

Mothers' Union
Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31st December 2023

Mothers' Union - Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich (249726)
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Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2023

An overview of how the year unfolded, and the opportunities and challenges which arose during 2023. Changes at all levels in the organisation were inevitable, and with zoom well-established, new ways of working, and Mary Sumner House adapting, the pressures and volume of work increased substantially. The year started cautiously post-covid with a Trustees and Officers Tea Party at the Station House in Campsea Ashe – only the DP was late because the jam and cream had been left at home on the kitchen table. After a promotional Power-Point presentation, and the singing of Mary Sumner's prayer to the tune of Ode to Joy, the penultimate year of the triennium had begun. A few days later I represented the MU at the annual Plough Sunday service in the Cathedral and in the same week, a Trustees meeting via zoom. At the end of the month, I went to London for a Metamorphosis Conference at Mary Sumner House only to find it had been cancelled the night before due to lack of numbers attending. It was rescheduled for zoom three days later. Then another zoom meeting with Amanda to talk finance, a face-to-face meeting with Beryl re the Constitution, and then with Jeanette to organise a display at the Cathedral for the forthcoming Coronation and also an opportunity to go through the AGM report together. Diocesan Synod at Stowmarket and Lady Day celebrations happened in the same week, and two weeks later the MU AGM – it was a very busy first quarter of the year.

Spring heralded new beginnings, and it was a real privilege to attend the Licensing Services of three new clergy and welcome them to their parishes on behalf of the Mothers' Union assuring them of our support and prayers. We were invited, for the first time, to attend and have a stall at the Annual Vocation Fair in the Cloisters, and the following day I attended the Vocation Day service in the Cathedral. With cutbacks in staff at MSH and new ways of working, a DP all-day zoom conference was organised three days before the Coronation of King Charles III. Representing the MU again, I also attended the Licensing Service for our new Archdeacon (Archdeacon Rich) and immediately left for the DP Residential Conference at High Leigh in Hertfordshire.

Summertime brought its ups and downs. The Suffolk Show was difficult having been "squeezed" in and feeling superfluous to proceedings, but two days later it was a real joy to be able to speak at the MU Branch at Whitton. I flirted with a 3-minute "AI talk" to see how it would be received (and felt a certain amount of guilt!) – it went down well, but the remainder of the talk was properly prepared and carefully thought through. The week ended with a much-enjoyed Annual Strawberry Tea fundraiser run by the Cathedral branch. Also in June, together with Clare, we were invited to the Martlesham Branch to help them as they pondered their future. Trustees met at Westerfield, and a week later we held a really successful Discovery Day at the new venue in Shepherds Drive Baptist Church Ipswich. Diocesan Synod again followed the next day, and two days later the North Suffolk Area Quiet Day took place at Holton where we learned much about iconography. At the beginning of July, I attended the Bishops' Garden Party which had been reinstated post-covid and provided a useful opportunity for networking and raising the MU profile. As usual, Janice had prepared the Wave of Prayer for our linked dioceses of Byumba, Jalingo, Lake Malawi and Lucknow providing us with information for our branch services.

As the weather warmed up the Wickham Market Fellowship Group had a Strawberry Tea Party in Westleton for the Summer of Hope campaign, and then there was the local MU branch group meeting, more zoom sessions, the Fressingfield Garden Party, celebrations for Mary Sumner Day at St Mary Stoke, a Cream Tea at Farthings (Yoxford), and coffee with Amanda to talk about her health issues and seek a way forward. It was an exciting and fun time meeting members and their friends.

Over the summer nominations for the next DP had been received, and it was a pleasure to announce that Jeanette Appleton would be my successor. September started with another Trustee Meeting when the way forward was discussed. It was a joy to be invited to welcome two new members to the St Mary Stoke branch and give them their badges and certificates. Our Cluster group met on zoom, the following day it was the North Suffolk Area morning at Hoxne, and two days

later we were up in York for the Annual Gathering. St Eds and Ips was well represented with seven members attending and staying in two separate hotels. Sue and I, under Amanda's tuition, concentrated on perfecting the art of crocheting woollen hearts for the latest MU campaign. On returning home I was invited to attend the local Christians Against Poverty (CAP) course in order to understand better their aims and objectives should any of our members need help struggling with the cost of living crisis.

Autumn came all too quickly and October was a really busy month with MU activities and engagements happening nearly every day, beginning with the I-Chameleon Pop-Up shop in Halesworth, another Cluster meeting via zoom, the Healing Service in the Cathedral, Metamorphosis in our local branch, and the Retired Clergy Conference - again in the Cathedral. The admin from Mary Sumner House was increasing with new staff and new initiatives which in turn meant more emails and key messages, policies and documents, newsletters and reflections, MU Live data and stats - all of which needed to be read through carefully, and where appropriate circulated to members.

I attended two more Licensing Services in Ipswich, had a formal coffee session with the new Archdeacon to "re-introduce" him to Mothers' Union in our diocese, enjoyed a very happy occasion arranged by Sandra for the Ipswich Area Coffee Morning at Martlesham, the 16 Days of Activism campaign and the Autumn Council Meeting at Coddensham which afforded the pleasurable opportunity of announcing that Jeanette would be our next Diocesan President. The weather was atrocious - with snow and flooding - and numbers attending were somewhat down. Christmas arrangements began in earnest with many branches having been involved in making Christmas cards for the prisoners at Highpoint, in Yoxmere a new travelling crib was being taken around families with children in the benefice, and I learned of other Branches too who were decorating their churches, promoting the Blue Christmas service arranged by Rev Catherine, and purchasing MUe gifts, Christmas cards and calendars, etc. The year finished on a high with the Rushmere Branch Christmas Party where we were entertained by a Ukelele band and wonderful afternoon tea, and the last event of the year was the local Mothers' Union branch meeting in my home for a wonderful seasonal service and afternoon tea - our normal venue at the church was just too cold!

It's been a real privilege to serve the Mothers' Union in 2023 as we emerged from the covid pandemic and confidence in coming together once more enabled us to meet up face to face. Over the year, several new members joined Mothers' Union, but sadly the loss of members was greater. To all those who are grieving we send our condolences. Branches changed and amalgamated, Fellowship Groups started up and Diocesan Membership increased. Looking back we can see how much has changed; how in 2023 we tried to put into practice the pledges we made in 2022 to Mary Sumner House; how our ABC structures guided the programmes of AFIA, Befriending and support for the Clewer Initiative. We have an amazing team of Trustees, Officers, Community of Interest Leads and STARs - all with very different gifts and abilities - but each one playing a really important and significant role in helping the Mothers' Union to flourish and thrive. My sincere thanks to each one of you as we now embark on this final year of the triennium, confident in the knowledge that we have a Heavenly Father who knows, and sees and cares very much for us as we seek to serve Him in the places where He has called us to live. Again, we praise God, rejoice and give thanks for his faithfulness, goodness and provision for us, leading us forward according to His plan and purpose.

Linda Ginn
Diocesan President
19th March 2024

**Diocesan Receipts Account for year ending
31st December 2023**

Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
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For Mary Sumner House (MSH)

Literacy & Financial Education (Designated)	1,522	925
Britain & Ireland Development (Designated)	794	630
Overseas Relief Work (Designated)	465	912
Overseas Development (Designated)	1,457	1,040
Provident (Designated)	495	495
Mothers' Day Appeal	153	0
Summer of Hope Appeal	1,940	1,049
Christmas Appeal	0	90
Subscriptions 2024	5,911	0
Subscriptions 2023	5,054	6,741
Subscriptions 2022	0	7,026
Subscriptions 2021	0	100
Subscriptions 2020	0	15
General Funds	16	407
Sub Total	17,807	19,430

For Diocesan MU

Easy Funding for AFIA (Designated)	223	166
AFIA (Designated)	520	209
Parenting (Designated)	728	0
Womens' Refuge (Designated)	300	40
Prisoners' Cards (Designated)	231	211
Indoor Members (Designated)	940	400
Diocesan Members (Designated)	580	220
Over 90s Members (Designated)	195	100
Ipswich Area (Designated)	519	590
North Suffolk Area (NSA) (Designated)	1,896	1,615
Gift Aid	0	0
Subscriptions 2024	1,028	0
Subscriptions 2023	843	1,124
Subscriptions 2022	0	1,055
Subscriptions 2021	0	16
Subscriptions 2020	0	7
Donations	149	0
General Fund	239	1,486
Hire of Hall	59	0
Church Services	152	239
Interest	579	333
Sundries	9	143
MUe Dividend	968	889
Sub Total	10,158	8,843

Sub Total MSH and Diocese	27,965
Deduct receipts from Branches (page 5)	16,476
Sub Total	11,489

Petty Cash Receipts	0
Branch Receipts (page 5)	23,725
MUe Sales	10,437

Grand Total	45,651
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**Diocese Payments Account for year ending
31st December 2023**

	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
To Mary Sumner House (MSH)		
Literacy & Financial Education (Designated)	592	925
Britain & Ireland Development (Designated)	389	530
Overseas Relief Work (Designated)	600	767
Overseas Development (Designated)	985	710
Provident Fund (Designated)	245	300
Mothers' Day Appeal	153	0
Summer of Hope Appeal	1,833	1,049
Christmas Appeal	90	0
Subscriptions 2024	897	0
Subscriptions 2023	8,487	3,129
Subscriptions 2022	40	6,986
Subscriptions 2021	0	100
Subscriptions 2020	0	15
General Funds	16	407
Sub Total	14,327	14,918

Diocesan Payments		
Easy Funding for AFIA (Designated)	0	0
AFIA (Designated)	954	797
Parenting (Designated)	0	0
Womens' Refuge (Designated)	314	0
Prisoners' Cards (Designated)	150	204
Indoor Members (Designated)	738	592
Diocesan Members (Designated)	361	299
Over 90s Members (Designated)	38	66
Ipswich Area (Designated)	1,126	670
North Suffolk Area (NSA) (Designated)	1,840	1,517
Gift Aid	0	0
Keith Foulds Retirement Gift	0	61
Outings	0	0
Retreat & Quiet Day	0	0
Reserves for Distribution	149	0
General Fund	19	100
Trustees / Officers Expenses	93	253
Conferences	134	317
Re-imagining / Discovery Day	279	0
Purchase of feather flags	288	0
Hire of Hall	231	120
DBS Checks	145	206
Insurance	450	450
Postage	15	19
Printing & Stationery	154	182
Purchase of Leaflets	0	13
Website	56	42
Zoom Subscription	144	144
Bank Charge	60	96
Sundries	210	665
MUe Dividend	0	0
Transfer to Designated Funds from General Fund	850	500
Sub Total	8,798	7,313

Sub Total 23,125

Petty Cash Payments 40
 Branch Payments (page 5) 7,828
 MUe Purchases 10,911

Grand Total **41,904**

Note: The branch payments exclude members' subscriptions and donations which are accounted for in the above analysis.

Mothers' Union - Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich 249726

Branch & Deanery Summary to 31st December 2023

	£		
Receipts			
Members' Subscriptions	9,071		
Refreshments	2,012		
Collections	1,562		
Fundraising	4,665		
Donations	2,170		
MUe Materials	189		
Outings	2,495		
Other income	1,561		
Total Receipts	<u>23,725</u>		
		Payments to	Other
Payments		Diocese	Payments
		£	£
Payments to Diocese			
Members' Subscriptions		9,340	
Donations		7,136	
Other Payments			
Mue Materials			565
MSH (paid direct)			1,188
Speaker Expenses			1,103
Postage & Stationery			158
Hall Hire			729
Refreshments			57
Outings			2,344
Other expenses			1,684
Total Payments	<u>24,304</u>	<u>16,476</u>	<u>7,828</u>
Net Payments	579		

FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY

Monetary Resources at 1 January 2023 (Held by 28 Branches & 1 Deanery)	9,576
Net Payments	579
Monetary Resources at 31 December 2023 (Held by 25 Branches & 1 Deanery)	<u>8,997</u>

Note: During 2023 Felixstowe St John's, Halesworth and Martlesham Branches became Fellowship Groups and closed their bank accounts.

Mothers' Union - Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich 249726

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2023

	£
Diocesan Fund Balances at 31 December 2023	49,752
Branch & Deanery Balances at 31 December 2023	8,984
MU Enterprises Assets at 31 December 2023	<u>5,282</u>

Consolidated Balances **64,018**

Represented by:

CBF Church of England Investment Fund	9,990
CBF Church of England Deposit Account	4,796
CAF Bank Current Account	19,763
CAF Bank Gold Saver Account	15,181
Petty Cash	22
Held by Branches & Deanery	8,984
MU Enterprises Stock & Bank Account	<u>5,282</u>

Consolidated Balances **64,018**

Liabilities owed to Mary Sumner House at 31 December 2023

Subscriptions	
For 2023	179
For 2024	<u>5,014</u>
	5,193

Donations	
For MSH Designated Funds	2,692
For MSH Appeals	<u>107</u>
	2,799

Total **7,992**

Literature Account (MU Enterprises)

Stock at 31 December 2023	4,855
Bank Balance	427
Cash	<u>0</u>

Total Assets **5,282**

Mothers' Union Diocesan Consolidated Accounts prepared and presented by
Amanda Langan, Diocesan Treasurer
On 10th October 2024

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on
10th October 2024

Linda Ginn
Diocesan President & Chair of Trustees

Report to the Trustees of the Mothers Union of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Charity no: 249726

I report on the Accounts of the Mothers Union of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with 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.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and 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.

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

Martin Favell, FCA
Mayfields,
Holton St Mary,
Suffolk CO7 6NL

11 October 2024