



Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester

Registered Charity Number: 250038

Trustees' Annual Report & Consolidated Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Legal and administrative information

Registered Charity Name: The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Leicester Branch)

Charity Number: 250038

Address: St Martins House
7 Peacock Lane
Leicester
LE1 5PZ

Trustees:

Margaret Rouse	Past Diocesan President
Yvonne Smith	Past Diocesan President
Mary Clarkson	
Ruth Fryer	
Janice Lunn	
Eileen Payne	
Cynthia Thomson	Faith Adviser
Susan Wilson	

The Trustees are constituted as follows:

Diocesan President	elected by Diocesan Council
Up to two Past Diocesan Presidents	chosen by them
Seven Trustees	elected by Diocesan Council
Diocesan Chaplain	appointed by Diocesan President and Diocesan Bishop
One Deanery Leader	elected by Deanery Leaders

Administrator: Kate Cooper

Honorary Treasurer Susan Wilson

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Robert P. Appleby, MA, FCA
Rutland House, 23–25 Friar Lane, Leicester, LE1 5QQ

Trustees' Annual Report 1 January to 31 December 2023

Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester is a charity federated to similar charities bearing the same name, and with the same Aim and Objects and sharing the same ethos and direction as the central charity. It is governed by its own constitution (last revised February 2011). The elected Board of Trustees makes major decisions and carries out or enables practical projects. The elected Chair of Trustees (Diocesan President) attends Provincial Conference and reports back to the Diocese. One part-time administrator is employed for 9 hours per week. All trading is channelled through Mothers' Union Enterprises Ltd.

The aim of Mothers' Union is to advance the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life and this is focused on five objectives: to promote and support marriage; to encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children; to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service; to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; to help those whose family life has met with adversity.

There are over 600 Mothers' Union members in Leicester Diocese. Most are members of branches in Anglican churches throughout the Diocese; others (Diocesan Members) pay their subscription and receive mailings direct from our Leicester office and have the option of meeting in groups but without the administration involved in a branch. Two opportunities for all Diocesan Members to gather together were arranged during 2023.

Members are involved in local projects and ministry as well as supporting the work of the central Mothers' Union charity. Involvement includes prayer, volunteer time, donating goods or money. All our events and projects welcome involvement from members and non-members alike. We try to encourage new membership wherever possible and keep our local work under review to try to be as effective as possible.

In 2023, we were, once again, able to organise and fund a holiday on the east coast for 10 Leicestershire families who had either never had a holiday or not had one for several years. In addition, we were delighted to be able to provide a holiday, in a specially-adapted caravan, for a disabled gentleman, together with his two carers and his dog. Our Away From It All Holiday Project provides a fully-funded holiday in self-catering caravans at Haven Golden Sands Holiday Park in Mablethorpe. This holiday park has free activities and amusements for families, as well as being close to the beach. We also provide the return

transport and a generous grocery pack for each family. Members of the organising committee accompany the families to provide friendly support throughout the holiday. The holiday provides families with a welcome break from their daily pressures. Families are referred to us by Mothers' Union members, clergy, health visitors, teachers, social workers or other agencies. Mothers' Union members, with occasional very welcome support from local charities, raise the money needed to provide the holiday and their funds are certainly put to good use. In 2023 we received very generous donations from Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service's Rudolph Fund and from Barwell Poors Platt Charity.

Members continued to support local initiatives to help families in need, including those of prisoners, vulnerable and elderly people in their immediate area throughout the year. We kept them regularly informed of current needs as they collected items such as clothes, toiletries and equipment for babies and mothers; Easter eggs; Easter and Christmas craft items; women's underwear; hats, gloves, scarves and toiletries. We donated Easter eggs and craft items to HMP Leicester and HMP Gartree and to Women's Aid. In the summer we collected items for Women's Aid's foodbank. In response to a request from a prison chaplain, we sent Christmas cards to prisoners at the new HMP Fosse Way.

Our Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire project fund enabled us to respond to many people who needed support during 2023. The level of requests continued to grow during the year as the financial strain on older people and families continued. Requests for items of clothing or shoes for older people and young children, along with bedding and blankets, were most common. Families with babies requested nappies and food. We are glad that Mothers' Union was able to make a difference.

A trustee represents Mothers' Union on the Diocesan Panel for Social Responsibility, and another member is involved in the Diocesan response to modern-day slavery.

We continue to maintain a prayer chain to support anyone in need. We keep contact with members who are housebound by sending greetings cards and letters. As well as information by email, we continued to produce our Diocesan newspaper three times per year; this is a very important method of communication as a good number of members do not have internet access, and many of those who do still appreciate a hard copy document.

We continue to work hard to establish and maintain contact with our five Mothers' Union prayer partners in Kenya, Nigeria (2), Solomon Islands and Zambia. We continue to pray for them all, encouraging all members to particularly remember them at the end of June and beginning of July each year when our group appears in the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer schedule.

Following the 2022 visit from the Diocesan President of Kiteto, Tanzania, where she and her husband introduced their Mothers' Union project to combat Female Genital Mutilation in their diocese, some of our members were keen to support them in prayer and with finance. We made this project a focus during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in November/December. We were able to send £1,050 to the Diocese of Kiteto for the project in November and plan to send a further payment in 2024.

We continued to support the work of the central organisation by selling Mothers' Union cards and gifts among our members and friends. Our Diocesan MU Enterprises Representative orders in bulk, but individuals can also put in orders. We received 10% commission on all our purchases.

We promoted events organised by central Mothers' Union throughout the year. Online Midday Prayers Monday to Saturday each week, led by central staff or members, continued to be a great success, with members participating from all over the world. 11 members attended the Annual Gathering in York in September. We also encouraged members to support central fundraising appeals if they were able. Central Mothers' Union have continued to provide resources for members on their website.

We are grateful to the Diocese of Leicester for accommodating our part-time Administrator in St Martins House, Leicester, where she works one five-hour day each week. Her remaining hours are flexible and worked at home.

Our assets at 31 December 2023 were £1,874 more than at the start of the year, most of the increase being seen in the General Fund. We are grateful to all our members for their financial support. The Trustees have examined the current level of unrestricted reserves, £27,450, and assess this to be satisfactory to secure the charity's immediate future. However, in common with most other dioceses, falling membership remains a concern.

Assessment and mitigation of risk is undertaken by the Finance and Administration Working Group and reported to the Trustees. The Trustees are paying due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit as we seek to meet our charitable objectives. We follow the Leicester Diocese Safeguarding Policy with the additional request that members make themselves aware of who the Safeguarding Coordinator is in the parish where they are working.

Prepared by Susan Wilson, Diocesan Treasurer.

The report was approved by the Trustees on 21st May 2024.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Susan Wilson".

On behalf of the Trustees

Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

	General Fund	Central Funds	Local Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Income	12,076	17,107	10,182	39,365	35,231
Expenditure	10,868	16,785	9,838	37,491	31,987
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,208	322	344	1,874	3,244
Balances brought forward 1 January	26,242	-	21,510	47,752	44,508
Balances carried forward 31 December	27,450	322	21,854	49,626	47,752

	Note	General Fund	Central Funds	Local Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Subscriptions		3,160	13,299		16,459	17,280
Subscriptions to be allocated when balance received		-			-	239
Insurance		124			124	133
Diocesan General Fund		4,099			4,099	3,340
Gift Aid Income Tax recovered		2,089			2,089	2,390
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme		110			110	25
Legacy		-			-	100
MU Enterprises sales commission	1	482			482	418
Recycling		668			668	757
Investment income		854		207	1,061	197
Travel grant from central MU		-			-	50
Diocesan events		490			490	-
FGM Tanzania				1,345	1,345	50
Other income		-			-	50
Overseas Development Fund			50		50	60
Relief Fund			20		20	85
Britain & Ireland Development Fund			770		770	656
MSH Summer of Hope			140		140	-
MSH General Fund			2,819		2,819	2,819
MSH Christmas Appeal			9		9	-
MU Literature				61	61	-
Away From It All Holiday Project	2			6,742	6,742	4,966
Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire				1,827	1,827	1,017
Difference in funds held by branches	3			-	-	599
Total income		12,076	17,107	10,182	39,365	35,231

Expenditure	Note	General Fund	Central Funds	Local Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
MSH subscriptions			12,977		12,977	13,835
Staff salary		5,101			5,101	3,208
Insurance		450			450	-
Stationery & equipment		34			34	85
Postage		238			238	341
Photocopying		27			27	72
Bank charges		86			86	81
Meeting room hire & Zoom		365			365	355
Website		13			13	-
MUspaper		3,393			3,393	3,434
Officials' expenses		19			19	225
Training		116			116	150
Diocesan events		848			848	-
FGM Tanzania				1,050	1,050	-
MSH publications		78			78	91
Canterbury Province		100			100	100
Other expenditure		-			-	50
Overseas Development Fund			50		50	60
Relief Fund			20		20	85
Britain & Ireland Development Fund			770		770	656
MSH Summer of Hope Appeal			140		140	-
MSH General Fund			2,819		2,819	2,819
MSH Christmas Appeal			9		9	-
MU Literature				61	61	-
Difference in MU Literature assets	1			89	89	91
Away From It All Holiday Project	2			6,246	6,246	4,637
Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire				1,888	1,888	1,017
Difference in Supporting Homeless in Leics funds				266	266	595
Difference in funds held by branches	3			238	238	-
Total expenditure		10,868	16,785	9,838	37,491	31,987

Away From It All Holiday Project:						
				2023		2022
				£		£
Income:						
Balance at 1st January				9,691		9,326
Donations				6,742		4,966
Interest on CBF account				207		36
Total				16,640		14,328
Expenditure				6,246		4,637
Balance at 31 December				10,394		9,691
Expenditure breakdown:						
Accommodation				4,162		2,837
Coaches				1,440		1,300
Food				500		500
Mobility scooters				144		
Total				6,246		4,637

Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire account:						
						2022
				£		£
Income:						
Balance 1 January				5,848		6,443
Donations				1,888		1,017
Total				7,736		7,460
Expenditure				2,154		1,612
Balance 31 December				5,582		5,848

FGM Project:						
						2022
				£		£
Income:						
Balance 1 January				50		-
Donations				1,345		50
Total				1,395		50
Expenditure				1,050		-
Balance 31 December				345		50

Current Assets:						
	Note	General Fund	Central Funds	Local Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
CAF Bank Cash Account		4,191	427	5,273	9,891	12,341
CAF Bank Gold Account		3,522			3,522	3,457
CBF Deposit Account		19,736			19,736	19,736
Nat West MU Literature account				619	619	553
MU Literature cash in hand				83	83	36
MU Literature debtors				2	2	9
MU Literature stock	1			571	571	766
CBF Away From It All Holiday Project account				5,405	5,405	5,405
Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire account				5,581	5,581	5,848
Funds held by branches	3			4,320	4,320	4,558
Creditors	4		(105)		(105)	(4,957)
Total Current Assets		27,449	322	21,854	49,625	47,752

Notes to the accounts

Notes forming part of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023:					
1. MU Literature					
Stock is bought at retail price from Mothers' Union Enterprises Ltd. £64 of dated or damaged stock was written off during 2023.					
2. Away From It All Holiday Project					
Fund balance at 31 December 2023 is £10,394.					
3. Funds held by branches					
At 31 December 2023 Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester had 10 deaneries and 27 branches. The total assets held at 31 December 2023 by the 20 branches which submitted returns was £4,320.					
4. Creditors at 31/12/23	General	Central	Local	Total	
	£	£	£	£	
MSH General Fund (for overseas)		96		96	
MU Christmas Appeal		9		9	
	-	105	-	105	
This is the financial position of Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester as at 31 December 2023.					
The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.					
Prepared by Susan Wilson, Diocesan Treasurer					
The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 21st May 2024 .					
<i>Susan Wilson</i>					
On behalf of the Trustees					

Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees and members of Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, set out on pages 8 to 11 of this document

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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

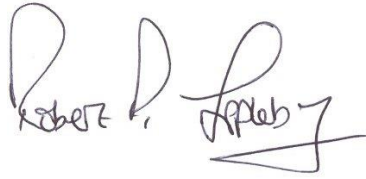
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Robert P. Appleby'.

Robert P. Appleby, MA, FCA
Rutland House
23-25 Friar Lane
Leicester
LE1 5QQ

14th October 2024