

**Charity Registration No. 249723**

**THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

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### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

<b>Name</b>	The Mothers' Union – Diocese of Oxford
<b>Charity registration no.</b>	249723
<b>Registered office</b>	The Mothers' Union Office, CMS House, Watlington Road Oxford OX4 6BZ
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Noel & Co Chartered Accountants 4 Parliament Close. Prestwood Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9DT
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

### Trustees serving on the date the report was approved

Mrs Maureen Weston	Diocesan President
Mrs Rachel Buckley	Area Vice President, North Bucks
Mrs Christine Beynon	Area Vice President, South Bucks
Mrs Tricia Campbell	Area Vice President, Oxfordshire
Mrs Jean Vaughan	Area Vice President, East Berkshire
Mrs Valerie Bolan	Area Vice President, West Berkshire
Mrs Jenny Searle	Unit Co-ordinator, Fundraising and Communications
Rev Lady Denise Brown	Acting Unit Co-ordinator, Prayer and Spirituality
Revd Mrs Louise Butler	Unit Co-ordinator, Finance & Administration
Mrs Rosie Jackson-Kilham	General Trustee

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**THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)**  
**(Incorporated by Royal Charter)**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020***

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, SORP 2015 (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities and the Charities Act 2011.

**Structure, Governance and Management Governing document**

Constitution (2010, revised 2014). The charity is an unincorporated association affiliated to the worldwide Mothers' Union (which is incorporated by Royal Charter). It is a membership organization covering the geographical area of the Church of England Diocese of Oxford (roughly Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire). Its affairs are managed by its own Trustee body.

**Recruitment and appointment of trustees**

Trustees are drawn from the membership. Most, including the Diocesan President and Area Vice-Presidents, are directly elected by members; but some specialist positions (e.g. Treasurer) are filled by appointment by the trustees. The Chaplain, who is appointed by the Bishop of Oxford in consultation with the Diocesan President, is not a trustee

**Public benefit statement**

In managing the affairs of the charity the Trustees have taken into consideration the Charity Commission's general guidance to charities on public benefit, and the specific guidance relating to charities for the advancement of religion. AFIA holidays, for example (see Object 5 below), are offered according to need, irrespective of beneficiaries' religious or political affiliation, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or marital status; and all applications for AFIA support have to be made by an appropriate referral agency, such as a social services department or GP practice.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The charitable Objects of the charity are:

- . 1) To promote and support married life
- . 2) To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children
- . 3) To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship, and service
- . 4) To promote conditions in society favorable to stable family life and the protection of children
- . 5) To help those whose family life has met with adversity

Most of the charity's work is at grassroots level. As branches or in other groups, members engage in micro-projects to meet local needs as they arise. They also raise money from the public, which is forwarded, along with their own voluntary contributions, to Central MU to further the worldwide work of the Mothers' Union

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**The Board of Trustees** remained unchanged during 2020. The Board of Trustees met six times during 2020 and there were four General Meetings at different venues for all members. The new Chaplain, Rev Mary Harwood, was in attendance

**Membership** stood at 1056 at the end of 2020. Although many new members have joined, the rate of members lost was 7.5%

**Spring Meetings** were planned to take place in four different venues throughout March and the beginning of April. The theme was "Creative Prayer". Three of these events occurred before the national lockdown on 23rd March.

The lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic was a major disruption to our plans for 2020 as meetings, services and other events had to be cancelled or postponed immediately. An extraordinary meeting of the Trustees was held online to discuss the financial crisis being experienced at Mary Sumner House, our headquarters in London. They had launched a £1 million appeal.

**AGM and Autumn Meeting** This was held online in October when over 60 people were able to hear the Annual Reports of our activities and our guest speaker, the new Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, who gave an excellent talk on "The Five Marks of Mission". This was recorded and is available on our website.

**Emergency Action** was taken when several members started making scrubs, scrub bags and masks which were needed by hospitals, GP surgeries, care homes and home carers. This need was advertised through our monthly e-Newsletter. Also the Daily Hope free phone number was widely advertised to encourage members isolated at home to access prayers, hymns and words of encouragement.

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**Our Wave of Prayer** took place from 20 – 22 April. Although this was available in hard copy in our magazine called Focus, our chaplain also recorded the service online, which was available on our website. This was very informative and inspiring as we remembered our Link Dioceses in Nigeria, DRC, Tanzania, Papua New Guinea and Southwark.

**Away From It All** holidays were cancelled this year.

**Hospital Projects** A lot of craft was produced plus toiletries and refreshments for local hospitals. These included premature baby quilts, clothes and Angel Pockets. The knitted crosses on squares were used by the Chaplaincy to be given to a patient in need of prayer. Ronald McDonald House was established as a purpose built children's hospital at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford which we continue to support.

**New Projects** include supporting Baby Basics with knitted clothes, Children Heard and Seen by providing 200 Advent Calendars for families of prisoners, Clever Training to raise awareness of Modern Day Slavery and campaigning with 16 days of activism against gender based violence including writing to MPs, services and vigils. We also started our MU Oxford Facebook page with daily prayers.

**Christmas cards for Bullingdon and Woodhill Prisons** were collected from many branches during the autumn. About 2000 were given to the Chaplains who distributed them to the men.

This year has been very challenging as there were so many disappointments but members of Mothers Union are prayerful and resilient and have rallied round to help each other and their communities in many different ways.

## **Related Parties**

The Society is affiliated to the Central MU, whose headquarters are at Mary Sumner House (MSH), London. The Society has particular links of fellowship and prayer with its link dioceses, which are Victoria Nyanza (Tanzania), Kinshasa (D R Congo), Ahoada and Warri (Nigeria) and Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), and Southwark in the UK.

The Society has no financial dealings with its linked dioceses. Members support the work of the Mothers' Union World-Wide by contributing to the funds administered by the central Mothers' Union.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The detailed accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 are shown on pages 7-14. The accounts show an excess of operating income over expenditure on unrestricted funds of £6,130 and a gain of £3,584 on restricted funds, giving a net overall increase in funds of £9,714 (2019: deficit in the year of £4,718). Our investment portfolio showed an unrealised loss of £1,184 in the year compared with a gain of £15,218 in the prior year, and this reduced the net increase in fund balances to £8,530.

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In 2019 the Central Mothers Union introduced a direct debit scheme for subscriptions, which Oxford Diocese supported as the trial diocese. 48% of our members took advantage of this scheme in 2020 (2019 – 43%). Under the scheme, instead of Oxford Diocese collecting members' subscriptions and paying over to the Central MU their share, the Central MU collected the full subscription and reimbursed Oxford Diocese with just their share. Net subscription income for the diocese funds at £13,765 was 10% lower than 2019.

During the year an interim legacy distribution of £9,000 was received from the estate of Mrs Olive Bunker. The total legacy was £21,796, the balance of the funds being received in 2021. The Central MU launched an emergency appeal for funds in 2020 to help with their anticipated deficit because of loss of income due to Covid restrictions and Oxford Diocese contributed £15,300 to this appeal. £7,000 of this came from the above legacy, £6,000 from diocesan funds and £2,300 contributed by branches.

Donations to support our Away From It All (AFIA) holidays were £5,760 compared with £8,493 in 2019. Holidays amounting to £4,760 were approved although some of these will not be taken until 2021.

The charity's total funds as at the end of December 2020 were £150,441 (2019: £141,911). Approximately 75% of these funds are held as investments in CCLA investment funds and Barclays Wealth Unit trusts. Cash balances are held either in a CCLA deposit account, plus cash held as working funds at the charity's principal bankers, or in branches' accounts.

### **Policy on reserves**

The historic reserves of the charity are well in excess of anticipated annual expenditure. The present trustees have continued with the policy established by previous trustee bodies, which is not to add to charity's reserves, but to use them to fund projects which promote its charitable Objects. In particular, reserves are used as required to support the restricted fund for Away From It All (AFIA) holidays.

### **Independent Examiner**

A motion to appoint a new independent examiner will be tabled at the AGM

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Maureen Weston Diocesan President

Geoffrey Ball Diocesan Treasurer

12 September 2021

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards 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 are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

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I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 set out on pages 7 to 14.

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

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

It is my responsibility to:

- \* examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act)
- \* to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- \* to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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

My examination was conducted in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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

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

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

**Linda Noel FCA**

**Noel and Co Chartered Accountants**

4, Parliament Close, Prestwood  
Great Missenden  
Buckinghamshire  
HP16 9DT

Dated: 16-September-2021

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	21,796	5,760	27,556	8,493
Subscriptions		21,653	-	21,653	24,985
Investment income	2	2,703	-	2,703	3,049
Gift aid		2,800	-	2,800	3,548
Other charitable activities		15,849	-	15,849	29,730
<b>Total</b>		<b>64,801</b>	<b>5,760</b>	<b>70,561</b>	<b>69,805</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Grants payable		-	2,176	2,176	15,113
Subscriptions		7,888	-	7,888	9,692
Direct charitable expenditure	4	34,571	-	34,571	29,171
Support costs		14,182	-	14,182	15,850
Governance costs		2,030	-	2,030	4,697
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>58,671</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>60,847</b>	<b>74,523</b>
<b>Net income before gains and losses on Investments</b>		<b>6,130</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>9,714</b>	<b>-4,718</b>
<b>Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments</b>		<b>-1,184</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-1,184</b>	<b>15,218</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>4,946</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>8,530</b>	<b>10,500</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2020		141,911	-	141,911	131,411
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2020</b>		<b>146,857</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>150,441</b>	<b>141,911</b>

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Investments	7	112,788		113,972
<b>Current assets</b>				
Stocks		1,412	1,470	
Debtors	8	18,180	3,522	
Cash at bank and in hand		8,580	8,842	
Cash at bank and in hand - Branches		10,481	15,105	
		<u>38,653</u>	<u>28,939</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>37,653</u>		<u>27,939</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>150,441</u>		<u>141,911</u>
<b>Income funds</b>				
Restricted Funds		3,584	-	
Unrestricted Funds		146,857	141,911	
		<u>150,441</u>	<u>141,911</u>	

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 16 September 2021

Maureen Weston (Diocesan President) Geoff Ball (Diocesan Treasurer)

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical convention (modified to include certain items at fair value). The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value.

#### 1.2 Incoming resources

Donations, legacies and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as incoming resources when receivable.

#### 1.3 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% straight line
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#### 1.4 Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value.

Unrealised gains or losses are recognised each year within the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### 1.5 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

#### 1.6 Accumulated funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 2 Investment income

	<b>Total 2020 £</b>	<b>Total 2019 £</b>
Investment income	<b><u>2,703</u></b>	<b><u>3,049</u></b>

### 3 Legacies and donations

	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
Legacies	<b>21,796</b>	-
Donations AFIA	<b>5,760</b>	8,493
	<b><u>27,556</u></b>	<b><u>8,493</u></b>

The legacy was received from the estate of Olive Bunker. All amounts due to The Mothers' Union Oxford have been accounted for in the current year.

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 4 Total resources expended

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Grants -'Away From It All' (A.F.I.A)	2,176	15,113
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
Subscriptions	7,888	9,692
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>		
Overseas and worldwide funds incl literacy development	4,056	4,874
Literature	7,165	8,107
Relief funds	944	1,611
Focus	4,185	4,773
Special appeal	15,330	1,724
Britain and Ireland Fund	55	110
Other Diocesan projects including Parenting	1,888	2,750
Branch and Deanery projects and other activities	948	5,222
	34,571	29,171
<b>Support costs</b>		
Salaries	6,134	5,327
Insurance	430	495
Printing, postage and stationery	3,212	4,386
Telephone	340	340
CMS License fee	3,210	3,210
All other costs	856	2,092
	14,182	15,850
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Officers' and Committee expenses	1,030	3,697
Independent examiner	1,000	1,000
	2,030	4,697
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>60,847</b>	<b>74,523</b>

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 5 Trustees

None of the trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but 6 of them were reimbursed a total of £1,030 travelling and office expenses (2019: 7 were reimbursed £3,697).

### 6 Fixed asset investments

	£
Market value at 1 January 2020	113,972
Disposals at cost and valuation	-
Change in value in the year	-1,184
Market value at 31 December 2020	<b>112,788</b>
Historical cost:	
At 31 December 2020	<b>25,221</b>
At 31 December 2019	<b>25,221</b>
Barclays Wealth Unit Funds	39,698
CCLA Investment Fund Units	73,090
	<b>112,788</b>

7 Debtors	2020 £	2019 £
Gift aid claims	2,800	3,522
Legacies	12,796	-
Prepayments AFIA Holiday Grants	2,584	-
	<b>18,180</b>	<b>3,522</b>
8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals	1,000	1,000

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 9 Restricted funds

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Incoming Resources & Transfers £	Outgoing Resources & Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
"Away From It All" (AFIA)	-	5,760	(2,176)	3,584
Transfers from Unrestricted Funds	-	-	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,760</b>	<b>(2,176)</b>	<b>3,584</b>

The "Away From It All" Fund is used to provide grants to families who need financial support for short holidays.

### 10 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:			
Investments	112,788	-	112,788
Current assets	35,069	3,584	38,653
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,000)	-	(1,000)
	<b>146,857</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>150,441</b>
Unrealised gains included above:			
On investments (see below)	87,566	-	87,566
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains on investment assets			
Unrealised gains at 1 January 2020	88,750	-	88,750
Realised in year	-	-	-
Decrease in market value in year	1,184	-	1,184
<b>Unrealised gains at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>87,566</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>87,566</b>



# THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### 11 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2020 the charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Expiry date:		
Within one year	1,434	1,434
Between two and five years	2,152	3,586
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,586	5,020
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### 12 Employees

During the year there was 1 part time employee

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salary costs		
Pension costs	5,955	5,180
	179	147
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,134	5,327
	<hr/>	<hr/>