

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Chichester

Reg. Charity No.249826

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Patrons

The Right Revd. Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester
Andrew Blackman, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex
Lady Emma Barnard, Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex

CONTENTS

Part 1: Annual Report 2023

Pages 1-13

Part 2: Annual Accounts 2023

Report of the Trustees

Charity information

Treasurer's Report

Independent Examiner's Report

Receipts and Payments account

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Notes for the accounts

Annual Report 2023

Introduction: 2023 is the middle year of this triennium and has been another busy year; it has been exciting, as we have moved forward with our reimagining for the Branches. Rewarding as we have made new friends in the Charity world and cemented old friend ships too.

Our patron Mrs Sara Stonor HM Vice Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex's term of office ended in 2023; Mrs Stonor has been an outstanding supporter of Mothers' Union (MU) and has supported our projects and programmes through her work as HM Vice Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex. The trustee board voted unanimously to offer Mrs Stonor to receive Life Membership of Mothers' Union we were delighted she accepted this offer and in May 2023, she was enrolled.

The trustees are delighted that HM Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex Mr Andrew Blackman CstJ has accepted our invitation to be a Patron for our charity.

In May, members voted in favour of accepting the amended Constitution. The updated Regulations are to be voted on at the Members Meeting in May 2024.

In June, members had a refreshment stand in "The Sanctuary" at the South of England Show, Ardingly. It is always wonderful to work with our colleagues in Church House.



Members held services and marched with placards supporting 'No More 1 in 3' and the launch of 'RISE UP' MU's anti domestic abuse campaign in both York during the MU annual gathering in September and across the diocese during the 16 days of activism held 25th November to 10th December.

Mothers' UNION
#NoMore1in3
End abuse and violence now

Since 2005, Scilla Page has been in charge and now currently part of the team who volunteer in the visiting room play area in HMP Ford.

It takes a certain strength of character to go into any prison every week and volunteer to help both families and offenders to find a way to have a relationship. I cannot quantify the good Scilla Page our Prisons Liaison Officer has done in strengthening family ties, and therefore making a better community when offenders leave HMP Ford and return home. This work and dedication were recognised by HM Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex Lady Emma Barnard who successfully recommended Scilla to be a guest at HRH Princess of Wales Royal Carol Service held at Westminster Abbey on 8th December 2023.

Our diocesan 'Comper' banner that is housed in the Lady Chapel at Chichester Cathedral, received some much-needed conservation work.

During 2023 we touched the lives of over 1700 adults & 700 children with Christ's love through our Diocesan Projects, which is hundreds of families.

During 2023 members met together, sharing, and praying together. We had trustee meetings in person and hybrid using zoom, and a quiet day. All our Diocesan Projects are continuing well.

Our Worldwide Wave of Prayer services on 26th -28th February were well attended by all, but it was requested that an A5 service sheet be compiled for each member to use in their own homes for 2024 as well as together. Maria Greco took up this challenge and produced a beautiful service.

We have not included in these figures the number of lives touched by Branch projects across the two counties in the Chichester Diocese.

Safeguarding: The society is committed to ensuring a safe environment for all. In 2023 we adopted the national Mothers' Union policy and procedures. Mothers' Union Diocese of Chichester has no serious incidents to report to the Charity Commission for the year 2023.



Away From It All Holidays (AFIA):

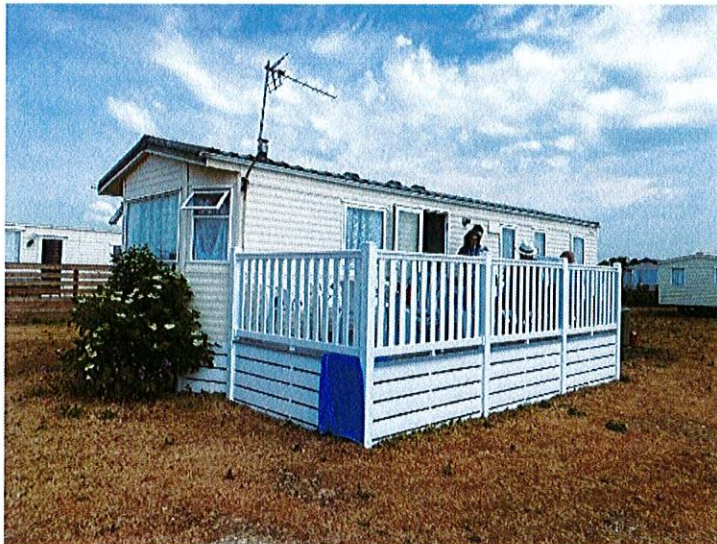
Christine Bright is our Diocesan AFIA Lead; she reports:

Delighted to report that we are still able to give free holidays to local families who would not be able to afford a holiday. Both caravans were well used during the summer; June, July and August completely full for both and the Selsey caravan was also busy during September and most of October.

Each year we open for the Easter holidays; March/April and close for the winter at the end of October after the half term holiday; this gives us a holiday season of 26 weeks.

We had very few families stay during April and May; nothing really gets going until the May half term.

Winchelsea held an open day in June to commemorate the new veranda that was fitted to the Winchelsea caravan this season, which is a huge improvement. We received a legacy and money from the Masons, which enabled us to do this. There are plaques on the veranda to explain the donations.



Selsey were unable to hold an open day due to the number of holiday bookings!!

35 families had holidays in our caravans, this breaks down to 13 families stayed at Winchelsea, and 22 at Selsey; this meant some 25 adults and 23 children went to Winchelsea and 41 adults and 37 children to Selsey.

Referrals for families to enjoy an AFIA holiday arrive with us through different organisations. The breakdown for 2023 is as follows:

Winchelsea caravan referrals: 1 from a Parish Priest, 2 from Mental Health Therapist, 2 from NHS Social Worker in Lewes, 4 from The Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work (FSW).

Selsey caravan referrals: 1 from Safe in Sussex, 2 from Parish Priests, and 2 Mothers' Union Members, with remaining 14 families from FSW.

These maybe the breakdowns, but does it show the impact! In both caravans, we supply a guest comments book, one family left this:

"Dear Linda, & everybody involved in Mothers Union,

Thank you so much for giving us this unforgettable holiday to cherish and remember for the rest of our lives! We can't even start to tell you how much it meant to us! We definitely needed a break from everyday stress and pressures.

We haven't been on holiday for 5 years. We don't have any family here, as they all live in South Africa! We had the Covid epidemic, lockdowns and I went through a separation. It's been extremely stressful, and money is so tight.

Thanks to you all, you have made it possible for us to rest, reflect and give us the best family time we could have asked for. You made a real difference in our lives, and we will be forever grateful. Thank you, so much. You are making a real difference in people's lives.

Thank you so much once again x"

A very successful season, a few problems here and there but that is the nature of the families we are helping. Upholding our aim to help families in adversity.

The most popular dates for AFIA bookings are the school holidays; these are always snapped up first. Families with children under school age are offered holidays for the weeks that fall outside of the main school holidays. However, we always have some time during the season that is not taken by our referred families. The trustees agreed that after all the referred families have been booked, we offer the caravans for a daily fee of £25 per night to our clergy and members to stay. In 2023, we had one clergy family, and two MU members and their families' stay at Winchelsea, and three MU member's and their families' stay at Selsey.

"You made a real difference in our lives, and we will be forever grateful"

This project only works because of the outstanding work done by the local Branches to the caravans and certain members who are prepared to give of their time every week.

Huge thanks to Linda at Selsey for whom it has been nonstop every week through the Summer Months, meeting and greeting our guests.

Many grateful thanks to Brenda at Winchelsea for organising, ordering and arranging the fitting of the veranda, as well as meeting and greeting families and cleaning the caravan.

Prisons: Scilla Page our Prison Liaison Officer reports:

Five members of Mothers' Union continue to work under the Prison Advice and care Trust (PACT) umbrella at HMP Ford. The lead Family Support Worker is Claire Haine, whose main responsible is for the men and their families. She keeps a record of the people using PACT services and of the additional workers.

The play area is covered by volunteers, who Claire recruits through the PACT system. Sadly, none of the 12 people who expressed an interest in joining us last year, has come onto the rota. There are four visiting sessions each week and these are usually covered with a single volunteer. The days when we always had two people are gone. Visitor numbers have increased, but not back to the level they were at before Covid. On Saturdays and Sundays there are usually 3 or 4 small children playing with ride on toys or sitting at the table with their parents. The older children may come in to borrow a game or

We are supporting 4 families in the play area at each session.

acquire paper and pencils, but most are content to sit with their father and talk. On average, we are supporting [4 families in the play area at each session](#).

Claire is very fortunate to have MU members who can organise the rota online, Mary Lewis, and I liaise closely with the Chaplaincy, Philippa Dabin.

The last Family Day was a much quieter affair than some I've witnessed, but none the worse for that. There were crafts for the parents and children to share and some party games with small prizes. Father Christmas appeared and the prison kitchen provided food. The prison officers were less involved than sometimes. The occasion when the Governor turned up and played her trumpet with the offender's rock band, will, I fear, never be repeated.

Christmas Cards were delivered to Anna Glenton, from the Chaplaincy in HMP Lewes. She needed 80 this year and to the Anglican Chaplain at Ford, Steven Gurr, who took 100. I am still holding 450 signed cards for Christmas 2024.

Flourishing Families: Diane Clack is our Diocesan lead for Flourishing Families, she reports:

The Britain and Ireland pilot of this global programme started in May 2023; it is an exciting new program, which is aimed at helping parents, be more positive about themselves and their abilities to have happy, healthy families. The materials will be delivered at a local level to parents/carers in small groups with facilitators working in pairs.

So far there have been two full day workshop hosted by Chichester diocese and two evening zoom sessions. Workshops focus on Facilitation Skill Practice, Safeguarding and how best to deliver the material. The pilot training is being facilitated by Staff from Mary Sumner House (MSH) and an MU member and Parenting Trainer. All training should be completed by June 2024.



Three dioceses are currently involved in the pilot (and 15 members from Chichester, Guildford and Rochester dioceses attended the launch on the 27th May 2023). The parents' group materials were also piloted in Coffee Tots in Coventry (an initiative supported by MU) in the summer term and within the MSH team in August and September.

Everyone who is interested in being part of the Flourishing Families team has been asked to complete an application form and to offer two references. This is currently being followed with support from the Safeguarding Lead.

We are intending to start rolling out this gentle, self-help programme across our Diocese in 2024.

As one mum said, *"For me it can't come quick enough, I need a safe space to talk about my concerns and how I feel, without judgement"*.

Ministry of Cake (MOC): Christine Emson Trustee reports:

Many branch projects come under the heading of MOC; however, MOC is there to support all medical staff, to let them know we are there for them, through all difficulties. All volunteers who go onto the wards are attached to the Hospital Chaplaincy teams and undergo NHS volunteer training either online or in person.

Worthing Hospital West Sussex: This project is running in the Brighton District Area and my thanks go to all the members and Branches who support us both in prayer and by fundraising.



Members from St Andrew West Worthing Branch and St George East Worthing Branch have been busy supporting this project. Memory bags, emergency wash bags including new baby grows have been going into the (neo natal) Beeding ward and delivery suite. As well as taking cakes onto Bluefin Children's ward, and Beeding each Monday afternoon for staff and parents. One new mum said, *"I can't thank you enough, our*

daughter was weeks early and I was out shopping when I went into labour, I had nothing!! It all happened so quickly I don't know what I'd have done without your lovely wash bag and the baby grow too".

Worthing Hospital is in the parish of St Georges Church, since the Sanctuary area within Worthing Hospital has been moved downstairs there is less space in the Chapel area for large services. The Chaplain, Rachael Bennet has been blessed with a large, warm, and modern church in St Georges. The larger services are now held there which is lovely as both branches work well together.

There have been 2 services one for families who have lost babies in June, where members formed a small choir to sing when the families could not and then serve tea, cake and a listening ear when needed. We have also been together for a memorial service of a young Doctor in September, showing hospitality and Christ's love.

"I don't know what I'd have done without your lovely wash bag and the baby grow too"

There are plans for MU Members at Hurstpierpoint to resume the MOC at Queen Alexandra Hospital in the coming months.

We still have no input into St Richards Hospital Chichester.

Conquest Hospital Hastings East Sussex: This project runs in the Bexhill District Area; thanks go to all members and Branches who support the work in pray and by fundraising.

The Conquest is in Hastings, we do not have any members in Hastings, and therefore members must travel, often some distance to volunteer in the hospital. Our volunteer team from Rye Branch takes cakes onto the wards is now only four members; we all

"It doesn't matter how bad the day is, suddenly we know we will get a treat, and that you care enough never to let us down"

attended a training course organised by the Hospital on the 4th September. We cover 2 Tuesday mornings per month.

Members of Brede branch are still supplying emergency wash bags for the Conquest Hospital, targeting older adults who are unexpectedly admitted.

These may seem to be simple projects, but when men and women are working under pressure, a small thing like a homemade piece of cake, can help them know they are valued, as one doctor at Worthing said, *"When you come onto the ward you can feel the atmosphere lighten. It doesn't matter how bad the day is, suddenly we know we will get a treat, and that you care enough never to let us down"*.

Worldwide Links: Caroline Sewell our Worldwide Links Officer reports:

I am in communication with our link MU dioceses as follows: Margaret in Seoul, Korea, Bishop Monday in Mundri, South Sudan and Nesta in Madi and West Nile, Uganda.

Margaret shared the news of a new MU President in April. There seems to be much emphasis on the celebration of the work of former missionaries. Here in her own words:

"We have a new president of Korean province, so we hope she makes the balance of 3 dioceses of Korea and keeps and develops the work of Korean province."

"There's the competition of hymn in Busan diocese in March. We want Many members of Busan churches will participate in it. And there's Mary Sumner day, big event in August. If you have prayer, please let me know."

She says they are well and do not currently have any new projects planned.

Nesta shared that over the last year there has been a busy schedule. The MU have been praying for the sick, helping the needy, organising conferences to renew or rebuild their faith, educating communities about the dangers of GBV, organising youth seminars, mobilising resources for the church. They are also constructing an eating-

house to generate an income for the MU. It was quite humbling to read how hard they work and the emphasis on community and living out their faith. She has also shared that there is a high mortality rate in mothers giving birth and the devastation that brings. Nesta is always encouraging trust in the Lord.

Here in her own words:

"Because with God nothing is impossible, may the almighty God lead you"

Bishop Monday in South Sudan had been a sometimes-prolific communicator and sometimes silent. Given the unsettled nature of life in South Sudan, I think this is very understandable. Here he is in his own words in reply to my concerns about the violence that erupted last spring in neighbouring North Sudan:

"Thanks for the greetings. We are fine and too far away from the troubles of Khartoum/ Sudan. We are in South Sudan now a separate Country. Yet we are still concerned about our fellow Christian brothers and sisters over there who are being affected and thanks."

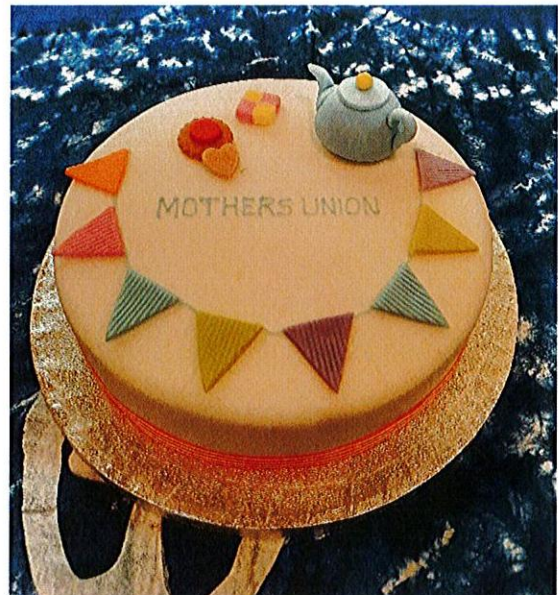
Very recently Bishop Monday sent photos and videos from the celebrations of the dedication of a new church.

Interestingly I communicate via WhatsApp with Nesta and Bishop Monday and email with Margaret, my role is therefore I reflect much easier than it was for others not so many years back!

Citizenship Ceremonies: Throughout East Sussex members attend and run the refreshments for Citizens Ceremonies. As can be seen by our Worldwide Prayer Links many of the people who apply for British Citizenship will have known Mothers' Union in their countries of origin.

As one new citizen said, *"Seeing Mothers' Union here is like having a little bit of our old home as we go forward with our new home"*.

Brighton: The Citizenship ceremonies at Brighton have taken place in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall every first Monday of the month. There are two ceremonies, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. At each ceremony, there is an average of thirty new citizens with their guests. The new citizens come from all around the world; as a rule, each group of thirty includes people from 20+ countries. It is impossible to work out how many come from each country, but we can name Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East as areas where a lot of new citizens come from.



Our group of Mothers' Union volunteers comprises three regular members from Denton and Seaford Branches and a variety of occasional helpers, some from MU and some just joining us when they can out of friendship and the goodness of their hearts. We also have a small group of willing cake makers who contribute regularly.

Everything we provide is homemade. Brighton council gives us a £65 monthly contribution towards ingredients and other supplies, which comes in handy, as we are providing for around 120 people each month. Staff at the Registry Office are very happy to help us in any way they can: setting up, transporting heavy bags, tidying up afterwards, etc. The dignitaries attending the ceremonies always make a point of mentioning Mothers' Union, directing people to our leaflets and publicity that we display on the table and encouraging them to ask us about our organization.

Some comments:

"I work as an administrator at a Sixth Form College. I am going to display your leaflet on our noticeboard. Young people must know about you and your wonderful work."

"I come from Africa. Of course, I know about Mothers' Union. My mum and my gran are members!"

"So happy with this warm welcome. Thank you for making this special day even more special."

Maria Greco, Denton Branch

Crowborough: I and one other member attend the ceremonies held in the Crowborough Offices. In 2023, we had 6 ceremonies held on regular intervals on 3 days. 2 ceremonies on each day, one at 10am and one at 12noon. There are 10 candidates at each ceremony with their families.

On arrival, we are always made welcome, and they are so grateful for our presence. We have the run of the kitchen in the offices in Crowborough. Once we have laid the table out and the kettles are ready, we are introduced to HM Lord Lieutenant for East Sussex, Mr Andrew Blackman CstJ and the Chairman of the County Council or their representative.

"So happy with this warm welcome. Thank you for making this special day even more special."

We are permitted to watch the ceremony and watch the candidates say their pledges. We are always mentioned by the officials and thanked. We then serve coffee, tea and biscuits and chat to everyone while they wait for their photos to be ready. It is a lovely time for all. We are proud to

be included in this event. Then we clear away, repeat for the next session, and start again. A very rewarding day for everyone.

Mary Sumner, Heathfield Branch

Eastbourne: We so enjoy attending these moving ceremonies. We are always made very welcome by the Town Hall staff. We can sit and watch the ceremony before making the tea afterwards. The Mothers' Union is always spoken about by the mayor he really enthuses about what the Mothers' Union does both locally and worldwide. It is a joy to chat with the new Citizens who are always so proud of their achievement. We have had four ceremonies so far this year.

Trish Clarke, Polegate Branch

Hastings: We have attended three citizenship ceremonies in Hastings Town Hall. We cater for approx. 60, 20 are the new citizens, and if there is anything left over the town hall staff are queuing up.

It is a real privilege to be part of this special day for our new citizens. HM Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Andrew Blackman CstJ and Mayor always make a point of thanking the Mothers Union and recommending their favourite cakes or savouries!

After the official ceremony whilst they are having their photos taken, we have a chance to chat to the citizens and their supporters who come from all over the world.

Christine Emson, Bexhill District Trustee

Lewes: Miles of smiles from around the world! Ringmer Branch continue to provide and serve the refreshments for the Citizenship Ceremonies at Southover Grange in Lewes. There were three citizenship ceremonies in 2023; two at Southover Grange and one at Crowborough as the Grange was undergoing renovations. In total over those 3 days, 60 new British citizens were sworn in and upwards of 150 family friends and dignitaries were served refreshments.

The new British citizens came, quite literally, from across the world - from Syria, India, Czech Republic, Rumania, Venezuela, Gambia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Colombia and Nepal. The day clearly means a great deal to them all- many were very smartly dressed and there were plenty of beaming smiles!

As always, the MU were made to feel very welcome, much being made of the very British tradition of tea and cake! It remains a privilege to be part of the occasion.

Christine Smith, Citizenship Coordinator for Ringmer MU

Eastbourne Family Contact Centre (EFCC): EFCC has continued as a joint project with The Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work (FSW). In 2023, a £5,000 grant was given to FSW towards the running costs of the project.

***We have supported
24 children to see
their non-resident
parent and helped
17 parents.***

Michelle Smart Senior Family Support Practitioner & EFCC Co-ordinator reports:

During this year I have processed and pre-visited [20 referrals](#), these are for supported contacted, during the

process 3 families managed to find a way forward without using the Contact Centre.

This year, [we have supported 24 children](#) to see their non-resident parent and helped 17 parents with these arrangements. This breaks down to 14 fathers and 3 mothers who had supported contact with their children.

Parents often say, *[“Thank you so much for all you do.”](#)*

Families look on the Contact Centre as a safe space. *[This year one father travelled from Cornwall to see his children. Mum and Dad found they could talk and get on well culminating in the mother deciding to move from East Sussex to Cornwall so their children could be nearer to their dad.](#)*

We continue to receive referrals, many of which require supervised contact, which is very different from supported contact. However, we are now in the process of becoming accredited by National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) to offer supervised contact and hope that we can offer this to families soon.

***“Thank you
so much for
all you do.”***

I am in the process of negotiating more availability during the week at the Gateway Centre. We have been praying for the right person to support me with supervised contact; they must have experience of dealing with supervised contact. Our prayers were answered; a friend of one the volunteers have just retired from working with social services for the past 20 years and is very keen to work with us. She is also a committed Christian.

I am also training up one of the volunteers to become a deputy co-ordinator. Having worked solo for the past 3 years, it is nice to finally have a colleague work alongside me. She also has experience of working in a contact centre. Please keep us in your prayers for the expansion of supervised contact and for more volunteers to come and join us.

Modern Day Slavery: Reverend Sue Foster continues as our Modern-Day Slavery Ambassador and Trustee, she reports:

I visited seven branches in 2023 including, Horsham, Heathfield, Hellingly, Preston Friday Club, Brede, Lancing, Seaford and spoken to 120 people. The meetings included folk who were connected but not members of Mothers' Union; this is encouraging as awareness is spreading to other organisations and people. Everywhere I have been, I have been warmly welcomed and have had excellent feedback on a very difficult subject.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity these branches and groups have given me to share this huge problem with them and the importance of keeping our eyes open and a willingness to report anything we see that does not look right.

My thanks again go to the Clewer Initiative for the resources and training on their website. Their posters and information are a wonderful resource to draw upon, as I continue to share awareness with others.



THE CLEWER
● INITIATIVE

These visits have encouraged all to be more aware of what is going on around them

I leave at each branch posters to be displayed also I leave leaflets and contact details for the Modern Day Slavery help line. I have had a warm welcome everywhere and feedback has been good. Many have limited knowledge of modern slavery, so hopefully these visits have encouraged all to be more aware of what is going on around them and a willingness to report anything that does not look right.

I have continued to meet with my fellow Ambassadors from Sussex and Surrey, and my thanks go to them for their support and varied insight and experiences.

This subject is so important, especially for vulnerable adults and children within our society.

We can make a difference if we just look, listen, and take action.

God bless.

Summary: 2023 has been a busy and productive year for the membership of Mothers' Union.

Our Away From It All holidays (AFIA) gave more free holidays than ever before, having a waiting list, which was used of families who wanted one of our holidays.

To grow our projects, we need to grow our membership, and find more partners to work with. It is unfair and impossible to expect our members to finance all the projects.

Our projects come from an awareness of the needs in our communities

Members took on board the need to change how and where we meet, this has meant that none of our branches has closed, and our membership has increased by 14 from 781 to 795.

We have strengthened our ties with the Diocese through our work on the Diocesan Committees. We have representation on The Diocesan Overseas Committee (DOC), and the Diocesan Committee for the Common Good. I have continued as a member of Diocesan Synod.

Whilst our Overseas Prayer Links are not the same as the Diocese, because of sitting on the DOC we have continued to work as a conduit between the Diocese and Mary Sumner House.

Proving we are all around the world, but we are just around the corner too. It has been important therefore to continue strengthening our links with our sister Diocesan Charity – Family Support Work (FSW) and forge new links with others.

Hayley Cole, our administrator, has worked incredibly hard as have all the trustees and Officers across the Diocese, my thanks to you all.

Mothers' Union is a grassroots movement of men and women, who pray with their feet moving. Our projects come from an awareness of the needs in our communities and are result through prayer. Our roots in our communities go deep, we have and can still with the Father's help work and love making our communities understand each other better, changing attitudes, making our communities a better place to thrive.

In these uncertain times of war, recession, and uncertainty, members continue to work and look forward with hope. As Nesta in Madi and West Nile, Uganda *"because with God nothing is impossible, may the almighty God lead you"*.

Karen Hill

Karen Hill
Diocesan President
Chichester Mothers Union

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Chichester



MOTHERS' UNION CHICHESTER DIOCESE

CONTENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Charity address | Garton House 22 Stanford Avenue Brighton East Sussex BN1 6AA |
| Registered Charity number | 249826 |
| Trustees | Mrs Karen Hill Mrs Michele White Mrs Christine Bright Mrs Christine Emson Revd Sue Foster Mrs Maria Greco Revd Emma Ham-Riche Mrs Deborah Matthews |
| Officers | Mrs Hayley Cole - Diocesan Administrator Revd Margaret Constable - Diocesan Chaplain |
| Bankers | Barclays Bank |
| Independent Examiners | Shoreline Accountants Limited |

MOTHERS' UNION CHICHESTER DIOCESE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Vision and Mission

Vision

Our vision is a world where everyone prospers. We actively pursue this vision through prayer and action, helping to build confident people and resilient communities. Our movement seeks to bring about justice, challenge prejudice and advocate change.

Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by helping the sustainable transformation of communities worldwide. We do this by helping to nurture strong relationships at all levels, promoting peace and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally.

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 world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service;
- promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; and
- help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Organisational Structure

The charity is run by the Trustees

Trustees

Those who served during the year were as follows:

Mrs Karen Hill
Mrs Michele White
Mrs Christine Bright
Mrs Christine Emson
Revd Sue Foster
Mrs Maria Greco
Revd Emma Ham-Riche
Mrs Deborah Matthews

Officers

Mrs Hayley Cole - Diocesan Administrator
Revd Margaret Constable - Diocesan Chaplain

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Performance and Financial Review

For 2023, the total incoming resources of our funds were £75,655.15 (2022: £59,183.10) and are detailed in the financial statements.

Income from Subscriptions increased by £2,219 to £30,511 (2022: £28,292). Income for our major projects, AFIA and EFCC, increased by £12,131.30 to £28,388.42 (2022: £16,257.12). Districts and Branches continued their support with contributions to the General Fund.

There was a surplus in the accounts at 31 December 2023 of £74,657.52.

A few adjustments have been made to the overall figures as follows:

- Due to a misallocation in 2020 £15,000 has now been moved from Restricted funds to Unrestricted; this is in relation to a donation sent to Mary Sumner House.
- £434.84 has been deducted from the unrestricted due to misallocation during the Account Package change over in 2021
- £1771.80 has been added to the unrestricted fund from the restricted fund due to the amount being misallocated to the wrong column in 2022.

Reserves Policy

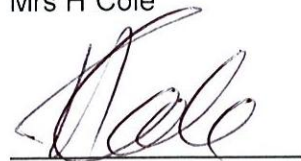
It is the Trustee Board's policy to maintain a balance on funds and running costs which are up to 24 months' worth of payments as a contingency against unforeseen situations and the unexpected drop in membership. In particular, this would cover running costs of AFIA and EFCC, plus general Diocesan expenditure. The closing balance of the Project Fund this year of £41,229.79 (2022: £42,349.71) represents about 16 months. This policy will be reviewed annually.

Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that the objectives and activities set out above fulfil this requirement of the Charity Commission's public benefit disclosure.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Mrs H Cole



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINERS

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

BASIS OF THE 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 charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

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

25 Clinton Place
Seaford
East Sussex
BN25 1NP

Mark Boxall
Chartered Accountant
Shoreline Accountants Limited



MOTHERS' UNION CHICHESTER DIOCESE

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

| | Unrestricted 2023 £ | Restricted 2023 £ | Total 2023 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | | |
| Subscriptions | 30,511.00 | | 30,511.00 | 28,292.00 |
| Gift Aid | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 3,025.96 |
| Away from It All Holidays (AFIA) | | 28,188.42 | 28,188.42 | 14,738.72 |
| Family Contact Centre (EFCC) | | 200.00 | 200.00 | 1,518.40 |
| MuE | 3,302.07 | | 3,302.07 | 2,607.21 |
| AFIA Appeal/Reserve | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| MSH Projects | 512.00 | | 512.00 | 1,080.00 |
| Meetings | 764.42 | | 764.42 | 972.07 |
| Other Income | 12,107.24 | | 12,107.24 | 6,947.31 |
| Bank Interest | | 70.00 | 70.00 | 1.43 |
| | 47,196.73 | 28,458.42 | 75,655.15 | 59,183.10 |
| PAYMENTS | | | | |
| Subscriptions | 15,489.00 | | 15,489.00 | 15,460.00 |
| AFIA | | 24,578.34 | 24,578.34 | 12,953.06 |
| Family Contact Centre | | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,157.59 |
| MuE | 1,655.68 | | 1,655.68 | 1,515.07 |
| AFIA Appeal/Reserve | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 1,737.60 |
| MSH Projects | 279.00 | | 279.00 | 801.00 |
| Insurance | 584.99 | | 584.99 | 584.99 |
| Trustee expenses | 301.18 | | 301.18 | 393.70 |
| Administrator Expenses | 530.76 | | 530.76 | 1,140.26 |
| DP Expenses | 1480.16 | | 1480.16 | 864.15 |
| Meetings | 381.08 | | 381.08 | 1,787.45 |
| Card processing Fees | 5.10 | | 5.10 | 7.31 |
| Printing & Stationery | 5,083.20 | | 5,083.20 | 5,153.67 |
| Wages & Administration | 8,899.28 | | 8,899.28 | 9,303.64 |
| Other Expenditure | 6,115.70 | | 6,115.70 | 2,759.12 |
| | 40,805.13 | 29,578.34 | 70,383.47 | 59,618.61 |
| Net receipts (payments) in year | 6,391.60 | -1,119.92 | 5,271.68 | -435.51 |
| Cash funds at 1 January | 10,699.17 | 58,686.67 | 69,385.84 | 69,477.94 |
| Closing balance adjustment | 16,336.96 | -16,336.96 | | 343.41 |
| Cash funds at 31 December | 33,427.73 | 41,229.79 | 74,657.52 | 69,385.84 |

MOTHERS' UNION CHICHESTER DIOCESE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| <u>MONETARY ASSETS</u> | | |
| Barclay's - Community Account | 57993.67 | 64054.39 |
| Barclay's - Active Saver | 16628.05 | 5295.65 |
| Petty Cash | 48.55 | 35.80 |
| | <u>74670.27</u> | <u>69385.84</u> |
| <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u> | | |
| Stocks | <u>1,400.00</u> | <u>1,400.00</u> |
| <u>FIXED ASSETS</u> | | |
| Caravan | <u>21,675.00</u> | <u>25,500.00</u> |
| <u>RESTRICTED FUND</u> | | |
| <u>BALANCES</u> | | |
| Project Fund | 5295.65 | 5295.65 |
| AFIA | 21758.82 | 18148.74 |
| EFCC | 2842.92 | 7642.92 |
| AFIA APPEAL/RESERVE | 11332.40 | 11262.40 |
| | <u>41229.79</u> | <u>42349.71</u> |

Approved by the trustees on 23/02/2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs H Cole
Diocesan Administrator



Mrs C Bright
Chair,
Finance & Services



Mrs K Hill
Diocesan President

NOTES FOR THE ACCOUNTS
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Incoming resource

Incoming resources are recognised when received by the Charity.

1.3 Resources used

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred and allocated to the appropriate cost centre. Expenditure includes irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.5 Restricted Funds

Away From It All Holidays (AFIA) provides free holidays for families who otherwise would not have one due to lack of resources.

Away From It All Reserves (AFIA Reserves) was instigated for 2022 for funding of unforeseen costs incurred on the two diocesan caravans and a fund for future replacement of the caravans should the need arise.

Eastbourne Family Contact Centre (EFCC) provides supported contact between absent parent and children.

Project Fund is for projects which the Board of Trustees deem suitable for funding.

1.6 Depreciation Policy

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation rate is 15% calculated to write down the cost of each asset each year over its expected useful life. Impairment reviews are carried out as and when evidence comes to light that the recoverable amount of a functional fixed asset is below its net book value due to damage, obsolescence or other relevant factors.

MOTHERS' UNION CHICHESTER DIOCESE

NOTES FOR THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 Grants receivable

| | | Restricted funds |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | 2023 |
| | | £ |
| Rye Masonic Lodge | (AFIA) | £2195 |
| The Cherry Tree St Georges Charitable Trust | (AFIA) | £5000 |
| | | Unrestricted funds |
| | | 2023 |
| | | £ |
| Brighton & Hove City Council | (Brighton Citizenship ceremonies) | £735 |
| Chichester Diocesan Fund & Board of Finance | (Flourishing Families & General Fund) | £3581.74 |
| Legacy from J.Dowrick | (Flourishing Families) | £600 |
| Mary Sumner House | (MUE sales related grant) | £658.63 |
| Rye Masonic Lodge | (Flourishing Families) | £500 |

3 Grants payable

| | | Restricted funds |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | 2023 |
| | | £ |
| The Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work | (EFCC) | £5000 |
| | | Unrestricted funds |
| | | 2023 |
| | | £ |
| Mothers' Union Canterbury Province | (Provincial President Expenses 2023) | £100 |
| Mothers' Union Canterbury Province | (Provincial President Expenses 2024) | £100 |
| Sussex Coast Talking Newspaper | (transcription of Link) | £50 |

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for
families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your
love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of
marriage and family life.
Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and
worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands
across the world.
In Jesus' name.

Amen

The Prayer of Mary Sumner, founder of Mothers' Union

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.

Amen