

# MOTHERS' UNION: (NORWICH DIOCESE)

England & Wales · Charity number 249682

## Details

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Other names	THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF NORWICH BRANCH), THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF NORWICH), THE MOTHER'S UNION (NORWICH DIOCESE)
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1966-10-27
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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**Address** Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese  
Diocesan House  
109 Dereham Road  
Easton  
Norwich  
NR9 5ES

**Phone** 01603880853

**Email** [munorwich@googlemail.com](mailto:munorwich@googlemail.com)

**Website** [norwichmothersunion.org.uk](http://norwichmothersunion.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE AIM OF THE SOCIETY IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN THE SPHERE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE, AND IN FURTHERANCE OF THE SAID AIM (BUT NOT OTHERWISE) TO CARRY OUT ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTS, THAT IS TO SAY-1.1 TO UPHOLD CHRIST'S TEACHING ON THE NATURE OF MARRIAGE AND TO PROMOTE ITS WIDER UNDERSTANDING;1.2 TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN IN THE FAITH AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH;1.3 TO MAINTAIN A WORLD-WIDE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS UNITED IN PRAYER, WORSHIP AND SERVICE;1.4 TO PROMOTE CONDITIONS IN SOCIETY FAVOURABLE TO STABLE FAMILY LIFE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN;1.5 TO HELP THOSE WHOSE FAMILY LIFE HAS MET WITH ADVERSITY. THE AIM OF THE ORGANISATION AND SOCIETY IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN THE SPHERE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE.

**Activities:** Education/TrainingRelief of PovertyOverseas aid/famine reliefReligious activities

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** DIOCESE OF NORWICH.
- Norfolk
- Suffolk

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31		-	-	-
2023-12-31		-	-	-
2022-12-31	£43,545	£39,073		-
2021-12-31	£44,432	£45,426		-
2020-12-31	£36,049	£39,506		-
2019-12-31	£70,839	£75,964		-
2018-12-31	£70,839	£75,963		-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Guy Turner		2022-02-18
Barbara Lashley		2016-01-01
Marie-Lyse Numuhoza MBE		2026-01-21
Mary Teresa Carr		2019-01-01
Pamela Gardener		2025-01-01
Sara Will		2022-01-01
Sheila Tuffield		2025-06-04
Weiwei Cui		2025-01-15

**MOTHERS' UNION: (NORWICH DIOCESE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 249682

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# Accounts

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# ***Annual Review*** **2022**





# Mothers' Union - Diocese of Norwich

Registered Charity Number 249682

Patron: The Rt Revd Graham Usher  
The Bishop of Norwich

Mothers' Union Diocesan Office  
Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Norwich, NR9 5ES

## ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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Mothers' Union, Norwich Diocese is one of the federated, registered Mothers' Union charities in the British Isles and Europe, together with many more in other parts of the world, supported by the Central Charity of Mothers' Union. It is responsible for the overall conduct of the affairs of Mothers' Union in the Diocese, including the maintenance of the spiritual life of the Mothers' Union and its members.

The work of the Diocesan Mothers' Union is carried out voluntarily by its members, apart from a part-time Administrator.

The relationship between Norwich Diocesan Mothers' Union (Charity No 249682) and the Central Mothers' Union (Charity No 240531) is maintained formally by the Diocesan President who remained a member of the Worldwide Council until December 31st 2021.

### **Bankers:**

The Co-operative Bank plc  
P O Box 101  
Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

### **Independent Examiner:**

Andrew Parker  
Andrew Parker Associates Ltd  
Unit 7, Beech Avenue Business Park  
Taverham  
Norwich, NR10 4LD

### **Administrative, Constitutional & Legal Advice:**

The Chief Executive  
Mothers' Union  
24 Tufton Street  
London  
SW1P 3RB

### **AIM & OBJECTS**

Our Aim is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life, which is achieved through our five objectives:

- ◇ To uphold Christian teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding;
- ◇ To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church;
- ◇ To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer worship and service;
- ◇ To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children;
- ◇ To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

**Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese is governed by a constitution dated 2017.**

**Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese is a separate charity which co-exists within the World Wide Mothers' Union, which is incorporated by Royal Charter, 15<sup>th</sup> June 1926, amended by Order of HM The Queen in Council dated 24 April 2018 ; Order of the Privy Council approving revised Bye-laws dated 24 April 2018; Regulations changed by resolution of Worldwide Council with effect from 24 April 2018.**

**The Election and appointment of officers for the triennium 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was carried out in 2021 in accordance with Norwich Diocese Mothers' Union Constitution 2017. Revd Andrew whitehead was our Chaplain for the whole year.**

## **TRUSTEES**

The Trustees met seven times during the year. The first three meetings of the year were held via Zoom. The remainder were held in person at Diocesan House.

### **TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE 2022**

	Attended/Possible	
Mary Carr	6 of 7	
Anne Epps	4 of 4	Resigned end of April
Ann Everitt	1 of 7	
Elizabeth Fletcher	6 of 7	
Jenny Holcombe	4 of 4	Resigned end of April
Barbara Lashley	7 of 7	
Eunice Norwood	7 of 7	
Marie-Lyse Numuhoza	5 of 7	
Felicity Randall	4 of 4	Co-opted from April as President
Andy Turner	4 of 4	Co-opted from March
Sara Will	6 of 7	

**CHAPLAIN**    The Reverend Andrew Whitehead

### **STRATEGY FOR 2022 - 2024**

- ◆ **We will update and refresh our messages about MU so that we can equip our members and branches to take opportunities to promote membership and our work.**
- ◆ **To ensure we are relevant to today, we will together explore what we mean by family, to encourage understanding and inclusivity to put into practice in our work and campaigns.**
- ◆ **We will work with partners to deliver our projects and find opportunities to seek funds for these activities outside our membership.**

# THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2022

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I can only begin my report on 20<sup>th</sup> April, the day I accepted nomination to serve as President. On that 'Away Day' the Trustees agreed a three year Strategic Plan - that over the coming three years we will have increased our support for refugees and for families in our communities, while demonstrating ourselves to be a caring, growing, attractive and engaged Christian Charity. The Bishop of Norwich formally accepted my nomination and I was commissioned in a service in my home Church, Fakenham on Mary Sumner day that August. I have to thank all the members who travelled to Fakenham that day. Bishop Joseph Mgomi and his wife, Lillian, from our link Ruaha Diocese in Tanzania who were staying with me at the time, following the Lambeth Conference, and met our Trustees and many members.

There were many challenges during the year. Marguerite and Barbara gave me lots of valuable advice and support as I had not recently been a Trustee and with the sad death of Val Ovenden there could be no proper 'handover'.

In June we renegotiated our Office contract in Diocesan Church House but the new, smaller office remained unoccupied by the end of the year.

On Members' Day in July the Strategic Plan was introduced to members before the retiring chaplain, Andrew Whitehead, led a session of music and singing. Eunice Norwood led an afternoon creating Worldwide Posters.

Also in July, I attended a Canterbury Provincial Conference with the theme of 'Transformation now', bringing back the challenge that we must all work to transform the Mothers' Union at every level if we are to survive. A topic very close to our Diocesan Strategic Plan.

Council was in October. Following on from our Strategic Plan the Trustees introduced three priorities for us to reflect on: *'To ensure we are relevant today.'* *'To work with partners to fund and deliver our projects.'* and *'To encourage Branches to relax their expectations of traditional local meetings and activities and evolve to be more open and attractive to the variety of people who might support and enhance our work'.*

Jenny Holcombe and I took a display to Diocesan Synod later in October with the theme 'Caring for our Neighbours'. This was well received – especially the focus on Refugees arriving in Norwich.

During the year I visited several Branches plus a very special anniversary service at Swaffham and sadly the funeral of a much loved member of that Branch.

*Felicity Randall*

## **WORK IN THE COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST**

### **THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT - Leader: Jenny Holcombe**

**It is now five years since our project was set up, working with the People From Abroad team at Norfolk County Council. The team resettles families referred by the UNHCR and Home Office, providing homes and support for 5 years. Our project has continued to provide two complete sets of bedding for each bed needed and have assisted in making up beds when houses are being prepared. Where the make-up of the family is known, we are able to buy appropriate bedding for children and sometimes tuck in a cuddly toy. As well as refugees from Syria this year, we continued to support Afghan refugees coming to Norfolk from temporary accommodation where they had lived since the airlift from Afghanistan last year. With the onset of the war in Ukraine, refugees from that country came to Britain under the government scheme which enabled families here to provide a home. Although not directly involved in the scheme, the People From Abroad team became involved when these arrangements broke down, and we provided bedding packs ready for them to use when providing emergency accommodation.**

**This project is a very practical example of the MU commitment to support family life and we are grateful to the branches and individuals for the fundraising and donations which make this possible.**

### **Away From It All [AFIA] : Co-ordinator - Marguerite Phillips**

**Thanks to the generosity of members' fundraising and the Highcroft Amenity Trust we sent 15 families for a week's holiday to Haven holiday camp, Caister on Sea in 2022**

**All but one of the holidays was in October half-term, offering a much-needed week's self-catering break in a caravan by the sea with local entertainment and use of the swimming pools included. No family is identifiable from any other member of the public as they are each issued with a separate booking number rather than being bunched as a group.**

**The need is greater than ever with children's mental health deteriorating and domestic violence on the increase and although we are in a cost of living crisis, money is less of a factor than social issues. Most families are referred to us by Norfolk Social Services, some from health professionals and others from women's refuges.**

**Funds collected by members in any given year pay for families to go away in the following year. Furthermore the Highcroft Trust which was set up to provide holidays for Norfolk families with learning difficulties offered to fund those of our families who met their criteria as they were no longer being asked for any money. This partnership was formally established in 2014 with wording advised by MSH. Without their support we would not be able to provide so many holidays and they will continue to help us for the next 3 years after which they will be winding up their charity.**

**Costs were extremely high in the aftermath of the pandemic with a 3 bedroom caravan costing in the region of £1000 after discount but I am pleased to say that the prices have come down considerably for 2023 with an average cost of £610 for a family of 7. We have already booked 13 holidays for 2023 mostly in October again, but a couple in July and September.**

**Bourne Leisure too are most accommodating. They offer generous discounts if we make the reservations early in the year and if we give a couple of days' notice with good reason, if a family cannot go, then they will hold those funds in credit for the following year.**

### **ANGEL TREE - Co-ordinator: Andy Turner**

The Mothers' Union Diocese of Norwich partnership, nationally with Prison Fellowship and, locally, with the Wayland Group (supporting the male residents at HMP Wayland), had another busy, productive and successful Christmas running the Angel Tree programme.

In 2022, we had applications from 37 residents and sent gifts to 73 children, 59 of whom were sent a Christian book alongside. This was supported by Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese branch leaders and members who donated presents and cash to enable the programme to run, branch members who volunteered to purchase presents from cash donated, and acted as collection points and arranged delivery of presents, a team of volunteers wrapping the presents at Diocesan House in early December and Diocesan House staff who handled the despatch of all the wrapped and bagged presents. All residents were sent a personalised Christmas card detailing the presents bought for their children and they, and the children's carer, were also sent a feedback form looking to identify areas of improvement.

### **KNITTING PROJECT - Co-ordinator: Jan Thorp**

Our members continued to support the Knitting Project throughout 2022. We kept in contact with the Maternity Units of our three main hospitals on a regular basis to make sure that we were meeting their needs and to be made aware of any changes necessary. Information is sent out by email to keep members up to date.

Knitted items brought to the Diocesan Meetings throughout the year have been gratefully received. These are all sorted, checked through and washed prior to being delivered to the hospitals, according to their individual needs. It is so important for us to maintain high standards of quality and suitability.

A good number of Pocket Crosses collected too at the meetings, have been delivered to the Hospital Chaplaincies.

In addition, there are some individual branches/members who collect and deliver their knitted items personally, when and if they are able. All packages should include a compliment slip giving details from Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese.

It is always good to have contact with members and to deal with enquiries. Likewise, it is always good to hear that all the hospitals really appreciate our efforts.

### **The Loving for Life Project**

This project is no longer supported centrally. Our trained co-ordinators were invited to deliver a session at one church in the diocese during the year. The materials are retained in our office and are available for members and branches to use for displays or activities in their own parishes.

### **COMMUNICATIONS - Co-ordinator: Eunice Norwood**

I began the year deeply concerned about communication outlets for keeping ALL members informed and up to date on issues and projects, and for attracting new growth. We have lost contact with both our FB page and our website. Paper prices have risen steeply during the year and printing costs for Angles in 2023 will be higher than of late. Delivery charges by the printer were saved as they were collected directly by myself and in the absence of an Office Administrator bundled by me and delivered to Council meetings.

Mary Sumner House have created basic diocesan websites off of their main site so that all dioceses can be located, this can be accessed on <https://www.mothersunion.org/diocese/norwich>. It is useful for anyone moving to a new location and looking for a local branch, it is not helpful for our members looking for information in our diocese. Unfortunately a new website costs money to buy into a domain even if we found a volunteer with the skills to build us a new site. We have also lost contact with our Facebook group due to my PC being hacked at some point. Any new page should in future be launched from the office computer but until we have an admin person this is not possible. Social Media platforms have allowed communication between the trustees and branch members and have helped to keep everyone buoyant and in touch. Email has proved invaluable as has Zoom for prayer and a few branch and Trustee meetings although it does exclude some members without IT facilities.

By the end of 2022 I felt more positive that Angles would continue albeit only twice a year and discussions were taking place on the possibilities of a new Diocesan Website using a web-building service.

## **SOCIAL POLICY & CAMPAIGNS - CO-ordinator: Marie-Lyse Numuhoza**

### **Mothers' Union Partnership with Clewer – Modern Slavery**

#### **Two Key Resources for Anti-Slavery Week and Beyond!**

Bishop Alastair Redfern, the Chair of Clewer, has written a new study resource based on the John's seven letters to the seven churches from the Book of Revelation. The letters can be delivered on a daily basis during Anti-Slavery Week (16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October), but they can also be used on a weekly basis or for a bible study group. You can sign up [here](#)

Clewer has signed up the [CPO website](#) and you can now order printed Clewer resources free of charge. This includes a "Make It Slavery Free" pledge poster which is customisable and other resources. More will be released throughout September and you can also find resources [here](#).

The Clewer Initiative - 'Breaking County Lines is Clewer's resource tackling county lines exploitation.

There is more info below and more resources can be downloaded from the website for future references.

More information/resources on their webpage here: <https://theclewerinitiative.org/training-courses/breaking-county-lines> and for any further questions email Amy Bishop, Business Support Officer at Clewer at [amy.bishop@churchofengland.org](mailto:amy.bishop@churchofengland.org)

### **Britain and Ireland Community of Interest for Domestic Abuse / Policy**

DA Strategy and Action Plan. Progress is being made on a partnership with the Women's Aid Federations, to focus on getting proper resourcing, especially locally, for Domestic Abuse survivors.

September 2022, MU was the first partner to join the Womens' Aid "Together" campaign to increase awareness to counter domestic abuse.

Restored Training. MU centrally funded online training for those of the Community of Interest who were interested in becoming more active in countering Domestic Abuse, to build understanding and confidence in this challenging area.

## **SAFEGUARDING - Elizabeth Fletcher**

No reports have been received about safeguarding issues.

Tom Burke, an independent consultant, has been asked to review the Mothers' Union Safeguarding procedures and the first draft report has now been submitted in February 2023. An updated action plan will be formulated shortly.

Moira Murray is covering the post of Designated Safeguarding Lead for Britain and Ireland until the end of the year. Moira is drafting a revised policy and procedure. Also Moira is organising a training programme which will be sent out to the dioceses through the coming year. The new email address for Mothers' Union safeguarding concerns: [safeguarding@mothersunion.org](mailto:safeguarding@mothersunion.org) Moira can be contacted at any time, including urgent out of hours concerns and advice on: 07795973622

All Mothers' Union members who are involved in any capacity at an event involving children and adults at risk should have completed basic safeguarding awareness training so they are able to recognise safeguarding concerns. They should also know how to respond and who to inform as well as being aware of the boundaries of confidentiality.

Our own Safeguarding Policy should be updated or confirmed as correct each year and this action should be written in the Trustee Meeting minutes that this has happened.

All Trustees must have a current three year DBS check and have completed a basic safeguarding Course.

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## **AROUND THE DIOCESE**

### **BROADLAND AREA - Leader: Sue Cobb**

Sadly, the Broadland Area is down to just two groups, North Walsham and Wroxham Benefice. Following Covid restrictions, groups were enjoying being able to meet face to face again and have been actively promoting MU. North Walsham are raising the profile with information in the Community Centre and Wroxham have displays and information in the two main churches in their benefice.

In September 2022 North Walsham had two members waiting to be enrolled and during 2023, Wroxham have increased their membership to eleven from five. Both groups have a full programme of speakers and were involved in the World Day of Prayer in March. Other activities have included leading midday prayers in the Cathedral, coffee mornings to raise funds for AFIA, providing gifts for the Benjamin Foundation, gifts for the Angel Tree project, Communion and shared lunch at the Cathedral and quiet days organised by Sprowston MU.

For the future, who knows? We will work towards an Area meeting in the Autumn and hopefully pick up the idea of an area quiet day next year.

### **CROMER AREA:**

The area had no area leader and neither of the branches in the area, Cromer or Sheringham, were active during the year. (However, some Cromer members maintained contact and it pleasing to note that Cromer branch 'revived' the following year.)

## **MID-NORFOLK AREA.**

Dereham and District, Fakenham, Swaffham and Walsingham branches all reported full programmes of activity during the year including worship, speakers, craft and fundraising. We are grateful to the dedicated and enthusiastic leaders who contribute so much to maintaining the success of these branches.

## **NORWICH AREA - Leader: Jenny Holcombe**

Jenny reported on the five branches that are active in this area, (Eaton, Lakenham, Old Catton, Spixworth, Sprowston), varying in size and activities, but all providing opportunities for fellowship with a mixture of speakers, fundraising for MU projects and supporting church activities. One branch, Hellesdon, was not active during the year and the branch at Thorpe St. Andrew decided to close.

Jenny adds, "I am so grateful to the Branch Leaders and their Committees. Members and Friends who invite others to their varied events, offer loving care to those around them, pray and raise awareness and funds for MU work, and keep in touch with me. I know these branches also support the work of their parishes with Toddler groups etc."

## **WAVENEY & YARE AREA - Leaders: Sara Will & Anne Everitt**

During 2022 our branches were able to return to their normal meeting patterns. Sadly a few of our branches closed, the remaining ones being :- Lowestoft St Margaret's, Pakefield, Bradwell and Great Yarmouth.

Bradwell enrolled an amazing seven new members! Pakefield had a varied programme including a speaker on Ancestry and a talk by one of their members on Hedgehogs.

At Lowestoft St Margaret's a member gave some really interesting talks about Monastic Life and they held an enjoyable celebration for the late H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In December, Amy Simeons from Great Yarmouth branch held a very successful coffee morning in aid of the Refugee Fund, which raised £305-90.

An area Lady Day Service was kindly hosted by Pakefield and a number of members from the area travelled to Fakenham on Mary Sumner Day for the commissioning of Felicity Randall as Diocesan President. (Photograph at the end of the report.)

During the year Anne Everitt and I continued to keep in touch with the area Diocesan Members.

## **WEST NORFOLK AREA**

Dersingham and North & South Wootton branches reported on their full programmes of speakers and activities, both thoughtful and more light-hearted. They also raised funds for MU projects and joined together with other branches for a talk on Angel Tree and an Advent service.

## WYMONDHAM AREA

Attleborough, Hethersett, High Oak, Little Melton and Pulham Market branches meet in this area. Pulham Market, which is geographically distant from the other branches in the area, had a full and varied programme of activities, as well as raising funds for MU and supporting church activities. They also began work on planning for a new MU banner for the branch – not to replace their original one, but to have one which is lighter and more easily and safely carried.

High Oak, Hethersett and Little Melton branches agreed to maintain their identities but took opportunities to work together to support each other, as they were all experiencing falling numbers, and the arrangement has worked well. They also joined with Attleborough on occasions and the collaborative approach seems to be the way forward for sustaining Mothers Union branches in this area.



*Commissioning at Pakefield Church of Felicity Randall as Diocesan President.*

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2022

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources during the year and of its state of affairs at the end of the year.

In preparing the accounts the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees' responsibilities include keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and breaches of law and regulations.

### FINANCIAL POSITION & RESERVES

The Diocesan Trustees have reviewed the position of the Diocesan Charity. They are satisfied that

- the Charity has a sound financial basis;
- the charity can meet its commitments and that,
- where appropriate, plans are formulated and actioned to reduce reserves which are considered surplus to necessary and prudent requirements.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

### ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The Financial Statements of The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Norwich) have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.
- The General Fund is not subject to any special restrictions and is available for the general purposes of the Mothers' Union.
- The Designated Funds may only be used for purposes for which the Trustees have determined. They may, however, re-designate the Funds, if necessary.
- Restricted Funds may only be used for the purpose specified.
- Endowments may not be touched; the income generated is credited to a Restricted Fund in accordance with the terms of the Endowment.
- In accordance with the Charity Commissioner's 'Statement of Recommended Practice' the accounts of Branches within the Diocese have been consolidated into the Diocesan Financial Statement.
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities lists all material assets for which the Trustees can be held responsible, giving monetary values where relevant. Debtors, creditors and liabilities are not included where the value is less than £100.

**The Financial Statements on the following pages were approved by the Trustees on 31st July 2024.**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT - Barbara Lashley**

**At the beginning of 2022, the trustees agreed a worst case scenario budget which showed a considerable deficit, in the knowledge that we had reserves to cover it if necessary. The large increase in the central charity subscription in 2021, coming on top of the effects of the pandemic, contributed to the decrease in the number of members, but the trustees felt it was important to have a budget to support our activities and communications if we were to halt this trend.**

**After such an enormous increase in 2021 subscription, the trustees were thankful that MSH decided not to increase their portion for 2022. Whilst acknowledging the need to increase income, the trustees also felt that they could not increase the diocesan portion for all members, either. However, mindful that everyone's circumstances were different and that some may well feel able to contribute more than the set subscription, it was agreed to ask for a voluntary additional donation. So, subscriptions for 2022 were set at a minimum of £33, with an opportunity to include an additional donation if required. This raised an additional £1159 towards our operating costs.**

**However, events during the year meant that we ended with a small surplus! We knew that Jessica our administrator was leaving us at the end of 2021. Knowing that a replacement had not yet been appointed, she offered to help us out on an ad hoc basis for a few weeks for which we were very grateful. After a full recruitment process, another appointment was made – but the person appointed decided the job wasn't for her on her first day! We also received a shock when we were given notice to quit our office in Diocesan House. We took the opportunity to meet the new Diocesan Secretary to discuss not only their interpretation of our lease agreement, but also the close relationship between the Mothers Union and the Diocese, and, after some robust negotiations, we were able to remain, moving to a smaller office at half the rent of the previous one. The period of uncertainty over the office meant that it was not advisable to endeavour to recruit another administrator, so the administrative tasks were picked up voluntarily by the trustees for the remainder of the year. While this was possible in the short term, it was evident that it was not sustainable in the long term. However, not paying an administrator and the decrease in the office rent did mean that we ended the year in a more positive financial position than forecast.**

**The year saw a return to fundraising events and our members generously supported our AFIA, Angel Tree and Refugee Resettlement projects.**

**After learning that MSH were going to increase their subscription again in 2023, trustees again took the view that, whilst we could not absorb this rise, we would not increase our diocesan subscription. It was resolved to ask for voluntary donations for the same reasons as for 2022, so the minimum subscription for 2023 was set at £34.**

**Personally, I would like to record my thanks for the support and help of our branch treasurers and our MU enterprises representative, Sheila Tuffield.**

**The trustees have monitored our finances at each trustee meeting during the year. As a charity, we are not alone in having been affected by pandemic and the ongoing effects, but we are grateful for the resilience and enthusiasm shown by our members and are confident in our ability to continue to adapt to our circumstances.**

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Norwich)

I report on the accounts of The Mothers' Union for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and Independent examiner  
As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Andrew Parker FCCA

Date: 12 June 2024

Andrew Parker Associates Ltd

Unit 7 Beech Avenue Business Park

Taverham

Norwich, NR8 6HU

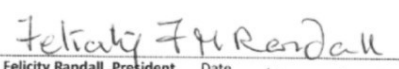
## Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2022


	Notes	Endowment fund £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Diocesan operations	1	–	–	18,293	18,293	19,286
Diocesan designated	2	–	–	–	–	–
Diocesan restricted	2	–	18,351	–	18,351	21,147
Central restricted	2	–	1,010	–	1,010	240
Branches	3	–	–	5,891	5,891	3,759
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>19,361</b>	<b>24,184</b>	<b>43,545</b>	<b>44,432</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Diocesan operations	1	–	–	16,689	16,689	23,006
Diocesan designated	2	–	–	–	–	–
Diocesan restricted	2	–	18,877	–	18,877	18,907
Central restricted	2	–	371	–	371	230
Branches	3	–	–	3,136	3,136	3,283
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>19,248</b>	<b>19,825</b>	<b>39,073</b>	<b>45,426</b>
<b>Surplus of receipts over payments</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>4,359</b>	<b>4,472</b>	<b>(994)</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>			<b>(133)</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>–</b>	
<b>Balance at 1 Jan 2022</b>		<b>7,910</b>	<b>44,604</b>	<b>56,479</b>	<b>108,993</b>	<b>109,986</b>
<b>Balance carried forward 31 Dec 2022</b>		<b>7,910</b>	<b>44,583</b>	<b>60,971</b>	<b>113,465</b>	<b>108,992</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December 2022

	Endowment fund £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>					
Co-operative Bank	–	–	31,985	31,985	31,236
Other banks (branches)	–	–	16,001	16,001	13,246
Cash balance held	–	–	218	218	97
CCLA: CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	7,910	44,583	12,767	65,261	64,413
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>44,583</b>	<b>60,970</b>	<b>113,465</b>	<b>108,992</b>
<b>Other assets</b>					
Centenary Bond			5,000	5,000	5,000
Imprest float with payroll provider			490	490	490
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Subscriptions 2023	–	–	(434)	(434)	(1,148)
MSH Restricted Funds	–	(729)	–	(729)	(90)
Insurance			–	–	(450)
Independent Examination - 2 years			(1,800)	(1,200)	(1,200)

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and have been signed on their behalf by:

  
 Felicity Randall, President Date 16th AUGUST 2024

  
 Barbara Lashley, Treasurer Date 16th AUGUST 2024

## Notes to the accounts

1	Diocesan operations	Receipts		Payments		
		2022	2021	2022	2021	
		£	£	£	£	
	Subscriptions for 2022 paid in advance	12,846	13,698	8,506	10,279	
	Subscriptions for 2023 paid in advance	434	1,148	-	-	
	Donations including gift aid	2,342	3,244	-	242	
	Families First	-	-	-	-	
	Sale of goods from MU Enterprises	804	621	514	586	
	Grant based on sales from MU Enterprises	331	422	-	-	
	Commission from easyfundraising	121	86	-	-	
	Salary	-	-	499	5,668	
	Salary administration	-	-	-	428	
	Office rent	-	-	4,333	5,200	
	Office supplies	-	-	57	-	
	Printing and postage	-	37	748	96	
	Independent examination	-	-	600	-	
	Attendance at national general meeting	-	-	423	353	
	Diocesan meetings	633	-	487	144	
	Diocesan General fund	-	-	-	-	
	Members' expenses (see also note 4)	-	-	74	10	
	Insurance	-	-	450	-	
	Interest	784	30	-	-	
	Bank charges	-	-	-	-	
		<b>18,293</b>	<b>26,073</b>	<b>16,689</b>	<b>23,006</b>	
	General Fund balance brought forward 1 January 2022			39,686	43,406	
	Net (payments)			1,603	(3,720)	
	Transfer from Restricted fund			133	-	
	General Fund balance carried forward 31 December 2022			<b>41,422</b>	<b>39,686</b>	
2	Designated and restricted funds	Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
		01-Jan-22	2022	2022	2022	31-Dec-22
		£	£	£	£	£
	<b>Designated funds</b>					
	Branches in Abeyance	2,553	-	-	-	2,553
	Office equipment	994	-	-	-	994
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,547</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,547</b>
	<b>Restricted funds - Diocesan</b>					
	"Away From It All" Holidays	18,243	15,436	12,254	-	21,425
	Diocesan Outreach fund	3,932	340	-	-	4,272
	Angel Tree	2,494	995	248	-	3,241
	Hospital help	367	-	42	-	325
	Loving for Life	22	-	33	11	-
	Children's and youth work	144	-	-	-	144
	Refugee resettlement	4,543	1,476	6,300	281	0
	Links	425	-	-	(425)	-
	Special projects	12,951	-	-	-	12,951
	Retreat	1,394	103	-	-	1,497
	<b>Total</b>	<b>44,514</b>	<b>18,351</b>	<b>18,877</b>	<b>(133)</b>	<b>43,856</b>
	<b>Restricted funds - Central (Mary Sumner House)</b>					
	Literacy & Development	-	49	-	-	49
	Overseas	50	671	271	-	450
	Relief	40	230	40	-	230
	MSH fabric and other	-	60	60	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>729</b>
	<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>44,604</b>	<b>19,361</b>	<b>19,248</b>	<b>(133)</b>	<b>44,585</b>

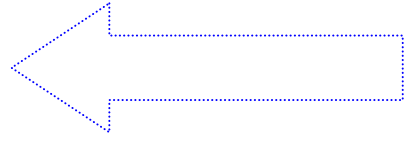
Notes to the accounts (continued)

3	Branch accounts	Branch receipts 2022	Branch payments 2022	Charity net receipts 2022	Charity net payments 2022
		£	£	£	£
	Subscriptions	6,434	5,856	578	
	Fund-raising	8,202	5,604	2,598	
	Payments for MU Shop items	450	580		130
	Special projects	1,825	411	1,415	
	Families First	–	–		
	Contributions to Church projects	–	1,357		1,357
	Authorised expenses	–	961		961
	Meetings – room hire	–	562		562
	Fund raising expenses of branches	–	127		127
	Branch other activities	2,218	919	1,299	
	Bank interest	0	–	0	
		<u>19,130</u>	<u>16,376</u>	<u>5,891</u>	<u>3,136</u>
	Balance brought forward 1 January 2022				13,246
	Surplus of receipts over payments				<u>2,755</u>
	Balance carried forward 31 December 2022				<u>16,001</u>

Where branch payments are payments into other accounts held by the charity they are netted against receipts in the charity's receipts and payments account.

4 Trustee expenses

During the year one payment was made to a Trustee in reimbursement of expenses



**MOTHERS' UNION: (NORWICH DIOCESE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 249682

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# Accounts

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# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Reg. charity no. 249682

Diocese of Norwich

## Annual Review 2020



*Diocese of Norwich Mothers' Union Banner Parade October 2020*





Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese is governed by a new constitution dated 2017.

Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese is a separate charity which co-exists within the World Wide Mothers' Union, which is incorporated by Royal Charter, 15<sup>th</sup> June 1926, amended by Order of HM The Queen in Council dated 24 April 2018 ; Order of the Privy Council approving revised Bye-laws dated 24 April 2018; Regulations changed by resolution of Worldwide Council with effect from 24 April 2018.

The Election and appointment of officers for the triennium 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 was carried out in 2018 in accordance with the Norwich Diocese Mothers' Union Constitution 2017.

## TRUSTEES

The Trustees met six times during the year, the first in person and then via Zoom. Attendance is shown in brackets after each name.

Valerie Ovenden (5)	Diocesan President
Anne Epps (6)	Diocesan Vice-President
Barbara Lashley (5)	Treasurer & Finance Officer
Rev Dr Sally Wallace-Jones (2)	Faith Co-Ordinator
Jenny Holcombe (6)	Projects Co-Ordinator
Marie-Lyse Numuhoza (3)	Social Policy & Campaigns Co-Ordinator
Allie McClean (1)	Communications Co-Ordinator
Mary Carr (6)	General Trustee & Joint Safeguarding Officer
Elizabeth Fletcher (3)	General Trustee & Joint Safeguarding Officer
Jan Thorp (6)	General Trustee

These persons have served as Trustees of the Society for the whole year.

### CHAPLAIN

The Reverend Andrew Whitehead

## STRATEGY FOR 2019 - 2021

Engaging our members by

- ◆ Nurturing their spiritual and prayer life;
- ◆ Supporting those working in their local communities;
- ◆ Growing our links with diocesan clergy and the wider Christian community to identify and address together rural and urban deprivation;
- ◆ Continuing our support to resettle Syrian refugees and to raise awareness of Mothers' Union national and local campaigns;
- ◆ Maintaining a firm financial basis by growing our membership and seeking other sources of funding through our partnerships.

# THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2020

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the year 2020, our Diocesan President was Valerie Ovenden. Sadly, by the time of writing this report, Val had died and this is written by the trustees. We remember Val with affection and with thanks for her quiet but persuasive leadership. For some years, too, Val brought her financial expertise to us in her role as gift aid officer.

The trustees met in January 2020 and discussed plans for the year, looking forward to events we planned to hold ourselves and participate in with others. The first of these was a very successful Members' Day in February when our activities centred on the F words – Faith, Food, Fellowship and Fun. Little did we know that this first event together in the year would also be our last!

With the onset of the pandemic, our office was closed and our administrator Rebecca worked from home. Having never heard of Zoom a few weeks before, we quickly mastered it so that the trustees could continue to meet. Some branches, too, used Zoom to meet. We held an online Coffee Morning and Annual Review Day, as well as an online Eucharist on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalen.

With everyone in lockdown, it was soon apparent that keeping contact with each other would be difficult but so important. We published some electronic Trustee Update sheets and were also pleased that Eunice Norwood had offered to return to being the editor of our Angles newsletter at the beginning of the year. Her work in putting together frequent copies of e-Angles, which could be circulated electronically to members was hugely appreciated by everyone. We set up an MU Norwich Connections facebook group for members, and our public facebook page continued to post daily prayers. Not all our members use 'modern technology', and we were grateful to branch leaders who kept in touch with members by phone calls and by printing and delivering Updates and Angles on their allowed daily walk!

We knew our annual festival service meant a lot to all our members. Knowing that holding one in the cathedral was out of the question, it was felt important that whatever we did should be available to everyone. Our service on CD, together with a collage of colourful MU Norfolk banners, was posted to everyone. Thank you to everyone involved in this amazing project.

Not everything came to a halt and, with modified procedures in accordance with restrictions, our projects continued, which you can read about elsewhere in this report. When restrictions allowed, some members met in gardens but with the pandemic showing no signs of ending we wondered what next year would hold for us.

The vaccination programme which started just before the end of the year provided a glimmer of hope. Whatever was in store, we were determined to meet the challenges of 2021!

At the end of the year, we said goodbye to Revd. Sally Wallace-Jones, our Faith and Policy trustee and wished her well as she took up a new post of vicar in Yorkshire. We also said goodbye to Rebecca after three years. We were immensely grateful for her expertise and wonderful 'can do' attitude which had supported us all throughout a very difficult time.

The pandemic made everything more difficult, but, knowing how much Mothers' Union means to each and every one of us, we were determined that Mothers' Union in our diocese would continue. The trustees would like to thank all our members for their support and patience during the year.

\* \* \* \* \*

## OUR CHAPLAIN, REVD ANDREW WHITEHEAD, writes ...

Dear Friends,

2020 was an extraordinary year for the whole world, and we felt it as Mothers' Union too.

The pandemic brought great challenges for us, but it was wonderful to see how our organisation embraced technology to carry on in any way we could.

The high point was our virtual festival service, produced as an audio CD and distributed by post to our members. We were able to bring together cathedral musicians, groups of singers and Bishop Graham as our preacher. People listened in their own homes, and some branches got together and listened as a group. It was a great example of innovation in the face of adversity. We also shared together in an online Eucharist for the Feast of Mary Magdalene. All in all, 2020 was a challenging year for us, but one which showed that we can innovate and adapt.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Andrew,*



## WORK IN THE COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT: Co-ordinator - Jenny Holcombe

The main MU Diocesan Projects were able to continue, despite all sorts of adjustments.

**The Refugee Resettlement Project** was necessarily slowed during 2020, after the first cohort of families had their beds made by us in January. By April any shopping for the bedding had to be online and delivered in giant boxes. Beds had to be made up by only one 'bubble' in each new home, which made for new arrangements! But vulnerable families were still able to arrive and be cared for.

**Our partnership with the Prison Fellowship for the Angel Tree Project** had a very busy year, as Andy and Sonia Turner joined us from Eastbourne and were able to pick up the lead from Sybil Martin, who was retiring. After the necessary induction and a lot of planning, all the requested gifts were collected from members, carefully packed and sent to the children for Christmas.

**Away From It All [AFIA]** the holidays for families with difficulties was also hit by the epidemic: the eight families referred for 2020 were not able to have a Haven holiday through us. For a large part of the year the holiday centre was closed due to Covid and when it reopened, their facilities were still unavailable. The referrers and families were informed and were to be offered holidays in 2021; the Highcroft Trust which supports us with some families was also informed. Sandra Sacks and Sandra Bendall the project leaders had a number of talks booked with Branches, but only two were squeezed in before the March lockdown. They had appealed for someone to take over. Marguerite Phillips volunteered to take over in January 2021 and would initially be advised by Sandra Bendall but will seek a co-leader.

**The gifts of Baby hats, blankets and other knitting** was co-ordinated by Jan Thorp, and Covid-safe delivery carefully arranged to the three main hospitals. Pocket Crosses and also larger Holding

Crosses, for distribution through chaplains at both hospitals and prisons, were still made by faithful members and friends.

'Filling the Gap' was the Bishop's initiative for families in the summer holiday that year, repeated in December. Six members were at the Showground on the hottest day of the year, and then the coldest day, packing bags and boxes of food and activities for families in difficulties all over the Diocese. We love to support our colleagues from Diocesan House. Covid regulations were kept!



The Loving for Life relationships workshops project was necessarily very reduced and its development into 'Choose Church' (to encourage church weddings) has been put on hold. There were no commercial wedding shows for our usual display and information stand.

### **COMMUNICATIONS - Co-ordinator: Eunice Norwood**

Communication with members was difficult during the Pandemic. Unable to produce our quarterly magazine, a monthly newsletter was emailed out to branches and where possible these were forwarded on to their local members or printed out and delivered to those members with IT facilities. Members with access to IT were able to join in Zoom prayer and discussion meetings enabling a continuity of caring for one another and supporting those in isolation. Information could also be gathered from our website and facebook pages and these proved to be helpful in holding our membership together in prayer and support.

### **SOCIAL POLICY & CAMPAIGNS - Co-ordinator: Marie-Lyse Numuhoza**

#### **Modern Slavery Campaign**

Mothers' Union is in partnership with the Church of England's Clewer Initiative to raise awareness of Modern Slavery. A national steering committee was set up to shape up Mothers' Union work about this across Britain and Ireland. The first meeting didn't go ahead in February 2020 due to busy staff schedules - work was to resume after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Locally, Mothers' Union was invited to join the Norfolk Anti-Slavery Network by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) and the British Red Cross (BRC). The purpose of this strategic partnership is to ensure a consistent and coordinated response within the region which prioritises the highly complex support needs of people who have experienced MSHT and the partnership has a website: [www.norfolkantislavery.org](http://www.norfolkantislavery.org). The BRC and the OPCCN launched the Norfolk Anti -Slavery Network at 2pm on 20th October 2020 which was held online.

MU Members were invited to sign up to the Modern Slavery course by the Clewer Initiative to help dioceses raise awareness in their communities and provide support and care to the victims. This took place on 6 November 2020 and 14 MU members signed up to attend online.

#### **Social Community and Environmental Concerns Forum (SCECF)**

Marie-Lyse Numuhoza and Jenny Holcombe attended this ecumenical Diocesan Group in January, and Marie-Lyse continued to attend as they met virtually. They discussed issues of interest for churches and MU to offer contributions:

- Resilience work after Brexit e.g. all churches and community groups/organizations working together on charitable giving

- Norwich foodbank was introduced in the national scheme 'Act 435' (<https://acts435.org.uk/>) an online giving charity where donations can be made for those in direct need through local churches and charities.
- The World Day of Prayer on the 6th March 2020 at the Salvation Army Citadel in Norwich.
- Intervention on mental health through the power of the word "Hope" – Hold On, Pains Ends.
- A report was drafted by the Environmental working group to look at ways in which the church can respond to the climate change campaign and the ECO-church project. It was suggested that the SCECF allowed this report to be placed before Diocesan Synod following its motion to the Deanery synod.
- A SCECF member was asked to discuss with Wells-next-to-Sea Forum how Wells and Coastline communities may be affected by the rising sea levels.
- MU concerns about antenatal classes being moved on line was also raised and this was to be discussed further at the meeting in April 2020

### **MU Central 'Community of Interest' on Policy**

Trustee Marie-Lyse Numuhoza is on this central MU group. In 2020 Norwich members were informed of their work and how to contribute towards its tasks at a national level. Information was shared with members through the Trustees Newsletter.

**Domestic Abuse** was the main area which came out strongly for campaigning during 2020, both globally and within Britain and Ireland, particular as a result of the pandemic. This coincided with the Domestic Abuse Bill restarting its progress through the Houses of Parliament. Members acknowledged that their main engagement with this issue had been local support for refuges, including offering AFIA breaks to survivors and their children, and activities during the 16 Days of activism, both of which are extensive across many Dioceses.

All were keen, with the appropriate guidance and support, for MU to engage in addition in pro-active lobbying. It was agreed that a letter be prepared for members or branches to send to their local MP calling for changes to the associated Guidance issued by the Home Office. Letter templates were sent for members to write to their MPs and Bishops.

**16 Days of Activism** and the 'global moment' 2020 in November was supported with information and guidance. Rachael Anderson told the group about activities and resources which were planned for this year with a particular focus, given current circumstances, on virtual activities. All information was attached for members to enable them to take part in the online activities and events.

### **SAFEGUARDING - Mary Carr**

There were no reports of any incidents or problems during 2020. With the country going into lockdown soon into the year, no meetings or events took place after March and, from then onwards, safeguarding was mainly focussed on safety issues relating to Covid.

During the periods between lockdowns some branches met together in outside settings with strict adherence to government, Church and Mothers' Union guidelines. It was stressed that no-one should feel under any pressure to join in unless they felt completely comfortable with the situation. The message to all was to keep in contact and support one another.

## **AROUND THE DIOCESE**

### **BROADLAND AREA - Leader: Sue Cobb**

We managed to fit in a group meeting in February 2020 before Covid struck. Representatives from all four of our branches attended and we were delighted to welcome June Rumsby, one of our Diocesan members, to the meeting.

Membership was discussed, as were plans for the year. However, lockdown meant that plans for a Group quiet day at Potter Heigham, coffee mornings and Mothers' Day services were put on hold. All branches took part in the World Day of Prayer on the first Friday in March, but this was the last face to face meeting for most of us until late 2021.

During lockdown, members kept in touch by telephone, email and by letter as we tried to ensure that no-one was left without any contact. It was a difficult period for everyone, but with God beside us, there is always hope for the future.

### **NORWICH AREA - Leader: Jenny Holcombe**

As the decade started, we had seven branches with full programmes of meetings, church support and fundraising and branch activity was buoyant as usual for the first three months of the year. Then everything changed and branches had very different responses to the pandemic. An Area Leader's message was sent with the Easter mailing, as Council was cancelled, encouraging and offering support.

Most branches devised ways to keep in touch with each other sending birthday greeting etc., some producing regular printed prayers and information, even a self-directed content of each month's monthly meeting or discovering the intricacies of the internet for communication.

Many members continued to knit baby hats and blankets and make pocket crosses, then face-coverings and pairs of hearts for separated family members.

Financial support for AFIA, and Refugee Resettlement continued to be sent, and three branches contributed five Angel Tree gifts.

### **WAVENEY & YARE AREA - Leaders: Sara Will & Anne Everitt**

Due to the Covid 19 lockdowns starting in late March 2020 our branches were only able to meet for a maximum of three times during the year. They did however work hard to keep in touch with their members during this very difficult time.

Very sadly by the end of the year we had to say goodbye to three of our branches - Martham, Kessingland and Raveningham. We hoped that many of their members would be able to continue as Diocesan Members. We were delighted to still be able to support the Angel Tree Project at Christmas time.

### **WYMONDHAM AREA - Leader: Anne Epps.**

2020 was a difficult year for us all due to Lockdown and Covid but, as usual, Mothers Union came through it and many different things happened in the various Branches:

Hethersett began the year with the AGM and a soup lunch ,and in March enjoyed a corporate Communion with Little Melton.

High Oak had a very varied year and continued to support and collect toiletry bags for Leeway. Pulham Market ran a Coffee Stop for mothers and pre-school children, and have continued to do a monthly newsletter which has been a wonderful source for shared prayer. Wymondham branch has been run by committee due to illness of Jancie Bowden and is managing to keep running despite their average age being over 80, which is a great compliment to all involved. Hopefully, and with God willing, we can all enjoy a happy and fulfilled programme in 2021.

**CROMER, MID-NORFOLK AND WEST NORFOLK AREAS**

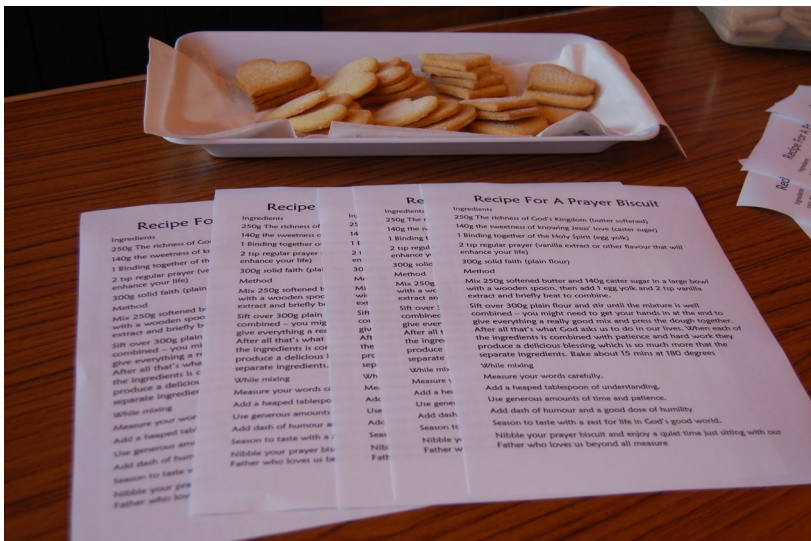
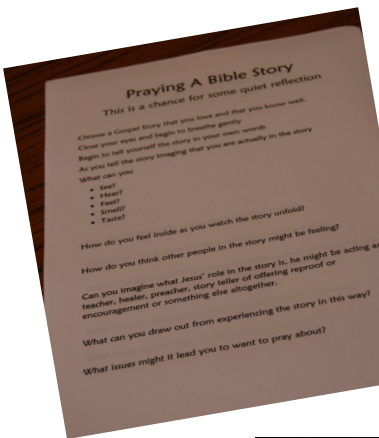
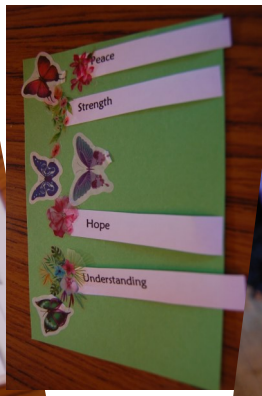
Since the beginning of the current triennium (2019 - 2021) Cromer, Mid-Norfolk and West Norfolk have sadly been without area leaders. Despite this, branches have been continuing to ‘fly the MU flag’ through various outreaches and social gatherings as well as having a continued presence in the life of local churches.

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*Our Annual Festival Service was broadcast via Facebook.*

# MEMBERS' DAY GALLERY



**GALLERY**



**Baby hats and pocket crosses**

**Mothers' UNION**  
 Christian care for families  
 Reg. charity no. 249682 Diocese of Norwich  
 Made for you with love  
 by a Mothers' Union member



**Baby hats for the Neo-Natal Unit, NNUH**



**Mothers' UNION**  
 Christian care for families  
 Diocese of Norwich

Patron: The Right Reverend Graham Usher – Bishop of Norwich  
 Registered Charity Number 249682  
 Diocesan Office: Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich, NR9 5ES  
 Tel: 01603 882330 email: [munorwich@googlemail.com](mailto:munorwich@googlemail.com)  
 Diocesan President: Valerie Ovenden

Please accept these items made by Members and Friends of Mothers' Union in Norfolk and Waveney, with our Love and Prayers.



**Publicity photo for Refugee Resettlement Programme**



**Sproston Branch committee 'zoomed' their meeting**

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2020

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources during the year and of its state of affairs at the end of the year.

In preparing the accounts the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees' responsibilities include keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and breaches of law and regulations.

### FINANCIAL POSITION & RESERVES

The Diocesan Trustees have reviewed the position of the Diocesan Charity. They are satisfied that

- the Charity has a sound financial basis;
- the charity can meet its commitments and that,
- where appropriate, plans are formulated and actioned to reduce reserves which are considered surplus to necessary and prudent requirements.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

### ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The Financial Statements of The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Norwich) have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.
- The General Fund is not subject to any special restrictions and is available for the general purposes of the Mothers' Union.
- The Designated Funds may only be used for purposes for which the Trustees have determined. They may, however, re-designate the Funds, if necessary.
- Restricted Funds may only be used for the purpose specified.
- Endowments may not be touched; the income generated is credited to a Restricted Fund in accordance with the terms of the Endowment.
- In accordance with the Charity Commissioner's 'Statement of Recommended Practice' the accounts of Branches within the Diocese have been consolidated into the Diocesan Financial Statement.
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities lists all material assets for which the Trustees can be held responsible, giving monetary values where relevant. Debtors, creditors and liabilities are not included where the value is less than £100.

**The Financial Statements on the following pages were approved by the Trustees on 20th April 2022.**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT - Barbara Lashley**

2020 started normally enough! Our budget for the year reflected our normal activities. Although set with a 'deficit' of approximately £4000, the trustees acknowledged we had the reserves to support this if necessary. It was felt important to maintain our communication with members and a programme of activities, as both were instrumental in involving current and new members.

After one really successful Members' Day in February, all our plans were thrown into confusion with the implementation of lockdown – we could not use our office and members could not meet. Like many others, we took out a Zoom subscription and trustee meetings moved online. Diocesan online events were not well attended. We endeavoured to keep in touch with online regular newsletters but were aware that many members do not use 'modern' technology. We are very grateful to branch leaders and others who printed and passed on communications where possible and maintained contact with members during this very isolating time. Thanks are especially due to the unwavering support of our administrator, Rebecca, who worked from home like many others, juggling the demands of home schooling with work and family life. Although a request was made, Diocesan House felt unable to reduce our rent while the office was closed.

It somehow seems wrong to mention the financial benefits of the pandemic, but as this is a treasurer's report, they should be noted. We did not have the expense of hiring St. Luke's for our Diocesan Council or Members' Days after February, there were no regional or national MU events, and there were no travel claims.

Soon after the pandemic hit, all MU diocesan charities received an appeal from the central charity, saying they had cash flow difficulties and asking diocese to consider sending them some of their reserves. The trustees carefully considered the request, noting that the central charity had been advised about building up their reserves for several years, also that they had gone ahead with implementing the costly MULO project despite this advice. In view of our own deficit position and our experiences of governance of the central charity, it was decided that we were best placed to use our reserves wisely but did agree to send a donation of £1000.

MU is so much more than meeting and fundraising, and we know how much members missed the opportunity to worship together, not least at our annual cathedral Festival Service. With this in mind, and with the expert help of our chaplain, Revd. Andrew Whitehead and trustee Revd. Sally Wallace-Jones, a service on CD was produced which was sent by post to every member, together with an order of service booklet and a colourful sheet showing as many Norfolk MU banners as we could collate. Although this was a costly exercise, it could be set against the savings mentioned above. It was very much appreciated by members and some benefits cannot be measured in financial terms.

Although opportunities for money-raising by branches were limited, their generosity enabled us to build up the funds of the Refugee Resettlement Project and operate Angel Tree at Christmas.

The trustees received with dismay the news that the central charity was raising their subscription from £14.50 in 2020 to £20 in 2021. In view of this huge increase, we decided that we could not raise our diocesan portion of the subscription for 2021 and that it would remain at £13, making the total subscription for 2021 £33. Explanatory documentation together with a letter from the trustees was circulated to all members.

Thank you to all our members and officers for their support through the highs and lows of what has been a very difficult year for all of us.

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Norwich)**

I report on the accounts of The Mothers' Union for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages nineteen to twenty one together with the accounting policies on page 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and Independent examiner**

The charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

You consider that an audit is not requirement for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, 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 financial statements 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Aleathia Richards F.C.A., F.C.I.E

Aleathia Mann Ltd

Chartered Accountants.

Date: 17th June 2022

Springwood

Church Lane

Sparham

Reepham

Norfolk

NR9 5PP

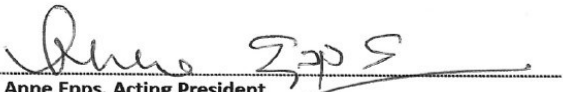
## Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	Endowment fund £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Diocesan operations	1	–	–	26,073	26,073	29,341
Diocesan designated	2	–	–	–	–	–
Diocesan restricted	2	–	7,180	–	7,180	18,128
Central restricted	2	–	1,298	–	1,298	3,724
Branches	3	–	–	1,498	1,498	10,280
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>8,478</b>	<b>27,571</b>	<b>36,049</b>	<b>61,473</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Diocesan operations	1	–	–	28,941	28,941	30,722
Diocesan designated	2	–	–	37	37	274
Diocesan restricted	2	–	1,178	–	1,178	19,134
Central restricted	2	–	3,056	–	3,056	2,688
Branches	3	–	–	6,294	6,294	10,787
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>35,272</b>	<b>39,506</b>	<b>63,605</b>
<b>Surplus of receipts over payments</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>4,244</b>	<b>(7,701)</b>	<b>(3,457)</b>	<b>(2,132)</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>						
<b>Balance at 1 Jan 2020</b>		<b>7,910</b>	<b>38,110</b>	<b>67,423</b>	<b>113,443</b>	<b>115,575</b>
<b>Balance carried forward 31 Dec 2020</b>		<b>7,910</b>	<b>42,354</b>	<b>59,722</b>	<b>109,986</b>	<b>113,443</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December 2020

	Endowment fund £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>					
Co-operative Bank	–	–	32,700	32,700	31,741
Other banks (branches)	–	–	12,770	12,770	17,566
Cash balance held	–	–	137	137	28
CCLA: CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	7,910	42,354	14,115	64,379	64,108
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>42,354</b>	<b>59,722</b>	<b>109,986</b>	<b>113,443</b>
<b>Other assets</b>					
Centenary Bond			5,000	5,000	5,000
Imprest float with payroll provider			490	490	490
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Subscriptions 2021	–	–	(3,194)	(3,194)	(1,209)
MSH Restricted Funds	–	(80)	–	(80)	(1,838)
Insurance			(430)	(495)	(495)
Independent Examination			(600)	(600)	(600)

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20th April 2022 and have been signed on their behalf by:

  
Anne Epps, Acting President

  
Barbara Lashley, Treasurer

Notes to the accounts

1	Diocesan operations	Receipts	<i>Receipts</i>	Payments	<i>Payments</i>	
		2020	2019	2020	2019	
		£	£	£	£	
	Subscriptions for 2020 paid in advance	17,597	19,097	9,904	10,777	
	Subscriptions for 2021 paid in advance	3,194	1,209		–	
	Donations including gift aid	3,384	2,908	1,632	932	
	Families First	–	–		–	
	Sale of goods from MU Enterprises	720	1,596	734	1,360	
	Grant based on sales from MU Enterprises	451	547		–	
	Commission from easyfundraising	86	55		–	
	Salary		–	6,281	5,759	
	Salary administration		–	360	360	
	Office rent		–	5,200	4,800	
	Office supplies		–	198	137	
	Printing and postage	67	99	2,399	1,223	
	Independent examination			600	600	
	Attendance at national general meeting		2,193		2,193	
	Diocesan meetings	279	–	1,203	794	
	Events		1,160		–	
	Members' expenses (see also note 4)		–		796	
	Insurance		–	430	991	
	Interest	295	477		–	
	Bank charges		–		–	
		<u>26,073</u>	<u>29,341</u>	<u>28,941</u>	<u>30,722</u>	
	General Fund balance brought forward 1 January 2020			46,274	47,655	
	Net (payments) / receipts			(2,868)	(1,381)	
	Transfer to Restricted fund				–	
	General Fund balance carried forward 31 December 2020			<u>43,406</u>	<u>46,274</u>	
2	Designated and restricted funds	Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
		1-Jan-20	2020	2020	2020	31-Dec-20
		£	£	£	£	£
	Designated funds					
	Branches in Abeyance	2,553	–	–	–	2,553
	Office equipment	1,031	–	37	–	994
	Total	<u>3,584</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>3,547</u>
	Restricted funds - Diocesan					
	“Away From It All” Holidays	16,912	3,406			20,318
	Diocesan Outreach fund	3,153	1,076	32		4,197
	Angel Tree	2,352	860	586		2,626
	Loving for Life	70		48		22
	Children's and youth work	244				244
	Refugee resettlement	(1,191)	1,805	512		102
	Links	425				425
	Special projects	12,950				12,950
	Retreat	1,356	34			1,390
	Total	<u>36,272</u>	<u>7,180</u>	<u>1,178</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>42,274</u>
	Restricted funds - Central (Mary Sumner House)					
	Literacy & Development	250	196	446	–	–
	Overseas	879	788	1,617	–	50
	Relief	577	245	792	–	30
	MSH fabric and other	132	69	201	–	0
	Total	<u>1,838</u>	<u>1,298</u>	<u>3,056</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>80</u>
	Total restricted funds	<u>38,110</u>	<u>8,478</u>	<u>4,234</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>42,354</u>

Notes to the accounts (continued)

3	Branch accounts	Branch receipts 2020 £	Branch payments 2020 £	Charity net receipts 2020 £	Charity net payments 2020 £
	Subscriptions	9,421	11,138		1,717
	Fund-raising	3,659	4,835		1,176
	Payments for MU Shop items	362	525	362	525
	Special projects	301	542	301	542
	Families First	–			
	Contributions to Church projects	–	994		994
	Authorised expenses	–	315		315
	Meetings – room hire	–	450		450
	Fund raising expenses of branches	–			–
	Branch other activities	834	575	834	575
	Bank interest	1		1	
		<u>14,578</u>	<u>19,374</u>	<u>1,498</u>	<u>6,294</u>
	Balance brought forward 1 January 2020				17,566
	Surplus of payments over receipts				(4,796)
	Balance carried forward 31 December 2020				<u>12,770</u>

Where branch payments are payments into other accounts held by the charity they are netted against receipts in the charity's receipts and payments account.

4 Trustee expenses

During the year no payments (2019: £523) were made to (2019: seven) Trustees in reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity.

