

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (SOUTHWARK DIOCESE)

England & Wales · Charity number 249815

## Details

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**Other names** THE MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK BRANCH)

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1966-10-27

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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London  
SE1 1HW

**Phone** 02079399459

**Email** [mu@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:mu@southwark.anglican.org)

**Website** [www.southwark.anglican.org/about-us/what/mu](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/about-us/what/mu)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1) TO UPHOLD CHRIST'S TEACHING ON THE NATURE OF MARRIAGE AND TO PROMOTE IT'S WIDER UNDERSTANDING. 2) TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN IN THE FAITH AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH. 3) TO MAINTAIN A WORLDWIDE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS, UNITED IN PRAYER, WORSHIP AND SERVICE. 4) TO PROMOTE CONDITIONS IN SOCIETY FAVOURABLE TO STABLE FAMILY LIFE AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN. 5) TO HELP THOSE WHOSE FAMILY LIFE HAS MET WITH ADVERSITY.

**Activities:** Demonstrating the Christian faith in action through work with families and communities

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK.
- Croydon
- Greenwich
- Kingston Upon Thames
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Merton
- Southwark
- Surrey
- Sutton
- Wandsworth

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£60,387	£65,396	-	-
2023-12-31	£70,766	£67,916	-	-
2022-12-31	£57,373	£62,105	-	-
2021-12-31	£60,397	£70,663	-	-
2020-12-31	£56,506	£61,998	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Catherine Rosemary Brown		2019-01-01
Dr Ursula Hodges		2021-02-09
JENNIFER DAVIS		2025-01-01
Jean Cartwright		2026-01-01
Joyce Morrall		2020-01-01
Margaret Elizabeth Fitch		2022-01-01
Moira Greenfield		2025-05-07
PENNY LOCHEAD		2016-01-01
Roseline Okiti		2022-01-01
Susan Gibbin		2019-06-03
Susan Lesley Newman		2025-02-25
Susan Margaret Betts		2025-01-01
Yemi Ojumu		2023-02-18

**THE MOTHERS' UNION (SOUTHWARK DIOCESE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 249815

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# Accounts

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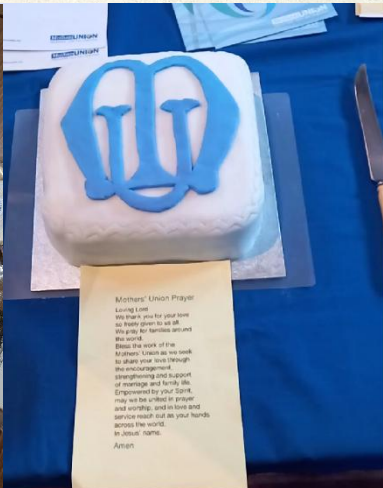


# Mothers' Union Diocese of Southwark

Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Southwark covers the Greater London boroughs south of the Thames, and part of Surrey



## SOUTHWARK MOTHERS' UNION 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



# Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union

## Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2024

### Vision

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue by praying, campaigning and enabling.

### Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

### Values

We are firmly rooted in voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration. Our governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide. We are inclusive and work with people of all faiths and none.

### Aim

The Aim of the Mothers' Union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In particular we aim to:

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

## Objectives and Activities

Together with members across the world, our objectives are:

- **Strengthen** communities all over the world
- **Help** the most disadvantaged at home
- **Shape** how we advocate for the rights of families
- **Build** supportive, loving relationships
- **Develop** our own relationship with God.

## Achievements & Challenges

The MU theme in 2024 was Transformation in Action and this report reflects on how action in the MU in Southwark has had an impact.

### **Growing the MU Community: *Inspiring others and showing the relevance of the MU***

Over 2024, branches continue to face challenges of securing membership and leaders. In some cases, these branches are in a church which itself is finding it difficult to grow. We continue to work on ways we can be more creative and imaginative in promoting our mission and increasing member engagement. Although some branches have closed a number of the residual members have joined neighbouring branches.

A large number of members attended the Provincial Gathering in Oxford providing insights into how others were working and what more could be done to help the MU grow. Some of these actions can be seen in action within our own MU community.

### ***Being a bridge between clergy and MU members***

Most branches have been actively engaging with their church and a number have been able to recruit new members.

It would appear having a strong relationship with the incumbent and regular contact with the congregation brings benefits and helps branches flourish. Clergy packs, previously circulated are still available for branches to share with new members and church leaders. As a Diocese we have also continued to provide information about the MU to clergy in training.

The actions we have taken appear to have the greatest impact where we can share the benefits of the MU underpinned by prayer and action. Many of the achievements we can see in the rest of the report show how the MU across Southwark has shone out in the ministry of the Church as a whole.

## Connecting with the Church Mission:

### ***Strengthening our role within the wider church community***

Where MU branches have an active membership, we can see that they play a big part in the mission of their local church promoting the work of the MU widely. Members continue to support their churches in a range of lay ministry across their parish. Over the last year this includes:

- Supporting community projects: 20 bags of Love for families of new starters at the local Preschool (Horley); Church weekly coffee shop (Tadworth); Hear Here clinics supporting more than 40 people a month (Caterham); Supporting foodbanks (Redhill, South Norwood, Lewisham, New Malden); Collecting clothing for women in Zimbabwe (Lewisham);
- Taking part in worship: Participating and contributing and leading in Lady Day services, Mothering Sunday (cards and posies) and Mary Sumner Day as well as Christingles at Christmas; Supporting Bubble Church, Forest Church and Prayer Clubs supporting a local primary school.
- Pastoral care: Hospital and home visits (Tadworth)
- Helping with church fundraising: As strong supporters of Church Summer and Autumn / Christmas Fairs, coffee mornings as well as Church Lent lunches.
- Welcoming people into the Church family: Supporting baptism families, distributing cards, gifts and arranging events including Pre-Easter parties, Bible themed workshops.
- Engaging with Diocesan links with Zimbabwe: Currently working in the Croydon Episcopal area and Central Zimbabwe Diocese developing links to the Mothers' Union.

### **Having an impact: *Meeting the needs of families facing injustice and adversity***

In line with our aims and objectives members continue to be active in wider diocesan outreach projects. Members have given of their time and talents in supporting:

**Tea @ 2:** Thanks go to Hilary Richardson for coordinating Tea at 2 at the Evelina Children's Hospital. This initiative includes a small but dedicated team of 11 volunteers who provide support to parents whose children are supported in the neo natal unit.

**Other Hospital Links:** The MU also support neo natal intensive care units and other hospital units by knitting, crocheting and stitching including 150 blankets for the Happy Baby community in Thornton Heath. Members in Horley also provided 64 bags of toiletries for vulnerable patients on Emergency hospital wards.

**Prison Links:** Links between Prisons and Southwark MU are also now expanding. The links with Belmarsh continue to be strong, facilitated by Jan Gosling. Links with

Wandsworth prison have also developed with MU members in Horley making a total of 70 Christmas cards, members in Caterham made 25 angel Christmas decorations. A number of other branches have also been active in making socks and hats for prisoners.

**Tea and Talk:** This initiative led by Cynthia Smith and continues in South Croydon. The outreach to refugee families in the local community builds strong connections strengthened with examples of generosity.

### **AFIA (Away from it All) Holidays:**

As our flagship Diocesan outreach project, we thank Sally Steele for continuing to organise and manage holidays and trips for some very needy and vulnerable families in the Diocese. We have seen 14 families sent on a 4-night caravan holiday to a Haven caravan park on the South coast, near Chichester. There were also day trips for 3 refugees in the Diocese; Croydon, Sutton and Redhill. 2 groups went to Butlin's at Bognor by coach; and the 3rd group went to Bockett's Farm in Surrey, also by coach.

Feedback from these holidays has been entirely positive, with the families enjoying being together and enjoying the caravan and facilities on the park. These are families who mostly, have never had a holiday and who cope with all manner of adversities, including, being single mothers, having children with autism and other disabilities.

*"I'd like to send a huge thank you to the amazing people that made this holiday possible for me, my son and my mum. It brought us together. This wouldn't have happened without your kindness. My son came out of his shell and experienced things he wouldn't have as we come from a busy town",*

*"Our holiday was great; the children had a ball too. It was very much needed; you can never really comprehend how much a holiday is needed until you are actually living it".*

Thanks are sent to all the members who have fund-raised and donated to the AFIA fund. This programme has made a difference to 60 adults and 71 children; 131 people in total. We are also so grateful for the wonderful generosity of our "unknown" benefactor, who has really boosted our AFIA fund over many years, ensuring many more families could take advantage of your kindness.

### **Developing members: *In faith, confidence and understanding through***

#### ***Worship and Prayer***

Prayer is the bedrock of the Mothers' Union and this is evident in the various events that have taken place at both branch and diocesan level as well as in our participation in national events and programmes.

At branch level members are involved in leading and supporting:

- Mid-day prayers in the Harvard Chapel each month
- Lady Day services: with services held at across our Deaneries;
- Carol services: welcoming neighbouring branch members
- 16 days of activism: with services and prayers held across the Diocese
- World Day of Prayer: Strengthening links with other churches
- Lent and Advent meditations: across the Diocese
- Regular Communion Services: followed by fellowship e.g. in Caterham, New Malden, Tadworth
- Bible Study: Weekly and monthly sessions held in South Lambeth and Sutton and bible stories for children on Sunday mornings
- Community outreach: Leading services in Care Homes; Providing bibles to schools

At a Diocesan and National level, events include:

- Festival service at Southwark Cathedral held on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- Wave of Prayer which took place at the beginning of September with many branches participating.
- The retreat at Wychroft in October which was well attended and ably led by led by the Venerable Carol Coslett.
- The Diocesan Advent service held at St Johns, Caterham Valley with preacher Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon for Reigate
- Prayer network has been led by Olu Akitoye
- Provincial Meeting: Attendance at the event in Oxford.

### ***Campaigning against social injustice***

***16 days of activism***: Although campaigning against gender-based violence is a '365 days a year' programme many MU branches in Southwark took the opportunity once more to promote this more actively during the 16 days of activism at the end of November.

During this period a number of branches engaged with the Red Chair project promoted by Restored <https://www.restored-uk.org/partner/cned/red-chair/>. It involved reserving an empty chair in a public place, alongside information about domestic abuse and violence against women. The empty chair acted as a powerful symbol of the many women who have been killed through gender-based violence - women who should still be with us today.

***Responding to those in women's Refuges***: There continues to be active engagement by branches with their wider parish community, in providing gifts and equipment to local refuges in Croydon, Sutton and Redhill. Hundreds of items and gifts have been supplied

to these vulnerable women and their children. This includes support for charities such as 'I choose Freedom' who support those escaping Domestic abuse with donations of toiletries twice a year from members in Tadworth.

**RiseUp Campaign:** Mothers' Union campaign against Domestic abuse continues to flourish. Known as RiseUp it stands for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. A number of branches have been successful in achieving their bronze award and now working for their silver award. The campaign is significantly raising awareness of the issue, providing support to those who are suffering and strengthening MU links with their wider church leaders (PCC and clergy). Congratulations to all those who are active in this area.



### ***Celebrating and Connecting***

The Mothers' Union members in Southwark continue to show enormous energy and enthusiasm for arranging events that bring joy and interest to members lives. Examples of this focus on:

**Keeping connected:** Although a number of faithful members have passed away during 2024 it is great to see how branches are keeping in touch with more vulnerable members. Branch members also meet regularly in fellowship for food and friendship as well as connecting with neighbouring members for events. A number have also spent time reflecting on how they can use their talents and strengthen their membership in line with the mission of the MU through the use of the Metamorphosis programme.

**Learning from others:** A wide range of topics have been the focus for meeting, raising awareness of individuals' experiences, their faith and their work as well as how to support the most vulnerable in our community. Examples include AFIA; RiseUP; Julian of Norwich; The Shrine at Lourdes (Surbiton); Textile creations (Motspur Park); Dementia (Lambeth); Reading St Andrew's Church through its Art (Ham); RBL (Horley); Women Prisoners (Tadworth); Girls' education and empowerment in South Sudan (Cheam); Faith liaison in the Police (Coulsdon); Air Ambulance (Riddlesdown); Leprosy Mission (Merton).

**Community events:** This includes organising family games afternoon and evenings in Mitcham and Lambeth. Running stalls at Church fairs, and displays at Heritage Open days and other parish events.

**Being active and creative:** Connecting with the arts and creativity continues to be important building on the skills of members. Examples of activities that have taken place includes Knit and Natter groups (Lewisham); Crafted cards and gifts for MU sales (Tadworth); Christmas decorations from recycled materials (Merton), painting and making Christmas wreathes (Hook); keep fit classes (Eltham Park).

**Outings:** MU members have been active in getting out and about. This includes a walk around the local parks, visit to the Lumley Chapel, a trip to Buckingham Palace, an Art exhibition at Bethlem Hospital, visit to Eltham Palace, The Horton Chapel in Epsom and to Southwark Cathedral to see the 'Threads through Creation' exhibition.

**Celebrating:** It has also been great to see branches celebrating anniversaries and the legacy of members with long service as well as significant birthdays.

### **Fundraising**

Thanks are given to all branches who continue to be active in fundraising for AFIA, Summer of Hope and the Mothers' Union worldwide. Activities to support these campaigns have taken place across the diocese including:

**Sales and stalls:** Bring and buy sales; Cake and Mothering Sunday sales; Church event; Bible Object Auction and Craft and artwork sales.

**Entertainment & Refreshment:** Barn Dances, Quiz nights; Christmas festive lunch; Garden parties Afternoon and Strawberry teas; Coffee mornings; Cheese and wine events.

The impact of all these events this has allowed us to maintain our outreach through AFIA, provide grants to branches that are trying new initiatives and support the wider work of the MU.

## **Moving forward in 2025**

The 2024 theme of *Transformation- in Action!* now shifts to *Join Us, Join In.* The emphasis over the next three years is to promote growing and flourishing and considering how the MU can be relevant within the 21st Century. We would like to aim to build our membership by 150 over the next three years.

In doing so we will need to continue to:

- Consider strategies as to how the MU can grow in confidence by developing membership and build connections through shared stories with those at home and across the world.
- Having an Impact by responding to Social Injustice and supporting vulnerable communities through RiseUP, Prison strategy, Modern Slavery, AFIA and MU overseas.
- Strengthening our connection with the wider Church Mission through, Lay ministry, Synods, Family work / Parenting, Gender based violence and the Climate Crisis

## **Safeguarding**

As an organisation concerned with Christian principles and ministry in family life, the nurture and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of Mothers' Union. Both individually as members and collectively as an organisation,

Mothers' Union fulfils its duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults, doing everything possible to ensure that they are safe when involved in Mothers' Union activities.

Safeguarding policies and practices issued by the Anglican Church, and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) charter for the safety of people within the churches of the Anglican Communion are used as the basis for the MU in Southwark. In line with the duties of the Board the trustees have:

- reviewed safeguarding policies and procedures at the first meeting of the year.
- completed DBS checks on new Trustees using a DBS service from Thirtyone:eight.
- nominated a member to have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of the Mothers' Union activities across the diocese (Susan Gibbin)
- reviewed the roles in Mothers' Union and ensure that recruitment is in line with good safeguarding practice.

As well as ensuring Trustees are aware of policy and practice, guidance continues to be shared with all members to help establish strong practice at a local level. Strong links are encouraged with local Parish Safeguarding officers and training is made available through the Church of England and Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding teams:

- <http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-events/>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding/training>

## Data Protection

As an organisation the Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union takes its duties under the relevant Data protection legislation seriously. Its actions are guided by Diocesan policy and advice from Mary Sumner House. Work is underway to ensure access to privacy notices are available through the website and in hardcopy. Guidance to role holders has been circulated along with consent forms to be used in line with Diocesan and Central MU advice. The Trustees have made it a priority to maintain good Information Governance practice and provide support to all those responsible for holding personal data.

## Financial Review 2024

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have prepared a statement of accounts for 2024 which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese. Full details can be found in the Annual Accounts.

**Accounting Policies:** The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trustees are responsible in law.

**Financial performance – General and unrestricted funds:** General Funds represent the funds of the Trustees that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Trustees. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the Trustees are also unrestricted. In 2024, £15,000 within the General Funds was held in the designated contingency fund.

In 2024 total income into unrestricted funds was £25,153. Of this income £26,492 was spent from unrestricted funds to support the administration and mission of the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union. The net result for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £1,339 on unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds totalling £50,691 were carried forward at 31st December 2024.

### **Financial performance - Restricted Funds**

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

There were restricted donations totalling £35,234 in the year (this includes money sent to MSH which contributes to the leadership, administration and mission of MU worldwide). These are given to support all the various Diocesan and Mothers' Union Central funds (these are set out in the accounts). The total balance of restricted funds at 31st December was £18,496.

**Receipts:** Collections, subscriptions, donations and interest are recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Funds raised through any other sources, including through sales of literature purchased from Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUe) are accounted for gross.

**Payments:** Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

**Reserves Policy:** Reserves are defined as income that becomes available and which is to be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their objects, but which has not yet been spent, committed or designated. The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to allow protection of the core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced strategic planning. Through prudent housekeeping over a number of years, the reserves have been built up to the current level of £69,188 and include a residual legacy of £16,769 received in 2016.

The Trustee Board budgets and plans its expenditure and intends to maintain reserves that will protect the Charity against income shortfalls. A sum of £15,000 has also been set aside in a designated fund to rent and equip a Diocesan Mothers' Union Office should the

present premises become unavailable, and to cover the secretary's salary for 6 months in an emergency.

**Investment Policy:** The Trustees continue to invest in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

## Communication

The Southwark Mothers' Union continues to use a range of tools for communicating with its members and the wider community.

### **Digital tools**

This includes our allocated space on the Southwark Diocesan website where information about the organisation, services, the wave of prayer and projects and publications are posted <https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/mothers-union/>.

There has been a steady flow of visitors, however we are unable to offer a facility for people to ask questions (other than by 'contact us) or add comments.

During the year we had 276 views of our pages, split as follows:

- mothers-union: 117 views
- about-the-mu: 73 views
- mu-prayer: 64 views
- mu-projects: 22 views

The 2023 Annual Report was downloaded 134 times

The Facebook page continues to be a success - sharing information from the wider MU community - nationally and internationally - as well as events and activities within branches and the Diocese <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnionSouthwarkDiocese> .

During the year, there has been a steady flow of readers with a good proportion using the information in some way – liking, commenting or sharing - Project news is particularly popular as well as “issues”. We had 562 likes and 607 followers and a vast reach of many thousands.

We also have a You Tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@southwarkmu> which although still early in its development has had 769 views.

Thanks to Margaret Simmons for all she does to keep us connected and online.

### **Publications**

In addition to our Southwark News (three times a year) which we thank Val Green for editing, we have had a number of articles published in The Bridge. This included articles on the work of the MU in supporting families and our campaigns around Gender Based

violence, Domestic Abuse and AFIA, as well as the festival service. We have also been posting Blogs on the Diocesan website including one on Mary Sumner.

## **Leadership and Governance**

### ***Leadership in Southwark***

The affairs of the Mothers' Union in the diocese are managed by the Board of Trustees. Under the Diocesan Constitution and Handbook, revised 2005 and regularly reviewed, the Trustees are elected on a triennial basis. The new Trustee Board was appointed for three years from January 2022. This is the last year of the current triennial and so we will be welcoming new appointments from 2025. All are thanked for their commitment to the role.

All subscribing members of the MU in the diocese are entitled to vote for the Diocesan President and Unit Co-ordinators. Members from each geographical Area also vote for their own Vice President and two area representatives on the Trustee Board. To date no election has been held due to a lack of candidates and a number of vacancies were held open last year.

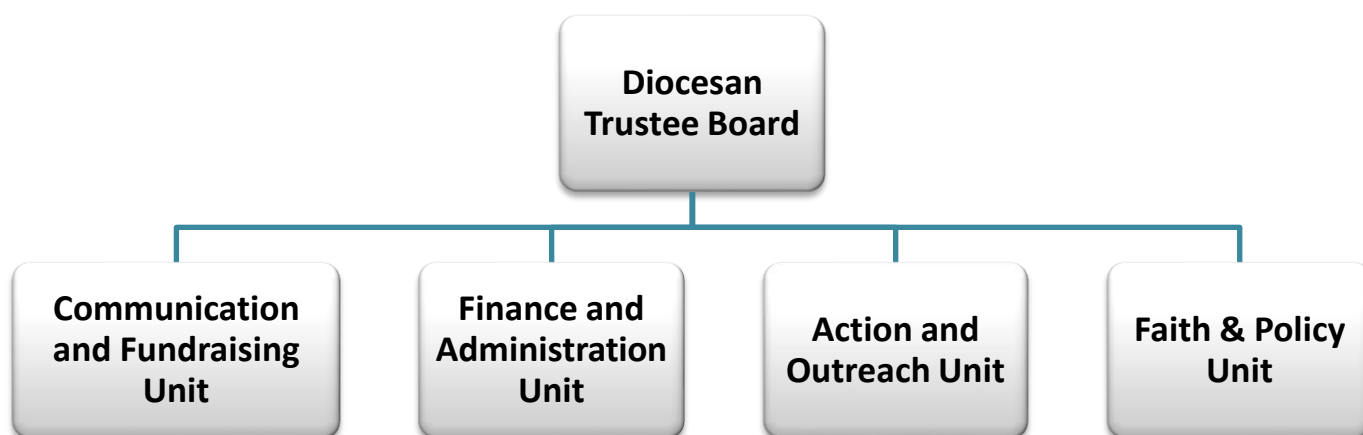
The Honorary Treasurer, appointed by the Trustees continues to keep a close eye on the MU's financial governance. Jean Cartwright is thanked for her continued service. In addition to those trustees that represent the branches within the diocese and those that hold unit lead roles there is an opportunity to appoint three additional members on the Board. These individuals are co-opted onto the Trustee Board for the triennial because of their specific skills. In 2024 there were no additional co-opted members on the Board.

The Diocesan Chaplain is appointed after consultation between the Diocesan Bishop and the Southwark MU President. Also appointed by the Trustee Board are a number of officers listed in Annex 1. The Trustees also employ a part-time secretary, who manages the office and provides administrative support for the Trustee Board.

### ***Governance***

The Trustee Board met five times in 2024 and the Council twice (in addition to the AGM for 2023). During these times meetings were held in person with the opportunity for some members to join over zoom. Thanks to all those who helped manage the technology.

Within the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union, the work of the four units continue to report to the Trustee Board and to Diocesan Council, coordinating diocesan activity and advising on policy and performance.



In order that Southwark MU is able to connect with and benefit from other members of MU across England as well as worldwide, members of the Board as well as those directly connected to the four units also participate in meetings facilitated by Mary Sumner House. These include, provincial conferences (we are within the Canterbury Province) and Community of Interest Groups. The areas covered and our local leads include:

- AFIA (Sally Steele)
- Communications (Meg Simmons)
- Craft (Norma McKnight)
- Diocesan Chaplains (Sandra Schloss)
- Faith (Penny Lohead)
- Finance / Treasurers (Jean Cartwright)
- Fundraising (Vacancy)
- Governance (Joy Morrall)
- Membership (Ursula Hodges)
- Member Directory and Database (MU Secretary)
- Prisons (Comfort Fearon)
- Policy (Rosaline Okiti)
- RiseUp (Comfort Fearon)
- Safeguarding (Susan Gibbin)

In addition, The Mothers' Union (Southwark Diocese) Vice presidents and area representatives of the four geographical areas (Croydon, Kingston, Reigate and Woolwich) continued to link with their deaneries and branches (in line with the Church of England parish and synod structures). The challenges of maintaining branches continues to be difficult. Many members are happy to keep the connection with the MU but unwilling or unable to continue to take on leadership roles locally. Trustees continue to try and support their branch and diocesan members and try to help find new ways to work.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is arranged for July at which meeting the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented to the membership. The AGM is open to all members although voting rights at Diocesan Council are restricted.

### ***Membership / Volunteers***

In 2024, there were 50 branches in Southwark to which 834 branch members belong, in addition there are 37 diocesan members, giving a total of 871 known members across the diocese. Although some branches continue to grow, total numbers of members and branches are not yet seeing significant growth.

Enrolments include: St Mary Magdalene with St Michaels and All Angels, Woolwich; Cathedral with St Hugh's; St Mary the Virgin, Lewisham; St Alban's, South Norwood; St Andrew's, Coulsdon; St Barnabas, Sutton; St Peter, Norbiton; St Andrews and St Mark's, Surbiton; St Andrew's, Ham; St James, New Malden; St John the Baptist, Malden; The Good Shepherd, Tadworth; Holy Trinity, Redhill.

There have also been a number of people who have and continue to give of their time and talents to the MU. We celebrate these individuals and thank them for the service they have given.

We also thank God for the wonderful lives and service to the MU given by our members who have passed away this year.

***Indoor Members*** are also well supported by local Branches as well as the additional support of the Diocesan Indoor member correspondent, Jane Namurye. In 2024, we had 18 members however, one member sadly passed away, one moved out of the diocese.

### ***Member training and development***

During 2024 branches continued to be supported with information, policies and presentations at Council meetings.

Branch leader meetings with the Diocesan President have continued and have been well represented. In some areas of the Diocese, branches highlighted significant difficulties in securing leadership capacity to develop and grow their membership. As a result of this the branch guide was redesigned. Trustees do their best to keep members updated and informed of MU initiatives, local activities and good practice. This continues to be cascaded down through the work of the communications lead, VPs and area representatives.

### ***Feedback from local Branches***

The engagement of members at branch, deanery and area level is seen through regular reports to trustees as well as in the celebrating the years successes in the Annual Report. Each provides evidence of the hard work members have continued to do to find new

ways of engaging with their local Church and its mission; in promoting the wider role of the MU in supporting families and in offering fellowship and prayer for those in need.

There is much we can be proud of as we all seek to meet the aims, purpose and mission of the MU. It has been wonderful to see the lasting legacy members work has had on families here in the Diocese and worldwide.

## **Administrative Information**

The Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese is under the patronage and sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese. It is affiliated to its parent charity, The Mothers' Union (Reg. Charity No. 240531, headquarters at Mary Sumner House, Westminster), but is an autonomous organisation.

### ***Registered office:***

Mothers' Union Office,  
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,  
Borough High Street,  
London SE1 1HW.  
Tel: 020 7939 9459  
Email: [mu@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:mu@southwark.anglican.org)

### ***Bank:***

HSBC, 66 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HD

### ***Independent Examiner:***

Mr A J Kett FCA, Little Dolby, Ifield Road, Charlwood, Surrey, RH6 0DR

Trustee Board members are appointed for three years from 1 January 2022. A list of Trustees and other officers up until December 2024 can be found in Annex 1.

## **Report Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Penny Lohead

Diocesan President (Southwark MU)

## **Annex 1**

### **List of Trustees and officers for 2024**

#### **Trustees (in post from 1 January 2022)**

Diocesan President	Comfort Idowu-Fearon
Vice President for Croydon	Sally Steele
Vice President for Woolwich	Yemi Ojumu (From April 2023)
Vice President for Reigate	Susan Gibbin
Vice President for Kingston	Wendy Moss
Action and Outreach Unit Coordinator	Sally Steele
Fundraising and Communications Unit Coordinator	Susan Gibbin
Finance and Administration Unit Coordinator	Joy Morrall
Faith and Policy Unit Coordinator	Penny Lohead
Croydon Area Representative	Cathy Brown
Woolwich Area Representative	Roseline Okiti
Reigate Area Representative	Margaret Fitch
Kingston Area Representatives	Ursula Hodges

#### **Attendees (non-voting)**

Hon Treasurer	Jean Cartwright
Diocesan Secretary	Anne Love
Chaplain	Revd Sandra Schloss
Diocesan Safeguarding lead (co-opted)	Susan Gibbin

#### **Other Officers**

Away From It All (AFIA) Coordinator	Sally Steele
Newsletter Editor	Val Green
Training Officer	Vacancy
Indoor Member Coordinator	Jane Namurye
Social Media lead	Margaret Simmons
Gift Aid coordinator	Ann Squirrell



**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese**  
**Registered Charity Number 249815**

**Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending**  
**31 December 2024**

Prepared by Jean Cartwright, Hon Diocesan Treasurer

Examined by Anthony J Kett, FCA

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese - Registered Charity Number 249815**  
**Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2024**

**Balance Sheet**

<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	N/A
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
62,000	CBF Deposit	62,000
11,469	Current Bank Account	5,099
688	High Interest Savings	701
7	Cash in Hand	35
33	MUE Stock	99
0	Debtors (Barclaycard)	1,253
10,920	Branch funds	12,141
<b>85,117</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>81,329</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
0	Current Liabilities	0
0	Barclaycard	0
<b>0</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>85,117</b>	<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities:</b>	<b>81,329</b>
	<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	
80,945	Retained Balances	85,117
4,172	Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	(3,788)
<b>85,117</b>	<b>Retained Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>81,329</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2024**

**Consolidated Fund Receipts**

<b>2023</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Diocesan Restricted</b>	<b>MSH Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>MSH Fund Receipts</b>				25,666
18,073	Subscriptions			19,664	
1,407	Overseas Fund (f)			1,503	
1,668	Relief Fund (f)			1,522	
50	B&I Development Fund (f)			50	
0	Fabric Fund (f)			0	
1,462	MSH Projects (g)			2,618	
490	MSH General Fund (f)			310	
	<b>Diocesan Fund Receipts</b>				9,568
19,742	AFIA (a)		9,368		
0	Choir		0		
645	SCIP (b)		200		
0	Indoor Members (c)		0		
0	Overseas V&V (e)		0		
0	Closed branches (d)		0		
	<b>Unrestricted Fund Receipts</b>				
10,575	Diocesan Subscriptions	10,931			10,931
6,163	Diocesan Donations	2,589			2,589
3,188	Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	2,870			2,870
658	Turnover Related Grant	674			674
	<b>Receipts from Sales</b>				
0	General	0			0
351	MUE Literature	439			439
	<b>Activities</b>				
817	Festival Services	1,010			1,010
3,065	Retreat	2,785			2,785
32	Refreshments	33			33
0	General	0			0
	<b>Other Receipts</b>				
0	Sundry	42			42
0	Gifts	540			540
0	Special Events	0			0
	<b>Investment Income</b>				
10	High Interest Savings Account	13			13
2,371	CBF Deposit Account	3,228			3,228
<b>70,766</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>25,153</b>	<b>9,568</b>	<b>25,666</b>	<b>60,387</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2024**

**Consolidated Fund Payments**

<b>2023</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Diocesan Restricted</b>	<b>MSH Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Payments to Mary Sumner House</b>			25,666
18,073			19,664	
1,407			1,503	
1,668			1,522	
50			50	
0			0	
1,462			2,618	
490			310	
	<b>Diocesan Grant Making</b>			13,238
14,646		12,699		
0		500		
18		39		
4,746		0		
0		0		
286		0		
	<b>Trustees and Units</b>			
19	251			251
0	0			0
	<b>Activities</b>			
0	30			30
521	572			572
3,325	3,150			3,150
105	234			234
70	34			34
132	0			0
0	0			0
50	(66)			(66)
	<b>Total Payments</b>			<b>4,205</b>
	<b>Purchases</b>			
0	0			0
470	582			582
144	88			88
	<b>Total Purchases</b>			<b>669</b>
	<b>Other Payments</b>			
13,500	13,905			13,905
374	417			417
19	17			17
182	150			150
450	450			450
5,542	5,708			5,708
0	215			215
50	646			646
0	0			0
119	110			110
	<b>Total Overheads</b>			<b>21,618</b>
<b>67,916</b>	<b>26,492</b>	<b>13,238</b>	<b>25,666</b>	<b>65,396</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2024**

**Analysed Summary of Fund Movements in Year**

	<b>Balances 31/12/2023</b>	<b>Receipts 2024</b>	<b>Payments 2024</b>	<b>Net Income/ (Expenditure) in Year</b>	<b>Balances 31/12/2024</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
<b>Diocesan Funds</b>					
Away from it All (a)	16,506	9,368	12,699	(3,331)	13,175
Diocesan Choir	83	0	0	0	83
SCIP (b)	3,915	200	500	(300)	3,615
Indoor Members (c)	1,663	0	39	(39)	1,624
Closed Branches (d)	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas V&V (e)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Diocesan Funds</b>	<b>22,167</b>	<b>9,568.21</b>	<b>13,238</b>	<b>(3,670)</b>	<b>18,496</b>
<b>Mary Sumner House Funds</b>					
Central Subscriptions	0	19,664	19,664	0	0
MSH Overseas (f)	0	1,503	1,503	0	0
MSH Relief (f)	0	1,522	1,522	0	0
MSH B&I Dev (f)	0	50	50	0	0
MSH Fabric (f)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Projects (g)	0	2,618	2,618	0	0
MSH General (f)	0	310	310	0	0
<b>Total MSH Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,666</b>	<b>25,666</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>22,167</b>	<b>35,234</b>	<b>38,904</b>	<b>(3,670)</b>	<b>18,496</b>
<b>General Diocesan Funds</b>					
Stock	36,997				35,592
Current Liabilities	33				99
Contingency (h)	0				0
	15,000				15,000
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>52,030</b>	<b>25,153</b>	<b>26,492</b>	<b>(1,339)</b>	<b>50,691</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>74,197</b>	<b>60,387</b>	<b>65,396</b>	<b>(5,009)</b>	<b>69,188</b>
<b>Branch Funds (net)</b>	10,920	45,037	43,816	1,221	12,141
<b>Retained Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>85,117</b>	<b>105,424</b>	<b>109,212</b>	<b>(3,788)</b>	<b>81,329</b>

## Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2024

### Consolidated Branch Analysis

<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>
	<b>Opening Branch Balances @ 1 January brought forward</b>	
7,952	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	7,988
1,646	Cash in Hand	2,933
<b>9,599</b>	<b>Total Branch Balances</b>	<b>10,920</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	
12,880	Subs - MSH	12,273
7,277	Subs - Diocese	6,781
1,374	Subs - Branch	1,625
274	Subs - Deanery	120
664	Publications - MUE Literature	261
4,115	Donations	3,050
1,192	Teas etc	942
801	Collections at Services	2,084
142	Other Receipts - Sundry	653
0	Other Receipts - Gifts	115
3,382	Other Receipts - Special Events	3,068
14,326	Fund Raising - General	13,530
545	Fund Raising - Boxes	536
0	Bank Interest Received	0
<b>46,973</b>	<b>Total Receipts 2024</b>	<b>45,037</b>
	<b>Payments</b>	
12,374	MSH Subs Payments to Diocese	12,551
6,964	Diocese Subs Payments	6,926
0	Donations	0
675	Publications - MUe Literature	544
11,407	Diocesan Funds	9,002
5,063	MSH Central Funds	5,725
2,393	Branch Projects	829
48	MSH Projects	0
540	Meetings - Hall Hire	321
291	Meetings - Speakers' Expenses	327
211	Meetings - Admin	321
62	Meetings - Teas	245
115	Church Service Costs	1,347
3,259	Special Events Costs	4,003
136	Deanery Subs paid by Branches	81
84	Gifts	583
0	Banners	76
1,570	Sundry Costs	656
459	Bank Charges	280
<b>45,651</b>	<b>Total Payments 2024</b>	<b>43,816</b>
<b>10,920</b>	<b>Closing Branch Balances @ 31 December</b>	<b>12,141</b>
7,988	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	8,941
2,933	Cash in Hand	3,200

## Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2024

### Notes

1. Employees – no employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

### Funds

- a) Away From It All (AFIA) - provision of holidays for deprived families within Southwark Diocese.
- b) SCIP - supporting children affected by imprisonment (within Southwark Diocese).
- c) Indoor Members - a diocesan fund to support housebound members.
- d) Closed Branches - money held for 10 years according to the diocesan regulations pending branch re-opening, in which case a refund is made to the branch. This fund was closed in 2023 and the funds transferred to the General Fund.
- e) Overseas Visits and Visitors Fund - a diocesan fund for visits to recognised MU links and MU-related gifts and resources. This fund was closed in 2023 and the funds transferred to the General Fund.
- f) Funds administered centrally by Mary Sumner House. These include the Overseas Fund, Relief Fund, Britain and Ireland Development Fund (B&ID Fund) and Fabric Fund. Donations are also sent to the General Fund at Mary Sumner House to be used when needed.
- g) MSH Projects. Fundraising launched or continued by Mary Sumner House during the year. Some branches sent money directly to Mary Sumner House; others sent donations via the diocesan accounts. The amount sent in 2024 was £2,617.50 for the following projects:
  - £317.20 Make a Mother's Day
  - £1,650.30 Summer of Hope Appeal
  - £ 650.00 Literacy Appeal

### Contingency

- h) Money held under the agreed reserves policy to cover rent of office etc in an emergency.

Little Dolby  
Ifield Road  
Charlwood  
Surrey  
RH6 0DR

The Trustees  
Mothers' Union – Southwark Diocese  
Mothers' Union Office  
Trinity House  
Chapel Court  
Borough High Street  
London SE1 1HW

10 September 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO TRUSTEES,  
MOTHERS' UNION SOUTHWARK DIOCESE**

I report on the accounts of the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese (Charity no. 249815) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner**

As trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese 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 I 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 130 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
  
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Anthony J Kett FCA

**THE MOTHERS' UNION (SOUTHWARK DIOCESE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 249815

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# Accounts

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# Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union

## Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2023

### Vision

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue by praying, campaigning and enabling.

### Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

### Values

We are firmly rooted in voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration. Our governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide. We are inclusive and work with people of all faiths and none.

### Aim

The Aim of the Mothers' Union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In particular we aim to:

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

## Objectives and Activities

Together with members across the world, our objectives are:

- **Strengthen** communities all over the world
- **Help** the most disadvantaged at home
- **Shape** how we advocate for the rights of families
- **Build** supportive, loving relationships
- **Develop** our own relationship with God.

## Achievements & Challenges

The MU theme in 2023 ***Transformation in Action!*** has been fundamental to how we have continued to develop actions associated with our Strategy ***Flourishing together.***

### Growing the MU Community:

*Inspiring others and showing the relevance of the MU*

The main challenge we have been facing over the last year is about how we can flourish as an organisation. We have been working on ways we can be more creative and imaginative in promoting our mission and increasing member engagement. At the General meeting in York in 2023 there was a significant discussion about how we as MU members are to be bridge builders linking all sorts of people groups, bodies, ideas and communities. It is with this in mind that we reflect on the actions we have taken over the last year to support our strategy.



### *Being a bridge between clergy and MU members*

Over 2023, branches have closed due to an increasing ageing and frailty of its leaders and with no expectation of securing new members. In some cases, these branches are in a church which itself is finding it difficult to grow its congregation or where the members do not have the energy to reach out and connect with new people. Sometime the closure has been due to a break down in relationships either between members or with the Church. We have been thinking about how we can respond to this.

It is helpful to look at those branches that continue to grow and learn how this is being achieved. These appear to be branches that are actively engaging with their local congregations, reaching out to potential members from other churches who perhaps stopped because their branch closed and those who have a strong relationship with their incumbent.

To help the MU grow at branch level we have been looking at ways in which we can develop strong relationships with our clergy. We have developed clergy packs and distributed to local churches, with and without branches. When we have shared this information with trainees and established clergy, we have opened a dialogue about how the MU can support them in practical ways. There has been some positive feedback but more needs to be done to follow up those who are showing an interest.

More still needs to be done to help MU members and leaders to connect with our clergy, understand the pressures they face and find ways to work together. The actions we have taken appear to have the greatest impact where we can share the benefits of the MU in a parish underpinned by prayer and action. Many of the achievements we can see in the rest of the report show how the MU can shine out in the ministry of the Church as a whole.

## **Connecting with the Church Mission:**

### ***Strengthening our role within the wider church community***

Where MU branches have a strong membership, we can see that they also play a big part in the mission of their local church whilst promoting the MU. This includes as worship leaders, choir members, servers, toddler group assistants, eucharistic ministers, intercessors, coffee makers, service steward, youth leaders and many more active roles in worship as well as outreach. Over the last year we have seen a number of examples of engagement:

- Supporting community projects: including Community cafés in North Mitcham at St Barnabas and at St Luke's, Camberwell; pastoral lunches in St Mary Magdalene and St Martin's in Addiscombe; links with local foodbanks in New Malden, Caterham and South Norwood; Mums and Toddlers and Nurseries attached to the Church at St Matthews, Redhill and St Barnabas, Sutton.
- Taking part in services: Most branches regularly participate and contribute to Mothering Sunday with prayers, talks, gifts and flowers, leading services for Mary Sumner Day as well as helping create Christingles at Christmas.

- Helping with church fundraising: This includes supporting Church Summer and Autumn / Christmas Fairs, coffee mornings as well as church Lent lunches and Firework displays.
- Welcoming people into the Church family: MU branches across the Diocese have strong roles in their churches supporting baptism families, distributing cards, gifts and arranging events. At Christ Church, Purley they supported a Good Friday outreach event; Christ Church, Gipsy Hill lead prayers by candlelight at the beginning of the school year; St Luke's, Camberwell and members in Caterham are active in Junior church and Horley branch have established a new service 'Tea and Chat' all of which reach out to the wider congregation and community. Some members are also engaged as pastoral visitors and others as Street Pastors.
- Supporting church events related to Eco Church and sustainability. With an increasing emphasis on Eco Church activities, it would be good to see how MU could connect around this issue of social injustice. St Andrew's Coulsdon have been involved in a Noah's Ark Festival learning how to use our voice and live more sustainably.
- Engaging with Diocesan links with Zimbabwe: The Croydon area have a strong link with Central Zimbabwe Diocese and for many years been supported by the MU through Rosemary Kempzell. Rosemary has now stood down and Susan Gibbin has picked up the mantle. Many thanks to Rosemary for so many years of service.

## **Having an impact:**

### ***Meeting the needs of families facing injustice and adversity***

Members across the Diocese are also active in wider community outreach projects. Although coordinated at a Diocesan level, it provides a real opportunity for members to connect with the wider mission of Southwark MU.

**Tea @ 2:** Thanks go to Hilary Richardson for coordinating Tea at 2 at the Evelina Children's Hospital. This initiative has now firmly established itself again after COVID with a small but dedicated team of 11 volunteers. During the year Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Trust held an afternoon reception where awards were handed to volunteers for their years of service. Several MU members received awards including Hilary Richardson and Liz Pullen.

**Craft work:** The MU continue to support the Neo Natal Intensive care and other Hospital units by knitting, crocheting and stitching. In Kingston Area members have completed 5 pairs of hats and cardies, 27 octopuses, 15 teddies for tragedies and 4 angel pockets. Also 14 cross' in pockets for adult patients and 3 sets of paired hearts for end-of-life care.

**Prison Links:** Links between Prisons and Southwark MU are also now expanding. The links with Belmarsh continue to be strong, facilitated by Jan Gosling. This includes supporting a family day once a month where feedback from the male prisoners showed they enjoy doing all the craft activities with their children and a new initiative at Belmarsh, called “Father Bonding”, still in its early stages. Links with Wandsworth prison have also developed with MU contributing to the call for woollen hats and socks as well as local initiatives where branches have sent Christmas tags and cards.

**Tea and Talk:** This initiative was set up by Cynthia Smith and continues in South Croydon. The purpose is to support refugee families in the local community. Strong connections have been built and strengthened with examples of generosity. On Mothering Sunday, each mother was given a wrapped rose which they loved. Before Easter, hot cross buns, small chocolate eggs and Easter blessings cards were given. The male leaders also took the men on a walk and some guests attend church.

The active engagement of MU volunteers also provides the opportunity to hear about the realities of living with refugee status. The children are at the local schools with some families making connections with local churches and a toddler group however MU members are well aware of the many problems families face. These have been brought to the attention of Bishop Rosemarie and Bishop Christopher and others in Trinity House who are then able to take action. Cynthia and the other helpers also keep in touch with many families who have moved on.

### ***AFIA (Away from it All) Holidays:***

2023 was extremely busy with 23 families given breaks, twice as many as 2022. Holidays are arranged in a way that meet the needs of the individuals. One family went to a Sykes cottage for a week and other families had 4 nights/ 5 days away near Pagham, West Sussex in a Haven Park. Organisations such as these provide a small amount of charity discount. The average cost of these holidays was just over £600.00.



There was one other family of a very sick little boy who had their holiday held over from last year who did manage to go away this summer, even though the little boy had so sadly died. The family

were really appreciative and all benefited from the break at Butlins.

In total the number of people who have benefited from a holiday this year is 118; 63 adults and 55 children. This is an amazing total and we are grateful to all branches for their continuing fantastic efforts at fundraising for AFIA. Thank you to Sally Steel for organising and managing these holidays.

## **Developing members:**

*In faith, confidence and understanding through*

### ***Faith and Prayer***

Prayer is the bedrock of the Mothers' Union and this is evident in the various events that have taken place at both branch and diocesan level as well as in our participation in national events and programmes.

At branch level members are involved in leading and supporting:

- Mid-day prayers in the Harvard Chapel each month
- Lady Day services: including services held at St Barnabas, Sutton; Addiscombe St Mildred; and St Peter's Norbiton
- Carol services : including one at Holy Trinity, Redhill
- World Day of Prayer with members in Addiscombe joining with other churches in the local community
- Lent and Advent meditations arranged by St Mildreds Addiscombe; Holy Cross, Motspur Park; Tadworth, and Horley
- Talks linking Art and spirituality - Painting God (St Mildreds, Addiscombe); John the Baptist in Art (St Peter's, Norbiton); Spirituality and Christian support (Sanderstead) Icons and reflections on Art, Where Art meets the Sacred, Praying the Labrinth (St Andrew's, Ham).
- Community outreach: Leading services in Care Homes and providing bibles to schools

At a Diocesan and National level, events include:

- Festival service at Southwark Cathedral held on the 15<sup>th</sup> July with Bishop Karowei, Bishop of Woolwich preaching. We also welcomed provincial and diocesan presidents from around the SE, The MU festival choir sang and refreshments were



enjoyed by all after the service. We remember Bishop Karowei who died on the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

- Wave of Prayer which took place at the beginning of September with many Branches participating.
- The retreat at Wychroft in October which was well attended and ably led by Mother Sandra
- The Diocesan Advent service held at St Stephens Vauxhall, led by Canon Stephen Coulson and Bishop Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston
- Prayer network has been led by Olu Akitoye
- General Meeting: Attendance at the service in York Minster.

Grateful thanks are also given to Rev Esther Foss who stood down as Chaplain to Southwark MU in early summer as she had been made Dean of Women's Ministry on the 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### ***Learning and Growing***

It is important that members continue to have the opportunity to learn and grow in understanding about important issues facing us all today. As well as events within local areas and branches a couple of learning events have taken place at a diocesan meeting.

***Peace Circles:*** On Mary Sumner Day, Amina Dikedi and Jane Namurye assisted by Comfort led around 40 members in two introductory sessions of the Peace Circle material developed by Creators of Peace International (CoP). <https://www.creatorsofpeace.org/> .



This is an initiative open to women from all backgrounds, ages and cultures who want to become more empowered, inspired, hopeful and effective in the current global climate. They organise Peace Circles throughout the year across the country and also run regular social events and talks in more than 55 countries including the UK, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia, Kenya, Burundi, Sudan, Cameroon, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. They firmly believe that women can be catalysts for peace in their homes, workplace and community.

***Dementia Health and Wellbeing:*** At the October Diocesan Council Meeting Dr Pallavi Nair, Research associate at Imperial College, gave MU members a presentation aimed at

raising awareness and promoting dialogue about our cognitive health. As society ages, it is clear that dementia becomes an increasingly relevant topic. Dr Nair addressed the risks associated with dementia, early signs, strategies for risk reduction, and paramount importance was given on early detection and prevention. The aim of events such as these are to create a more informed, compassionate, dementia-aware community who practice mindful ageing. This presentation is now being seen in a number of branches and local church communities across the Diocese.

### ***Responding to Gender Based Violence***

**16 days of activism:** Although Gender based violence is a '365 days a year' programme many MU branches in Southwark took the opportunity to promote this more actively during the 16 days of activism at the end of November.

During this period a number of members engaged with the Red Chair project promoted by Restored <https://www.restored-uk.org/partner/cneda/red-chair/>. It involved reserving an empty chair in a public place, alongside information about domestic abuse and violence against women. The empty chair acted as a powerful symbol of the many women who have been killed through gender-based violence - women who should still

#### **Southwark Mothers' Union**



#### **The Red Chair**

Good Shepherd Tadworth, Southwark Cathedral, St John's Caterham Valley, Churchwalk Caterham, Tadworth bench, St Barnabas Sutton, St Mildreds Addiscombe

be with us today. Thanks to those branches who sent in images of their symbols displayed in their churches, church halls, community and at the Cathedral.

Actions during this period also included static displays, prayers and services as well as the distribution of information leaflets. There has been significant impact from this initiative with many more people now aware of the incidence of domestic abuse across our local communities.



At St Barnabas Mitcham they also honoured the lives lost to men's violence with the mark of a white ribbon on the first Sunday following the 25<sup>th</sup> November. This was supported by a floral display, leaflets and a three-minute silence.

**Responding to those in women's Refuges:** There continued to be active engagement by branches, working in their parishes, in providing gifts and equipment to local refuges in Croydon, Sutton and Redhill. Hundreds of items and gifts have been supplied to these vulnerable women and their children.

**RiseUp Campaign:** Mothers' Union nationally launched its campaign against Domestic abuse. Known as RiseUp it stands for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. Materials were circulated to Branches to engage with the programme and work with their churches to take action and apply for the different awards (Bronze, silver and gold).



A number of branches launched their engagement during the 16 days of activism. Branches also used the materials supplied by the MU programme Rise Up against Domestic abuse to provide contact details for those who may be in need. At St Mildreds Addiscombe they also adapted the literature for men.

**Modern Day Slavery:** Training and action related to raising awareness of modern-day slavery continues. A number of MU members have been partnering in Surrey with the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Forum who are striving to find ways of identifying and stopping modern day slavery in the community. This has built stronger connection to be made with other Churches in the local community.

### **Fellowship & Fun**

The Mothers' Union members in Southwark continue to show enormous energy and enthusiasm for arranging events that bring joy and interest to members lives. Examples of this include:

- Keeping connected: It is great to see how branches are keeping in touch with housebound members or in nursing homes by phone and in person.
- Talks for members and the wider church community: Examples include learning about individuals' experiences, their faith and their work as well as from those working in organisations that are reaching out the most vulnerable in our community e.g. AFIA, Action and Outreach, Samaritans, Chaplaincy, Foodbanks. Thanks are sent to all who contributed.
- Community events: Including Coronation parties and supporting 'The Big Help Out'; Quizzes and Anniversary celebrations at St Barnabas, Sutton and Coulsdon, St John's. Where these engage with the wider church community it also offers a great opportunity to promote the work of the MU.
- Being active and creative: By bringing members and others in the local community to participate in events which connect us to the arts brings significant joy and wellbeing. Examples of activities that have taken place includes Upcycling Workshops, Wreath making, Craft afternoons, cardmaking and handicrafts and bags of love, all of which also offer opportunities for fundraising or providing gifts to our more vulnerable members in our community. A new project has been set up by the members in Kingston Area, knitting and crochet blankets for the local Star and Garter Home.
- Outings: MU members have been active in getting out to connect with other members and centres of worship. This includes South Norwood's visit to Rochester Cathedral and the 'Threads through creation' display, a trip to Old Alresford home of Mary Sumner, by St Barnabas, Mitcham and Mortlake and East Sheen's visit to St Bart's Church, Otford. Connecting with other MU members and enjoying the outdoors has also enhanced members wellbeing.
- Celebrating: It has been great to see branches celebrating the legacy of members with long service as well as branch anniversaries. We celebrate in particular the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the branch at St Barnabas Sutton and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at St John's Coulsdon.



## ***Fundraising***

Thanks are given to all branches who continue to be active in fundraising for AFIA, Summer of Hope and the Mothers' Union worldwide. Activities have taken place across the diocese including:

- Sales and stalls: Bring and buy sales; Cake and Mothering Sunday sales; Church event; Bible Object Auction and Craft and artwork sales.
- Entertainment & Refreshment: Quiz nights; Post Christmas festive lunch; Garden parties Afternoon and Strawberry teas; Coffee mornings; Cheese and wine events.



The impact of this has allowed us to maintain our outreach through AFIA, provide grants to branches that are trying new initiatives and support the wider work of the MU.

## Moving forward in 2024

The 2023 theme of *Transformation- in Action!* continues in 2024 as an impetus for us to revisit our Diocesan strategy **Flourishing Together**. In this all our members are called to transform the MU in Southwark so it is recognised as an integral, relevant and visible part of the Church of England's Mission for Prayer, Action and Outreach.

In doing so we will continue to:

- Strengthen our links with Diocesan colleagues – links particularly to the teams focused on tackling social injustice as well as those who lead on communications
- Connect with parishes across the diocese through presentations and attendance at Deanery and Diocesan synods. Using opportunities to connect and promote the work of the organisation as partners in local ministry and mission.
- Continue to promote the work of the MU through fundraising activities and by being present and working with those families who face challenging times here in England e.g., refugees, prisoners, those facing poverty and significant life stresses as well as those overseas.

## Safeguarding

As an organisation concerned with Christian principles and ministry in family life, the nurture and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of Mothers' Union. Both individually as members and collectively as an organisation, Mothers' Union fulfils its duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults,

doing everything possible to ensure that they are safe when involved in Mothers' Union activities.

Safeguarding policies and practices issued by the Anglican Church, and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) charter for the safety of people within the churches of the Anglican Communion are used as the basis for the MU in Southwark. In line with the duties of the Board the trustees have

- reviewed safeguarding policies and procedures at the first meeting of the year.
- completed DBS checks on new Trustees using a DBS service from Thirtyone:eight.
- nominated a member to have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of the Mothers' Union activities across the diocese (Susan Gibbin)
- reviewed the roles in Mothers' Union and ensure that recruitment is in line with good safeguarding practice.

As well as ensuring Trustees are aware of policy and practice, guidance continues to be shared with all members to help establish strong practice at a local level. Strong links are encouraged with local Parish Safeguarding officers and training is made available through the Church of England and Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding teams:

- <http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-events/>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding/training>

## Data Protection

As an organisation the Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union takes its duties under the relevant Data protection legislation seriously. Its actions are guided by Diocesan policy and advice from Mary Sumner House. Work is underway to ensure access to privacy notices are available through the website and in hardcopy. Guidance to role holders has been circulated along with consent forms to be used in line with Diocesan and Central MU advice. The Trustees have made it a priority to maintain good Information Governance practice and provide support to all those responsible for holding personal data.

## Financial Review 2023

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have prepared a statement of accounts for 2023 which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese. Full details can be found in the Annual Accounts.

**Accounting Policies:** The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trustees are responsible in law.

**Financial performance – General and unrestricted funds:** General Funds represent the funds of the Trustees that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Trustees. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the Trustees are also unrestricted. In 2023, £15,000 within the General Funds was held in the designated contingency fund.

In 2023 total income into unrestricted funds was £27,230. Of this income £25,072 was spent from unrestricted funds to support the administration and mission of the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union. The net result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £2,158 on unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds totalling £52,030 were carried forward at 31st December 2023.

### **Financial performance - Restricted Funds**

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

There were restricted donations totalling £43,536 in the year (this includes money sent to MSH which contributes to the leadership, administration and mission of MU worldwide). These are given to support all the various Diocesan and Mothers' Union Central funds (these are set out in the accounts). The total balance of restricted funds at 31st December was £22,167.

**Receipts:** Collections, subscriptions, donations and interest are recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Funds raised through any other sources, including through sales of literature purchased from Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUe) are accounted for gross.

**Payments:** Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

**Reserves Policy:** Reserves are defined as income that becomes available and which is to be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their objects, but which has not yet been spent, committed or designated. The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to allow protection of the core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced strategic planning. Through prudent housekeeping over a number of years, the reserves have been built up to the current level of £36,997 and include a legacy of £26,989 received in 2016.

The Trustee Board budgets and plans its expenditure and intends to maintain reserves that will protect the Charity against income shortfalls. A sum of £15,000 has also been set aside in a designated fund to rent and equip a Diocesan Mothers' Union Office should the present premises become unavailable, and to cover the secretary's salary for 6 months in an emergency.

**Investment Policy:** The Trustees continue to invest in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

## Communication

The Southwark Mothers' Union continues to use a range of tools for communicating with its members and the wider community.

### *Digital tools*

This includes our allocated space on the Southwark Diocesan website where information about the organisation, services, the wave of prayer and projects and publications are posted <https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/mothers-union/>.

There has been a steady flow of visitors, however we are unable to offer a facility for people to ask questions (other than by 'contact us) or add comments.

During the year we had 250 views of our pages, split as follows:

- mothers-union: 95 views
- about-the-mu: 85 views
- mu-prayer: 58 views
- mu-projects: 12 views

There has also been an active use of X (Twitter):

[https://twitter.com/MU\\_Southwark](https://twitter.com/MU_Southwark)

with 292 tweets and 117 followers. There were 797 impressions (where people viewed/took action). These figures have been rising steadily.

The Facebook page continues to be a success - sharing information from the wider MU community - nationally and internationally - as well as events and activities within branches and the Diocese <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnionSouthwarkDiocese> .

During the year, there has been a steady flow of readers with a good proportion using the information in some way – liking, commenting or sharing - Project news is particularly popular as well as 'issues'. We had 521 likes and 560 followers and a vast reach of many thousands.



We also have a You Tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@southwarkmu> which although still early in its development has had 538 views.

Thanks to Margaret Simmons for all she does to keep us connected and online.

## ***Publications***

In addition to our Southwark News (three times a year) which we thank Val Green for editing, we have had a number of articles published in The Bridge. This included articles on the work of the MU in supporting families and our campaigns around Domestic Abuse. The Diocesan team are now also linked into our programme of events.

## **Leadership and Governance**

### ***Leadership in Southwark***

The affairs of the Mothers' Union in the diocese are managed by the Board of Trustees. Under the Diocesan Constitution and Handbook, revised 2005 and regularly reviewed, the Trustees are elected on a triennial basis. The new Trustee Board was appointed for three years from January 2022 and commissioned at the festival service in May. All are thanked for their commitment to the role.

All subscribing members of the MU in the diocese are entitled to vote for the Diocesan President and Unit Co-ordinators. Members from each geographical Area also vote for their own Vice President and two area representatives on the Trustee Board. To date no election has been held due to a lack of candidates and a number of vacancies were held open last year.

The Honorary Treasurer, appointed by the Trustees continues to keep a close eye on the MU's financial governance. Jean Cartwright is thanked for her continued service. In addition to those trustees that represent the branches within the diocese and those that hold unit lead roles there is an opportunity to appoint three additional members on the Board. These individuals are co-opted onto the Trustee Board for the triennial because of their specific skills. In 2023 there were no additional co-opted members on the Board.

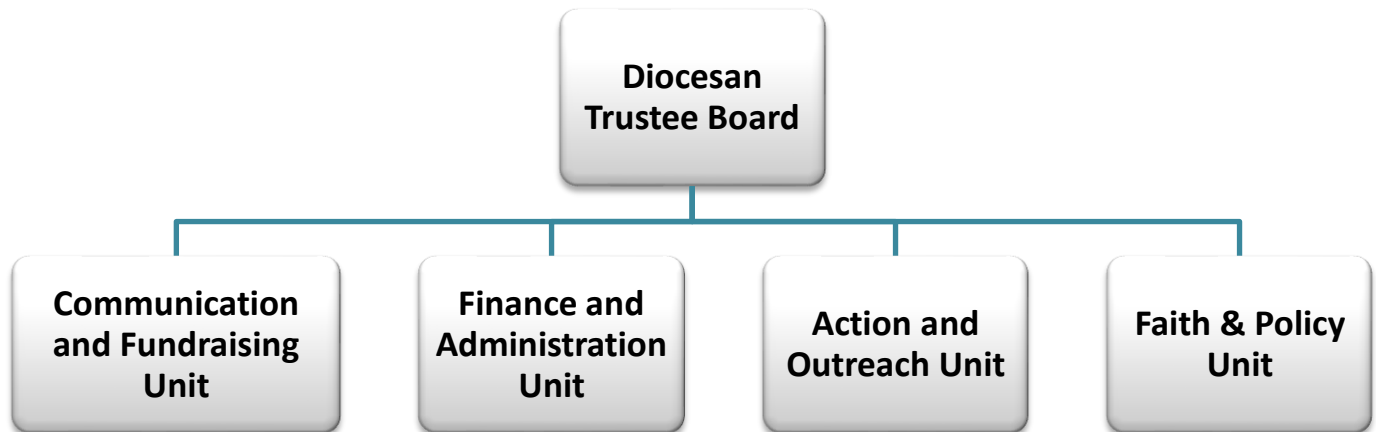
The Diocesan Chaplain is appointed after consultation between the Diocesan Bishop and the Southwark MU President. Also appointed by the Trustee Board are a number of officers listed in Annex 1. The Trustees also employ a part-time secretary, who manages the office and provides administrative support for the Trustee Board.

### ***Governance***

The Trustee Board met five times in 2023 and the Council twice (in addition to the AGM for 2022). During these times meetings were held in person with the opportunity for

some members to join over zoom. Thanks to all those who helped manage the technology.

Within the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union, the work of the four units continue to report to the Trustee Board and to Diocesan Council, coordinating diocesan activity and advising on policy and performance.



In order that Southwark MU is able to connect with and benefit from other members of MU across England as well as worldwide, members of the Board as well as those directly connected to the four units also participate in meetings facilitated by Mary Sumner House. These include, provincial conferences (we are within the Canterbury Province) and Community of Interest Groups. The areas we are engaged with include:

- Finance / Treasurers
- Governance
- Member Directory and Database
- Safeguarding
- AFIA
- Communications
- Prisons
- Craft
- Faith
- Diocesan Chaplains
- Membership
- Metamorphosis
- Policy

In addition, The Mothers' Union (Southwark Diocese) Vice presidents and area representatives of the four geographical areas (Croydon, Kingston, Reigate and Woolwich) continued to link with their deaneries and branches (in line with the Church of England parish and synod structures). The challenges of maintaining branches continues to be difficult. Many members are happy to keep the connection with the MU but unwilling or unable to continue to take on leadership roles locally. Trustees continue to try and support their branch and diocesan members and try to help find new ways to work.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is arranged for July at which meeting the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented to the membership. The AGM is open to all members although voting rights at Diocesan Council are restricted.

### ***Membership / Volunteers***

In 2023, there were 48 branches in the Diocese to which 788 branch members belong, in addition to 44 diocesan members, a total of 822. Although some branches continue to grow, total numbers of members and branches are not yet seeing significant growth.

Enrolments include: Addington, St Mary's (2); South Norwood (3); St Andrew's Ham (2); St Alban South Norwood (5); St James New Malden (3); St Barnabas Sutton (5); Horley (2)

There have also been a number of people who have and continue to give of their time and talents to the MU. We celebrate these individuals and thank them for the service they have given.

We also thank God for the wonderful lives and service to the MU given by our members who have passed away this year.

***Indoor Members*** are also well supported by local Branches as well as the additional support of the Diocesan Indoor member correspondent, Jane Namurye. In 2023, we had 2 new members however, 2 members sadly passed away, 2 moved out of the diocese and 4 were not able to renew their membership.

### ***Member training and development***

During 2023 branches continued to be supported with information, policies and presentations at Council meetings. In March we received a talk on Women's ministry in Southwark by the Revd Canon Anna Eltringham, the then Dean of Women's Ministry who later became the Bishop of Ripon, and in October on Dementia and wellbeing. At the Mary Sumner day event members also experienced a presentation on Peace Circles.

Branch leader meetings with the Diocesan President have continued and have been well represented. In some areas of the Diocese, branches highlighted significant difficulties in securing leadership capacity to develop and grow their membership. As a result of this the branch guide was redesigned. Trustees do their best to keep members updated and informed of MU initiatives, local activities and good practice. This continues to be cascaded down through the work of the communications lead, VPs and area representatives.

### ***Feedback from local Branches***

The engagement of members at branch, deanery and area level is seen through regular reports to trustees as well as in the celebrating the years successes in the Annual Report.

Each provides evidence of the hard work members have continued to do to find new ways of engaging with their local Church and its mission; in promoting the wider role of the MU in supporting families and in offering fellowship and prayer for those in need.

There is much we can be proud of as we all seek to meet the aims, purpose and mission of the MU. It has been wonderful to see the lasting legacy members work has had on families here in the Diocese and worldwide.

## **Administrative Information**

The Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese is under the patronage and sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese. It is affiliated to its parent charity, The Mothers' Union (Reg. Charity No. 240531, headquarters at Mary Sumner House, Westminster), but is an autonomous organisation.

### ***Registered office:***

Mothers' Union Office,  
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,  
Borough High Street,  
London SE1 1HW.

Tel: 020 7939 9459

Email: [mu@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:mu@southwark.anglican.org)

### ***Bank:***

HSBC, 66 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HD

### ***Independent Examiner:***

Mr A J Kett FCA, Little Dolby, Ifield Road, Charlwood, Surrey, RH6 0DR

Trustee Board members are appointed for three years from 1 January 2022. A list of Trustees and other officers can be found in Annex 1.

## **Report Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 1<sup>st</sup> May and signed on their behalf by:



Comfort Idowu-Fearon Diocesan President (Southwark MU)

## **Annex 1**

### **List of Trustees and officers**

#### **Trustees (in post from 1 January 2022)**

Diocesan President	Comfort Idowu-Fearon
Vice President for Croydon	Sally Steele
Vice Presidents for Woolwich	Yemi Ojumu (From April 2023)
Vice President for Reigate	Susan Gibbin
Vice President for Kingston	Wendy Moss
Action and Outreach Unit Coordinator	Sally Steele
Fundraising and Communications Unit Coordinator	Susan Gibbin
Finance and Administration Unit Coordinator	Joy Morrall
Faith and Policy Unit Coordinator	Penny Lohead
Croydon Area Representative	Cathy Brown
Woolwich Area Representative	Roseline Okiti
Reigate Area Representative	Margaret Fitch
Kingston Area Representatives	Ursula Hodges
	Alistair Wharton (from mid-2022)

#### **Attendees (non-voting)**

Hon Treasurer	Jean Cartwright
Diocesan Secretary	Anne Love
Chaplain	Revd Esther Foss
Diocesan Safeguarding lead (co-opted)	Susan Gibbin

#### **Other Officers**

Away From It All (AFIA) Coordinator	Sally Steele
Newsletter Editor	Val Green
Training Officer	Vacancy
Indoor Member Coordinator	Jane Namurye
Social Media lead	Margaret Simmons
Gift Aid coordinator	Ann Squirrell



**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese**  
**Registered Charity Number 249815**

**Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending**  
**31 December 2023**

Prepared by Jean Cartwright, Hon Diocesan Treasurer

Examined by Anthony J Kett, FCA

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese - Registered Charity Number 249815**  
**Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2023**

**Balance Sheet**

<b>2022</b>		<b>2023</b>
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	N/A
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
62,000	CBF Deposit	62,000
8,558	Current Bank Account	11,469
678	High Interest Savings	688
28	Cash in Hand	7
83	MUE Stock	33
0	Debtors	0
9,599	Branch funds	10,920
<b>80,945</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>85,117</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
0	Current Liabilities	0
0	Barclaycard	0
<b>0</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>80,945</b>	<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities:</b>	<b>85,117</b>
	<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	
87,680	Retained Balances	80,945
(6,735)	Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	4,172
<b>80,945</b>	<b>Retained Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>85,117</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2023**

**Consolidated Fund Receipts**

<b>2022</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Diocesan Restricted</b>	<b>MSH Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>MSH Fund Receipts</b>				23,149
18,403	Subscriptions			18,073	
814	Overseas Fund (f)			1,407	
698	Relief Fund (f)			1,668	
25	B&I Development Fund (f)			50	
0	Fabric Fund (f)			0	
1,662	MSH Projects (g)			1,462	
717	MSH General Fund (f)			490	
	<b>Diocesan Fund Receipts</b>				20,387
14,192	AFIA (a)		19,742		
0	Choir		0		
80	SCIP (b)		644.7		
0	Indoor Members (c)		0		
0	Overseas V&V (e)		0		
0	Closed branches (d)		0		
	<b>Unrestricted Fund Receipts</b>				
10,866	Diocesan Subscriptions	10,575			10,575
1,417	Diocesan Donations	6,163			6,163
2,849	Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	3,188			3,188
612	Turnover Related Grant	658			658
	<b>Receipts from Sales</b>				
0	General	0			0
573	MUE Literature	351			351
	<b>Activities</b>				
791	Festival Services	817			817
3,151	Retreat	3,065			3,065
40	Refreshments	32			32
66	General	0			0.00
	<b>Other Receipts</b>				
3	Sundry	0			0
0	Gifts	0			0
0	Special Events	0			0
	<b>Investment Income</b>				
1	High Interest Savings Account	10			10
413	CBF Deposit Account	2,371			2,371
<b>57,373</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>27,230</b>	<b>20,387</b>	<b>23,149</b>	<b>70,766</b>



**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2023**

**Analysed Summary of Fund Movements in Year**

	<b>Balances 31/12/2022</b>	<b>Receipts 2023</b>	<b>Payments 2023</b>	<b>Net Income/ (Expenditure) in Year</b>	<b>Balances 31/12/2023</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
<b>Diocesan Funds</b>					
Away from it All (a)	11,410	19,742	14,646	5,096	16,506
Diocesan Choir	83	0	0	0	83
SCIP (b)	3,270	645	0	645	3,915
Indoor Members (c)	1,681	0	18	(18)	1,663
Closed Branches (d)	286	0	286	(286)	0
Overseas V&V (e)	4,746	0	4,746	(4,746)	0
<b>Total Diocesan Funds</b>	<b>21,475</b>	<b>20,387</b>	<b>19,695</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>22,167</b>
<b>Mary Sumner House Funds</b>					
Central Subscriptions	0	18,073	18,073	0	0
MSH Overseas (f)	0	1,407	1,407	0	0
MSH Relief (f)	0	1,668	1,668	0	0
MSH B&I Dev (f)	0	50	50	0	0
MSH Fabric (f)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Projects (g)	0	1,462	1,462	0	0
MSH General (f)	0	490	490	0	0
<b>Total MSH Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,149</b>	<b>23,149</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>21,475</b>	<b>43,536</b>	<b>42,844</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>22,167</b>
<b>General Diocesan Funds</b>					
General Diocesan Funds	34,789				36,997
Stock	83				33
Current Liabilities	0				0
Contingency (h)	15,000				15,000
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>49,872</b>	<b>27,230</b>	<b>25,072</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>52,030</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>71,347</b>	<b>70,766</b>	<b>67,916</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>74,197</b>
<b>Branch Funds (net)</b>	9,599	46,973	45,651	1,322	10,920
<b>Retained Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>80,945</b>	<b>117,739</b>	<b>113,567</b>	<b>4,172</b>	<b>85,117</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2023**

**Consolidated Branch Analysis**

<b>2022</b>		<b>2023</b>
	<b>Opening Branch Balances @ 1 January brought forward</b>	
10,224	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	7,952
1,379	Cash in Hand	1,646
<b>11,602</b>	<b>Total Branch Balances</b>	<b>9,598.66</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	
13,003	Subs - MSH	12,880
7,361	Subs - Diocese	7,277
1,481	Subs - Branch	1,374
235	Subs - Deanery	274
1,032	Publications - MUE Literature	664
3,907	Donations	4,115
1,076	Teas etc	1,192
690	Collections at Services	801
456	Other Receipts - Sundry	142
19	Other Receipts - Gifts	0
1,839	Other Receipts - Special Events	3,382
12,360	Fund Raising - General	14,326
745	Fund Raising - Boxes	545
0	Bank Interest Received	0
<b>44,204</b>	<b>Total Receipts 2023</b>	<b>46,973</b>
	<b>Payments</b>	
13,167	MSH Subs Payments to Diocese	12,374
7,929	Diocese Subs Payments	6,964
0	Donations	0
959	Publications - MUE Literature	675
13,132	Diocesan Funds	11,407
3,621	MSH Central Funds	5,063
1,774	Branch Projects	2,393
43	MSH Projects	48
242	Meetings - Hall Hire	540
212	Meetings - Speakers' Expenses	291
362	Meetings - Admin	211
168	Meetings - Teas	62
166	Church Service Costs	115
2,543	Special Events Costs	3,259
98	Deanery Subs paid by Branches	136
230	Gifts	84
0	Banners	0
1,108	Sundry Costs	1,570
455	Bank Charges	459
<b>46,208</b>	<b>Total Payments 2023</b>	<b>45,651</b>
<b>9,597.72</b>	<b>Closing Branch Balances @ 31 December</b>	<b>10,920</b>
7,952	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	7,988
1,646	Cash in Hand	2,933

## Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2023

### Notes

1. Employees – no employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

### Funds

- a) Away From It All (AFIA) - provision of holidays for deprived families within Southwark Diocese.
- b) SCIP - supporting children affected by imprisonment (within Southwark Diocese).
- c) Indoor Members - a diocesan fund to support housebound members.
- d) Closed Branches - money held for 10 years according to the diocesan regulations pending branch re-opening, in which case a refund is made to the branch. This fund was closed in 2023 and the funds transferred to the General Fund.
- e) Overseas Visits and Visitors Fund - a diocesan fund for visits to recognised MU links and MU-related gifts and resources. This fund was closed in 2023 and the funds transferred to the General Fund.
- f) Funds administered centrally by Mary Sumner House. These include the Overseas Fund, Relief Fund, Britain and Ireland Development Fund (B&ID Fund) and Fabric Fund. Donations are also sent to the General Fund at Mary Sumner House to be used when needed.
- g) MSH Projects. Fundraising launched or continued by Mary Sumner House during the year. Some branches sent money directly to Mary Sumner House; others sent donations via the diocesan accounts. The amount sent in 2023 was £1,461.50 for the following projects:

£624.50	Make a Mother's Day
£827.00	Summer of Hope Appeal
£ 10.00	Christmas Appeal

### Contingency

- h) Money held under the agreed reserves policy to cover rent of office etc in an emergency.

Little Dolby  
Ifield Road  
Charlwood  
Surrey  
RH6 0DR

The Trustees  
Mothers' Union – Southwark Diocese  
Mothers' Union Office  
Trinity House  
Chapel Court  
Borough High Street  
London SE1 1HW

6 September 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO TRUSTEES,  
MOTHERS' UNION SOUTHWARK DIOCESE**

I report on the accounts of the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese (Charity no. 249815) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner**

As trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese 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 I 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 130 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Anthony J Kett FCA**

**THE MOTHERS' UNION (SOUTHWARK DIOCESE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 249815

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# Accounts

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# Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union

## Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2022

### Vision

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue by praying, campaigning and enabling.

### Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

### Values

We are firmly rooted in voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration. Our governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide. We are inclusive and work with people of all faiths and none.

### Aim

The Aim of the Mothers' Union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In particular we aim to:

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

## Objectives and Activities

Together with members across the world, our objectives are:

- **Strengthen** communities all over the world
- **Help** the most disadvantaged at home
- **Shape** how we advocate for the rights of families
- **Build** supportive, loving relationships
- **Develop** our own relationship with God.

## Achievements & Challenges

The MU theme in 2022 has been *Transformation – Now!* This has been fundamental to how we have driven forward our Strategy *Flourishing together*.

### Connecting with the Church Mission:

#### *Strengthening our role within the wider church community*

The MU continues to play a big part in the mission of their local church. This includes active roles in worship as well as outreach. Examples of engagement in worship events includes:

- Distributing crafted paper flowers with an “eco” flavour. The leaves of the flowers were “decorated” with a packet of seeds plus a bible verse, at the Mothering Day service at Christ Church Purley
- MU members providing mulled wine and mince pies and a warm space as a place of respite in support of a Live Nativity at Christ Church Purley with a donkey, (Pedro), support cast, narrative and carol singing.
- Members helping to make the poppy display in church at St Paul’s Hook
- Leading one of the monthly Sunday services focused on Mission partners with a focus on AFIA (South Norwood)
- Leading a service for Mary Sumner day (Caterham St John’s).
- Leading Mothering Sunday worship including the sermon, and organising the local Ecumenical World Day of Prayer service in Sanderstead. Both were live streamed and can be viewed on YouTube.



The Church Mission and that of the MU has much in common and reaching out to those in need and to support children and families to flourish is a key focus for both. Examples of joint activity during 2022 includes

- Involvement in the baby and toddler group called “Carousel” as part of the Church’s Outreach at Christ Church Purley
- Responding to the war in Ukraine by providing a home for a Ukrainian family in the local area in Sanderstead
- Distributing Angels in the community in Horley
- Making 12 loaves of sandwiches every Friday during the winter and delivering them to Nightwatch in Croydon (South Norwood)

Other events where members have a key part to play include:

- Supporting an exhibition of the history of St Mark’s South Norwood with MU members sourcing gifts to sell.
- Arranging easter events with crafts, activities games and refreshments for mother and toddler group in Purley and Church and Baptism families in Caterham.



## Having an impact:

### *Meeting the needs of families facing injustice and adversity*



**Tea @ 2** (previously Tea@3) started back in the autumn with 9 volunteers. The team continue to provide a relaxed space and listening ear for the parents of the tiny babies being cared for at the Evelina unit whilst offering tea and

home-made cakes in the parent’s room.

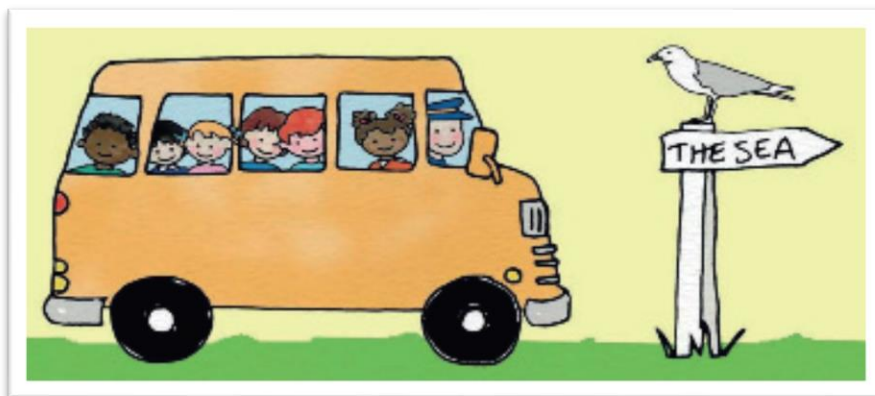
**Prison Links:** Belmarsh Prison Visitor Centre continues to be supported by Jan Gosling and although the Trustees continue to offer funds to support activities with the children there is more that could still be done to encourage links to all the Prisons in our diocese. At



Christmas members from Horley made Christmas tree decorations for Wandsworth Prison. Members are also making woollen hats for prisoners, now a Diocesan wide initiative.

**Tea and Talk** initiated by Cynthia Smith continues in South Croydon. Although the group is small the impact has been enormous for those who have been able to engage. The support has been so strong that connections have been maintained with a family who had to move away whilst waiting for asylum. The MU has also provided funds for Christmas presents for the families.

**AFIA** continues to be a jewel in the crown of our outreach work. Over the year 38 adults, and 46 children have benefited from the money spent (totalling nearly £14,000). This has included holidays and day trips; with accommodation in Bed and Breakfast hotels and Combe Haven caravan park. This could not continue without the support of MU funding and the willingness of organisations to be flexible to the needs of our families. One family who had never had a holiday sought our help. They have a child with a life-limiting condition who needs round the clock care. As such the venue needs to accommodate the day nurse and the night nurse and 8 members of the family. Butlins were very good in finding suitable accommodation even though it was expensive. Sadly, the child was



admitted to hospital so the family were unable to get away but Butlins gave us the option to save the total amount of money until next year or the year after, to hopefully enable the family to get away in the future. We are grateful to the flexibility of all the providers

used and for their willingness to provide discounts where possible. In providing the funding for 12 adults and 12 children from a local women's refuge to enjoy a day trip to Butlins at Bognor Regis, we received a 25% discount on the entrance fee.

### ***Responding to Gender Based Violence***

For many years now we have had a focus on Gender Based Violence in particular raising its profile during the 16 days of activism at the end of November. However, for many this is not a once-a-year focus. Many branches continue to look at ways throughout the year through prayer, campaigning and action. This includes collections for women's refuges in Sutton (St Dunstan's Cheam supported by other Branches in the Deanery) Croydon (St Mildred's Addiscombe) and in Horley. In each case



members continue to collect gifts from their communities for the women, all of which are really appreciated.



In order to raise awareness of the issues facing women as well as other vulnerable groups in our community, a number of members attended an event on the 26th November at Southwark Cathedral. The focus was Modern-Day Slavery and was organised by the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus. There was the opportunity to hear from other organisations also working to eradicate this scourge on society. Following on

from the event, a course designed by the Clewer initiative is being rolled out across Reigate to bring churches together to plan for action. The MU members in the area are key players in this partnership.

## **Developing members:**

### ***Faith and Prayer***

We have continued to meet and pray and engage with our programme of monthly Cathedral Prayers, Lady Day, Festival and Advent services, Quiet days, Wave of Prayer and our Prayer Chain. These events have taken place across the Diocese and within branches. There has been links with World Day of Prayer, vigils for peace in Ukraine and involvement with 'Thy Kingdom Come'. These included recordings of Hymns sung by members of the MU from St Mildred's Choir Addiscombe.

Thanks, are given to the Revd Esther Foss who led our Lent and our Mary Sumner Quiet Days and to the Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon for Reigate who led the retreat at Wychcroft.

### ***Learning more about social injustice***

Other events that took place in 2022 included talks focusing on

- Refugees: our Neighbours. With a talk from the Croydon Refugee Day Centre (Christ Church Purley).
- The Resilience of Older people (St Barnabas Mitcham).
- Gender Dysphoria: a personal reflection (St John's Caterham)
- 'A Day in the Life of East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service' (Tandridge and Reigate)



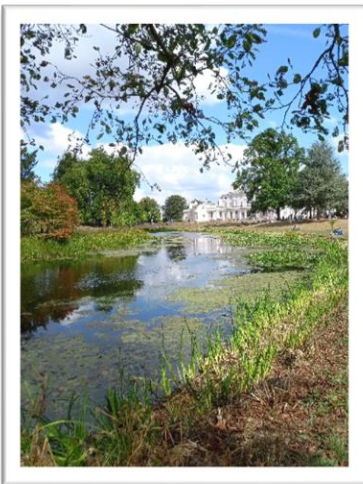
- Clewer Initiative Lent course 'Children in the Shadows' highlighting problems of domestic abuse (Addiscombe, St Mary Magdalene with St Martin's)
- Christians against poverty (St Paul's Hook)

### **Fellowship & Fundraising**

The Mothers' Union members in Southwark continue to show enormous energy and enthusiasm for arranging events that bring joy and interest to members lives. Examples of this include:



- Programmes included talks from members about their experiences, talks about features in church such as stained-glass windows as well as time to explore crafts, painting in Horley and Christmas Wreaths in Gipsy Hill



- There were numerous celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee including tea parties at St Peters Norbiton, St Marys Addington, St Barnabas Sutton and Christ Church Purley, Good Shepherd Tadworth.
- Anniversary celebrations including 120 years of the MU in Caterham
- Days out including visit to Frogmore House as it opened its doors to MU members. Enjoyed by members from Tandridge and Croydon

Fundraising continues to be an important focus for branches across the deanery. Many of the events above also held opportunities to fund raise including:

- Talks on AFIA at a local church afternoon tea (Caterham)
- Garden parties and cake sales in Addiscombe
- St Matthew's Redhill receiving support from their PCC to fund AFIA as their nominated charity.



## ***Developing leaders***

During 2022 the Trustees published a new branch guide. This includes:

- Our duties as part of a charity and some useful guidance including ways to manage branch meetings as well as the AGM
- Roles and responsibilities how to share the load of administration
- Planning programmes and ways to look at this differently
- Resources and contacts

Trustees are also working closely with MSH to disseminate tools and techniques which can be used to transform the way we operate.

## **Growing the MU Community:** *Inspiring others and showing the relevance of the MU*

As Branch membership in particular continues to drop there is a greater urgency to consider how the MU can build its community which may mean operating differently.

### ***Promoting the MU more widely***

The Southwark MU strategy '*Flourishing Together*' is only going to be successful if we can reach out and demonstrate the relevance of the MU. In response to this we spent the year looking at new ways in which we could do more to promote our mission and build alliances with others.

During the year members had a presence at the Southwark Conference where we were able to distribute literature and talk to priests from all over the Diocese about the work of the MU as well as the benefits of members in their parishes. It also gave members an opportunity to hear from and connect with organisations which have a common mission.

Since that event a folder has been designed to contain MU literature. The aim is for this to be filled with information and shared not only with all the parishes but also those priests in training. Literature is a good first step but this will only have an impact if supported by relationships with these people.

It is clear that the MU needs to show the tangible impact it has on supporting families at home and overseas. One way this has been achieved is in taking our campaigning out into the world around us. In response to the 'No More 1-in-3' campaign a number of members have taken the opportunity to raise awareness through public visual displays of support for action, in town centres, in their churches and through connections with other



organisations e.g. the use of promotional material used at Church events (Horley Christmas fair) and services (included in the intercessions at main services)

On the 25<sup>th</sup> November at the Modern-Day Slavery event mentioned above, the MU led more than 25 people in the MU Global Event for no more 1-in-3 with a three-minute silence at 1.03pm followed by prayers in the grounds of the Cathedral.



## Moving forward in 2023

The 2022 theme of *Transformation- Now!* continues in 2023 and continues to be an impetus for us to drive forward the Diocesan strategy ***Flourishing Together***. In this all our members are called to transform the MU in Southwark so it is recognised as an integral, relevant and visible part of the Church of England's Mission for Prayer, Action and Outreach.

In doing so we will continue to:

- Strengthen our links with Diocesan colleagues – links particularly to the Communications team with articles in the Bridge and invitations to MU events.
- Explore the impact of The Archbishops' commission on Families and Households '*Love Matters*' and strengthen our Diocesan links with Zimbabwe.
- Connect with parishes across the diocese through the circulation of briefing packs as well as presentations and attendance at Deanery and Diocesan synod. Using opportunities to connect and promote the work of the organisation as partners in local ministry and mission.
- Continue to promote the work of the MU through fundraising activities and by being present and working with those families who face challenging times here in England e.g., refugees, prisoners, those facing poverty and significant life stresses as well as those overseas.

## Safeguarding

As an organisation concerned with Christian principles and ministry in family life, the nurture and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of Mothers' Union. Both individually as members and collectively as an organisation, Mothers' Union fulfils its duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults,

doing everything possible to ensure that they are safe when involved in Mothers' Union activities.

Safeguarding policies and practices issued by the Anglican Church, and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) charter for the safety of people within the churches of the Anglican Communion are used as the basis for the MU in Southwark. In line with the duties of the Board the trustees have

- reviewed safeguarding policies and procedures at the first meeting of the year.
- completed DBS checks on new Trustees. This year we commissioned a DBS service from Thirtyone:eight.
- nominated a member to have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of the Mothers' Union activities across the diocese (Susan Gibbin)
- reviewed the roles in Mothers' Union and ensure that recruitment is in line with good safeguarding practice.

As well as ensuring Trustees are aware of policy and practice, guidance continues to be shared with all members to help establish strong practice at a local level. Strong links are encouraged with local Parish Safeguarding officers and training is made available through the Church of England and Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding teams:

- <http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-events/>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding/training>

## Data Protection

As an organisation the Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union takes its duties under the relevant Data protection legislation seriously. Its actions are guided by Diocesan policy and advice from Mary Sumner House. Work is underway to ensure access to privacy notices are available through the website and in hardcopy. Guidance to role holders has been circulated along with consent forms to be used in line with Diocesan and Central MU advice. The Trustees have made it a priority to maintain good Information Governance practice and provide support to all those responsible for holding personal data.

## Financial Review 2022

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have prepared a statement of accounts for 2022 which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese. Full details can be found in the Annual Accounts.

**Accounting Policies:** The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trustees are responsible in law.

**Financial performance – General and unrestricted funds:** General Funds represent the funds of the Trustees that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Trustees. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the Trustees are also unrestricted. In 2022, £15,000 within the General Funds was held in the designated contingency fund.

In 2022 total income into unrestricted funds was £20,782. Of this income £26,296 was spent from unrestricted funds to support the administration and mission of the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union. The net result however for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £5,514 on unrestricted funds. This was managed through the use of reserves which totalled £40,303 at the beginning of 2022. Unrestricted funds totalling £49,858 were carried forward at 31st December 2022.

**Financial performance - Restricted Funds:** Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

There were restricted donations totalling £36,590 in the year (this includes money sent to MSH which contributes to the leadership, administration and mission of MU worldwide). These are given to support all the various Diocesan and Mothers' Union Central funds (these are set out in the accounts). The total balance of restricted funds at 31st December was £21,475.

**Receipts:** Collections, subscriptions, donations and interest are recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Funds raised through any other sources, including through sales of literature purchased from Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUe) are accounted for gross.

**Payments:** Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

**Reserves Policy:** Reserves are defined as income that becomes available and which is to be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their objects, but which has not yet been spent, committed or designated. The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to allow protection of the core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced strategic planning. Through prudent housekeeping over a number of years, the reserves have been built up to the current level and include a legacy of £26,989 received in 2016.

The Trustee Board budgets and plans its expenditure and intends to maintain reserves that will protect the Charity against income shortfalls. A sum of £15,000 has also been set aside in a designated fund to rent and equip a Diocesan Mothers' Union Office should the present premises become unavailable, and to cover the secretary's salary for 6 months in an emergency.

**Investment Policy:** The Trustees continue to invest in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

## Communication

The Southwark Mothers' Union continues to use a range of tools for communicating with its members and the wider community.

### **Digital tools**

This includes our allocated space on the Southwark **Diocesan website** where information about the organisation, services, the wave of prayer and projects and publications are posted. <https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/mothers-union/>. There has been a steady flow of visitors however we are unable to offer a facility for people to ask questions (other than by 'contact us) or add comment. During the year we had about 301 visits to our pages with the about us and prayer pages being the most popular.

There has also been an active use of **Twitter** [https://twitter.com/MU\\_Southwark](https://twitter.com/MU_Southwark) with 806 tweets and 106 followers. There were 1443 impressions and 223 engagements (where people took action). These figures have been rising steadily.

The **Facebook** page continues to be a success - sharing information from the wider MU community - nationally and internationally - as well as events and activities within branches and the Diocese. <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnionSouthwarkDiocese> During the year There has been a steady flow of readers with a good proportion using the info in some way – liking, commenting or sharing - Project news is particularly popular as well as 'issues.' We have 410 followers and a reach of about 3376. This is much bigger than previous years.

Although early days we have also been exploring the opportunity to post our own content on **YouTube**.

Thanks to Margaret Simmons for all she does to keep us connected and online.

### **Publications**

In addition to our Southwark News (three times a year) which we thank Val Green for editing. We have also been exploring how we can promote the MU more widely and have built up a strengthened link with communication colleagues at the Diocese. Articles from the MU are now a key contributor to the Bridge and the Diocesan team are now linked into our programme of events.



# Leadership and Governance

## *Leadership in Southwark*

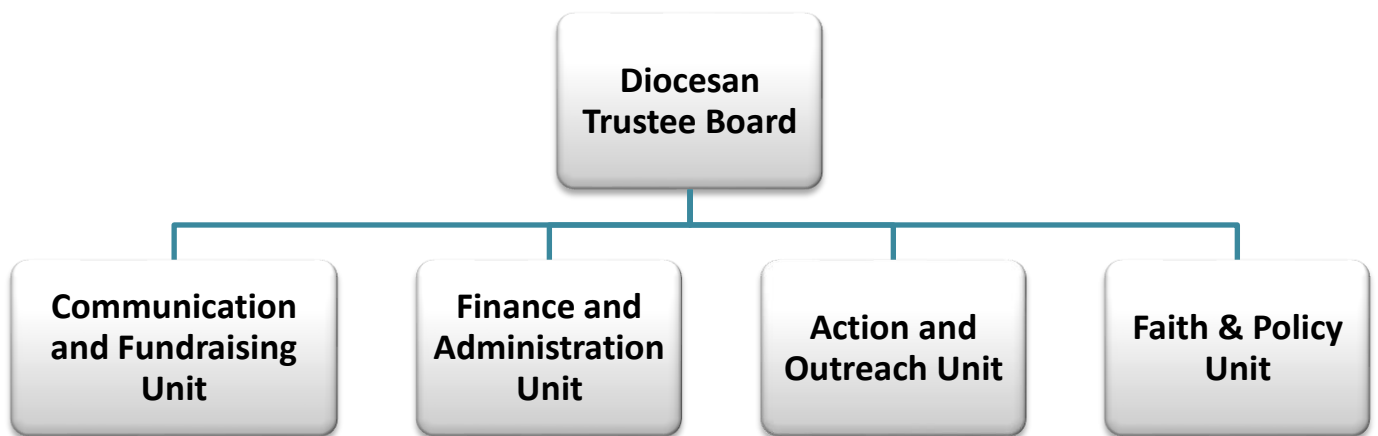
The affairs of the Mothers’ Union in the diocese are managed by the Board of Trustees. Under the Diocesan Constitution and Handbook, revised 2005 and regularly reviewed, the Trustees are elected on a triennial basis. The new Trustee Board was appointed for three years from January 2022 and commissioned at the festival service in May. All are thanked for their commitment to the role.

All subscribing members of the MU in the diocese are entitled to vote for the Diocesan President and Unit Co-ordinators. Members from each geographical Area also vote for their own Vice President and two area representatives on the Trustee Board. To date no election has been held due to a lack of candidates and a number of vacancies were held open last year.

The Honorary Treasurer, appointed by the Trustees continues to keep a close eye on the MU’s financial governance. Jean Cartwright is thanked for her continued service. In addition to those trustees that represent the branches within the diocese and those that hold unit lead roles there is an opportunity to appoint three additional members on the Board. These individuals are co-opted onto the Trustee Board for the triennial because of their specific skills. In 2022 there were no additional co-opted members on the Board.

The Diocesan Chaplain (Revd Esther Foss) is appointed after consultation between the Diocesan Bishop and the Southwark MU President. Also appointed by the Trustee Board are a number of officers listed in Annex 1. The Trustees also employ a part-time secretary, who manages the office and provides administrative support for the Trustee Board.

## *Governance*



The Trustee Board met five times in 2022 and the Council twice (in addition to the AGM for 2021). During these times meetings were held in person with the opportunity for some members to join over zoom. Thanks to all those who helped manage the technology.

Within the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union, the work of the four units continue to report to the Trustee Board and to Diocesan Council, coordinating diocesan activity and advising on policy and performance.

In order that Southwark MU is able to connect with and benefit from other members of MU across England as well as worldwide, members of the Board as well as those directly connected to the four units also participate in meetings facilitated by Mary Sumner House. These include, provincial conferences (we are within the Canterbury Province) and Community of Interest Groups. The areas we are engaged with include:

- Finance / Treasurers
- Governance
- Member Directory and Database
- Safeguarding
- AFIA
- Communications
- Prisons
- Craft
- Faith
- Diocesan Chaplains
- Membership
- Metamorphosis
- Policy

In addition, The Mothers' Union (Southwark Diocese) Vice presidents and area representatives of the four geographical areas (Croydon, Kingston, Reigate and Woolwich) continued to link with their deaneries and branches (in line with the Church of England parish and synod structures). The challenges of maintaining branches continues to be difficult. Many members are happy to keep the connection with the MU but unwilling or unable to continue to take on leadership roles locally. Trustees continue to try and support their branch and diocesan members and try to help find new ways to work.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is arranged for July at which meeting the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented to the membership. The AGM is open to all members although voting rights at Diocesan Council are restricted.

### ***Membership / Volunteers***

In 2022, there were 53 branches in the Diocese to which 1031 branch members belong, in addition to 38 diocesan members, a total of 1069. Although some branches continue to grow, total numbers of members and branches are sadly falling.

There have also been a number of people who have and continue to give of their time and talents to the MU. We celebrate these individuals and thank them for the service they have given.

***Indoor Members*** are also well supported by local Branches as well as the additional support of the Diocesan Indoor member correspondent. Olu Akitoye led this work until April and we thank her for all she has done. We also welcome Jane Namurye who has taken over the role. In 2022, we had 1 new member however, 6 members sadly passed away and 1 moved out of the diocese.

## ***Member training and development***

During 2022 branches continued to be supported with information, policies and presentations at Council meetings. In March we received a talk on Spiritual gifts by the Revd Stanley Njoka and in October 2 we celebrated and shared our experiences during the Platinum Jubilee and also watched a video presentation by Alison Fernandes on Bitesize Metamorphosis. There was also a presentation after the AGM by Peter Graystone, the Southwark Diocesan Lay Training Officer.

Branch leader meetings with the Diocesan President have continued and have been well represented. A programme of more formal training events to support officers was not possible in 2022. It is unclear how these might be progressed and further discussions are necessary as we do not have a designated training officer.

In some areas of the Diocese, branches highlighted significant difficulties in securing leadership capacity to develop and grow their membership. As a result of this the branch guide was redesigned. Trustees do their best to keep members updated and informed of MU initiatives, local activities and good practice. This continues to be cascaded down through the work of the communications lead, VPs and area representatives.

## ***Feedback from local Branches***

The engagement of members at branch, deanery and area level is seen through regular reports to trustees as well as in the celebrating the years successes in the Annual Report. Each provides evidence of the hard work members have continued to do to find new ways of engaging with their local Church and its mission; in promoting the wider role of the MU in supporting families and in offering fellowship and prayer for those in need.

There is much we can be proud of as we all seek to meet the aims, purpose and mission of the MU. It has been wonderful to see the lasting legacy members work has had on families here in the Diocese and worldwide.

## **Administrative Information**

The Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese is under the patronage and sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese. It is affiliated to its parent charity, The Mothers' Union (Reg. Charity No. 240531, headquarters at Mary Sumner House, Westminster), but is an autonomous organisation.

### ***Registered office:***

Mothers' Union Office,  
Trinity House,  
4 Chapel Court,  
Borough High Street,  
London SE1 1HW.  
Tel: 020 7939 9459  
Email: [mu@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:mu@southwark.anglican.org)

### ***Bank:***

HSBC, 66 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HD

### ***Independent Examiner:***

Mr A J Kett FCA, Little Dolby, Ifield Road, Charlwood, Surrey, RH6 0DR

Trustee Board members are appointed for three years from 1 January 2022. A list of Trustees and other officers can be found in Annex 1.

## **Report Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Comfort Idowu-Fearon

Diocesan President (Southwark MU)

## **Annex 1**

### **List of Trustees and officers**

#### **Trustees (appointed from 1 January 2022)**

Diocesan President	Comfort Idowu-Fearon
Vice President for Croydon	Sally Steele
Vice Presidents for Woolwich	Vacancy
Vice President for Reigate	Susan Gibbin
Vice President for Kingston	Wendy Moss
Action and Outreach Unit Coordinator	Sally Steele
Fundraising and Communications Unit Coordinator	Susan Gibbin with Margaret Simmons
Finance and Administration Unit Coordinator	Joy Morrall
Faith and Policy Unit Coordinator	Penny Lohead
Croydon Area Representative	Cathy Brown
Woolwich Area Representative	Roseline Okiti
Reigate Area Representative	Margaret Fitch
Kingston Area Representatives	Ursula Hodges
	Alistair Wharton (from mid-2022)

#### **Attendees (non-voting)**

Hon Treasurer	Jean Cartwright
Diocesan Secretary	Anne Love
Chaplain	Revd Esther Foss
Diocesan Safeguarding lead (co-opted)	Susan Gibbin (Also Trustee)

#### **Other Officers**

Away From It All (AFIA) Coordinator	Sally Steele
Newsletter Editor	Val Green
Training Officer	Vacancy
Indoor Member Coordinator	Olu Akitoye (Up to April 2022)
	Jane Namurye (From April 2022)
Gift Aid coordinator	Ann Squirrell



**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese**  
**Registered Charity Number 249815**

**Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending**  
**31 December 2022**

Prepared by Jean Cartwright, Hon Diocesan Treasurer

Examined by Anthony J Kett, FCA

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese - Registered Charity Number 249815  
Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2022**

**Balance Sheet**

<b>2021</b>		<b>2022</b>
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	N/A
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
62,000	CBF Deposit	62,000
13,307	Current Bank Account	8,558
676	High Interest Savings	678
25	Cash in Hand	28
69	MUE Stock	83
0	Debtors	0
11,602	Branch funds	9,599
<b>87,680</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>80,945</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
0	Current Liabilities	0
0	Barclaycard	0
<b>0</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>87,680</b>	<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities:</b>	<b>80,945</b>
	<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	
97,144	Retained Balances	87,680
(9,464.00)	Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	(6,735)
<b>87,680</b>	<b>Retained Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>80,945</b>

## Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2022

### Consolidated Fund Receipts

2021		Unrestricted Funds	Diocesan Restricted	MSH Restricted	Total
	<b>MSH Fund Receipts</b>				22,318
20,688	Subscriptions			18,403	
1,358	Overseas Fund (f)			814	
997	Relief Fund (f)			698	
10	B&I Development Fund (f)			25	
0	Fabric Fund (f)			0	
3,800	MSH Projects (g)			1,662	
1,272	MSH General Fund (f)			717	
	<b>Diocesan Fund Receipts</b>				14,272
9,215	AFIA (a)		14,192		
0	Choir		0		
55	SCIP (b)		80		
0	Indoor Members (c)		0		
0	Overseas V&V (e)		0		
0	Closed branches (d)		0		
	<b>Unrestricted Fund Receipts</b>				
10,371	Diocesan Subscriptions	10,866			10,866
1,138	Diocesan Donations	1,417			1,417
2,962	Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	2,849			2,849
753	Turnover Related Grant	612			612
	<b>Receipts from Sales</b>				
10	General	0			0
3,793	MUE Literature	573			573
	<b>Activities</b>				
803	Festival Services	791			791
3,060	Retreat	3,151			3,151
37	Refreshments	40			40
0	General	66			66
	<b>Other Receipts</b>				
0	Sundry	3			3
0	Gifts	0			0
0	Special Events	0			0
	<b>Investment Income</b>				
0	High Interest Savings Account	1			1
76	CBF Deposit Account	413			413
<b>60,397</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>20,782</b>	<b>14,272</b>	<b>22,318</b>	<b>57,373</b>



**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2022**

**Analysed Summary of Fund Movements in Year**

	<b>Balances 31/12/2021</b>	<b>Receipts 2022</b>	<b>Payments 2022</b>	<b>Net Income/ (Expenditure) in Year</b>	<b>Balances 31/12/2022</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
<b>Diocesan Funds</b>					
Away from it All (a)	10,702	14,192	13,484	707	11,410
Diocesan Choir	83	0	0	0	83
SCIP (b)	3,190	80	0	80	3,270
Indoor Members (c)	1,700	0	19	(19)	1,681
Closed Branches (d)	286	0	0	0	286
Overseas V&V (e)	4,746	0	0	0	4,746
<b>Total Diocesan Funds</b>	<b>20,707</b>	<b>14,272</b>	<b>13,504</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>21,475</b>
<b>Mary Sumner House Funds</b>					
Central Subscriptions	0	18,403	18,403	0	0
MSH Overseas (f)	0	814	814	0	0
MSH Relief (f)	0	698	698	0	0
MSH B&I Dev (f)	0	25	25	0	0
MSH Fabric (f)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Projects (g)	0	1,662	1,662	0	0
MSH General (f)	0	717	717	0	0
<b>Total MSH Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,318</b>	<b>22,318</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>20,707</b>	<b>36,590</b>	<b>35,822</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>21,475</b>
<b>General Diocesan Funds</b>	40,303				34,761
Stock	69				83
Current Liabilities	0				0
Contingency (h)	15,000				15,000
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>55,372</b>	<b>20,782</b>	<b>26,282</b>	<b>(5,500)</b>	<b>49,872</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>76,078</b>	<b>57,373</b>	<b>62,104</b>	<b>(4,731)</b>	<b>71,347</b>
<b>Branch Funds (net)</b>	11,602	44,204	46,207	(2,004)	9,599
<b>Retained Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>87,680</b>	<b>101,577</b>	<b>108,312</b>	<b>(6,735)</b>	<b>80,945</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2022**

**Consolidated Branch Analysis**

<b>2021</b>		<b>2022</b>
	<b>Opening Branch Balances @ 1 January brought forward</b>	
9,275	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	10,224
1,525	Cash in Hand	1,379
<b>10,800</b>	<b>Total Branch Balances</b>	<b>11,602</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	
19,144	Subs - MSH	13,003
9,427	Subs - Diocese	7,361
1,805	Subs - Branch	1,481
272	Subs - Deanery	235
637	Publications - MUE Literature	1,032
3,318	Donations	3,907
481	Teas etc	1,076
837	Collections at Services	690
0	MU Speakers	0
148	Other Receipts - Sundry	456
30	Other Receipts - Gifts	19
2,315	Other Receipts - Special Events	1,839
9,093	Fund Raising - General	12,360
581	Fund Raising - Boxes	745
2	Bank Interest Received	0
<b>48,089</b>	<b>Total Receipts 2022</b>	<b>44,204</b>
	<b>Payments</b>	
19,383	MSH Subs Payments to Diocese	13,167
9,572	Diocese Subs Payments	7,929
0	Donations	0
673	Publications - MUE Literature	959
6,171	Diocesan Funds	13,132
6,313	MSH Central Funds	3,621
1,253	Branch Projects	1,774
670	MSH Projects	43
205	Meetings - Hall Hire	242
183	Meetings - Speaker's Expenses	212
343	Meetings - Admin	362
28	Meetings - Teas	168
287	Church Service Costs	166
1,843	Special Events Costs	2,543
134	Deanery Subs paid by Branches	98
136	Gifts	230
0	Banners	0
73	Sundry Costs	1,108
20	Bank Charges	455
<b>47,286</b>	<b>Total Payments 2022</b>	<b>46,207</b>
<b>11,602</b>	<b>Closing Branch Balances @ 31 December</b>	<b>9,599</b>
10,224	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	7,952
1,379	Cash in Hand	1,646

## Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2022

### Notes

1. Employees – no employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

### Funds

- a) Away From It All (AFIA) - provision of holidays for deprived families within Southwark Diocese.
- b) SCIP - supporting children affected by imprisonment (within Southwark Diocese).
- c) Indoor Members - a diocesan fund to support housebound members.
- d) Closed Branches - money held for 10 years according to the diocesan regulations pending branch re-opening, in which case a refund is made to the branch. If the branch has not re-opened after 10 years, money is taken into the General Fund. In 2022 no money was transferred into the General Fund.
- e) Overseas Visits and Visitors Fund - a diocesan fund for visits to recognised MU links and MU-related gifts and resources.
- f) Funds administered centrally by Mary Sumner House. These include the Overseas Fund, Relief Fund, Britain and Ireland Development Fund (B&ID Fund) and Fabric Fund. Donations are also sent to the General Fund at Mary Sumner House to be used when needed.
- g) MSH Projects. The number of fundraising initiatives launched or continued by Mary Sumner House during the year were still affected by the pandemic. Some branches sent money directly to Mary Sumner House; others sent donations via the diocesan accounts. The amount sent in 2022 was £1,661.50 for the following projects:
  - £ 272.00 Make a Mother's Day
  - £1289.50 Summer of Hope Appeal
  - £ 100.00 Christmas Appeal

### Contingency

- h) Money held under the agreed reserves policy to cover rent of office etc in an emergency.

Little Dolby  
Ifield Road  
Charlwood  
Surrey  
RH6 0DR

The Trustees  
Mothers' Union – Southwark Diocese  
Mothers' Union Office  
Trinity House  
Chapel Court  
Borough High Street  
London SE1 1HW

25 September 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO TRUSTEES,  
MOTHERS' UNION SOUTHWARK DIOCESE**

I report on the accounts of the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese (Charity no. 249815) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner**

As trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese 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 I 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 130 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
  
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
**Anthony J Kett FCA**

**THE MOTHERS' UNION (SOUTHWARK DIOCESE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 249815

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# Accounts

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# Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union

## Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2021

### Vision

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue by praying, campaigning and enabling.

### Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

### Values

We are firmly rooted in voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration. Our governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide. We are inclusive and work with people of all faiths and none.

### Aim

The Aim of the Mothers' Union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In particular we aim to:

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

## Objectives and Activities

Together with members across the world, our objectives are:

- **Strengthen** communities all over the world
- **Help** the most disadvantaged at home
- **Shape** how we advocate for the rights of families
- **Build** supportive, loving relationships
- **Develop** our own relationship with God.

## Achievements & Challenges

The MU theme in 2021 has been ***Rebuilding hope and confidence***: To consider how we might achieve this and to support us for the next three years the Trustees agreed to develop a strategy for the Mothers' Union in Southwark. This strategy has been to help us to respond more effectively to our Aim and Objects and focuses on how we might flourish together.

### Strengthening communities all over the world

The Mothers' Union across Southwark continues to be active in raising funds for community development, emergency relief and support for the MU worldwide.

In spite of the challenges facing local branches a significant number of members were involved in fundraising for:

- ***Summer of Hope appeal***: A number of members braved the parks and paths locally by taking part in either a 5 km or 4 1.25 km walks during August (Horley, Grove Park, St Mark's Surbiton). Collections and other fundraising activities also took place in other branches (Catford St John's, St Barnabas Sutton, St Dunstan's Cheam, St Mark's Surbiton, Belmont St John's, Christ Church Purley)
- ***Away from it All (AFIA)***: Many branches established creative ways of raising significant sums including: Raffles (St Mildred's Addiscombe); selling Christmas puddings (Sutton St Nicholas); selling crafted Christmas cards (Grove Park), Bring and Buy and craft sales (Mortlake with East Sheen, St John's Catford, Mitcham Parish Church, St Barnabas Sutton) and cream teas & coffee mornings (Old Coulsdon).
- ***Make a Mother's Day Project***: Supported with donations on Mothering Sunday (eg St Mildred's Addiscombe)

### Helping the most disadvantaged at home

Across the Diocese a number of MU funded projects are supported as well as those initiated by local branches:

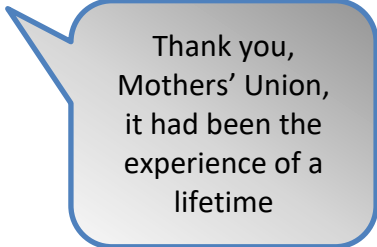
## ***Away from it All***

Each of these holidays supported families with really significant needs, thanks are given for all who continue to fundraise for this important offering. Compared to last year, 2021 has been a good year for holidays. We sent 11 families away to Combe Haven's caravan park at St Leonard's on Sea, East Sussex. Most of them had a week there, with 2 families having 4-night holidays in the October half term.

We had also supported a special school in South London where the children have profound disabilities and complex needs, by paying for 2 children to attend the holiday play scheme in the October half term. The money was used to fund 1 on 1 care during the week.

In total we sent 27 adults and 31 children away; with the 2 children supported at the school, this totalled 60 people who benefited from AFIA. The cost of the holidays in the summer had risen considerably from the previous years; the average cost for a week being £1400, compared with £800-£900 in 2019.

Being on a holiday is seen as a good learning opportunity and good for the family's mental wellbeing. It also enables the children to build vocabulary and enables them to discuss different experiences.



Thank you,  
Mothers' Union,  
it had been the  
experience of a  
lifetime

Some of the situations, families who had AFIA holidays were dealing with included:

- A child with sickle cell
- Families who suffer from poor living conditions
- Death of a sister in childbirth
- 2 children with autism (characterised by sensory needs, communication and interaction difficulties)
- Families facing difficulties in dealing with lockdown
- A single mum, with very limited means and no support from the father.
- Mum with depression and anxiety and the daughter with anxiety

***Supporting families of those in Prison:*** After the small Easter packs were posted to children other envelope packs were given to children after visits as there is no play area. Also, a Boredom Buster magazine for the prisoners which Officers had to print and distribute. Jan Gosling had a small input in both these initiatives. With regards to the envelope packs Jan was able to contribute several items and was happy to purchase them as it made her feel part of the team. As the year progressed longer visits were allowed subject to lateral flow tests and take-home packs – 1 per child each month were provided.

**Communicating English:** In May the Thursday afternoon group at St Augustine's reopened, helping men, women and teenagers. Young children were not permitted to maintain social distancing and complying with other Covid regulations. Having closed through August Cynthia met with refugees in the local park. Two families joined in their walks so Cynthia and a friend offered to take them to visit London. They had a brilliant day and to begin the trip they visited Southwark Cathedral and Comfort was there! A lovely moment - especially as one family was from Nigeria.

The group at St. Augustine's South Croydon. It is now called Tea and Talk and is open to all refugees and asylum seekers - men, women and children. The emphasis is on 'friendship and support' with learning English. Some members of the group have been attending a monthly mid-week communion service followed by lunch at Christ Church Purley. The MU at Christ Church were also involved in supporting practically and financially a Christmas lunch for 30 refugees in December. This could be the start of something more.

Sadly, the refugees keep coming and many families have been contained in one room unable to mix with others. Prisoners and refugees have been particularly isolated this past year. The MU continues to remember all those in need in our prayers. Cynthia continues to offer support to other branches considering action in their area.

## **Advocate for the rights of families**

**Gender-Based Violence:** Each year the MU engages in the global campaign - 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. In 2021 in response to the Diocesan strategy. A small team from the Diocese facilitated a 'No More 1 in 3' workshop on 25 November to which all were invited whether MU members or not.

With the focus on "Home is the unsafest place for a woman to be" 65 participants assembled on Zoom to hear a range of speakers including Mandy Marshall Director for Gender Justice at the Anglican Communion, Bekah Legg, CEO Restored, and several MU members. Lots of useful information was shared which showed what is being done in the UK and internationally and how we can all help in even a small way. What could have been a very harrowing evening turned out to be a positive experience and we all went away feeling inspired to get involved.

A recording of the event was circulated to those who were unable to attend and links made with attendees who wanted to learn more about the work of the MU.

Other associated events that took place during the year included:

- A talk from 'Justice in Fashion' which challenged all of us to think carefully about where we buy our clothes and how much of the industry is held together through modern day slavery (Caterham).
- A presentation by Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus and the work they were doing to raise awareness about modern day slavery – here and now in our communities. This was open to MU and non-MU members across the Tandridge Deanery.
- Six members in Horley handing out leaflets in the town before sharing a brief time of worship leading into the 3 minutes silence for 'No More 3 in 1'.
- Prayer and reflection: holding services and leading the intercessions in Sunday services (Croydon Deanery, Christ Church Purley, St Augustine's Grove Park, Caterham St John's).

**Supporting local women in need:** As a Diocese the MU is connected to a number of women's refuges where members facilitate the collection and delivery of gifts and essential items throughout the year. These items range from toys and books, clothing and toiletries as well as nappies, sanitary equipment, make up and a wide range of gifts.

- In St Mildred's, Addiscombe two members sorted through more than 700 items, donated from across the community, supporting more than 50 families facing very stressful situations.
- In Horley 30 members supported 11 women and 25 children in the refuges in Redhill with more than 130 items including gift sets for Christmas for children to give to their mothers. By connecting this project across the parish, the MU were able to raise awareness of the permanent and increasing effect of domestic abuse and at the same time support women in need and their children. A new venture to raise the profile of MU has been to give 'Mum & Baby Baskets' to new mums



for Christmas for children to give to their mothers. By connecting this project across the parish, the MU were able to raise awareness of the permanent and increasing effect of domestic abuse and at the same time support women in need and their children. A new venture to raise the profile of MU has been to give 'Mum & Baby Baskets' to new mums

- Across Sutton Deanery the MU collected towels, bedding and household goods which completely filled 2 cars, for the local women's refuge and the many families they support in the local community. This included the collection and delivery of crockery, bedding and kitchenware for those moving out of the refuge as well as a Christmas tree (donated by Homebase) along with Christmas treats and decorations.

## Building supportive, loving relationships

**Nurturing membership:** The main focus for many Branches in 2021 has been to continue to nurture its membership at a time when many felt incredibly vulnerable. The increasing use of technology has been seen as a vital lifeline for local groups to keep in touch. This has been facilitated through the use of Zoom, WhatsApp groups and email as well as the telephone.

However, for those members without access to technology significant work has been done to reduce their risk of isolation through the use of phone calls and access to printed material. Members have demonstrated love and care by keeping these individuals connected as well as offering practical support when particularly older members have been self-isolating.

Where members have been able to meet in fellowship meetings have included a wide range of topics, both spiritual (personal vocations, features of the church, personal reflections, Creation, World Day of Prayer) and personal passions (music, craft activities). Some have been about the work of the MU (AFIA, Parenting, Tea @3) and also some which connect the MU with the work of others in the church (charitable projects overseas). On other occasions members have met face to face to rekindle relationships at a variety of social events.



**Supporting the vulnerable:** The MU members have continued to support those suffering from or caring for people in the community.

This has included links to those in hospital, care homes or house bound. Sadly, the successful project known as Tea @ 3 at the Evelina Children's Hospital (based at St Thomas' Hospital) is still on hold as a result of the pandemic however much has still been achieved:

- **Care for the housebound and elderly:** Reaching out to all who feel vulnerable has been an essential part of the MU's work this has included
  - visiting members of the congregation and supported neighbours through lockdown (Grove Park, St Barnabas Sutton, Caterham, St James Malden)
  - providing gifts of flowers and cards delivered to members to encourage and cheer them up particularly when isolating (Old Coulsdon)
  - Delivering prescriptions for local residents (St Dunstan's Cheam)
- **Gifts for premature babies, hospital and care homes:** With skills being demonstrated in the diocese, members have been busy this year. Here are some examples of the contributions made:
  - 60 knitted prayer squares and 21 pairs of knitted hearts for patients and staff of local hospital and residential homes as a way of supporting strangers (Horley)
  - Providing 20 toiletry bags for use at the hospital for those coming in as emergency admissions helping those who are experiencing a traumatic time in their lives (Horley)
  - Fiddle sleeves for the residents of a local care home (e.g., Horley, Gipsy Hill)
  - Blanket squares for baby blankets and Cardigans for premature babies (e.g., St Barnabas Sutton, St John's Old Malden)

As part of the wider church mission MU branches have also been involved in supporting

- **Food banks:** Members both individually and as part of wider church collections support food banks (St Matthews Redhill, St Mark's Surbiton, Gipsy Hill)
- Also donating items to **South Norwood Kitchen** following a plea for food/ essentials boxes (Riddlesdown)

**Engaging with families locally:** Branch members also continue to engage with local families leading and participating in a range of spiritual, social and practical activities along with their church communities. This includes:

- **School children:** Members in Horley distributing hand crafted wooden prayer crosses and a card to 35 Year 6 pupils as they left primary school
- **Baptism support:** This takes place in many forms with members involved in services and providing flowers for the parents, cards for Dads, bible stories and prayer books, anniversary cards (Old Coulsdon, Caterham, Sutton St Barnabas, St James Malden, St Matthew's Redhill, St John's Old Malden, St Mark's Surbiton)



- **Children in church:** Providing books and book bags with colouring materials for small children attending services (Old Coulsdon). Helping with Junior Church, Mum's and Toddler groups and reading bible stories to young children during the main service (St Barnabas Sutton, St Matthew's Redhill, Caterham St John's, St Mark's Surbiton). 200 Christmas Angels with a biblical greeting and created and wrapped by the MU and craft group given as outreach to children and parents at the Toddler Group, Christingle and Carol Service (Sanderstead)
- **Mothering Sunday:** Being part of the Mothering Sunday celebrations providing cards and flowers for distribution (e.g., Grove Park, Caterham, St Mildred's Addiscombe, Gipsy Hill)
- **Caring for others:** Loaves and fishes lunch club, Wedding cards to couples married in church (St Dunstan's Cheam), Magnolia Club supporting people with dementia and their carers (Gipsy Hill)

## **Developing our own relationship with God**

Throughout the year the Mothers' Union in Southwark has continued to witness in prayer and worship, although to begin with branches were still connecting online. As the year progressed more opportunities to meet in worship became face to face.

### ***Diocesan events and activities***

- Monthly Cathedral prayers as well as area and deanery mid-day prayers supported online through zoom with contributions from members across the diocese.
- Diocesan retreat at Wychcroft
- A well-attended Diocesan Advent service held at St Mildred's in Addiscombe
- Wave of prayer circulated and shared amongst all members
- Annual festival service in October at the Cathedral

### ***Area and Deanery events***

- Twice monthly – moving to monthly gathering of branch members for midday prayers and discussion with an open invitation to those in the Reigate area, providing links with those who are isolated as well as raising awareness so the work of the MU worldwide
- Deanery Lady Day services and prayers for 16 days of activism

### ***Branch engagement***

- Regular emails that keep members connected through prayer, the use of the MU prayer diary, the wave of prayer and local members (e.g. Old Coulsdon)
- Corporate communion services in local churches supported actively by local MU members (e.g. Old Coulsdon, Caterham)

- Coulsdon, St John the Evangelist held monthly corporate communion and monthly “Pray, Knit and Chat”
- Participating in Thy Kingdom Come (following the Novena service, Leading Prayer walks)
- Celebrating Mary Sumner day – leading the service, readings and intercessions, (e.g., Tadworth, Caterham)
- Monthly prayer meetings now in person (Redhill Holy Trinity)
- Meetings focused on spiritual readings reflections and poetry (St Mildred’s Addiscombe)
- Prayers by Candlelight to reflect and pray for children, grandchildren and families in general at the start of the school year.



## Moving forward in 2022

The 2021 theme of Re-building hope and confidence has shown how members have been rebuilding connections activities and reaching out to others in need. In recognition that the effects of COVID-19 will continue to be felt across the world for years to come the MU seek in 2022 to now help us to move forward with **Transformation – Now**. In line with the Diocesan strategy **Flourishing Together** members are called to transform the MU in Southwark so it is recognised as an integral, relevant and visible part of the Church of England’s Mission for Prayer, Action and Outreach.

In doing so conversations are happening across the diocese to help members:

- Build confidence in promoting the MU as a Christian organisation focused on faith in action.
- Demonstrate the impact that the MU has in responding to social injustice in families
- Continuing to work alongside church leaders and partner organisations in delivering local ministry and mission
- Playing a part in the wider church structure (PCC/ Deanery synod etc)
- Establish strong governance and build membership.

## Safeguarding

As an organisation concerned with Christian principles and ministry in family life, the nurture and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of Mothers’ Union. Both individually as members and collectively as an organisation, Mothers’ Union fulfils its duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults, doing everything possible to ensure that they are safe when involved in Mothers’ Union activities.

Safeguarding policies and practices issued by the Anglican Church, and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) charter for the safety of people within the churches of the Anglican Communion are used as the basis for the MU in Southwark. In line with the duties of the Board the trustees have

- reviewed safeguarding policies and procedures at the first meeting of the year
- nominated a member to have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of the Mothers' Union activities across the diocese (Susan Gibbin)
- reviewed the roles in Mothers' Union and ensure that recruitment is in line with good safeguarding practice.

As well as ensuring Trustees are aware of policy and practice, guidance continues to be shared with all members to help establish strong practice at a local level. Strong links are encouraged with local Parish Safeguarding officers and training is made available through the Church of England and Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding teams:

- <http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-events/>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding/training>

### **Data Protection**

As an organisation the Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union takes its duties under the relevant Data protection legislation seriously. Its actions are guided by Diocesan policy and advice from Mary Sumner House. Work is underway to ensure access to privacy notices are available through the web site and in hardcopy. Guidance to role holders has been circulated along with consent forms to be used in line with Diocesan and Central MU advice. The Trustees have made it a priority to maintain good Information Governance practice and provide support to all those responsible for holding personal data.

### **Financial Review 2021**

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have prepared a statement of accounts for 2021 which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese. Full details can be found in the Annual Accounts.

**Accounting Policies:** The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trustees are responsible in law.

**Financial performance – General and unrestricted funds:** General Funds represent the funds of the Trustees that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Trustees. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the Trustees are also unrestricted. In 2021, £15,000 within the General Funds was held in the designated contingency fund.

In 2021 total income into unrestricted funds was £23,002. Of this income £27,799 was spent from unrestricted funds to support the administration and mission of the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union. The net result however for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £4,797 on unrestricted funds. This was managed through the use of reserves which totalled £45,090 at the beginning of 2021. Unrestricted funds totalling £55,372 were carried forward at 31st December 2020.

### ***Financial performance - Restricted Funds***

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

There were restricted donations totalling £37,395 in the year (this includes money sent to MSH which contributes to the leadership, administration and mission of MU worldwide). These are given to support all the various Diocesan and Mothers' Union Central funds (these are set out in the accounts). The total balance of restricted funds at 31st December was £20,707

***Receipts:*** Collections, subscriptions, donations and interest are recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Funds raised through any other sources, including through sales of literature purchased from Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUe) are accounted for gross.

***Payments:*** Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

***Reserves Policy:*** Reserves are defined as income that becomes available and which is to be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their objects, but which has not yet been spent, committed or designated. The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to allow protection of the core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced strategic planning. Through prudent housekeeping over a number of years, the reserves have been built up to the current level and include a legacy of £26,989 received in 2016.

The Trustee Board budgets and plans its expenditure and intends to maintain reserves that will protect the Charity against income shortfalls. A sum of £15,000 has also been set aside in a designated fund to rent and equip a Diocesan Mothers' Union Office should the present premises become unavailable, and to cover the secretary's salary for 6 months in an emergency.

***Investment Policy:*** The Trustees continue to invest in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

## **Communication**

The Southwark Mothers' Union continues to use a range of tools for communicating with its members and the wider community.

This includes our allocated space on the Southwark ***Diocesan website*** where information about the organisation, services, the wave of prayer and projects and publications are posted.

<https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/mothers-union/> .

There has been a steady flow of visitors however we are unable to offer a facility for people to ask questions (other than by 'contact us) or add comment. During the year we had about 250 visits to the page with the basic information being the most popular.

There has also been an active use of **Twitter** [https://twitter.com/MU\\_Southwark](https://twitter.com/MU_Southwark) . There have been 673 tweets, 97 followers - both figures have been rising steadily with 3,255 visits to our page.

The **Facebook** page has been very successful - sharing information from the wider MU community - nationally and internationally - as well as events and activities within branches and the Diocese.

<https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnionSouthwarkDiocese>

During the year There has been a steady flow of readers with a good proportion using the info in some way – liking, commenting or sharing - Project news is particularly popular as well as ‘issues.’ We have 299 followers and a reach of about 1100.

Although early days we have been looking at who we can post our own content on **YouTube**. Access to the workshop held in November last year as part of the no more 3in1 campaign can currently be found on this platform.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOiZMZeFsknxv4Z8n2GTACA>

Thanks to Margaret Simmons for all she does to keep us connected and online.



## Leadership and Governance

### Leadership

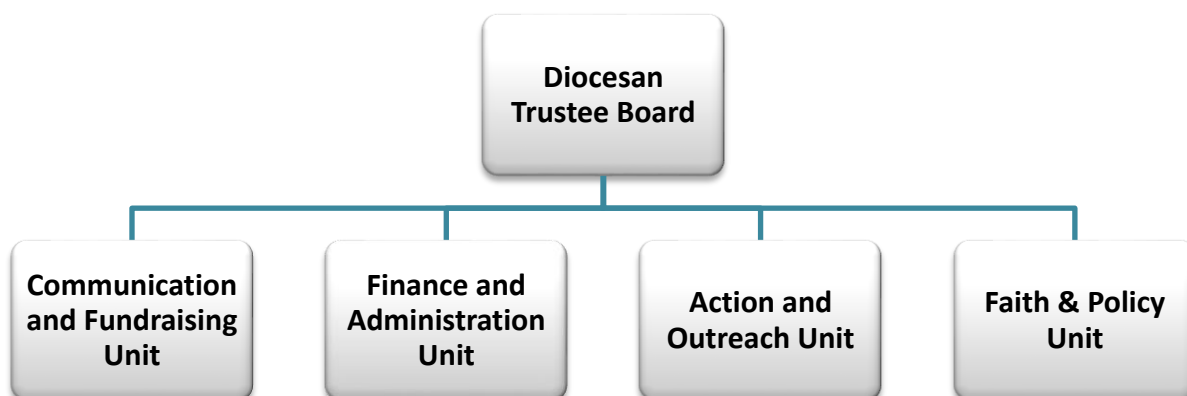
The affairs of the Mothers' Union in the diocese are managed by the Board of Trustees. Under the Diocesan Constitution and Handbook, revised 2005 and regularly reviewed, the Trustees are elected on a triennial basis. The Trustee Board have been in office since 1 January 2019 and from January 2022 will have either stood down or been nominated for election for a further three years. Thanks are given to all those who have given so much of their time and energy to the organisation.

All subscribing members of the MU in the diocese are entitled to vote for the Diocesan President and Unit Co-ordinators; members from each geographical Area vote for their own Vice President and two area representatives on the Trustee Board. To date no election has been held due to a lack of candidates.

The Honorary Treasurer, appointed by the Trustees continues to keep a close eye on the MU's financial governance. Jean Cartwright is thanked for her continued service. In addition to those trustees that represent the branches within the diocese and those that hold unit lead roles there is an opportunity to appoint three additional members on the Board. These individuals are co-opted onto the Trustee Board for the triennial because of their specific skills.

In 2021 there were no additional co-opted members on the Board. The Diocesan Chaplain (Revd Esther Foss) is appointed after consultation between the Diocesan Bishop and the Southwark MU President. Also appointed by the Trustee Board are a number of officers listed in Annex 1. The Trustees also employ a part-time secretary, who manages the office and provides administrative support for the Trustee Board.

## Governance



The Trustee Board met four times in 2021 and the Council twice (in addition to the AGM for 2021). During these times meetings continued to be held mainly on zoom however the Council meeting in October was held in hybrid form. Thanks to all those who helped manage the technology.

Within the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union, the work of the four units continue to report to the Trustee Board and to Diocesan Council, coordinating diocesan activity and advising on policy and performance.

In addition, The Mothers' Union (Southwark Diocese) Vice presidents and area representatives of the four geographical areas (Croydon, Kingston, Reigate and Woolwich) continued to link with their deaneries and branches (in line with the Church of England parish and synod structures). The challenges of maintaining branches continues to be a challenge as members seek to keep connections and encourage membership to look a new at how they operate.

As well as routine monitoring of activities and financial performance the Trustees also:

- Approved the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy which was presented at the March Council meeting with a facilitated discussion and bible reflection led by the MU Chaplain Esther Foss.
- Launched a three-year strategy for the Southwark MU titled 'Flourishing together'. This was shared widely at Branch leaders' meetings and the Diocesan council in October. A number of initiatives have already been implemented including a closer connection with the Diocesan ministry matters programme (3in1 workshop in November) and an annual planner to guide Branches in their programme planning.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is arranged for July at which meeting the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented to the membership. The AGM is open to all members although voting rights at Diocesan Council are restricted.

## **Membership / Volunteers**

In 2021, there were 56 branches in the Diocese to which 987 branch members belong, in addition to 50 diocesan members, a total of 1037. Numbers of members and branches are sadly falling and a number of initiatives have been taken to widen the membership with some success across the Diocese.

There have also been a number of people who have celebrated significant anniversaries as part of the MU (Margaret Munt and Jeane Dunsford – 60 years)

**Indoor Members** are also well supported by local Branches as well as the additional support of the Diocesan Indoor member correspondent Olu Akitoye. In 2021, 1 new member was added to the list, 7 sadly passed away and 2 moved out of the diocese.



## **Member training and development**

During 2021 branches continued to be supported with information, policies and presentations at Council meetings. In *March (Equality Diversity and Inclusion) and October (Strategy) council meetings*

Branch leader meetings are now well established with the Diocesan President however more formal training events to support officers were not possible in 2021. It is proposed that moving forward these could be facilitated through online training sessions and events organised on an area basis

In some areas of the Diocese, branches highlighted significant difficulties in securing leadership capacity to develop and grow their membership. Supporting these areas will be a high priority in the coming year as restrictions start to lift.

Members were also kept in contact through the newsletter which went online as well as resources and programmes of activity through the active work of the communications lead, cascaded down through VPs and area representatives.

## **Feedback from local Branches**

The engagement of members at branch, deanery and area level is evident through regular reports to trustees as well as in the wide-ranging feedback within this report. Although many branches would normally hold monthly or quarterly meetings, and events throughout the year, many of these have not been possible. Nevertheless, this report provides evidence of the hard work members have continued to do to find ways to offer fellowship and wider community engagement as well as prayer and learning.

Each initiative has been part of our Aim, Purpose and Mission and leaves a lasting legacy on families here in the Diocese and worldwide. The Trustees are proud of the achievements of Southwark Mothers' Union members who offer friendship, care and love to many families within the Diocese and throughout the world.

## Administrative Information

The Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese is under the patronage and sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese. It is affiliated to its parent charity, The Mothers' Union (Reg. Charity No. 240531, headquarters at Mary Sumner House, Westminster), but is an autonomous organisation.

**Registered office:**

Mothers' Union Office, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW.  
Tel: 020 7939 9459      Email: [mu@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:mu@southwark.anglican.org)

**Bank:** HSBC, 66 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HD

**Independent Examiner:** Mr A J Kett FCA, Little Dolby, Ifield Road, Charlwood, Surrey, RH6 0DR

Trustee Board members are appointed for three years from 1 January 2019. A list of Trustees and other officers can be found in Annex 1.

## Report Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Comfort Idowu-Fearon  
Diocesan President (Southwark MU)

## **Annex 1**

### **List of Trustees and officers**

#### **Trustees (appointed from 1 January 2019)**

Diocesan President	Comfort Idowu-Fearon
Vice President for Croydon	Sally Steele
Vice Presidents for Woolwich	Jennifer Davis & Catherine Hall
Vice President for Reigate	Penny Lohead
Vice President for Kingston	Wendy Moss
Fundraising and Communications Unit Coordinator	Penny Lohead & Margaret Simmons
Finance and Administration Unit Coordinator	Joy Morrall
Faith and Policy Unit Coordinator	Cathy Brown (from June 2019)
Croydon Area Representatives	Olu Akitoye & Cathy Brown
Woolwich Area Representatives (2019 & 2020)	Althea Smith & Grace Adeoye
Reigate Area Representatives	Jennifer Kempself & Susan Gibbin
Kingston Area Representatives	Eastlyne Douglin & Vacancy

#### **Attendees (non-voting)**

Hon Treasurer	Jean Cartwright
Diocesan Secretary	Anne Love
Chaplain	Revd Esther Foss
Diocesan Safeguarding lead (co-opted)	Susan Gibbin (Also Trustee)

#### **Other Officers**

Away From It All (AFIA) Coordinator	Sally Steele
Action and Outreach Unit Coordinator	Cynthia Smith
Newsletter Editor	Val Green
Training Officer	Francesca Turner
Indoor Member Coordinator	Olu Akitoye
Gift Aid coordinator	Ann Squirrell



**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese**  
**Registered Charity Number 249815**

**Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending**  
**31 December 2021**

Prepared by Jean Cartwright, Hon Diocesan Treasurer

Examined by Anthony J Kett, FCA

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese - Registered Charity Number 249815**  
**Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2021**

**Balance Sheet**

<b>2020</b>		<b>2021</b>	
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	N/A	
	<b>Current Assets</b>		
77,000	CBF Deposit	62,000	
8,126	Current Bank Account	13,307	
676	High Interest Savings	676	
25	Cash in Hand	25	
79	MUE Stock	69	
0	Debtors	0	
10,800	Branch funds	11,602	
<b>96,706</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>87,680</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
0.00	Current Liabilities	0.00	
(438)	Barclaycard	0.00	
<b>(438)</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>97,144</b>	<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities:</b>		<b>87,680</b>
	<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>		
105,245	Retained Balances	97,144	
(8,101)	Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	(9,464)	
<b>97,144</b>	<b>Retained Capital &amp; Reserves</b>		<b>87,680</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2021**

**Consolidated Fund Receipts**

<b>2020</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Diocesan Restricted</b>	<b>MSH Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>MSH Fund Receipts</b>				28,125
16,958	Subscriptions			20,688	
970	Overseas Fund (f)			1,358	
1,661	Relief Fund (f)			997	
65	B&I Development Fund (f)			10	
0	Fabric Fund (f)			0	
506	MSH Projects (g)			3,800	
3,371	MSH General Fund (f)			1,272	
	<b>Diocesan Fund Receipts</b>				9,270
7,239	AFIA (a)		9,215		
0	Choir		0		
304	SCIP (b)		55		
0	Indoor Members (c )		0		
40	Overseas V&V (d)		0		
0	Closed branches (e )		0		
	<b>Unrestricted Fund Receipts</b>				
12,038	Diocesan Subscriptions	10,371			10,371
2,746	Diocesan Donations	1,138			1,138
5,274	Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	2,962			2,962
993	Turnover Related Grant	753			753
	<b>Receipts from Sales</b>				
172	General	10			10
3,507	MUE Literature	3,793			3,793
	<b>Activities</b>				
179	Festival Services	803			803
0	Retreat	3,060			3,060
20	Refreshments	37			37
0	General	0			0
	<b>Other Receipts</b>				
4	Sundry	0			0
0	Gifts	0			0
0	Special Events	0			0
	<b>Investment Income</b>				
1	High Interest Savings Account	0			0
460	CBF Deposit Account	76			76
<b>56,506</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>23,002</b>	<b>9,270</b>	<b>28,125</b>	<b>60,397</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2021**

**Consolidated Fund Payments**

<b>2020</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Diocesan Restricted</b>	<b>MSH Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Payments to Mary Sumner House</b>				28,125
16,958	Subscriptions			20,688	
970	Overseas Fund (f)			1,358	
1,661	Relief Fund (f)			997	
65	B&I Development Fund (f)			10	
0	Fabric Fund (f)			0	
506	MSH Projects (g)			3,800	
3,371	MSH General Fund (f)			1,272	
	<b>Diocesan Grant Making</b>				14,739
3,907	AFIA (a)		14,720		
0	SCIP (b)		0		
37	Indoor Members (c)		18		
0	Overseas V&V (e)		0		
0	Choir		0		
295	Closed Branches (d)		0		
10,100	<b>Diocesan Fund Payment to MSH Emergency Appeal (i)</b>				
	<b>Trustees and Units</b>				
134	Trustees' Costs	76			76
0	Trustees - Unit Travel	17			17
	<b>Activities</b>				
500	Activities - General	75			75
15	Activities - Festival Services	542			542
9	Activities - Retreats	3,320			3,320
153	Activities - Unit Conferences	250			250
7	Activities - Refreshments	19			19
0	Activities - Speakers' Expenses	0			0
0	Activities - Communicating English	0			0
(3)	Stock adjustment	10			10
	<b>Total Payments</b>				<b>47,172</b>
	<b>Purchases</b>				
520	Purchases - Southwark News	0			0
3,620	Purchases - MUE Literature	4,020			4,020
144	Purchases - General	351			351
	<b>Total Purchases</b>				<b>4,371</b>
	<b>Other Payments</b>				
12,807	Secretary's Salary	13,425			13,425
636	Office Admin and Payroll Services	446			446
31	Secretary's Expenses	10			10
430	Insurance	0			0
5,074	Rent	5,175			5,175
50	Gifts	50			50
0	Sundry Costs	0			0
0	Bank Charges	14			14
	<b>Total Overheads</b>				<b>19,121</b>
<b>61,998</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>27,799</b>	<b>14,739</b>	<b>28,125</b>	<b>70,663</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2021**

**Analysed Summary of Fund Movements in Year**

	<b>Balances 31/12/2020</b>	<b>Receipts 2021</b>	<b>Payments 2021</b>	<b>Net Income/ (Expenditure) in Year</b>	<b>Balances 31/12/2021</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
<b>Diocesan Funds</b>					
Away from it All (a)	16,208	9,215	14,720	(5,505)	10,702
Diocesan Choir	83	0	0	0	83
SCIP (b)	3,135	55	0	55	3,190
Indoor Members (c)	1,718	0	18	(18)	1,700
Closed Branches (d)	286	0	0	0	286
Overseas V&V (e)	4,746	0	0	0	4,746
<b>Total Diocesan Funds</b>	<b>26,175</b>	<b>9,270</b>	<b>14,739</b>	<b>(5,469)</b>	<b>20,707</b>
<b>Mary Sumner House Funds</b>					
Central Subscriptions	0	20,688	20,688	0	0
MSH Overseas (f)	0	1,358	1,358	0	0
MSH Relief (f)	0	997	997	0	0
MSH B&I Dev (f)	0	10	10	0	0
MSH Fabric (f)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Projects (g)	0	3,800	3,800	0	0
MSH General (f)	0	1,272	1,272	0	0
<b>Total MSH Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,125</b>	<b>28,125</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>26,175</b>	<b>37,395</b>	<b>42,864</b>	<b>(5,469)</b>	<b>20,707</b>
<b>General Diocesan Funds</b>	45,090				40,303
Stock	79				69
Current Liabilities	0				0
Contingency (h)	15,000				15,000
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>60,169</b>	<b>23,002</b>	<b>27,799</b>	<b>(4,797)</b>	<b>55,372</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>86,344</b>	<b>60,397</b>	<b>70,663</b>	<b>(10,266)</b>	<b>76,078</b>
<b>Branch Funds (net)</b>	10,800	48,089	47,286	802	11,602
<b>Retained Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>97,144</b>	<b>108,486</b>	<b>117,950</b>	<b>(9,464)</b>	<b>87,680</b>

## Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2021

### Consolidated Branch Analysis

<b>2020</b>		<b>2021</b>
	<b>Opening Branch Balances @ 1 January brought forward</b>	
11,456	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	9,275
1,952	Cash in Hand	1,525
<b>13,408</b>	<b>Total Branch Balances</b>	<b>10,800</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	
15,888	Subs - MSH	19,144
11,134	Subs - Diocese	9,427
1,586	Subs - Branch	1,805
283	Subs - Deanery	272
548	Publications - MUE Literature	637
3,905	Donations	3,318
710	Teas etc	481
268	Collections at Services	837
0	MU Speakers	0
176	Other Receipts - Sundry	148
145	Other Receipts - Gifts	30
663	Other Receipts - Special Events	2,315
4,339	Fund Raising - General	9,093
784	Fund Raising - Boxes	581
1	Bank Interest Received	2
<b>40,428</b>	<b>Total Receipts 2021</b>	<b>48,089</b>
	<b>Payments</b>	
15,860	MSH Subs Payments to Diocese	19,383
11,123	Diocese Subs Payments	9,572
0	Donations	0
715	Publications - MUE Literature	673
3,704	Diocesan Funds	6,171
6,292	MSH Central Funds	6,313
2,452	Branch Projects	1,253
1,025	MSH Projects	670
270	Meetings - Hall Hire	205
125	Meetings - Speaker's Expenses	183
399	Meetings - Admin	343
42	Meetings - Teas	28
6	Church Service Costs	287
185	Special Events Costs	1,843
169	Deanery Subs paid by Branches	134
258	Gifts	136
0	Banners	0
413	Sundry Costs	73
0	Bank Charges	20
<b>43,037</b>	<b>Total Payments 2021</b>	<b>47,286</b>
<b>10,800</b>	<b>Closing Branch Balances @ 31 December</b>	<b>11,602</b>
9,275	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	10,224
1,525	Cash in Hand	1,379

## **Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2021**

### **Notes**

1. Employees – no employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

### **Funds**

- a) Away From It All (AFIA) - provision of holidays for deprived families within Southwark Diocese.
- b) SCIP - supporting children affected by imprisonment (within Southwark Diocese).
- c) Indoor Members - a diocesan fund to support housebound members.
- d) Closed Branches - money held for 10 years according to the diocesan regulations pending branch re-opening, in which case a refund is made to the branch. If the branch has not re-opened after 10 years, money is taken into the General Fund. In 2021 no money was transferred into the General Fund.
- e) Overseas Visits and Visitors Fund - a diocesan fund for visits to recognised MU links and MU-related gifts and resources.
- f) Funds administered centrally by Mary Sumner House. These include the Overseas Fund, Relief Fund, Britain and Ireland Development Fund (B&ID Fund) and Fabric Fund. Donations are also sent to the General Fund at Mary Sumner House to be used when needed.
- g) MSH Projects. The number of fundraising initiatives launched or continued by Mary Sumner House during the year were affected by the pandemic. Some branches sent money directly to Mary Sumner House; others sent donations via the diocesan accounts. The amount sent in 2021 was £3800.41 for the following projects:
  - £ 272.00 Make a Mother's Day
  - £3528.41 Summer of Hope Appeal

### **Contingency**

- h) Money held under the agreed reserves policy to cover rent of office etc in an emergency.
- i) Payment from Diocesan Fund in 2020 to the MSH Emergency Appeal

Little Dolby  
Ifield Road  
Charlwood  
Surrey  
RH6 0DR

The Trustees  
Mothers' Union – Southwark Diocese  
Mothers' Union Office  
Trinity House  
Chapel Court  
Borough High Street  
London SE1 1HW

28 September 2022

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO TRUSTEES,  
MOTHERS' UNION SOUTHWARK DIOCESE**

I report on the accounts of the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese (Charity no. 249815) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner**

As trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

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

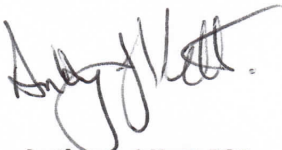
**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese 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 I 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 130 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
  
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Anthony J Kett FCA**

**THE MOTHERS' UNION (SOUTHWARK DIOCESE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 249815

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# Accounts

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# Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union

## DRAFT Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2020

### Vision

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue by praying, campaigning and enabling.

### Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

### Values

We are firmly rooted in voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration. Our governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide. We are inclusive and work with people of all faiths and none.

### Aim

The Aim of the Mothers' Union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In particular we aim to:

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

### Objectives and Activities

Together with members across the world, our objectives are:

- **Strengthen** communities all over the world
- **Help** the most disadvantaged at home
- **Shape** how we advocate for the rights of families
- **Build** supportive, loving relationships
- **Develop** our own relationship with God.

## Achievements & Challenges

The MU theme in 2020 has been ***Building Hope and Confidence***: We have all been challenged to build our hope and confidence as we have all sought to work together in the context of a worldwide pandemic. However, in spite of limited ability to meet with people face to face, to travel and connect with friends and families, the Mothers' Union in Southwark has continued to be proactive in responding to some of our most vulnerable communities at home and abroad.

### Strengthening communities all over the world

The Mothers' Union across Southwark continues to be active in raising funds for community development, emergency relief and support for the MU worldwide. In 2020 the Central MU charity sent out a plea for urgent funding to allow it to continue with its work worldwide and at home. Southwark MU immediately sent in £10,000 from its diocesan reserves to support this call. In addition, local branches and individuals also responded to the challenge. More than £875k has been raised to date worldwide.

Other campaign issues responded to during the year included:

- The 'Big Give' appeal for the Democratic Republic of Congo which was supported by numerous individuals and branches including those in Woolwich.
- The MSH Christmas Appeal which raised over £124,000 worldwide to support the work of the MU. Thanks are sent to all members who contributed to this individually or through their branch.
- Fundraising along with member donations which have increased the MU Overseas Fund.

Local groups too have been working hard to support organisations which work overseas. Three hundred beanie hats were sent off to 'Knit For Peace' in Hampstead. This is an organisation that distributes items to over 200 outlets, including hospitals, women's refuges, refugee drop-in centres, prisons, community groups, and hospices as well as to developing countries and refugee camps, or those living in the rubble in Syria.

### Helping the most disadvantaged at home

Across the Diocese a number of MU funded projects are supported as well as those initiated by local branches:

***Metamorphosis***: Metamorphosis is Mothers' Union's approach to enabling and supporting meaningful relationships with God. Through these dialogues we have been inspiring transformation in individuals, churches and communities. The Metamorphosis process has enabled the Church and MU to build confidence and faith and engage with communities, bringing hope across 10 countries for over a decade.

***Away from it All (AFIA)***: Offering holidays for families has been particularly challenging with numerous lockdowns in place. Nevertheless, the fund has been used creatively to reach out to families in need. In February 2020, £1,000 was given to a school in South London, which has children with very complex needs. This enabled two children to attend the holiday Play scheme. This was a huge success and extremely worthwhile. This is an approach that Trustees feel is something that should be repeated.

Of the seven holidays that were booked, three were subsequently cancelled; the families preferring to postpone until 2021. Of the 4 families supported two of these were to the B and B hotel in Eastbourne and two families chose to go to the Combe Haven caravan park at St. Leonard's on Sea.

The 3 families whose holidays were cancelled were given a voucher to the value of £100 each, to enable them to enjoy a treat.

Each of these holidays supported families with really significant needs, thanks are given for all who continue to fundraise for this important offering:

- A mother with a long-term medical condition with associated stress, compounded by a significant near-death admission to intensive care.
- A family who had been subjected to extreme domestic violence and been forced to move house several times.
- A vicar with his wife and 4 children who had been working very hard and was struggling to pay fuel bills.
- A mother, father and 3 children who were being terrorised by neighbours, which was causing a serious detrimental effect on the physical and emotional health of the family with high levels of anxiety in the children, one of whom has autism.

**Supporting families of those in Prison:** Sadly, no visitors are allowed and prisoners continue to have restricted access to others. Although Jan Gosling is involved in weekly meetings to discuss the way forward it is clear that at the moment there can only be virtual support. Online play time and a posted play pack has been organised but not all prisoner families' addresses are available. The MU continue to be called to pray for all prisoners and their families in these days of even more separation, all of which is causing mental stress and illness.

**Communicating English:** Although the groups have not been meeting during the pandemic those who have been helping have been able to keep in touch with those invited to join the programme with the hope that the group at St. Augustine, South Croydon will be reignited early in 2021. The same applies to the group at Christ Church, Purley. Resources are still available for other groups who would like to start and everyone continues to pray and give thanks to God for all that is done and for all those in need.

## Advocate for the rights of families

### Gender-Based Violence

Each year the MU engages in the global campaign - 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. This included

- Opportunities for personal prayer and reflection.
- Socially distanced services based on a special MU service for Global day (St. Barnabas, Sutton).
- Engaging with the online Protest NoMore1in3.



**Supporting the women in need:** Sadly, during the pandemic The Lily Trust which had previously been supported by the MU closed without forewarning. Nevertheless, a number of branches have been involved in collecting and distributing resources for local Women's Refuges in Croydon, Sutton and Reigate & Banstead. This work has both supported women in need and their children as well as raised awareness of the permanent and increasing effect of domestic abuse. Examples of these actions include:

- St. Mary, Addington donated £200 to their local refuge.
- St. Dunstan, Cheam with others in the Sutton Deanery, regularly collecting donations for items including toiletries, biscuits, chocolates and crackers, plus, for the 4th year, got Homebase to donate a large real Christmas tree, which the children at the refuge loved decorating.
- The Horley Branch provided supermarket vouchers for Reigate & Banstead Women's Refuge which houses 11 women and their children at any one time. They also sent 12 packs of nappies, 3 bags of baby clothes, 1 toy, 8 general baby items, 37 general toiletry items, 10 maternity items.



St. Mildred, Addiscombe delivered about 500 items of toiletries, baby items, children's books, toys and games to the local women's refuge & the Lily Trust

## Building supportive, loving relationships

**Nurturing membership:** The main focus for many Branches in 2020 has been to nurture its membership at a time when many felt incredibly vulnerable. The increasing use of technology has been seen as a vital lifeline for local groups to keep in touch. This has been facilitated through WhatsApp groups, Zoom as well as emails. These tools have been used to support each other through prayer and fellowship and to keep members up to date with all the helpful communications and support available from the MU nationally. The range of activities online included:

- A fortnightly short story book club meeting on zoom (St. John's, Caterham).
- Sharing crafts and presentations using YouTube (St. Augustine's, Grove Park).
- Celebrating VE-Day; finding out more about a link Diocese; mindfulness colouring (Horley).
- Virtual outings shared with other branches – facilitated by St. Mildred's, Addiscombe.

However, for those members without access to technology significant work has been done to reduce their risk of isolation through the use of phone calls and access to printed material. Members have demonstrated love and care by keeping these individuals connected as well as offering practical support when particularly older members have been self-isolating.

Some events have however taken place face to face. At the beginning of the year fundraising and social events did take place e.g., music quiz, afternoon tea parties, and bring and buy for MU funds.

After the first initial lock down confidence returned with a number of branches engaging in face-to-face events all be it within the rules of social distancing. These included:

- VE Day garden party (Sutton): MU members and passers-by were welcomed to eat, drink and dance; offering support particularly for those who had not spoken to anyone face to face for many months.
- Summer mini tea parties (Horley): To give support to members and raise funds for MU. Hosts agreed to open their gardens and up to 5 other members took their own tea. So successful we repeated the teas on 2 further occasions with hosts providing refreshments.
- A Produce Stall outside with donations to the Mothers' Union (St. James, New Malden).
- Walks around the parish to different members' homes for doorstep prayers and conversations (St, John's, Caterham).



VE Day Garden celebration: Donations were given for the food which raised £48.70 for NHS Charities.

As Christmas arrived with restrictions continuing members thought creatively around how they could support each other including:

- St. Andrew and St. Mark's, Surbiton put together small bags individually wrapped with a Christmas teabag and Biscoff biscuits. These were given to all members and supporters with an MU Christmas card.
- Horley Branch provided Christmas pastoral gifts to lift members spirits as Christmas approached without the usual interaction.
- At Christ Church, Gipsy Hill one member arranged to demonstrate how to make Christmas wreaths in her garden at a distance. They were sold and donations given to MU.



Making Christmas Wreaths – socially distanced Fundraising for MU Christ Church, Gipsy Hill

**Supporting the vulnerable:** The MU members have continued to support those suffering from or caring for people with poor health in the community which has been particularly difficult due to the restrictions to those in hospital. Sadly, the successful project known as Tea @ 3 at the Evelina Children's Hospital (based at St Thomas' Hospital) had to be put on hold as a result of the pandemic. Nevertheless, knitted items have been delivered to the hospital. In addition, many knitted baby items were delivered to:

- the special care baby unit at St Helier, (Sutton Deanery)
- Croydon University hospital (St. Mark, Sth Norwood,) this included 21 cot blankets and 33 premature baby matinee jackets.

At St Barnabas, Sutton two members have helped in the community. One delivering prescriptions for the local pharmacy, and one helping at the local vaccination hub. At Mortlake one member has made scrubs for care homes and in Motspur Park they gathered toiletries for Kingston Emergency admissions.

Members in local MU branches have been involved through their churches, in supporting those in need during this difficult year. This has included:

- Support for Foodbanks, food boxes (Redhill, Woolwich incl. St. John's, Deptford & Kingston)
- Delivering Christmas dinners to the needy on Christmas eve. (Woolwich)
- Provision of tablets for homes schooling – delivering four basic laptops to a local CoE Primary School (Horley)



Writing Christmas cards for those using the foodbank

**Engaging with families locally:** Branch members continue to engage with local families leading and participating in a range of spiritual, social and practical activities along with their church communities. This includes:

- Horley branch, led a project with members of the congregations to knit Christmas Angels tree decorations. This resulted in 200 angels being hidden on The Acres housing estate, exceeding the original goal of 150. A further 24 were placed in a box in the café and 36 used by St. Francis' Pastoral Team as gifts to the isolated and vulnerable.
- Two members at the Tadworth Branch who are normally involved with the weekly Saturday café have taken to delivering cakes themselves to people who would normally attend the café.
- A number of branches have continued with their work to support baptism families, including cards for anniversaries (e.g., Sutton; Caterham).



## Developing our own relationship with God

Throughout the year the Mothers' Union in Southwark has continued to witness in prayer and worship, although much of this has been on line. This has included:

- Monthly topical Discussion & Prayer evening on zoom in the Reigate deanery.
- Cathedral prayers as well as area and deanery mid-day prayers supported online through zoom with contributions from members across the diocese.
- Diocesan retreat session held on line and facilitated by Caroline Welby.
- Diocesan Advent service held on Tuesday, 1st December, on Zoom which was led by the Revd Canon Les Wells. Originally, the service was due to be held at St. Bartholomew, Horley where he is the team rector.
- Local branch services online (anniversary celebrations at St. Augustine's Grove Park; Deanery service at St. Mildred's Addiscombe as part of 16 days of Activism).



When the opportunity arose some socially distanced worship also took place:

- Prayers and poems on Remembrance and Christmas (St. Johns, Catford).
- Wave of Prayer in Church and coffee in memorial gardens, (St. Barnabas, Sutton).
- Christmas Communion service (St. Paul's, Hook; St. Barnabas, Sutton).
- Celebrating Mary Sumner Day at the 10am eucharist (St. John's, Caterham).
- VE Day service (St. Barnabas, Sutton).



Other activities included

- St. John's, Old Malden members producing a booklet titled "Joy to the World" where members had sent in a favourite poem, reading or prayer,

## Moving forward in 2021

The 2020 theme of Building hope and confidence was timely and pertinent, and this year has shown how members have been reaching out to each other and to the wider community in their suffering during this global pandemic. In recognition that the effects of COVID-19 will continue to be felt across the world for years to come the MU seek in 2021 to build on this with a theme of **rebuilding hope and confidence**.

In response to this the MU in Southwark is working hard to review ways in which members can continue to be supported to grow and flourish together. The emerging strategy is focused on promoting inclusion in a diverse population across Southwark and the need to set the MU at the heart of the Church and its mission in local communities. The Trustees are therefore developing plans to strengthen communication and understanding of the way the MU can work effectively to provide hope and confidence in its Christian care for families.

## Safeguarding

As an organisation concerned with Christian principles and ministry in family life, the nurture and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of Mothers' Union. Both individually as members and collectively as an organisation, Mothers' Union fulfils its duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults, doing everything possible to ensure that they are safe when involved in Mothers' Union activities.

Safeguarding policies and practices issued by the Anglican Church, and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) charter for the safety of people within the churches of the Anglican Communion are followed. Guidance is shared with members to help identify those who may present a risk to others and, should this occur, how to seek appropriate pastoral support for them.

During the last year the vulnerability of many has become more evident and so the MU is continuing to find new ways to build strong links with local parish and wider church leaders in helping each other to keep safe.

## Data Protection

As an organisation the Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union takes its duties under the relevant Data protection legislation seriously. Its actions are guided by Diocesan policy and advice from Mary Sumner House. Work is underway to ensure access to privacy notices are available through the web site and in hardcopy. Guidance to role holders has been circulated along with consent forms to be used in line with Diocesan and Central MU advice. The Trustees have made it a priority to maintain good Information Governance practice and provide support to all those responsible for holding personal data.

## Financial Review

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have prepared a statement of accounts for 2020 which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese. Full details can be found in the Annual Accounts.

**Accounting Policies:** The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trustees are responsible in law.

**Financial performance – General and unrestricted funds:** General Funds represent the funds of the Trustees that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Trustees. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the Trustees are also unrestricted. In 2020, £15,000 within the General Funds was held in the designated contingency fund.

In 2020 total income into unrestricted funds was £25,392. Of this income £34,227 was spent from unrestricted funds to support the administration and mission of the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union. The net result however for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £8,835 on unrestricted funds. This was managed through the use of reserves which totalled £53,979 at the beginning of 2020. A donation of £10,100 to the Mothers' Union Emergency Appeal due to the Covid-19 pandemic was made from the General Fund. Unrestricted funds totalling £60,169 were carried forward at 31st December 2020.

### **Financial performance - Restricted Funds**

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund

There were restricted donations totalling £31,114 in the year (this includes money sent to MSH which contributes to the leadership, administration and mission of MU worldwide). These are given to support all the various Diocesan and Mothers' Union Central funds (these are set out in the accounts). The total balance of restricted funds at 31st December was £26,175.

**Receipts:** Collections, subscriptions, donations and interest are recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised; however, £1480 Gift Aid due in 2019 was paid in 2020, making the total received £5,274.

Funds raised through any other sources, including through sales of literature purchased from Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUE) are accounted for gross.

**Payments:** Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

**Reserves Policy:** Reserves are defined as income that becomes available and which is to be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their objects, but which has not yet been spent, committed or designated. The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to allow protection of the core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced strategic planning. Through prudent housekeeping over a number of years, the reserves have been built up to the current level and include a legacy of £26,989 received in 2016 of which £10,000 of this has been allocated to support AFIA and the project focusing on Communicating English.

The Trustee Board budgets and plans its expenditure and intends to maintain reserves that will protect the Charity against income shortfalls. A sum of £15,000 has also been set aside in a designated fund to rent and equip a Diocesan Mothers' Union Office should the present premises become unavailable, and to cover the secretary's salary for 6 months in an emergency.

**Investment Policy:** The Trustees continue to invest in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

## Communication

The Southwark Mothers' Union continues to use a range of tools for communicating with its members and the wider community.

This includes joining with the Diocesan website where information about the organisation, services, the wave of prayer and projects and publications are posted resulting in a steady flow of visitors during the year- about 1000-page views in total.

<https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/mothers-union/>

There has also been an active use of Twitter [https://twitter.com/MU\\_Southwark](https://twitter.com/MU_Southwark). There have been 590 tweets in all. We have 84 followers

The Facebook page has been very successful - sharing information from the wider MU community - nationally and internationally - as well as events and activities within branches and the Diocese.

<https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnionSouthwarkDiocese>

During the year 174 people visited the page with approximately 608 views.

Discussions have also been ongoing with MSH as they look to develop communities of interest to connect members more widely.



## Leadership and Governance

### Leadership

The affairs of the Mothers' Union in the diocese are managed by the Board of Trustees. Under the Diocesan Constitution and Handbook, revised 2005 and regularly reviewed, the Trustees are elected on a triennial basis. The Trustee Board have been in office since 1 January 2019.

All subscribing members of the MU in the diocese are entitled to vote for the Diocesan President and Unit Co-ordinators; members from each geographical Area vote for their own Vice President and two area representatives on the Trustee Board.

The Trustees appoint the Honorary Treasurer and may co-opt up to three additional members with specific skills onto the Trustee Board for the triennial. The Diocesan Chaplain (Revd Esther Foss) is appointed after consultation between the Diocesan Bishop and the Southwark MU President. Also appointed by the Trustee Board are a number of officers listed in Annex 1. The Trustees employ a part-time secretary, who manages the office and provides administrative support for the Trustee Board.

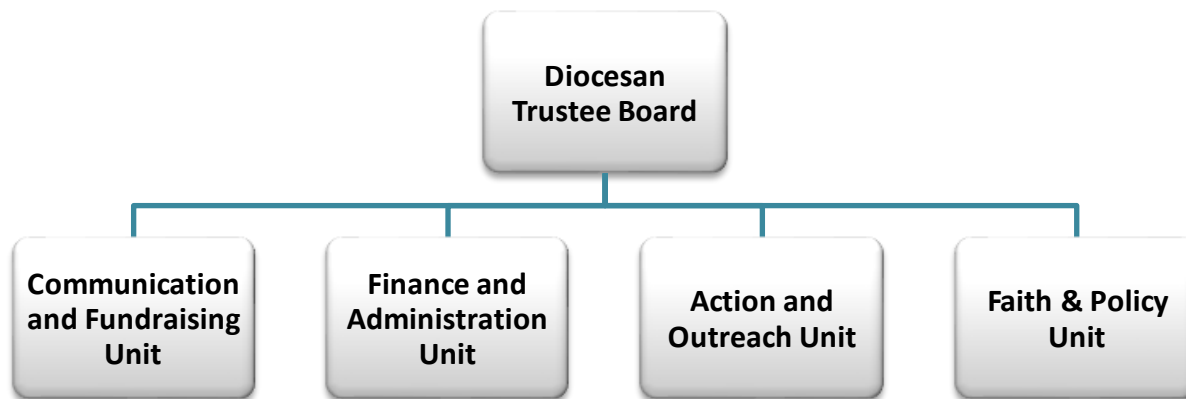
### Governance Structure

The Trustee Board generally meets five times a year to develop and monitor MU plans and duties. Feedback is taken to Diocesan Council, meeting twice a year, when the membership is given the opportunity to vote on proposed plans in line with the aim and objects of Mothers' Union.

This year all meetings since the end of March, including Trustee, Council meetings and Unit meetings have taken place on line as a result of Government restrictions due to COVID-19 outbreak.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is arranged for July at which meeting the Annual Report and Accounts are presented to the membership. Council meetings and the AGM are open to all members although voting rights at Diocesan Council are restricted.

Within the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union there are four working units reporting to the Trustee Board and to Diocesan Council, coordinating diocesan activity and advising on policy and performance.



Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union is divided into four geographical areas (Croydon, Kingston, Reigate and Woolwich). These four areas are subdivided into deaneries and thence into branches which coincide in most instances with Anglican church parishes.

### Membership / Volunteers

In 2020, there were 60 branches in the Diocese to which over 1085 members belong, in addition to 6 deanery and 44 diocesan members, a total of 1135. Numbers of members and branches are sadly falling and a number of initiatives have been taken to widen the membership with some success across the Diocese.

**Indoor Members** are also well supported by local Branches as well as the additional support of the Diocesan Indoor member correspondent Olu Akitoye. In 2020, 6 new members were added to the list and 2 sadly passed away.

### Member training and development

During 2020 branches continued to be supported with information, policies and presentations at Council meetings. In March where it was possible to meet face to face the revised safeguarding policies were presented with training offered by the Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. At

the October Council meeting held on zoom members were introduced to tools developed as part of Metamorphosis the MU strategy for community engagement and transformation.

Although Branch leader meetings were established with the Diocesan President more formal training events to support officers were not possible. Plans are being developing to consider future models of flexible online training for officers.

In some areas of the Diocese, branches highlighted significant difficulties in securing leadership capacity to develop and grow their membership. Supporting these areas will be a high priority in the coming year as restrictions start to lift.

Members were also kept in contact through the newsletter which went online as well as resources and programmes of activity through the active work of the communications lead, cascaded down through VPs and area representatives.

### ***Feedback from local Branches***

The engagement of members at branch, deanery and area level is evident through regular reports to trustees as well as in the wide-ranging feedback within this report. Although many branches would normally hold monthly or quarterly meetings, and events throughout the year, many of these have not been possible. Nevertheless, this report provides evidence of the hard work members have continued to do to find ways to offer fellowship and wider community engagement as well as prayer and learning.

Each initiative has been part of our Aim, Purpose and Mission and leaves a lasting legacy on families here in the Diocese and worldwide. The Trustees are proud of the achievements of Southwark Mothers' Union members who offer friendship, care and love to many families within the Diocese and throughout the world.

## **Administrative Information**

The Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese is under the patronage and sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese. It is affiliated to its parent charity, The Mothers' Union (Reg. Charity No. 240531, headquarters at Mary Sumner House, Westminster), but is an autonomous organisation.

### ***Registered office:***

Mothers' Union Office, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW.

Tel: 020 7939 9459 Email: [mu@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:mu@southwark.anglican.org)

**Bank:** HSBC, 66 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HD

**Independent Examiner:** Mr A J Kett FCA, Little Dolby, Ifield Road, Charlwood, Surrey, RH6 0DR

Trustee Board members are appointed for three years from 1 January 2019. A list of Trustees and other officers can be found in Annex 1.

## **Report Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

*Comfort Idowu-Fearon*

Diocesan President (Southwark MU)

## **Annex 1**

### **List of Trustees and officers**

#### **Trustees (appointed from 1 January 2019)**

Diocesan President	Comfort Idowu-Fearon
Vice President for Croydon	Sally Steele
Vice Presidents for Woolwich	Jennifer Davis & Catherine Hall
Vice President for Reigate	Penny Lohead
Vice President for Kingston	Wendy Moss
Fundraising and Communications Unit Coordinator	Penny Lohead & Margaret Simmons
Finance and Administration Unit Coordinator	Joy Morrall
Faith and Policy Unit Coordinator	Cathy Brown (from June 2019)
Croydon Area Representatives	Olu Akitoye & Cathy Brown
Woolwich Area Representatives (2019 & 2020)	Althea Smith & Grace Adeoye
Reigate Area Representatives	Jennifer Kempself & Susan Gibbin
Kingston Area Representatives	Eastlyne Douglin & Vacancy

#### **Attendees (non-voting)**

Hon Treasurer	Jean Cartwright
Diocesan Secretary	Anne Love
Chaplain	Revd Esther Foss
Diocesan Safeguarding lead (co-opted)	Susan Gibbin

#### **Other Officers**

Away From It All (AFIA) Coordinator	Sally Steele
Action and Outreach Unit Coordinator	Cynthia Smith
Newsletter Editor	Val Green
Training Officer	Francesca Turner
Indoor Member Coordinator	Olu Akitoye
Gift Aid coordinator	Ann Squirrell



**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese**  
**Registered Charity Number 249815**

**Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending**  
**31 December 2020**

Prepared by Jean Cartwright, Hon Diocesan Treasurer

Examined by Anthony J Kett, FCA

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese - Registered Charity Number 249815**  
**Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2020**

**Balance Sheet**

<b>2019</b>		<b>2020</b>
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	N/A
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
87,750	CBF Deposit	77,000
1,876	Current Bank Account	8,126
676	High Interest Savings	676
30	Cash in Hand	25
76	MUE Stock	79
1,480	Debtors	0
13,408	Branch funds	10,800
105,296	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>96,706</b>
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
51	Current Liabilities	0
0	Barclaycard	(438)
51	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(438)</b>
105,245	<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities:</b>	<b>97,144</b>
	<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	
108,855	Retained Balances	105,245
(3,610)	Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	(8,101)
105,245	<b>Retained Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>97,144</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2020**

**Consolidated Fund Receipts**

<b>2019</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Diocesan Restricted</b>	<b>MSH Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>MSH Fund Receipts</b>				23,531
18,339	Subscriptions			16,958	
2,056	Overseas Fund			970	
3,023	Relief Fund			1,661	
369	B&I Development Fund			65	
23	Fabric Fund			0	
4,608	MSH Projects			506	
878	MSH General Fund			3,371	
	<b>Diocesan Fund Receipts</b>				7,583
13,756	AFIA		7,239		
	AFIA - transfer from Diocesan Fund				
1,837	SCIP		304		
0	Indoor Members		0		
50	Overseas V&V		40		
0	Closed branches		0		
	<b>Unrestricted Fund Receipts</b>				
11,680	Diocesan Subscriptions	12,038			12,038
3,101	Diocesan Donations	2,746			2,746
1,480	Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	5,274			5,274
911	Turnover Related Grant	993			993
	<b>Receipts from Sales</b>				
0	General	172			172
0	Families First	0			0
6,457	MUE Literature	3,507			3,507
	<b>Activities</b>				
995	Festival Services	179			179
3,136	Retreat	0			0
80	Refreshments	20			20
5	General	0			0
	<b>Other Receipts</b>				
0	Sundry	4			4
0	Gifts	0			0
0	Special Events	0			0
	<b>Investment Income</b>				
5	High Interest Savings Account	1			1
640	CBF Deposit Account	460			460
<b>73,429</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>25,392</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>23,531</b>	<b>56,506</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2020**

**Consolidated Fund Payments**

<b>2019</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Diocesan Restricted</b>	<b>MSH Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Payments to Mary Sumner House</b>				23,531
18,339	Subscriptions			16,958	
2,056	Overseas Fund			970	
3,023	Relief Fund			1,661	
369	B&I Development Fund			65	
23	Fabric Fund			0	
4,608	MSH Projects			506	
878	MSH General Fund			3,371	
	<b>Diocesan Grant Making</b>				4,240
12,276	AFIA		3,907		
1,000	SCIP		0		
37	Indoor Members		37		
382	Overseas V&V		0		
0	Choir		0		
321	Closed Branches		295		
0	<b>Diocesan Fund Payment to MSH Emergency Appeal (i)</b>	10,100			10,100
	<b>Trustees and Units</b>				
359	Trustees' Costs	134			134
74	Trustees - Unit Travel	0			0
	<b>Activities</b>				
130	Activities - General	500			500
271	Activities - Festival Services	15			15
3,365	Activities - Retreats	9			9
255	Activities - Unit Conferences	153			153
60	Activities - Refreshments	7			7
57	Activities - Speakers' Expenses	0			0
271	Activities - Communicating English	0			0
(11.00)	Stock adjustment	(3.00)			(3.00)
	<b>Total Payments</b>				<b>38,685</b>
	<b>Purchases</b>				
0	Purchases - Families First	0			0
1,845	Purchases - Southwark News	520			520
6,511	Purchases - MUE Literature	3,620			3,620
153	Purchases - Equipment	144			144
	<b>Total Purchases</b>				<b>4,284</b>
	<b>Other Payments</b>				
13,641	Secretary's Salary	12,807			12,807
718	Office Admin and Payroll Services	636			636
78	Secretary's Expenses	31			31
495	Insurance	430			430
4,974	Rent	5,074			5,074
75	Gifts	50			50
0	Sundry Costs	0			0
0	Bank Charges	0			0
	<b>Total Overheads</b>				<b>19,028</b>
<b>76,633</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>34,227</b>	<b>4,240</b>	<b>23,531</b>	<b>61,998</b>

**Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2020**

**Analysed Summary of Fund Movements in Year**

	<b>Balances 31/12/2019</b>	<b>Receipts 2020</b>	<b>Payments 2020</b>	<b>Net Income/ (Expenditure) in Year</b>	<b>Balances 31/12/2020</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
<b>Diocesan Funds</b>					
Away from it All (a)	12,876	7,239	3,907	3,331	16,208
Diocesan Choir	83	0	0	0	83
SCIP (b)	2,831	304	0	304	3,135
Indoor Members (c)	1,756	0	37	(37)	1,718
Closed Branches (d)	581	0	295	(295)	286
Overseas V&V (e)	4,706	40	-	40	4,746
<b>Total Diocesan Funds</b>	<b>22,833</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>4,240</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>26,175</b>
<b>Mary Sumner House Funds</b>					
Central Subscriptions	0	16,958	16,958	0	0
MSH Overseas (f)	0	970	970	0	0
MSH Relief (f)	0	1,661	1,661	0	0
MSH B&I Dev (f)	0	65	65	0	0
MSH Fabric (f)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Projects (g)	0	506	506	0	0
MSH General (f)	0	3,371	3,371	0	0
<b>Total MSH Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,531</b>	<b>23,531</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>22,833</b>	<b>31,114</b>	<b>27,771</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>26,175</b>
<b>General Diocesan Funds</b>					
Stock	53,979				45,090
Current Liabilities	76				79
Contingency (h)	(51)				0
	15,000				15,000
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>69,004</b>	<b>25,392</b>	<b>34,227</b>	<b>(8,835)</b>	<b>60,169</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>91,836</b>	<b>56,506</b>	<b>61,998</b>	<b>(5,492)</b>	<b>86,344</b>
<b>Branch Funds (net)</b>	<b>13,408</b>	<b>40,428</b>	<b>43,037</b>	<b>(2,608)</b>	<b>10,800</b>
<b>Retained Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>105,245</b>	<b>96,934</b>	<b>105,035</b>	<b>(8,101)</b>	<b>97,144</b>

Total General Fund payments include a donation of £10,100 to the MSH Emergency Appeal (i)

## Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2020

### Consolidated Branch Analysis

<b>2019</b>		<b>2020</b>
	<b>Opening Branch Balances @ 1 January brought forward</b>	
11,913	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	11,456
1,901	Cash in Hand	1,952
<b>13,815</b>	<b>Total Branch Balances</b>	<b>13,408</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	
17,459	Subs - MSH	15,888
10,826	Subs - Diocese	11,134
1,956	Subs - Branch	1,586
426	Subs - Deanery	283
1,111	Publications - MUE Literature	548
3,245	Donations	3,905
1,673	Teas etc	710
967	Collections at Services	268
49	MU Speakers	0
520	Other Receipts - Sundry	176
17	Other Receipts - Gifts	145
4,067	Other Receipts - Special Events	663
18,949	Fund Raising - General	4,339
860	Fund Raising - Boxes	784
1	Bank Interest Received	1
<b>62,125</b>	<b>Total Receipts 2020</b>	<b>40,428</b>
	<b>Payments</b>	
17,542	MSH Subs Payments to Diocese	15,860
11,239	Diocese Subs Payments	11,123
134	Donations	0
1,327	Publications - MUE Literature	715
10,360	Diocesan Funds	3,704
10,260	Central Funds	6,292
3,211	Branch Projects	2,452
495	MSH Projects	1,025
898	Meetings - Hall Hire	270
674	Meetings - Speaker's Expenses	125
715	Meetings - Admin	399
77	Meetings - Teas	42
177	Church Service Costs	6
4,836	Special Events Costs	185
233	Deanery Subs paid by Branches	169
154	Gifts	258
34	Banners	0
146	Sundry Costs	413
20	Bank Charges	0
<b>62,531</b>	<b>Total Payments 2020</b>	<b>43,037</b>
<b>13,408</b>	<b>Closing Branch Balances @ 31 December</b>	<b>10,800</b>
11,456	Branch Consolidated Bank Accounts	9,275
1,952	Cash in Hand	1,525

## Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2020

### Notes

1. Employees – no employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

### Funds

- a) Away From It All (AFIA) - provision of holidays for deprived families within Southwark Diocese. Only a few holidays took place in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- b) SCIP - supporting children affected by imprisonment (within Southwark Diocese).
- c) Indoor Members - a diocesan fund to support housebound members.
- d) Closed Branches - money held for 10 years according to the diocesan regulations pending branch re-opening, in which case a refund is made to the branch. If the branch has not re-opened after 10 years, money is taken into the General Fund. In 2020 £295.28 was transferred into the General Fund.
- e) Overseas Visits and Visitors Fund - a diocesan fund for visits to recognised MU links and MU-related gifts and resources.
- f) Funds administered centrally by Mary Sumner House. These include the Overseas Fund, Relief Fund, Britain and Ireland Development Fund (B&ID Fund) and Fabric Fund. Donations are also sent to the General Fund at Mary Sumner House to be used when needed.
- g) MSH Projects. The number of fundraising initiatives launched or continued by Mary Sumner House during the year were severely affected by the pandemic. Some branches sent money directly to Mary Sumner House; others sent donations via the diocesan accounts. The amount sent in 2020 was £506.00 for the following projects:
  - £155.00 Make a Mother's Day
  - £100.00 Christmas Appeal
  - £200.00 Big Give Appeal
  - £ 51.00 The Gift that Grows

### Contingency

- h) Money held under the agreed reserves policy to cover rent of office etc in an emergency.

### MSH Emergency Appeal

- i) A sum of £10,000 was sent from Diocesan Funds to Mary Sumner House for their Emergency Appeal because of to the Covid-19 pandemic. A sum of £100 was also sent, being two-thirds of the amount due to the Diocese for face coverings made by members.

Little Dolby  
Ifield Road  
Charlwood  
Surrey  
RH6 0DR

The Trustees  
Mothers' Union – Southwark Diocese  
Mothers' Union Office  
Trinity House  
Chapel Court  
Borough High Street  
London SE1 1HW

14 October 2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO TRUSTEES,  
MOTHERS' UNION SOUTHWARK DIOCESE**

I report on the accounts of the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese (Charity no. 249815) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner**

As trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

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

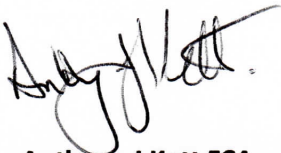
**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese 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 I 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 130 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Anthony J Kett FCA**

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**Anthony J Kett FCA**