

Charity Registration No. 249723

THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)
(Incorporated by Royal Charter)
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name	The Mothers' Union – Diocese of Oxford
Charity registration no.	249723
Registered office	The Mother's Union Office, CMS House, Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ
Independent Examiner	Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Victoria House, 10 Broad Street, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3LH
Bankers	CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Trustees serving during the year ended 31 December 2023

Mrs Patricia Campbell	Area Vice President, Oxfordshire
Mrs Jean Vaughan	Acting Area Vice President, East Berkshire and Unit Co-ordinator, Action and Outreach
Mrs Valerie Bolan	Area Vice President, West Berkshire
Mrs Jenny Searle	Unit Co-Ordinator, Fundraising and Communications
Revd Canon Rita Ball	Unit Co-Ordinator, Prayer and Spirituality (resigned 11/2023)
Revd Mrs Louise Butler	Acting Unit Co-Ordinator, Finance & Administration (resigned 12/2023)
Mrs Rosie Jackson-Kilham	General Trustee (resigned 09/2023)
Revd Lady Denise Brown	General Trustee
Mrs Gillian Pearce	General Trustee (appointed 05/2023)
Mrs Elizabeth Dawson	General Trustee (appointed 05/2023)
Mrs Norma Clarke	General Trustee (appointed 07/2023 & resigned 05/2024)

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THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. 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.

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, ^[SEP]and service
- . 4) To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the ^[SEP]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 the Diocese for local MU projects and to Central MU to further the worldwide work of the Mothers' Union

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Board of Trustees

There were several changes in Board members over 2023. Maureen Weston, Past President, served on the Board as General Trustee until the end of 2022. Also retiring at that time were Christine Beynon and Rachel Buckley. The Board continued to operate with no President in office, but leadership of meetings was shared between the two Area Vice Presidents, Patricia Campbell and Valerie Bolan. The following Trustees remained in position: Louise Butler (Finance & Administration), Jenny Searle (Fundraising & Communication), Jean Vaughan (Action & Outreach), Rita Ball (Prayer & Spirituality), Denise Brown (Diocesan Members) and Rosie Jackson-Killham (General Trustee). During the year three new General Trustees were appointed, Gillian Pearce, Elizabeth Dawson and Norma Clarke. Later in the year Rosie Jackson-Killham and Rita Ball resigned office. The Chaplain, Rev Mary Harwood, was in attendance. The Board of Trustees met six times during 2023. These alternated between meeting in-person and online.

Membership stood at 824 at the end of 2023 (895 in 2022). Although many new members have joined, the rate of members lost was 7.9% (5.8% in 2022).

Diocesan Membership has increased again this year, reflecting the continued transition from branch membership. Diocesan members have been encouraged to continue to meet together informally and to attend area and Diocesan meetings.

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Diocesan Spring Meetings were held in different locations to coincide with our Wave of Prayer, April 20th – April 22nd enabling a greater number of members to attend. Speakers from “Reducing the Risk” raised awareness of Domestic Abuse and how communities can support people in these situations.

Our Annual Wave of Prayer (April 20 - 22) took place in churches and with branches across the Diocese as well as at our three Diocesan Spring Meetings. Members could access the prayers via the website. During this time members were encouraged to pray for all our worldwide Link Dioceses.

AFIA Holiday Bookings have remained low since the pandemic and associated lockdowns. Normally seven or eight families, who could not otherwise afford to take a break, are awarded holidays. During 2023 one family had a holiday at Butlins during the summer holidays and another in October half term. A group of teenage Ukrainian refugees were taken from Princes Risborough to Wendover Woods to enjoy lunch together and an afternoon of adventure on GoApe.

Children Heard and Seen, which works with families where a parent is in prison, have a Residential weekend each summer. This year Abingdon and Wokingham St Paul's Branches made cakes for everyone. For Easter we made 130 knitted chicks filled with Crème Eggs, which were really popular, and for Christmas we made 160 knitted stockings filled with Lindt figures.

Party food was bought for the CHAS party at Christmas and Abingdon Branch also donated food.

Knitted Figures. At Easter 31 filled knitted figures were also given to Building for the Future (a charity working with disabled children), 30 to Home Start and 20 to a care home specialising in Dementia care, all in Wokingham.

Building for the Future also had 70 stockings at Christmas, and we also gave 6 to a new Kinship Carers group.

Baby Basics in Milton Keynes helps mothers with babies and young children (0-5), including refugees, by providing them with clothing, toiletries and equipment. Members were keen to support this enterprise by knitting new born cardigans and also children's hats, scarves and mittens. Members gave presents for children at Christmas and we bought some fabric to be made into bags for Christmas gifts. Donations of toiletries were collected as well.

Hospital Projects. Toiletry bags are constantly in demand at Ronald McDonald House, which cares for families with sick children at the JR Hospital, Oxford. Nearly 400 were made and filled for visitors to Ronald McDonald House. Other items donated included coffee, tea and cleaning products. Staff are pleased to welcome members to look at the great facilities available to parents.

Diocesan Projects. Money has been raised during the year to fund local initiatives which support the aims of Mothers' Union. A team reviews applications and makes recommendations to the Trustee Board. During 2023 two projects have received funds, a CAMEO group in Newport Pagnall for parents with babies and toddlers and a sewing group helping refugees in Ducklington.

Prisons. Newport Pagnall branch has worked with a visitor and chaplain at Woodhill Prison by giving packs at Easter containing cards, crafts and cream eggs. At Christmas we bought packs of playing cards to relieve boredom in their cells over the holidays.

Christmas cards, both written and blank, have been donated to Bullingdon Prison.

Our Annual General Meeting/Autumn Meeting took place in person at Benson Village Hall on Tuesday 10 October and 85 people attended. Reports were given and two members of staff from Ronald McDonald House addressed the meeting. Members were very pleased to hear at first hand how parents of sick children are receiving such dedicated care and how MU members have been able to support them over the year.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence was observed from 25 November – 10 December using prayer resources from the Central Mothers' Union. Members are aware of the Clewer Initiative to help combat Modern Day Slavery. The campaign RISEUP, which focuses on working to reduce Domestic violence throughout the year began in 2023.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Communication amongst members is particularly important. Branches meet regularly in person. Our monthly eNewsletter has kept members informed. One member runs our Facebook page and provides daily prayers. News is also circulated in the Diocesan Magazine, Focus, which was produced three times during 2023. The website is invaluable providing documents and other material for branches and individual members. Plans have been put in place at the end of 2023 to design a new website making it more user-friendly and appealing.

Finance. There have been improvements in operating the finances of the charity and monitoring the budget by converting a spreadsheet system to using Xero financial software. The accountancy firm, Wenn Townsend, has helped with this introduction. The charity has been without a Treasurer for two years now and the need for reliable day-to-day bookkeeping services has been secured using Numberwork Services, based in Newbury. The charity is still searching for a Treasurer, but with a more advisory role.

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 2023 are shown on pages 7-15. The accounts show an excess of operating expenditure over income on unrestricted funds of £611 and a loss of £240 on restricted funds, giving a net overall decrease in funds of £851 (2022: surplus in the year of £1,757). Our investment portfolio showed an unrealised gain of £10,858 in the year compared with a loss of £14,159 in the prior year, and this increases the net movement in funds balance to £10,007.

Net subscription income for the diocese funds was £12,579 compared to £13,687 in 2022.

Donations to support our Away From It All (AFIA) holidays were £4,195 compared with £4,573 in 2022.

The charity's total funds as at the end of December 2023 were £173,900 (2022: £163,893). Approximately 79% 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.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

17th July 2024
Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Valerie Bolan, AVP West Berkshire

Patricia Campbell, AVP Oxfordshire



THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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) (Incorporated by Royal Charter)

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

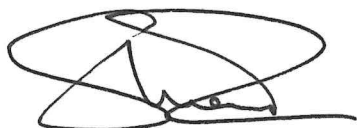
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Stuart Bates FCA CTA
Wenn Townsend
10 Broad Street
Abingdon
OX14 3LH

31st July 2024

THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)
(Incorporated by Royal Charter)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	3	-	4,195	4,195	4,573
Subscriptions		30,038	-	30,038	31,663
Investment income	2	3,984	-	3,984	3,448
Gift aid		4,705	-	4,705	4,091
Other charitable activities		30,019	-	30,019	22,863
Total		68,746	4,195	72,941	66,638
Expenditure					
Grants payable		-	4,435	4,435	3,537
Subscriptions		17,459	-	17,459	17,976
Direct charitable expenditure	4	30,249	-	30,249	23,431
Support costs		16,099	-	16,099	15,815
Governance costs		5,550	-	5,550	4,122
Total	4	69,357	4,435	73,792	64,881
Net income before gains and losses					
Investments		(611)	(240)	(851)	1,757
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments		10,858	-	10,858	(14,159)
Net movement in funds		10,247	(240)	10,007	(12,402)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		155,652	8,241	163,893	176,295
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		165,899	8,001	173,900	163,893

THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (Comparative figures)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations and legacies	-	4,573	4,573
Subscriptions	31,663	-	31,663
Investment income	3,448	-	3,448
Gift aid	4,091	-	4,091
Other charitable activities	22,863	-	22,863
Total	62,065	4,573	66,638
Expenditure			
Grants payable	-	3,537	3,537
Subscriptions	17,976	-	17,976
Direct charitable expenditure	23,431	-	23,431
Support costs	15,815	-	15,815
Governance costs	4,122	-	4,122
Total	61,344	3,537	64,881
Net income before gains and losses on Investments	721	1,036	1,757
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments	(14,159)	-	(14,159)
Net movement in funds	(13,438)	1,036	(12,402)
Fund balances at 1 January 2022	169,090	7,205	176,295
Fund balances at 31 December 2022	155,652	8,241	163,893

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 17.07.2024

John

W.A. Campbell,

THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)
(Incorporated by Royal Charter)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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 in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

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.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 Investment income

2023	2022
£	£
3,984	3,448
<hr/>	<hr/>

3 Legacies and donations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Legacies	-	-
Donations AFIA	4,195	4,573
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,195	4,573
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4 Total resources expended

	Total	Total
	2023	2022
	£	£
Restricted funds		
Grants -'Away From It All' (A.F.I.A)	4,435	3,537
Unrestricted funds		
Subscriptions	17,459	17,976
Direct charitable expenditure		
Overseas and worldwide funds incl literacy development	8,058	5,994
Literature	5,317	6,082
Focus	4,333	4,351
Britain and Ireland Fund	-	118
Other Diocesan projects	4,575	4,276
Branch and Deanery projects and other activities	7,966	2,610
	<u>30,249</u>	<u>23,431</u>
Support costs		
Salaries	9,308	8,302
Insurance	450	450
Printing, postage and stationery	2,290	2,783
Telephone	484	340
CMS License fee	3,210	3,210
All other costs	357	730
	<u>16,099</u>	<u>15,815</u>
Governance costs		
Officers' and Committee expenses	645	2,672
Bookkeeping and other accountancy cost	2,805	-
Independent examiner	2,100	1,450
	<u>5,550</u>	<u>4,122</u>
Total resources expended	<u>73,792</u>	<u>64,881</u>

THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF OXFORD)
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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 £645 travelling and office expenses (2022: 7 were reimbursed £2,672).

6 Fixed asset investments

£

Market value at 1 January 2023	126,538
Purchases at cost	-
Change in value in the year	10,858
	<u>137,396</u>
Market value at 31 December 2023	
	<u>137,396</u>
Historical cost	
At 31 December 2022	<u>34,921</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>34,921</u>
Barclays Wealth Unit Funds	46,363
CCLA Investment Fund Units	91,033
	<u>137,396</u>

7 Debtors

2023
£

2022
£

Gift aid claims	4,160	4,000
Legacies	-	-
	<u>4,160</u>	<u>4,000</u>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

2023
£

2022
£

Accruals	2,100	2,132
Other Creditors	689	-
	<u>2,789</u>	<u>2,132</u>

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9 Restricted Funds

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources & Transfers	Outgoing Resources & Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
"Away From It All" (AFIA)	8,241	4,195	(4,435)	8,001
As 31 December 2023	8,241	4,195	(4,435)	8,001

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming Resources & Transfers	Outgoing Resources & Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£
"Away From It All" (AFIA)	7,205	4,573	(3,537)	8,241
As 31 December 2022	7,205	4,573	(3,537)	£8,241

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 2023 are represented by:			
Investments	137,396	-	137,396
Current assets	31,292	8,001	39,293
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(2,789)	-	(2,789)
	165,899	8,001	173,900
Unrealised gains included above:			
On investments (see below)	102,475	-	102,475
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains on investment assets.			
Unrealised gains at 1 January 2023	91,617	-	91,617
Realised in year	-	-	-
Decrease in market value in year	10,858	-	10,858
Unrealised gains at 31 December 2023	102,475	-	102,475

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2023 the charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Expiry date:		
Within one year	1,045	718
Between two and five years	3,918	-
	<u>4,963</u>	<u>718</u>

12 Employees

During the year there was 1 part-time employee (2022-1 part-time employee)

	2023 £	2022 £
Salary costs	9,037	8,060
Pension	271	242
	<u>9,308</u>	<u>8,302</u>