so MU branches respond to requests from these refuges. We have supplied items for their food cupboard and dry foods as requested. We have delivered toiletries, moving on baskets, bedding, clothing, books, toys, Easter eggs and Advent calendars for the children impacting on the lives of **330** people.

**RISE-UP-** Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. 5 branches earned bronze awards for their support of the Rise Up against abuse campaign. We also held 3 Vigils across the Diocese raising awareness of the campaign against Domestic abuse and took part in the 3-minute silence.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.** was held in Sheffield Cathedral again and attracted over **7000 visitors**, we took part promoting Mothers' Union and the work we do.

All our donations are inputted into MU LIVE in order to build a picture of how and where we are working, how many people are reached and how lives are being changed. This helps us celebrate and communicate who we are and the impact that we have as a global movement.

## Communications

We continue to produce Newslines three times a year, a magazine that is distributed to all our members as well as displayed on our website to read or download. This contains information about forthcoming events as well as showcasing the work done in the Diocese. It also includes updates from our central charity this enables our members to see the far-reaching work of Mothers' Union.

We have a website that needs updating and that will happen next year. Our Facebook page is updated daily and reaches out across the world.

## Fundraising

We hold a monthly coffee morning at Sheffield Cathedral with a Produce stall and a stall selling MU Enterprises cards and gifts, both stalls bringing in a regular monthly income as well as outreach into the community.

Members have been busy fundraising for our work with coffee mornings, sponsored silences. This year we had an emphasis on AFIA – our holiday programme and we managed to send 10 families away to a Haven Holiday site. We took part in the Summer of Hope Appeal from MSH, and match funded a donation to the Christmas Appeal.

## **Indoor Members Prayer Circle IMPC**

Our Indoor member correspondent retired due to ill health in 2025. We have 83 Indoor members – a number that is increasing as branches close. 43 of these are in branches and the branch is responsible for delivering mailings and keeping in touch, the other 40 are divided amongst the deanery in which they live, and the Deanery is responsible for keeping in touch with these members. One of our Trustees volunteered to oversee this and to send out birthday cards to each Indoor member. The new database at MSH now filters 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays so the Data Coordinator emails Central Mothers' Union for cards from the Worldwide President to be sent to those members on the appropriate date.

## **Faith and Policy**

The Faith and Policy committee has met four times this year during the monthly coffee mornings on the first Friday. We have been able to plan for quiet days and the vigil in November.

On 13th May, we held our Quiet Day Apart in Sheffield Cathedral Chapter house.

This was led by Rev. Captain Ian Mahr and those who attended found it very worthwhile.

Unfortunately, it was not well attended.

The Mary Sumner day service was held on 9<sup>th</sup> August at 2.00pm in Sheffield Cathedral. This was well attended, and our chaplain gave the address.

Also, in August we had the Wave of Prayer for our diocese and link dioceses from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. All branches were allocated a time for prayer, and it was encouraging to see good support this year.

In September, our quiet afternoon was held at the Harley mission church. It was led by Rev. Marie Raffay, who introduced a lectio divina reading from the gospels and we all had the opportunity to participate. Fortunately, we had a good attendance.

The Rise Up vigil in support of victims of gender-based violence was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November outside Sheffield Cathedral, Doncaster Minster and Harley Mission church. Banners, displays and leaflets were used to raise awareness.

In deaneries services were held to celebrate at Deanery Festivals and Deanery Advent services were held at the beginning of December.

Margaret Vivian Faith and Policy Coordinator

## **Finance & Central Services**

The Finance and Central Services Committee (F&C Committee) met twice in 2025. The financial outcome for 2024 was reported to the Trustees at their May Meeting.

The following issues were addressed: -

- The 2025 accounts have now been audited by the Auditor Michael Fenton and they were well received.
- The Overseas Fund stands at £5,000 enabling us to respond to requests for help from Mary Sumner House appeals.
- AFIA expenditure was less than the money raised resulting in a growth of our funds by nearly £1,000. This brought the amount in the AFIA Fund at the year end to £10,896.
- Money in branch accounts still remains an issue but is now restricted to just 2 branches – Bessacarr - £2,526, and Oughtibridge - £1,878. Again, it was requested that where possible branches collected the subscription monies in the first couple of weeks of January and then paid over to the Sheffield MU Treasurer by the end of January each year. This would alleviate the reporting of inflated figures at the year-end which is not representative of the actual funds generally held for operation.
- At the end of the Financial Year 2025 the Finances of the MU in the Sheffield Diocese were reported to still be in a very positive position.

## **Treasurer's Report 2025**

The results are reported in the financial statement accompanying this report. The Trustees received no remuneration for their services although they were eligible to claim reasonable expenses for incurred during their trusteeship.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Charity maintains unrestricted cash reserves of £26,863 which are more than adequate to support the current level of activity. The Trustees are of the opinion that this amount is reasonable.

Restricted funds of £16,464 are for AFIA and Overseas and the Family Project Fund.

Funds are held at branch level to facilitate the running of individual branches. Funds have been audited by the diocese and currently stand at £10,270.

The Charity relies on contributions from members and their support to ensure the charitable work can continue and various worthy causes can be met from resources at the disposal of the charity, during 2025 all the key objectives of the charity have been met.

Notes on accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025

These accounts have been prepared:

- a) On a receipts and payments basis.
- b) Under the historical convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.
- c) In accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity is a going concern.

All income is recognised when the Charity becomes legally entitled and the amount quantifiable with reasonable accuracy.

Phill Jackson - Honorary Treasurer

### **Membership / Training**

Membership, Training and Development are all embedded throughout the core of Sheffield Diocese Mothers' Union. Reporting the developments to Trustees happens regularly at our meetings, quarterly, and at both Spring and Autumn Council. Membership remains a high priority, aided by the profile and relaunch of the Communities of Interest (CoI) that help support and inform communications. These are delivered, informally and supported from Central Mothers' Union, from Mary Sumner House. This enables the Unit Representatives to attend focussed meetings, which then informs our service delivery, cascading information to membership, through our newly changed, Outreach, Fundraising and Communications model steered by our Deanery representatives. Membership growth is relaunched for 2025 following pilots, with 'new' Membership Packs for Clergy and for Churches that do not have a branch. Our plan has been to use these to develop new members, address the declining membership and we have proactively sent these to new clergy and incumbents joining the diocese.

We have had members participate in making Mothers' Union a Dementia Friendly Community, by taking part in Dementia Friends and the Bronze, Silver and Gold Pathway. (This is ongoing and the model has been adopted centrally for the whole charity).

GDPR Training and DBS as required by Good Trustee Guidance and status. We have had a bespoke Treasurer training program written by our honorary Diocesan Treasurer. Trustees have undertaken this as a quality mark prior to cascading the learning to Treasurers and Finance coordinators in Branches.

Jo-Anne Van Levesley – President and Membership Coordinator

## **Safeguarding**

2025 was a good year as there were no safeguarding issues concerning the Diocesan MU in Sheffield. Members stayed vigilant and no issues had to be reported at all. This is excellent. Please keep up the good work in 2026 and always be on the alert for vulnerable people at our meetings or events. If you notice anything you think may be a safety issue, please report it to your branch leader and she will take the necessary steps. You will all have a Church Safeguarding Officer who can be approached too. It is always better to be safe than sorry. All of our Trustees were DBS checked in 2025 either with MU or with their church. If your DBS certificate is no longer in date in 2026, please have it renewed and let me know.

During 2026, 6 Trustees took part in training and have a Certificate of Achievement of Britain and Ireland Core Safeguarding Training.

These Trustees are Norma Priest, Pat Simpson, Elizabeth Dean, Anne Balme, Angela Parker, Annette Walker

Jo Anne Van Levesley Senior Safeguarding Leader

Pat Simpson – Safeguarding Officer

## **Independent Examiners Report**

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHEFFIELD DIOCESE MOTHERS UNION**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

#### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements (under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission {under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act}; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**


In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 'which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the



accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

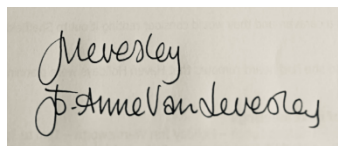


MICHAEL DAVID FENTON BA (Hons) FCA BFP PG DIP  
The Old Vicarage Church Street Baslow  
Bakewell DE45 1RY

13 February 2026

This Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 25<sup>th</sup> April and signed on behalf of the board by:

**President:**



Jo-Anne Van Levesley

**Date:**

25-April 2026





## **Sheffield Diocese**

Registered Charity Number 1063619

### **Annual Accounts**

Year Ended 31st December 2025

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## Sheffield Diocese

Charity Number 1063619

### Receipts & Payments For Year Ended 31st December 2025

<b>INCOME</b>		<i>Notes</i>
Member Subscriptions	17,040.00	567 Members
A.F.I.A. Donations	10,503.40	
I.M.P.C Donations	-	
Work Overseas Donations	913.35	
Coffee & Produce Sales	1,673.66	12 Events
Sale of Cards etc.	2,241.43	
Bank Interest	269.94	Interest from Deposit A/c
General Donations	7,557.03	Including donations to support Newsline
Specific Donations	878.50	
Enterprise Grant	-	
Mary Sumner Day Collection	599.00	
Commissioning Service	251.55	
Branch Closures	829.15	Tankersley, Cantley & Thurgoland
Donations for Retiring Officials	-	
Prison Play Area	-	
Gift Aid	1,890.71	Gift aid / GASDS claimed for 2024
Sundries	654.57	
Restricted income	300.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,602.29</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Member Subscriptions	13,744.50	561 Members
A.F.I.A. Holidays	9,582.18	10 Holidays
Purchase of Cards etc	2,003.64	
Newsline	4,217.00	3 Issues
Room Hire	1,006.85	
Bank Charges	-	
Postage, Stationary etc.	64.83	
Travel	782.03	
Conference	1,601.24	
Mary Sumner Day	527.80	
Commissioning Service	704.80	
Salaries	3,134.51	Secretarial services
Gifts for Retiring Officials	566.16	
Insurance	480.21	
Training Materials	638.18	
Internet	408.39	
Postage I.M.P.C.	30.80	
Sundries	1,510.28	
Restricted Appeal	619.00	Summer of Hope + Prisoners Christmas
MU Work Overseas	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,622.40</b>	
Income Over Expenses	3,979.89	
Total Account Balance 2024	39,347.92	
Total Account Balance 2025	43,327.81	
Change in Funds	3,979.89	



## Sheffield Diocese

Charity Number 1063619

### Balance Sheet For Year Ended 31st December 2025

Summary Of Accounts	Dec-2025	Dec-2024
Current Account	23,944.24	20,334.29
Deposit Account	19,383.57	19,113.63
Petty Cash	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,327.81</b>	<b>39,447.92</b>
<b>Change in Year</b>	<b>3,879.89</b>	<b>8,048.15</b>

#### Restricted Funds:

A.F.I.A.	10,896.61	9,975.39
MSH Overseas Work	5,000.25	4,086.90
MU Family Projects	567.61	567.61
	<b>16,464.47</b>	<b>14,629.90</b>

#### Unrestricted Funds:

General Fund	23,712.04	22,103.62
Virtual Babies	214.04	214.04
Prison Play Area	636.00	636.00
Branch Closures	2,301.26	1,864.36
	<b>26,863.34</b>	<b>24,818.02</b>
<b>TOTAL Funds:</b>	<b>43,327.81</b>	<b>39,447.92</b>
	<b>3,879.89</b>	<b>39,447.92</b>

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHEFFIELD DIOCESE MOTHERS UNION**

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### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



MICHAEL DAVID FENTON  
BA (Hons) FCA BFP PG DIP  
The Old Vicarage  
Church Street  
Baslöw  
Bakewell  
DE45 1RY

13 FEBRUARY 2026





### **Finance and Central Services Report**

The Finance and Central Services Committee (F&C Committee) met twice in 2025. The financial outcome for 2024 was reported to the Trustees at their May Meeting.

The following issues were addressed: -

- The 2025 accounts have now been audited by the Auditor Michael Fenton and they were well received.
- The Overseas Fund stands at £5,000 enabling us to respond to requests for help from Mary Sumner House appeals.
- AFIA expenditure was less than the money raised resulting in a growth of our funds by nearly £1,000. This brought the amount in the AFIA Fund at the year end to £10,896.
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#### **Reserves Policy**

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Notes on accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025

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The Charity is a going concern.

All income is recognised when the Charity becomes legally entitled and the amount quantifiable with reasonable accuracy.

Phill Jackson - Honorary treasurer





This financial statement was approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and signed on behalf of the board by:

President:

-----  
Jo-Anne Van Levesley

Date:

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# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHEFFIELD DIOCESE MOTHERS UNION**

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MICHAEL DAVID FENTON  
BA (Hons) FCA BFP PG DIP  
The Old Vicarage  
Church Street  
Baslow  
Bakewell  
DE45 1RY

13 FEBRUARY 2026