

THE MOTHERS' UNION

DIOCESE OF GUILDFORD



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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The Mothers' Union – Guildford Diocese
All Saints' Church Hall Office, 564 Woodham Lane, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5SH
Registered Charity No – 249931
Patron – Vacancy

Annual Report and Accounts year ended 31st December 2023

Officers

Diocesan Presidents	Mrs Sylvia Taylor, 47 Northcote Crescent, West Horsley KT24 6LX Mrs Diana Wood, 4 Leawood Road, Fleet GU51 5AL
Vice Presidents	Mrs Kim Darby, 10 Taleworth Park, Ashted KT21 2NH Mrs Dorothea Natrass, 22a, Scotland Lane, Haslemere GU27 3AL
Administrator	Mrs Lesley Templeman, Cornerways, Horsell Park, Woking GU21 4LY
Treasurer	Mr Stephen Moore, 10 Badger Close, Guildford GU2 9PJ (<i>to 31.10.23</i>) Mrs Elizabeth Newhouse, Whyteleafe, Druids Close, Ashted KT21 2UH
Chaplain	Revd. Helen Kempster, Perrymead, May Close, Headley GU35 8LR
Banker	Lloyds Bank Plc 147, High Street, Guildford GU1 3AD
Independent Examiner	John C Oliver (MA, FCA), The White Cottage, Crampshaw Lane, Ashted KT21 2UD

Trustees

Diocesan Presidents	Mrs Sylvia Taylor and Mrs Diana Wood
Vice Presidents	Mrs Kim Darby and Mrs Dorothea Natrass
Unit Co-ordinators	Mrs Shirley Martin Mrs Sheila Sutherland
General Trustees	Mrs Jenny Banks Mrs Carol Bingham Mrs Elizabeth Newhouse

Vision, Aims and Objectives

The vision of Mothers' Union is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

The aim and purpose of Mothers' Union is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

In furtherance of this aim and purpose Mothers' Union Guildford will carry out all or any of the following Objects:

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

Mothers' Union is firmly rooted in a voluntary ethos. Its governance, leadership and activities are driven by and undertaken through its members.

Activities

- 1. **Parenting programme:** The charity has a number of accredited parenting coordinators across the diocese, who can lead a range of parenting courses. Parenting courses have been run throughout the year at Send Women's prison.
- 2. **Away from it all (AFIA):** A scheme to offer holidays or short breaks for needy families. One of the general trustees coordinates this scheme, taking on families referred by local parishes or social workers.
- 3. **Women's refuges:** The charity supports women in five refuges across the diocese. Members donate food, toiletries and other items, which are collected at the Members' meetings and taken to the refuges by volunteers. Members also respond to ad-hoc appeals for items needed (such as cots or buggies) and provide Christmas gift bags for the women and Easter eggs for the children. The charity gives a small grant to women leaving the refuge to purchase household goods.
- 4. **Woking Night Shelter and Guildford Action:** Members support these local charities which offer support to the homeless and those on low incomes by donating goods which are collected at Members' Meetings.
- 5. **Hospital Emergency Admissions:** A number of branches have direct links with local hospitals to provide small bags of basic toiletries. Members donate items for these bags at Members' Meetings.

6. **Prisons:** MU members were previously involved with four prisons across the diocese, volunteering to help run creches for children visiting a father in prison and running craft sessions and other activities for prisoners. This work is gradually being resumed. Volunteers are now at work in Send prison, and also continue to provide craft packs for prisoners to use on their own, a scheme that was set up during the pandemic. Volunteers have also started to work again at Coldingley prison, working with PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust).
7. **Advocacy, Lobbying and Consultation:** Many campaigns on women's issues and family matters have been led by Mothers' Union nationally and internationally. Some members from Guildford Diocese form part of a panel feeding in views and opinions in furtherance of such campaigns.
8. **Communications:** The charity has a website which was revamped in 2023 to provide a more accessible and useful portal for members and non-members. Members receive a twice-yearly magazine from the Mothers' Union ("Connected") and another from Guildford MU ("The Angel"). Regular newsletters are sent out by email to promote MU activities and events.
9. **Lady Day Service:** This traditionally takes place at Guildford Cathedral and is opened by a parade of banners from branches across the diocese.



10. **Monthly Pilgrimage of Prayer:** This service is traditionally held at the Lady Chapel in Guildford Cathedral, led by members from various deaneries across the diocese in rotation. Some monthly services are now held solely by Zoom, to enable more members to take part.
11. **Intercessory Prayer:** A coordinator alerts a team by email when a particular emergency or prayer need arises, and in some cases small groups meet to focus on prayer for particular requests.
12. **Wave of Prayer:** Our "Wave of Prayer" is a continuous expression of our commitment in prayer to each other. It runs throughout the year so that the work and members of each and every area in which Mothers' Union is active is prayed for at some point. We include this in our Midday Prayers whenever we meet across the diocese.
13. **Quiet Days:** These have replaced the previous pattern of silent retreats. The Quiet Day in October 2023 attracted over 20 people and looked at the theme 'The God who sees and hears'.

Financial Statement

This year the trustees reformed the finance committee, a group of four of the trustees (currently Sylvia Taylor, Diana Wood, Sheila Sutherland and Liz Newhouse) supported by Steve Moore and Lesley Templeman. The committee aims to meet about four times a year to review the finances in more detail than time allows during full trustee meetings. Liz Newhouse took over as Treasurer towards the end of 2023 and the Trustees would like to thank Steve Moore for his stewardship of the accounts over the previous eight years.

The diocese continues to operate cautiously and seeks to use its funds prudently to support the aims and vision of Mothers' Union. We have three bank accounts with Lloyds, a general business account, an account mainly used for members' subscriptions and one for MUE trading.

We hold shares administered by the Guildford Diocese Board of Finance and have shares with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund, we also have a deposit account with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. We enjoyed a significant gain in the value of our investments in the year and we continue to claim Gift Aid.



Joint Presidents' Report for 2023

Diana Wood and Sylvia Taylor continued in their joint presidency during 2023, their second year of office. The Board of Trustees had previously lost some board members due to illness and at the end of the year our Treasurer, Steve Moore, stood down. Steve had been the treasurer for many years and his resignation was a great loss to the charity, which had greatly benefited from his help, guidance and hard work. Trustees were delighted that Liz Newhouse (already a board member) agreed to take on this key role. The board members have worked very hard this year, as we and the wider Mothers' Union seek to make the charity relevant in this new technological world, striving to improve and be more effective in our worldwide communications.

Achievements and events in 2023

- a) The charity has a new website, which is still a work in progress. As a result, there are now better connections with Facebook and Instagram and it is hoped this will attract new members.
- b) Both Presidents have visited branches to talk about their areas of expertise and to keep members updated. In addition we have started having Branch Leaders' gatherings two or three times a year and these have opened up far better two-way communication.
- c) The Administrator keeps our membership details up to date and is responsible for liaison with Mary Sumner House. There have been many changes at Mary Sumner House during last year, including the development of a strategy for "Communities of interests" to improve communication and the dissemination of information. A trustee or member is allocated to each 'community' in all of the dioceses with responsibility to cascade information down to members and branches.
- d) Both Presidents attended the Provincial Conference at High Leigh as well as provincial zoom meetings. Guildford MU is part of the Southeast Cluster within the Province of Canterbury - a smaller group of Diocesan Presidents who support one another and share ideas.
- e) The Diocesan Presidents, with about 20 other members, attended the MU Annual Gathering in York in September.

- f) Both Diocesan Presidents were delighted to take part in the installation of the new Bishop of Dorking in October and look forward to working with him
- g) The annual Lady Day Eucharist Service was held at Guildford Cathedral in March, with Bishop Andrew presiding and preaching to a congregation of some 225 attendees. The sermon was based on the MU theme of Transformation.
- h) The Members' Meetings in May and November were held at All Saints' Church, Woodham and were well attended. The AGM was also held at Woodham in September, where it was agreed that there should be 'One person, One vote' for the election of both Trustees and Presidents for the next Triennium. This replaces the previous system where there was a limited electorate consisting mainly of trustees, branch leaders and other office holders.
- i) Both Diocesan Presidents attended the Guildford Diocesan Synod (four meetings a year) and had two meetings with Bishop Andrew.

Members of the Guildford Mothers' Union continue to give their time and expertise generously. They all serve in their own ways which brings relief to local people; this is very difficult to quantify but is nevertheless vital work.

MU members are now also working with asylum seekers, in whatever ways we can, giving practical advice and help. Our members do not forget we are part of a worldwide organisation that helps families of all descriptions, around the world.

Sylvia Taylor and Diana Wood

Reports from Co-ordinators

Action and Outreach

Refuges:

At present we support five refuges within the diocese: two in Woking, one in Guildford, one in Aldershot and one in Waverley. All families at the refuges were invited to our party in August which was very successful with about 70 children being entertained by a bouncy castle, a ball pool, a magician and crafts.

The members are very generous, and donations are brought (from a list of needs provided by the refuges) to our two Members' Meetings. 50 Christmas bags for the women at the refuges were assembled by our Hinchley Wood branch and contributions were given to their Christmas party.

This year we have continued a recent initiative which involves linking specific families with branches that support them with their prayers, letters and gifts.

Prisons:

At Send women's prison, we hold card-making sessions twice a month as well as a social evening for the over 50s. We have about 12 volunteers who regularly go into the prison. Some members provide card-making packs that are provided for ladies who are not comfortable mixing with other prisoners.

Other activities:



Some branches make up and supply emergency toiletry bags for hospitals.

Goods are collected and donated to the women's night shelter in Woking, the night shelter in Guildford and the drop-in centre for rough sleepers in Guildford. Our members also donated 4 big bags of towels and lots of cutlery to Guildford Action, a local charity which provides services for people who have fallen through the net or find themselves outside normal society.

Many members use craft skills – knitting for babies and toddlers (with some garments given to local refugees and others sent to a linked MU charity in Uganda) or creating fiddle pinnies and twiddle muffs for dementia sufferers in local care homes. Members have also knitted knee rugs for stroke victims at local hospitals.

Shirley Martin (Action and Outreach Co-ordinator)

AFIA (Away from It All)

A variety of AFIA bookings were made through Guildford Diocese in 2023. Examples include a family (grandmother, daughters and grandchildren) being able to enjoy a caravan holiday together on Hayling Island. It was their first time away as a family since the arrival of a grandson with complex needs. AFIA also helped fund a residential school trip for a child who would otherwise have been unable to go and paid for another child to attend a holiday camp for a week, to give his grandmother, who is his full-time carer, a much-needed break.

Liz Newhouse (AFIA co-ordinator)

Faith and Prayer

Quiet Days

There were two Quiet Days in 2023. The first in July at St. Nicolas' Church, Cranleigh was led by the Cranleigh branch. The second in October at St. Giles' Church in Ashted was led by Emma Phillips, the multimedia artist, and attended by over 20 people.

Campaigns

The Diocese held a Modern-Day Slavery awareness event at St Mary's Church Guildford on Saturday 21 October; several MU members attended and manned a stall highlighting the work of the Mothers' Union in this area.

16 days of Activism against Domestic Violence is an annual campaign. MU Guildford marked this with an online candlelit vigil on Saturday 25 November. This included prayers and readings, and periods of silence for personal and wider contemplation.

Pilgrimage of Prayer

The November Pilgrimage of Prayer was a Remembrance Service for all past members of MU. Held at Guildford Cathedral in the Lady Chapel and led by Rev. Helen Kempster, members remembered those who had died recently, as well as all previous members of MU and what they had contributed in their time. People brought Orders of Service from funeral and memorial services for many past members and these were displayed on a table. This was a very well attended occasion and members appreciated this chance to commemorate members from across the diocese.

The Faith and Prayer group ensured that each monthly Pilgrimage of Prayer service was allocated to pairs of Deaneries, as well as Trustee led services.

There was a new initiative in 2023, a Diocesan Monthly Prayer meeting on Zoom for all to join.

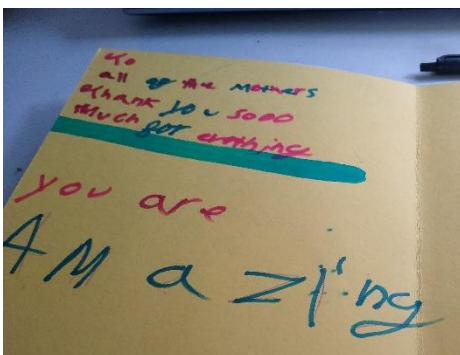
The Prayer Chain for those who need support for specific needs continues. All members are welcome to join this group. Those in receipt of prayer sometimes feed back thanks and progress.

Judy Snell / Antonia Wilson

Faith and Prayer Committee

Reports from Branches

Our branches vary in size – a few have just a handful of members while the largest have over 70. Activities vary from branch to branch, but all are involved in fundraising for MU projects and service to their local community.



Highlights from 2023 included: -

- Our Summer Party held at Normandy Village Hall. We welcomed over 80 visitors, including some refugees and other families from refuges. Children enjoyed a magic show, bouncy castle, soft play, craft activities, parachute games and the outdoor playground. MU volunteers supervised activities and served refreshments, and MU funds covered the costs of transport to the venue.

- All Saints Banstead offers 'Sing for Joy', a time which is much enjoyed by the local community, and coordinated by Mothers' Union together with help from the church family and friends. This is a monthly time to 'Revive the memories and lift the spirits', a relaxed and chatty morning of music which includes singing songs and hymns organised into themes. The team of helpers each play their part, making this a happy morning for everyone, with refreshments, and celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries. About 35-40 people come regularly, some in wheelchairs, and some from Care Homes. The morning ends with a final song 'Be Back Soon', and a Blessing.

- Members at Ashted started supporting their local branch of Besom (a national charity supporting individuals and families who are being rehomed). Besom provides furniture, bedding, white goods and household items. Ashted MU Branch provides a Welcome Pack for each family consisting of essential toiletries and cleaning materials (on average, about five packs per month).



- Cake stalls were held by many branches over the course of the year. Walton on the Hill held a cake sale before and after each Sunday service throughout June and raised nearly £250 for the MU Summer of Hope appeal. Cobham branch also supported the Summer of Hope appeal, with £50 raised from a raffle at the deanery tea party. Members of Cranleigh branch ran the cake stall at the church fete in August. Lightwater branch's annual garden party in August raised £225 for MU projects.



Cake sale in Walton on the Hill

- Lyne branch continued their project of producing little welcome packs for parents dropping their children off at the local school for the first time in September. They also made cards for children which were taken to Send prison for women prisoners to send to their families.



Safeguarding

I have continued to build on my first year as Safeguarding lead for Guildford Diocese Mothers' Union. The central Mothers' Union has appointed a temporary lead for safeguarding. There has been a continuing development of guidance and procedures for dioceses to use, including risk assessments and Safer Recruiting paperwork.

Guildford MU needed to establish a system for processing DBS checks. This process needed to be separate from the Diocesan system, so Guildford MU has signed up with Thirtyone.eight, a recognised organisation used by many other groups.

I have now completed all the required training to be an assessor for Guildford Mothers' Union. In 2024 we shall begin checking those members who need a certificate to enable them to fulfil their role within our organisation. The Diocese has agreed for any members who need safeguarding training to access the diocesan training programme.

I continue to be available to branches to talk about safeguarding.

Jenny Banks (Safeguarding Trustee)

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of the Mothers' Union (Diocese of Guildford)

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

John Oliver FCA
The White Cottage
Crampshaw Lane
Ashted
KT21 2UD

23 June 2024

Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Income from			
Membership & legacies		25,717	30,718
Gift Aid received		1,750	2,089
Charitable activities		10,147	4,050
Other trading activities		2,656	3,801
Other income		4,251	3,739
Investment income	5	1,786	1,931
Total		46,307	46,328
Expenditure on			
Subscriptions to Mary Sumner House		15,840	21,000
Diocesan projects		7,122	3,765
Direct charitable expenses		1,519	533
Summer party for refugees and other guests		2,469	-
Retreats & conferences		420	4,589
Management & administration	3	17,416	15,988
Lady Day Service		1,523	-
Total		46,309	45,875
Net (deficit)/income before investment gains/(losses)		(2)	453
Net gain / (loss) on investments		5,050	(6,600)
Net movement in funds		5,048	(6,147)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		82,665	88,812
Total funds carried forward		87,713	82,665

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Investments	5	64,676	53,211
Total Fixed Assets		64,676	53,211
Current Assets			
MUe Stock		127	1,456
Debtors		-	-
Cash held by branches		8,808	5,144
Cash at bank and in hand		23,856	28,038
Total Current Assets		32,791	34,638
Current Liabilities			
Creditors < 1 year	6	(9,754)	(5,184)
Net Current Assets		23,037	29,454
Total Assets less current liabilities		87,713	82,665
Total Funds		87,713	82,665

The notes on page 15 - 17 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 24 June 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Sylvia Taylor

Diana Wood

Diocesan Presidents



Elizabeth Newhouse

Honorary Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of Accounting

- a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A small entities.
- b) The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.
- c) The stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value
- d) The unrealised gains/(losses) on investments are based on the market value at the end of the financial year. The market value is deemed to be the mid-market value, which is the average of the bid and the offer price. Unrealised gains/(losses) are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.
- e) Member subscriptions are considered to be donations in substance and are recognised in the year to which they relate. Subscriptions totalling £9,754 received in 2023 but relating to 2024 have been deferred and shown in creditors.
- f) Legacies and donations are accounted for as income either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is virtually certain; this will be once confirmation has been received from the representatives of the estate that payment of the legacy will be made or property transferred and once all conditions attached to the legacy have been fulfilled
- g) Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid by the bank.
- h) Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

2 Income and Expenditure

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and support of its volunteers. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

3 Analysis of Expenditure

		2023	2022
		£	£
Management & Administration	Office rent	4,571	4,200
	Remuneration & expenses	7,718	6,974
	Telephone & broadband	1,324	1,177
	Postage	36	104
	Insurance	450	449
	Travel, conference & training	285	665
	The Angel magazine	2,340	1,347
	Computer & printers	-	630
	Other expenses	692	442
Total		17,416	15,988

4 Paid staff

The charity has 2 remunerated members of staff in 2023.

5 Investment Assets

Fixed assets investments	£
Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	53,211
Reclassification	6,415
Plus net gain on revaluation	5,050
Carrying (market) value at end of year	64,676

	Market value at year end	Income from investments for the year
	£	£
Analysis of investments		
COIF – 2,577.3 income shares in the CBF CofE Investment Fund	58,261	1,593
Guildford Diocesan Boff Fund – 311.39 shares	6,415	193
Total	64,676	1,786

6 Creditors & Accruals

Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Subscriptions	9,754	5,184

7 Designated Funds for Diocesan Projects

Funds are held for their designated use for work within the Diocese or as the Trustees decide.

Movement of Funds

Details of funds held and movement in funds in the current reporting period. These funds are held in Cash at Bank.

	Brought forward	Income	Resources expended	Balance in the year	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Away from it all	7,086	1,243	772	471	7,557
Women's refuge	180	334	450	(116)	64
Work in prisons	3,094	207	940	(733)	2,361
Parenting	919	-	-	-	919
Literacy	5,617	786	4,960	(4,174)	1,443
Total Designated Funds	16,896	2,569	7,122	(4,553)	12,343

8 Transactions with Trustees and related parties

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits. No Officer received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity. Trustees are reimbursed for expenses incurred whilst undertaking their duties. These are included in Management and Administration costs.

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of the Mothers' Union (Diocese of Guildford)

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- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



John Oliver FCA
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23 June 2024