



## Mothers Union Diocese of Birmingham

Registered Charity: 1065815

### Annual Report for Year ended 31st December 2024

MU Diocesan Office  
The Church of England  
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Birmingham B4 6QD  
Tel 0121 643 0938

Email: [office@mubham.org.uk](mailto:office@mubham.org.uk)

#### Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling, Kent  
ME19 4JQ

CBF Church of England Funds  
80 Cheapside  
London  
EC2V 6DZ

**Trustees:** Mrs Deirdre Moll (President) Mrs Rowena Nicholls (Vice President), Mr Peter Johnson (Treasurer), The Revd Colleen Shekerie (until March 2024) Mrs Val Timmins, Mrs Elaine Diskin, Revd Canon Martin Stephenson (Chaplain), Mrs Diana Murungu, Mrs Linda Nugent, Mrs Sandra Jongwe (until September 2024)

**Patron and member:** The Right Reverend Dr Michael Volland, Bishop of Birmingham became our patron in March 2024 after his installation as Diocesan Bishop.

**Mothers' Union** is an international Christian membership charity of over four million members living in over eighty-three countries whose vision is to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

**The Aim and Purpose of Mothers' Union** are to demonstrate Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of families in their many forms.

#### The Objectives are:

- Maintaining a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship, and service.
- Promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- Helping those whose family life has met with adversity.
- Promoting and supporting marriage
- Encouraging parents in their role to develop the faith of their children.

Mothers' Union, Birmingham has worked to fulfil the Aims and Objectives of the charity by supporting both local projects and the worldwide work through the central global charity Mothers' Union based at Mary Sumner House, London.

**The Trustees** submit their report and financial statements for the Mothers' Union – Birmingham Diocese, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 and presented to the Members' Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

The Board of Trustees met five times during the year. Four meetings were held by Zoom and one in person in the Diocesan Offices.

There were two Members' Meeting in the year. The March meeting was held at Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield. The speaker was Emily Brailsford, the National MU lead on Domestic Violence. The October meeting was held at St Martin's in the Bullring with the focus on a review of the triennium and beginning planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations of Mothers Union in 2026. These meetings are open to all members and the varied locations are chosen to encourage attendance by as many as possible. Guests are also welcome but have no voting rights.

The charity is dependent on its members for funding and is overseen by volunteers with one part-time salaried secretary. An annual subscription for membership is levied to cover the subscription to the central charity of the Mothers' Union, Birmingham's administrative expenses and to provide funding for projects and other expenses incurred by the charity in fulfilling its objectives. In 2024 the subscription was £29: £24.50 being the central charity levy and £4.50 retained by the diocese. The trustees were pleased to be able to hold the total subscription at the same level as in 2023 despite the rise of the central charity levy.

There were 444 members at the end of the year; most are in active branches attached to parish churches but 22 are Diocesan members who have no formal attachment to any branch. Some twenty of the members are housebound but remain linked to a branch and are known as Indoor Members. Discussions continue as to how best to promote membership as branches face challenges in finding volunteers to take on some of the necessary administration.

The charitable activities were administered through two areas of governance.

- Faith & Policy
- Finance, Administration and Projects

Elections were held during the second half of the year for the positions of Diocesan President and for Trustees. These were for the triennium beginning in January 2025 and duly followed the process as laid down in the Constitution and Regulations of the charity. Rowena Nicholls was elected as the Diocesan President for the triennium 2025-2027.

### **Faith & Policy Group**

The work of this group is centred on providing opportunities for worship and spiritual welfare and to raise awareness of social justice issues. In January, MU Birmingham took its part in maintaining the continuous worldwide Wave of Prayer.

The Annual Diocesan Festival Service was held in the Cathedral in April 2024.

In July a very well attended Quiet day was held at St Paul's Convent in Selly Park.

The Worldwide Group which is a subcommittee of the Faith and Policy Group, has put much effort into nurturing relationships with our links in Bukedi, (Uganda), Enugu, (Nigeria), The Seychelles (Indian Ocean), Marathwada, (Northern India) and the four dioceses in Malawi. Support was also given to supplying items for the container of goods which is sent annually to Malawi through the Church of England Birmingham Diocesan link.

### **Finance, Administration and Project Group**

Regular meetings were held to ensure good governance and proper financial management. A financial statement is given each month to the Trustees.

Additional income is gained from the sale of cards and goods through Mothers' Union Enterprises, which is based at Mary Sumner House in London. Gift aid is also collected on subscriptions and donations where possible.

The data base continues to be updated regularly.

There were no safeguarding issues reported in 2024. There were no reported breaches of GDPR in 2024. They both remain as standing items on the agenda at Trustee meetings.

Branches are required to comply with the Diocesan Child Protection and Safeguarding guidelines. Updates were sent out to all branches during the year with a requirement that the Branch confirmed that they had been implemented. Records of this are kept in the Mothers' Union Office.

Projects have included:

**AFIA - Away from It All.** This is a project that funds holidays for those in great need. In 2024 10 holidays for individual families were arranged and AFIA also funded the costs of a coach and snacks to support a day trip for a group of families in need. The total cost was £6088.

**Prison work.** The Mothers Union works in both Birmingham and Swinfen Hall prisons with the charity PACT providing toys for visiting children and cards for visitors at Christmas. Cards are also provided for distribution by Chaplaincy to inmates. We also provide chocolate for prisoners attending Christmas services. Parenting courses were also run at Swinfen prison.

**Women's Aid.** Donations of household goods, clothing, baby items and toiletries continued to be made to families affected by domestic violence through our association with Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid.

**Souls of our Shoes.** This is an exhibition of a collection of shoes with accompanying quotes to speak on behalf of victims of Domestic Violence. It was held at several locations during the year with the first being at St Martin's in the Bullring. Over 2,800 people visited the church during the week the exhibition was held.

**Craft work** Knit and Natter groups exist in many branches which support the production of goods such as premature baby items for local hospitals whilst also providing an opportunity for a social gathering easily inclusive of others who may be lonely or vulnerable. Twiddle muffs and fiddle pinnies were also made for use by dementia patients in their own homes or in care homes.

Our Birmingham Mothers' Union social media output is proving an effective way to spread news and highlight coming events. A bi-monthly e-newsletter was sent directly to members who have email, with branch leaders being asked to distribute hard copies to those without email.

The consolidated accounts for 2024 have been completed and have been independently examined by Rosamund Douglas ACA

We have pleasure in commending this report.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by Rowena Nicholls, Chair and Diocesan President.

Rowena Nicholls

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Date 18/10/2025.....

Rowena Nicholls  
Diocesan President  
Mothers' Union Birmingham

# THE MOTHERS' UNION - DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

(Registered Charity No. 1065815)

## Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

### 1. Receipts and Payments Account - General Fund

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
From voluntary sources:		
Subscriptions from members	13,306.00	14,094.00
Donations	4,935.27	9,135.89
Diocesan Events & Activities	506.49	325.89
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	1,670.22	1,849.34
Fund raising events - branches	7,527.22	8,565.04
- diocese	280.00	806.50
Branch Outings and Visits	0.00	866.50
Sundry Receipts	0.00	27.00
From assets		
Bank and other Interest	889.41	836.20
From charitable trading		
Sale of MU enterprises Ltd goods	4,879.81	4,269.68
Turnover Related Grant from MU enterprises Ltd	569.17	678.50
<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>34,563.59</u></b>	<b><u>41,454.54</u></b>

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Direct Charitable Expenditure:		
Members' Subscriptions paid to MSH	10,580.00	10,290.00
Branch projects	2,179.07	3,141.02
Diocesan Events & Activities	1,675.64	915.51
Purchase of MU enterprises Ltd goods	4,195.95	4,448.52
Donations to other charities	865.00	600.00
	<u>19,495.66</u>	<u>19,395.05</u>
Other Expenditure:		
Secretarial Costs	4,764.84	4,118.40
Administration Expenses	1,114.96	534.64
Diocesan Rent	1,125.00	1,125.00
Conferences & Travel	374.70	176.55
Insurance	449.50	449.50
Branch rent and room hire	1,779.33	1,197.00
Branch running costs	1,224.05	1,258.28
Fund raising costs:- Branches	463.92	894.93
- Diocese	0.00	236.37
Branch Outings & Visits	0.00	981.00
Sundry Payments		-
	<u>11,296.30</u>	<u>10,971.67</u>
Transfers from Branches' General Funds to Other Funds:		
Overseas	531.64	708.21
Relief	200.00	100.00
Literacy & Financial Education Programme	663.51	654.28
MSH Appeals	227.00	407.70
Away-From-It-All (AFIA)	2,880.25	5,690.56
Transfer from Diocesan General Fund to AFIA	0.00	1,900.00
	<u>4,502.40</u>	<u>9,460.75</u>
<b><u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u></b>	<u>35,294.36</u>	<u>39,827.47</u>
<b><u>NET SURPLUS (PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<u>(730.77)</u>	<u>1,627.07</u>
<b><u>Balance on hand 01.01.24</u></b>	<u>33,737.46</u>	<u>32,110.39</u>
<b><u>Balance on hand 31.12.24</u></b>	<u>33,006.69</u>	<u>33,737.46</u>

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b><u>2. Receipts and Payments Account - Overseas Fund</u></b>		
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Donations & Fund Raising Events	1,457.01	1,548.76
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	162.23	191.04
Transfers from Branches' General Funds	531.64	708.21
Timing Difference: Hamstead 2023	70.00	80.00
Timing Difference Hamstead 2024	(100.00)	(70.00)
Timing Difference Yardley Wood (2024)	(25.00)	0.00
<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>2,095.88</u></b>	<b><u>2,458.01</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Funds transferred to Mothers' Union centrally	2,095.88	2,488.01
<b><u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u></b>	<b><u>2,095.88</u></b>	<b><u>2,488.01</u></b>
<b><u>NET SURPLUS (PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>(30.00)</u></b>
<b><u>Balance on hand 01.01.24</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>30.00</u></b>
<b><u>Balance on hand 31.12.24</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

### **3. Receipts and Payments Account - Relief Fund**

<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Donations & Fund Raising Events	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	0.00	5.00
Transfers from Branches' General Funds	200.00	100.00
<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>200.00</u></b>	<b><u>105.00</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Funds transferred to Mothers' Union centrally	200.00	75.00
<b><u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u></b>	<b><u>200.00</u></b>	<b><u>75.00</u></b>
<b><u>NET SURPLUS (PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>30.00</u></b>
<b><u>Balance on hand 01.01.24</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>(30.00)</u></b>
<b><u>Balance on hand 31.12.24</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>4. Receipts and Payments Account - Literacy &amp; Financial Education Programme</u></b>		
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Donations & Fund Raising Events	21.00	0.00
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	65.26	0.00
Transfers from Branches' General Funds	663.51	654.28
<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>749.77</u></b>	<b><u>654.28</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Funds transferred to Mothers' Union centrally	749.77	654.28
<b><u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u></b>	<b><u>749.77</u></b>	<b><u>654.28</u></b>
<b><u>NET SURPLUS (PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

**5. Receipts and Payments Account - Other MSH Funds**

<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Donations & Fund Raising Events	148.00	304.30
Transfers from Branches' General Funds	227.00	407.70
<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>375.00</u></b>	<b><u>712.00</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Funds transferred to Mothers' Union centrally		
by Diocese	375.00	680.00
by branches	0.00	32.00
<b><u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u></b>	<b><u>375.00</u></b>	<b><u>712.00</u></b>
<b><u>NET SURPLUS (PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>



	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>6. Receipts and Payments Account - Away-From-It-All-Fund (AFIA)</u></b>		
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Donations: PCCs	327.50	1,442.14
Individuals	660.00	2,251.00
Other	0.00	109.70
Members' Donations & Fund Raising Events	289.70	300.30
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	189.75	737.75
Transfers from Branches' General Funds	2,880.25	5,690.56
Transfer from Diocesan General Fund	0.00	1,900.00
Timing Difference: Hamstead 2022	0.00	65.00
Timing Difference : Hamstead 2023	60.00	(60.00)
<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>4,407.20</u></b>	<b><u>12,436.45</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
Assisted holidays and trips	6,088.50	8,848.84
<b><u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u></b>	<b><u>6,088.50</u></b>	<b><u>8,848.84</u></b>
<b><u>NET SURPLUS (PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>(1,681.30)</u></b>	<b><u>3,587.61</u></b>
<b>Balance on hand 01.01.24</b>	<b><u>6,986.78</u></b>	<b><u>3,399.17</u></b>
<b>Balance on hand 31.12.24</b>	<b><u>5,305.48</u></b>	<b><u>6,986.78</u></b>

## **7. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2024**

### **MONETARY ASSETS**

#### **Bank and cash balances**

	<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Branches</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>General Funds 31.12.24</u></b>			
Bank & Building Society Accounts	18,338.63	13,432.42	31,771.05
Cash in hand	0.00	1,235.64	1,235.64
	<b>18,338.63</b>	<b>14,668.06</b>	<b>33,006.69</b>

#### **General Funds 31.12.23**

Bank & Building Society Accounts	19,114.92	13,650.05	32,764.97
Cash in hand	0.00	972.49	972.49
	<b>19,114.92</b>	<b>14,622.54</b>	<b>33,737.46</b>

#### **The Diocesan Bank Accounts are earmarked for use as follows**

	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Visit to Link Dioceses Fund	703.01	703.01
Patricia Law Bequest Fund	273.38	1,457.80
General Purposes	17,362.24	16,954.11
	<b>18,338.63</b>	<b>19,114.92</b>
 Away-From-It-All-Fund (AFIA)	 <b>5,305.48</b>	 <b>6,986.78</b>

### **OTHER MONETARY ASSETS**

#### **MU enterprises Ltd**

Stock of goods for sale	788.73	1,036.38
Cash in hand from sale of goods	85.76	610.02
Sundry Debtors from sale of goods	414.55	113.55
	<b>1,289.04</b>	<b>1,759.95</b>

### **OTHER ASSETS**

The charity possesses no other assets of material value.

### **LIABILITIES**

The charity had no material liabilities as at 31.12.24









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**The Shottery  
39 Four Oaks Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
West Midlands B74 2XU**

25<sup>th</sup> August 2025

To The Trustees of the Mothers' Union - Diocese of Birmingham

Dear Trustees

**Independent Examination of the Consolidated Accounts  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

Following my reappointment as Independent Examiner, I have completed my work on the consolidated accounts of the Mothers' Union - Diocese of Birmingham

As stated in my report, I am satisfied that adequate accounting records have been kept and that the accounts have been correctly drawn up from the records in all material respects.

I have identified a few minor points which I have discussed with the Treasurer.

Yours faithfully



Rosamund J Douglas

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Mothers' Union - Diocese of Birmingham**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the consolidated accounts of The Mothers' Union – Diocese of Birmingham (the Trust) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act, and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination, giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Rosamund J Douglas  
39 Four Oaks Road, Sutton Coldfield

August 2025