

# THE MOTHERS' UNION (COVENTRY DIOCESE)

England & Wales · Charity number 250129

## Details

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

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1966-11-15

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

## Contact

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**Website** [covmu.org](http://covmu.org)

## Activities

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

**Activities:** Mothers' Union seeks to support marriage and family life particularly in the context of the Christian Faith. We do this through various groups and activities in local communities, attached to parish churches, and alongside existing structures and activities. We also raise funds to run projects within the diocese, and send funds to the central Mothers Union for overseas projects

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** DIOCESE OF COVENTRY
- Coventry City
- Warwickshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£33,919	£22,445	-	-
2023-12-31	£35,175	£40,719	-	-
2022-12-31	£26,506	£17,057	-	-
2021-12-31	£20,953	£21,927	-	-
2020-12-31	£21,130	£29,958	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Karen Morris</b>	Chair	2022-01-01
Anne Lane		2022-01-01
Christine Helen Rutherford		2025-01-01
Lynette Askew		2022-01-01
Neva Humaira Khan		2025-01-01
PAUL STEPHEN MORRIS		2022-01-01

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

England & Wales - Charity number 250129

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# Accounts

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## **Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese**

### **Annual Report and Accounts**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**



**Karen (DP) with Kathleen Snow  
Worldwide President Elect**

# **Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese**

## **Annual Report and Accounts 2024**

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## **Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese**

Registered Charity Name	Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese
Charity address	Diocesan Office, 7 Priory Row Coventry, CV1 5EX
Registered Charity Number	250129
Trustees	Karen Morris - Diocesan President Paul Morris Lynette Askew Annie Lane Ann Gibbons Mary Leeson
Diocesan Chaplain	Revd. Denise Burgess
Diocesan Treasurer	Gary Askew
Finance Administrator	Patricia Rich (appointed 9/9/24)
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25, Kings Hill Avenue West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ
Examiner	Stephen Marks (ACA) Balsall Common

## **Diocesan President Annual Report 2024**

### *Transformation Now!*

We have welcomed 24 new members to the worldwide family of Mothers' Union this year and 95 new members have been enrolled over the last three years, whilst the role of Diocesan President continues to be a humbling and transformative one.

I enjoy attending branch meetings, deanery services and summer events/outings. I also have the privilege of presenting Long Service Certificates, enrolling new members and speaking at parish services to promote Mothers' Union more widely.

Another privilege is representing Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese when attending Diocesan Synod, Canterbury Provincial Conferences and West Midland Cluster meetings and events.

The role of a trustee board is to work collectively and have overall responsibility for managing the charity. I would like to, therefore, acknowledge the committed and faithful support received from my fellow trustee board members. In particular, grateful thanks to Revd. Denise Burgess, Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain who continues to provide prayerful reflection and spiritual nourishment. Diocesan Treasurer, Gary Askew, Patricia Rich, Finance Administrator and Finance trustee Paul Morris for all their support in keeping our finances and databases in order. Nigel Hawke for all his hard work as Gift Aid secretary.

The trustee board is also grateful to the office holders who selflessly, step out in faith to support the Mothers' Union initiatives and projects and the faithful committed members who pray, provide words of encouragement and heroic fundraising efforts to ensure our projects/initiatives continue to be well supported.

Indeed, we feel truly blessed to be supported by such committed and faithful servants in Christ.

We were delighted to welcome Patricia Rich to the role of Mothers' Union Diocesan Finance Administrator on a self-employed basis at the latter part of the year and Patricia has been working closely with Gary Askew, Diocesan Treasurer to learn our financial processes and is making good progress.

The final year of the triennium is important due to elections, not only for Mothers' Union Coventry but also for the central Mothers' Union trustee board. Elections for the first time were conducted digitally with leaders tuning in from around the globe with Kathleen Snow from Canada elected as Worldwide President Elect, to lead the new central Trustee Board from 2025. Comfort Fearon elected as Canterbury Provincial President Elect.

Members were also informed of the new triennial theme for 2025-2027 following on from 'Transformation Now!' Namely, 'Join Us and Join In!' a trumpeting cry to encourage us, to not only use our God given talents to spread the Good News story but to reach out to others, by asking them to, Join us and Join in!

Turning now to Mothers' Union elections locally and being the only nominee and deemed to be elected unopposed, I was delighted to be able to confirm my intention of being called to serve as Diocesan President for a further 3 years.

A new triennium brings change with two new trustees due to join the board from 2025 and two trustees due to step down at the end of this year. Grateful thanks to

Vice President Ann Gibbons who will have served faithfully as trustee for six years and to Mary Leeson stepping down after three years to focus on Mothers' Union branch matters.

Office Holders play a vital role in leading our projects and no more so than, Lynda Howells who has served faithfully as our AFIA (Away From It All Holidays) Representative for 10 years now and is due to step down at the end of this year. Lynda has also been most generous in volunteering not only her time but also the proceeds of her book 'Reflections of a Pilgrim' to the Mothers' Union Coventry AFIA project. The book has raised so far over £1000 to ensure more families benefit from an AFIA break.

There is no doubt the support office holders, branch leaders/contacts/committee members continue to provide is integral to carrying out Mothers' Union aims and objectives, growing membership and targeted outreach.

We are also fortunate to have many other unsung heroes also within the wider membership that continue to put their faith into action by serving others through their good deeds and prayers. Indeed, we are truly blessed and well placed to start the new triennium with a sense of God's love and hope as we give glory to God in everything we do.

Another example of this was when Mothers' Union member Paula Waters competed in the London Marathon to support AFIA and the MU Burundi Literacy and Education programme with some £3145.56 raised.

The Diocesan President's (DP) Challenge also continues to provide an opportunity to build on our important missionary work with one branch reaching out in love by purchasing items for 'House to Home' starter packs for Helping Hands and another has provided floor mats and financed six, thirty-minute dance and movement sessions, primarily for children with special needs.

The Alive 2023 legacy has supported parish and school initiatives and the spiritual development of children. Four applications have been received and goods purchased have been reimbursed on receipt of invoices and approval from the Diocesan Director of Education.

It was pleasing to see one school applying for funding to improve the school's worship area by purchasing icons, crosses and candles, another school purchased books to teach and enlighten the children on religious diversity. Another bought resources with the seed money to start a pupil led worship group with another buying materials to create a large mural within the school hall depicting a tree with the school's Christian values - to align with the school's motto of 'Together We Flourish'.

A new initiative for this year saw the launch of a Mary Sumner Day Tea Party in August, building on the success of the Christmas lunch, for the homeless at Gateway Hostel in Hillfields Coventry. Trustees and members enjoyed preparing food, chatting with residents and providing entertainment.

The aim of both events is to share God's love in a fun and meaningful way to ensure residents feel valued and to provide an opportunity for them to socialise with one another. For some residents leaving their accommodation is rather daunting so with some 50 residents in attendance, both events were deemed to be a huge success.

Mothers' Union members continue to reach out in love to other charities such as Coffee Tots, Coventry Clothing, Carriers of Hope, Coventry Haven and Doorway with donations from members of knitted items, clothing, seasonal gifts/toiletries and more.

Members value gathering to give thanks and praise to the Lord for all the outreach initiatives happening within the diocese and to share ideas. The Mothers' Union members and friends Celebration Lunch in October provides an ideal opportunity to just that. The theme this year was 'Serving Others Through Our Deeds and Prayers' which linked nicely to the triennial theme of 'Transformation Now!' and from the feedback received: uplifting worship, good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Domestic Abuse continues to be Mothers' Union main theme for advocacy, and it is pleasing that three branches have been awarded the Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse Level Bronze Award with two more branches getting ready to apply.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign is building momentum with the majority of branches/friendship groups displaying Domestic Abuse statements, shoes (with props), MU Rise Up posters, prayers and purple and white heart shaped 'no more 1 in 3' bunting. Members have also been using the song 'I am not nothing' by Beth Crowley, to help focus their thoughts, prayers and branch discussions around the myths of domestic abuse.

The end of the year (November to early December) saw the launch of a pilot Flourishing Families parenting programme where three parents met with two facilitators over a period of 5 weeks to fine tune and enhance the programme.

As we continue to reflect on the 'Transformation Now!' theme and the many acts of love and faithful service, we are also reminded that life changing hope is not in what we can do, but what God can and will do in and through us.

We are also reminded by, our Founder, Mary Sumner's personal prayer that we, as Mothers' Union members, are called to touch the lives of others with love. Indeed, to be Christ's hands and feet here on earth, using words, prayers and day-to-day living to bless those we meet or those we cannot physically reach.

With this in mind, we look forward, therefore, to next year where we can build on the triennial theme of 'Transformation Now!' with a sense of God's hope and purpose as we encourage all that we meet to 'Join Us and Join In!'

Karen Morris  
Diocesan President

## **Annual Review of Diocesan Projects and Outreach Initiatives**

### **Away from It All Holidays**

The AFIA holiday scheme is a Mothers' Union initiative in the UK and Ireland, which is run by members in their local dioceses.



AFIA provides holidays and day breaks for those whose family life has met with adversity, thus giving them an opportunity to consolidate and nurture relationships.

Mothers' Union members are involved in AFIA in many ways, whether this be through prayers for the holidays and for the officers involved with the scheme, fundraising through lunches, coffee mornings or nominating a family to the local clergy in their branch. We also receive donations from Parochial Church Councils who support the scheme.

If the Diocese is in a position to offer a holiday, the family will be asked to complete an AFIA application form which will need to be supported by someone who knows them in a professional capacity, such as a social worker, member of the clergy, doctor or head teacher. Applicants do not have to be a member of a church or any organisation to apply.

Once the family has been away, the Diocese normally receives feedback from them regarding the holiday, which reflects how they just enjoy spending time together relaxing away from the everyday stress of life and often say what a difference the break has made to their lives.

In 2024 Mothers' Union paid for four families to enjoy a holiday and the total spent during 2024 was £3,611.00, therefore benefitting were 6 adults and 9 children.

Here is some feedback from the families

"This was the first time we had been away together from Coventry. Staying at the seaside was amazing. The girls loved being able to go to the beach and play in the sea. Thank you."

And these are messages from another family

"I just told the girls about our holiday, I wish I'd filmed their reaction.... They're so excited and grateful."

"This has been soooo good. We have all enjoyed it so much. Our last day today so we've had fish and chips and ice cream on the beach! We've been so lucky with the weather - the icing on the cake for this amazing holiday."

"This has been the best week memory making"

### **Passionate About Parenting**

It continues to be a challenge to encourage parents/carers to attend parenting programmes. We are continuing to explore new ways of engaging but the stigma surrounding parenting groups continues to be a huge barrier within this country.

We have also been unsuccessful at our SEN school in Rugby, where we have run courses with positive feedback for many years. A new Head was appointed last

year, and since then, our contact there has not had the time to arrange anything. Again, we will hope for more progress next year.

The Flourishing Families programme being developed centrally by Mothers' Union is getting under way in Guildford and Chichester Dioceses and we have also run a pilot programme with very positive feedback. Coffee Tots has also offered a trial Flourishing Families programme and has sent their evaluation to our central charity as way of an overview.

We are keen to grow our facilitator team having lost many due to age, moving away and existing facilitators not keen to do more training linked to the Flourishing Families programme. However, two facilitators have undertaken additional training and look forward to engaging with the Flourishing Families programme next year.

We continue to advertise two single session resources from Care for the Family, 'Left to their own Devices' and 'A Mind of their Own' and offer taster sessions to branches and interested groups in churches.

### **Action and Outreach**

The work of Action and Outreach has followed a similar pattern as before, but with a widening remit. The President's Challenge, where branches are encouraged to use £50 to £250 maximum seed money to reach out in love continues to go from strength to strength.

The Mothers' Union Coventry homeless initiative, which started two years ago by St John Baptist Church, Mothers' Union members in Berkswell is also building momentum with lots of encouragement from MU members from across the diocese. Members deliver left over food donated by Sainsbury three times a week to four Homeless Hostels in Coventry City Centre on rotation.

Building on the success of the Mothers' Union Christmas party for the homeless, we also held a Mary Sumner Day tea party, which proved popular. We provided turkeys and entertainment for the Christmas lunch at Gateway Hostel and members continue to be generous in supporting these events by volunteering their time and prayerful support.

Members also donate toiletries, clothes, long-life tinned food such as Fray Bentos steak pies, meatballs and chunky soup. Household and laundry items are also in much demand, and we are pleased to be able to provide dishwasher tablets, detergent and collapsible clothes dryers for those staying in homeless hostels.

We also continue to support refugee families, asylum seekers and migrants via our links with Carriers of Hope, Coventry Clothing and Baby Godiva. All three charities support refugee families and provide everything from beds to saucepans to baby buggies and clothes.

The Carriers of Hope Christmas toy appeal is an annual event, to ensure no child goes without a gift at Christmas, as well as various appeals for clothing, such as school uniform, hats, gloves and scarves to which our members donate generously.

Our branches/friendship groups continue to support Coffee Tots, a Coventry city centre charity that provides a nurturing environment for parents and children of

under-fives. Branches donate Christmas hampers, seasonal goodies, knitted blankets and clothing. Special requests are also supported, where possible.

Our work for prisoners at Rye Hill, and Onley continues. We provide Christmas gifts for prisoners' children at Onley, and the Angel Tree initiative supports the provision of Christmas cards to Rye Hill inmates. Our members also support Family Days and help families prepare for their visit by phoning to ensure they bring the correct paperwork and are on hand to answer any questions.

Our knitters are active as ever, and the goods produced go far and wide. Members knit baby blankets and items of clothing for Coffee Tots families together with hats, gloves and scarves. Prayer shawls for our Indoor Members and miniature knitted angels presented to babies at baptism, to name but a few, are also popular.

Away from it all holidays (AFIA) under the care of Lynda Howells are active in achieving 'breaks' for families in need of a holiday, or a day out.

As mentioned before, the Passionate About Parenting programme has now been under review and for the first time within MU Britain and Ireland a Flourishing Families parenting resource has been launched. It was a joy to meet with three parents to pilot the programme over 5 weeks with the following very positive feedback:

How have the group facilitators helped you understand and explore the material?

'The Facilitators were very knowledgeable and had a wealth of experience and examples to share. The examples were also personalised for attendees. Follow up questions were asked to check we understood.'

Would you recommend the Flourishing Families group to your friends?

'Yes. It's very insightful, different and not aware of anything offered like this before. It's refreshing to have resources and support'

Any other comments?

'The facilitators helped us to feel safe right from the first session and the group felt very inclusive and comfortable'

'Thank you for making me feel normal.'

The plan is to build on this success and look for more creative ways to engage and support parents and carers so parenting challenges can be normalised and opportunities for new and lifelong friendships can be made.

Mothers' Union's commitment to supporting healthy and flourishing relationships is ever present and one of the greatest threats to individuals and families and societies around the world, is violence and abuse, which is carried out against women and girls because of their gender. Therefore, we continue to be committed to supporting those who have been affected by domestic abuse by shining a light on domestic abuse in all its forms.

This year as part of our support for the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence* and '*no more 1 in 3*' campaign, members took part in a silent prayer vigil within their churches, displayed a 'red chair' as part of the 'Red Chair' project (<https://www.restored-uk.org/>) to raise awareness about domestic abuse.

Members also engaged with the Mothers' Union Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse Campaign by displaying Rise Up posters with 24-hour Domestic Abuse helpline number tear off slips. Boards with Domestic Abuse statements on them and matching shoes were also displayed with props such as a doll or football (child) pair of rubber gloves or walking stick (adult) along with knitted white and purple love heart bunting linked to 'no more 1 in 3' to convey a powerful message and to encourage prayer for victim survivors as well as perpetrators.

Members also lead intercessions to pray for victim and survivors within their branch meetings and Sunday morning services. Mothers' Union resources also continue to be available to encourage advocacy activities locally and direct prayers.

Several of our members also attended the 'Counting Dead Women' vigil in Coventry City Centre, where local women come together to remember women who have been killed by men in the past year, due to domestic abuse and violence. Shoes are laid out for every woman killed, as a powerful message and visual aid.

Members also attended a conference run by Coventry city council and Coventry Haven, which provided a marketplace of DA agencies with the aim of informing and providing an overview of DA interventions and support within the local authority. Keynote Speakers also provided powerful testimonies and examples of how these various agencies provided support, which continue to be life changing.

### **Faith and Policy**

Prayers and worship continue to be foundational for Mothers' Union both individually and when members gather together. Festival Services continue to be held in Deaneries and this year in celebration of Mary Sumner, the Mary Sumner Day Service focused on Charlotte Yonge, Mary Sumner's first editor and their joint vision for Mothers' Union. The service also provided an opportunity to give thanks to our founder and reflect on why her vision for Mothers' Union is just as important now as it was nearly 150 years ago.

It was also a joy to see 60 plus members attend the annual Diocesan Advent Service at the historic Holy Trinity Church, Coventry to worship God, meet with friends and share refreshments. We are grateful to Revd. Canon Richard Hibbert who preached and shared his experience of Mothers' Union overseas and transformational projects. Grateful thanks also to Revd. Denise Burgess who led the service and soaked the toys donated for Onley Prison, Christmas cards for Rye Hill and donations for the homeless in prayer.

An additional Quiet Day was held this year for members - one in May and the other in November. The Quiet Day in May was a 'play day' where members had fun drawing, painting, gluing and prayerfully reflecting on how they could best use their talents (and leave their 'marks') to advance the kingdom of God. The November Quiet Day in preparation for Advent saw members explore and reflect on Mary and Elizabeth's relationship, their great faith, commitment and sense of duty.

Members also engaged with a new Mothers' Union initiative 'Empower her Literacy' to raise awareness of the critical issue of female illiteracy, which affects 480 million women globally. Members displayed posters to encourage members of the public to add their name via a link to the campaign and to pray that the government will take action.

Prayer is the heartbeat of Mothers' Union, and I am therefore grateful to the eight members who continue to support the MU monthly Coventry Prayer Diary with their creative prayers.

We were also fortunate (and a first) to be asked by our central charity to write a reflection together with six prayers for each day in preparation for September 2025 midday prayers around the theme of the 'Power of Reconciliation'.

Members continue to be involved in leading Mothers' Union Midday Prayers & Wave of Prayer via Mothers' Union Facebook as well as organising prayer walks. We are also thankful to have a member who regularly opens her garden to lead reflective prayerful afternoons to pray Thy Kingdom Come in June and in celebration of Mary Sumner Day during the month of August.

Members attended the annual Coventry Cathedral's Patronal Festival and Community of Cross of Nails Service in September. This year and a first was when Mothers' Union's Faith and Church Relations Manager joined them. She was also delighted to meet the interns who have a specific focus on peace and reconciliation.

Mary Sumner's personal prayer reminds us of our calling to touch the lives of others with love. We are to be Christ's hands here on earth, using our words, our prayers and our day-to-day living, to bless those we cannot physically reach.

We look forward, therefore, to next year where we can prayerfully work towards 'Join Us, Join In! Whilst building on the triennial theme of Transformation Now!

With God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26)

Thanks be to God.

*Karen Morris – Diocesan President*

## **Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statement of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, in accordance with current Mothers' Union and the Charity Commission requirements.

### **Aim, Purpose & 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 will carry out all or any of the following objectives:

1. To promote and support married life.
2. To encourage parents in their role to develop the Christian faith of their children.
3. To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; and
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. In Coventry Diocese, it operates at Diocesan, Deanery and Branch levels.

Members of Mothers' Union believe in the value of each individual and their unique qualities; in the value of relationships; and in the value of family as a source of love and support for individuals and as the basis for a caring community. Jesus said, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."*

Furthermore, our Mission is to demonstrate Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms. Promoting peace and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally.

### **Organisational Structure**

Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese is affiliated to Mothers' Union, a charity incorporated by Royal Charter (charity no: 240531) through its shared aim and objectives and by virtue of its acceptance as an affiliate by the central charity. The charity operates within the Anglican Diocese of Coventry. Governance, policies and procedures of Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese are in line with suggested policies from the central charity based at Mary Sumner House. Trustees consider the major risks of our operation are safeguarding and health and safety with procedures in place to manage them.

### **Performance and Financial Review**

For 2024 total income was £33,918 (2023 £35,175) with expenditure of £24,352 (2023 £40,719) with a surplus of £9,567 (2023 loss £5,544). Total cash held in all accounts for 2024 was some £67,735 (2023 £58,168). There were no post year end events. There has been a recovery in membership during 2024 post Covid and costs have been controlled in 2024 to maintain a surplus of £9,567.

## **Finance and Central Services**

Annual subscriptions were increased in 2024 by £2 to £34 for a Branch Member and £36 for a Diocesan Member to cover the increase levied by Mary Sumner House, our central charity. The Trustees did not include any increase in subs to cover the costs of the running the Diocese for 2024.

Our members remain loyal and continue to support Mothers' Union funds and projects. During 2024 £1,879 (2023 £1,544) was raised for the overseas funds and other projects that are administered by Mary Sumner House. Members also raised an amazing £6,016 (2023 £8,207) for the charitable works carried out within the Diocese of Coventry.

We continue to recruit new members, and we all need to proactively enrol a friend, a colleague or a neighbour as our membership continues to be static at best. At the year- end we had 448 members (2023 442) a modest increase over 2023.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees maintain financial reserves in line with suggested policies from the central charity based at Mary Sumner House.

## **Public Benefit**

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

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

**Karen Morris**  
**Diocesan President**  
**Coventry Diocese**

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> September**

<b><u>Main Cash Account 2024 - Income</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><u>Coventry General Fund</u></b>		
Subscriptions - collected by MU Coventry	8,717	8,516
Subscriptions - collected by MSH	6,086	5,468
Subscriptions - paid early for next year	108	297
Gift Aid - paid into Gold Acc. (See page 16)	0	0
General Fund - In	4,217	4,209
Mue Commission (TRG)	470	613
Administration - Insurance, Mailing, Printing	425	340
Refreshments (inc. in Events below)	0	89
Bank Interest CAFCash Acc	50	43
Bank Deposit Interest - CCLA	885	650
Legacies	300	500
Branch Closures - Styvechale	192	0
Miscellaneous Income	468	1,590
Homeless Initiative (Restricted Fund)	420	0
	<b>22,337</b>	<b>22,316</b>
<b><u>Coventry Mission Funds</u></b>		
AFIA - Donations (Restricted Fund)	5,666	5,559
Flourishing Families (Parenting)	0	27
Kapsabet Donations	91	2,421
Hug in a Mug (HIAM) Donations	0	20
Presidents Challenge	60	0
Other Donations/Income	150	0
Alive 2023 Legacy Fund	0	0
Domestic Abuse/Rise up Campaign	50	0
	<b>6,016</b>	<b>8,027</b>
<b><u>Events</u></b>		
Advent Service	<b>409</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Receipts on collected on behalf of MSH</u></b>		
Overseas Literacy Fund	246	213
Relief Fund	0	200
Make a Mother's Day	350	159
Summer of Hope	1,082	622
Seasonal Appeals - Other (Christmas Appeal)	200	150
Other Income	0	200
	<b>1,879</b>	<b>1,544</b>
<b><u>Sales</u></b>		
Mue - Income from Sales	<b>792</b>	<b>710</b>
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b>31,434</b>	<b>32,596</b>

<b><u>Main Cash Account 2024 - Expenditure</u></b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>		
Finance Administrator Costs (Self Employed)	0	1,320
Insurance	450	450
Bank charges - CAF Cash Acc	60	60
Link up	1,496	1,424
Postage	128	263
Telephone	68	77
Stationery	0	149
Travel	179	269
Conferences	117	84
Website	20	123
Laptop Security	0	0
ZOOM - Admin	156	144
Safeguarding Costs	150	157
Indoor Members	85	0
Speakers Expenses	19	40
Legacies	0	1,034
Miscellaneous costs	87	100
Homeless Initiative (Restricted Fund)	0	0
	<b>3,014</b>	<b>5,695</b>
<b><u>Coventry Mission Fund</u></b>		
AFIA (Restricted Fund)	3,611	3,664
Flourishing Families (Parenting)	39	183
Kapsabet - Admin/Event Costs	0	820
Kapsabet - Gifts	0	258
Kapsabet Donations	0	1,988
Hug in a Mug (HIAM) Expenses	0	176
Presidents Challenge	804	1,930
Pilgrimage	0	0
Cross of Nails	0	0
Finance for Provincial Diocese	115	100
Alive 23	903	0
Domestic Abuse/Rise up Campaign	50	0
	<b>5,523</b>	<b>9,118</b>
<b><u>Events</u></b>		
Trustee's Meetings/Away Days	50	135
Members Meetings/Evenings	186	297
Advent Service (inc 750 from 2023)	1,070	190
Other Events - Out	0	273
<b><u>Payments to MSH</u></b>		
Subs 24 MSH £23.00 x448 members)	10,304	9,282
Overseas Literacy Fund	240	2,713
Relief Fund	0	200
Make a Mother's Day	350	159
Summer of Hope	1,002	622
Seasonal Appeals- Other	0	150
Appeals - held over from last year	200	1,261
Other payments to MSH	0	6,260
	<b>12,096</b>	<b>20,646</b>
<b><u>Sales</u></b>		
Mue - Purchase Stock Items	<b>506</b>	<b>986</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>22,445</b>	<b>37,340</b>

## Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese

### Other Accounts - For year to 31st December 2024

	Income		Expenditure	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b>CAF Gold Account</b>				
Balance - Start of year	17,938	18,833		
Interest	450	359	Transfers - Out	1,907
HMRC Gift Aid	1,907	1,626		3,379
Transfers - In	0	500	Expenditure Total	<b>1,907</b>
				<b>3,379</b>
Income Total	<b>2,357</b>	<b>2,484</b>	Balance end of year	<b>18,388</b>
				<b>17,938</b>
<b>CAF Gold Reserves Account</b>				
Balance - Start of year	5,132	5,037	Expenditure	0
Interest	128	95		0
			Expenditure Total	0
Income Total	<b>128</b>	<b>95</b>		
			Balance - End of year	<b>5,259</b>
				<b>5,132</b>
<b>Income from CAF Cash Account</b>	31,434	32,596	<b>Expenditure from CAF Cash Acc</b>	22,445
				37,340
<b>Total Income all accounts</b>	<b>33,918</b>	<b>35,175</b>	<b>Total Expenditure all accounts</b>	<b>24,352</b>
				<b>40,719</b>

## Statement of Accounts 2024 - For year to 31st December 2024

	£	£
<b>Opening Balance from statements</b>	<b>1st Jan 24</b>	<b>1st Jan 23</b>
CAF Cash Acc	18,099	22,842
CAF Gold Acc	17,938	18,833
CAF Gold Reserves Acc	5,132	5,037
CCLA	17,000	17,000
	<b>58,168</b>	<b>63,712</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>		
Opening Balance	58,168	63,712
Add Income	33,919	35,175
Less Expenses	24,352	40,719
	<b>67,735</b>	<b>58,168</b>
<b>Closing Balance from statements</b>	<b>31st Dec 24</b>	<b>31st Dec 23</b>
CAF Cash Acc	27,087	18,099
CAF Gold Acc	18,388	17,938
CAF Gold Reserves Acc	5,259	5,132
CCLA	17,000	17,000
	<b>67,735</b>	<b>58,168</b>
<b>Movement in the year - all accounts</b>		
Income per statements	33,919	35,175
Expenditure per statements	24,352	40,719
<b>Surplus or overspend for year</b>	<b>9,567</b>	<b>-5,544</b>
Approved by <b>Karen Morris</b>		
Date: 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2025		

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese**

### **Charity Number 250129**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 14 - 17

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act").

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 Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of examiner's statement**

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 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.

#### **Independent Examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: **S Marks**

Name: **Stephen Marks**

Qualification: **ACA ICAEW**

Address: **33 Kelsey Lane, CV7 7GR**

Date: **03/09/25**

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

England & Wales - Charity number 250129

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# Accounts

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## Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese

### Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023



# **Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese**

## **Annual Report and Accounts 2023**

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## Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese

Registered Charity Name	Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese
Charity address	Diocesan Office, 1 Hill Top Coventry, CV1 5AB
Registered Charity Number	250129
Trustees	Mrs Karen Morris – Diocesan President Mrs Ann Gibbons – Vice President Mr Paul Morris – Finance Trustee Mrs Lynette Askew – Trustee Mrs J Gardiner – Trustee (resigned 1/9/2023) Mrs Annie Lane - Trustee Mrs Mary Leeson - Trustee
Diocesan Chaplain	Revd. Denise Burgess
Diocesan Secretary	Mrs Nicola Stevens (resigned 23/4 2023)
Diocesan Treasurer	Mr Gary Askews (appointed 1/1 2023)
Patrons	Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II The Right Reverend Dr. Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25, Kings Hill Avenue West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ
Examiner	Steve Marks (ACA) Balsall Common

## **Diocesan President Annual Report 2023**

### *Transformation Now!*

#### A New Year Brings Change

A New Year brings change and 2023 was an exceptional year for change. January saw the Trustee Board appoint a new Mothers' Union Diocesan Treasurer, Gary Askew who immediately set about updating our database and finance systems.

We were sorry to bid a fond farewell to our Diocesan Secretary, Nicola Stephens but this also provided an opportunity for the Trustee Board to review and assess the Diocesan Secretary role as part of re-imagining the financial and administrative processes.

More change ensued as one Trustee made the decision to step down due to being appointed a city centre Councillor but she continues to raise the profile of Mothers' Union within Coventry Council Local Authority, as well as looking for ways to get Mothers' Union involved in supporting domestic abuse and homeless initiatives.

With a place to fill, the Trustee Board was proactive in recruiting a co-opted Trustee who comes with a wealth of experience with a view to joining the Trustee Board at the start of the new triennium.

We also bid a fond farewell to the Bishop of Warwick, the Right Reverend John Stroyan, who retired in August, followed in quick succession by the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth who was appointed Dean of Windsor in June. Both were stalwart supporters of Mothers' Union and will be greatly missed.

We were grateful to Bishop John for leading a Mothers' Union Quiet Day aptly named 'Making friends with God' which included a Eucharist Service, leading up to Bishop John's impending retirement with some 55 members in attendance.

We were also thrilled when Bishop Christopher asked Mothers' Union Coventry members to provide tea and cake at his Farewell Service in Coventry Cathedral on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and with some 1100 in attendance. Members certainly rose to the challenge and were honoured to do so.

We were also sorry but proud to bid goodbye to Revd. Kathryn Fleming, Canon for Worship and Community at Coventry Cathedral, another firm supporter of Mothers' Union in July, having been appointed new Precentor of Southwark Cathedral.

Another development in May was the launch of the new Mothers' Union Diocese of Coventry website 'covmu.org' and we are grateful to Sue Foster, Webmaster, for all her hard work creating and maintaining this.

## Diocesan Companionship Link Trip to Kapsabet, Kenya

January 2023 got off to a great start with two International Events planned with the aim of members learning more about the global work of the Mothers' Union and as a fundraiser.

Members enjoyed an international themed evening with good food, music (Steel Band and drumming lessons), informative displays, fun activities and artefacts on show. There was also a fundraising element to help subsidise member's flights and sundry costs associated with the trip. Some 150 members attended over the two evenings and £2421 was raised.

As three of our members were due to travel to Kapsabet, as part of the Diocesan Companionship Link trip, both events provided members with a better understanding of the Diocesan Companionship Link between Kapsabet Diocese in Kenya and Coventry Diocese.

The purpose of the trip with 'Transformation Now!' in mind, was to build stronger relationships between Mothers' Union members in both dioceses. It was also to learn and understand more about the lives of Mothers' Union members, family and community life in Kapsabet and share this learning with Mothers' Union members and others in Coventry Diocese. It was also to encourage Mothers' Union members in Kapsabet to learn about our styles of worship, outreach initiatives and to encourage meaningful friendships to develop – all underpinned by prayer.



Kapsabet trip in Kenya, three MU members came on the Coventry Cathedral Diocesan Trip

Since returning home the three members have travelled around the Diocese giving presentations to Mothers' Union branches, members' events and churches. One member has trained to deliver the 'Difference Course' and another member is exploring Ordination training. Therefore, there is no doubt the trip has brought about transformation in a variety of ways.

## Faith in Action

As we continue to grow and learn from one another, Bishop Paul and Mama Selline, having travelled over from Kapsabet, to attend the Bishop of Coventry's Farewell Service, put a day aside for Mothers' Union. An action-packed programme was organised, where they visited and learnt about Mothers' Union city centre homeless initiatives, as well as visiting Coffee Tots. The day concluded with Evensong led by Rev. Canon Dr Mark Bratton followed by an evening of good food and fellowship where members travelled from across the Diocese to meet and greet them.

Prayer is the heartbeat of Mothers' Union and I am pleased that nine special services were held this year which included a Mary Sumner Day Service to coincide with the Collegiate Church of St Mary's Warwick 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary, where their Mothers' Union banner was re-dedicated.

Another meaningful service was the Advent Service at Coventry Cathedral, where Revd. Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, blessed and presented Revd. Denise Burgess, Mothers' Union Chaplain, with the new Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain Stole. Ordinand Liz Goodwin reminded members of the importance of 'waiting' during the season of Advent. Christmas gifts and cards were also blessed before making their way to Onley and Rye Hill Prisons.

The President's Challenge, where branches and diocesan member groups were challenged last year to use £25 seed money, taken from Mothers' Union Diocesan Funds, to bring about 'Transformation Now!' – our triennium theme - has gone from strength to strength. So much so, the Trustee Board agreed to increase the President's Challenge amounts from £50 to a maximum of £250 for 2023 to fund its missionary work.

The response was amazing with one branch providing refugee children with rucksacks, school uniform and vocabulary resources, to help prepare the children for starting school. Another branch bought toys and books for a local nursery with a specific focus on children with special educational needs and another bought sanitary products to support the local women's refuge, to name but a few.

Our links with Coffee Tots, an outreach city centre café, continues to flourish with branches providing a variety of knitted baby blankets, clothes and jumpers for children starting school. The Mothering Sunday initiative continued to prove successful with 60 mums, this year, receiving a 'hug in a mug' gift to celebrate Mothering Sunday. Members also continue to donate Christmas gifts, hampers and Easter eggs to ensure all the families know how much they are loved and valued.

The AFIA (Away From It All) project continues to receive much financial support from the membership. This has meant three families have benefitted from AFIA holidays and a group of forty mothers and children from a women's refuge enjoyed a daytrip to the seaside. Feedback has shown that these holidays/short breaks are life changing. My thanks to the faithful and committed members who continue to fundraise by holding strawberry teas, cake and table top sales and other fundraising initiatives to support the AFIA project. A special note of thanks to our AFIA representative, Lynda Howells who not only co-ordinates the holidays but continues to fundraise via her 'Reflections of a Pilgrim' book with a view to donating 100% of the proceeds in 2024 to support the AFIA project.

Mothers' Union prison work continues with two members helping with administrative duties as well as welcoming families arriving at Onley Prison to visit loved ones. They also enjoy helping out with the crèche during Family Days.

The membership continues to donate Christmas gifts, so parents in prison can give a Christmas present to their children during Onley Prison Christmas Family Day visits. This year due to members' generosity, Onley Prison Visitor Hall benefitted from a new table-tennis table, new toys and games.

At Rye Hill prison one of our members visits an inmate regularly, otherwise he would not receive any contact with the outside world. Members also donate Christmas cards to ensure every inmate at Rye Hill receives a Christmas card.

Our missionary work within Coventry City Centre to support the homeless continues to grow with one member dropping off left over supermarket food three times a week to the Salvation Army and Gateway – Coventry's primary homeless residence. Another supermarket donates toiletries and members also donate clothing, bedding and furniture, all of which are dispersed within the city centre to support the homeless. Mothers' Union also donated turkeys for the homeless Christmas lunch and a member helped prepare and serve the food. Mothers' Union was also invited to say a prayer before the lunch began. We continue to look for ways in which we can develop this important and new ministry. All of these acts of service show that God continues to be active and working through ordinary people like us.

#### Community of the Cross of Nails

To celebrate the partnership between Mothers' Union and the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN), two members attended the CCN International Gathering, which took place over a five-day period. This was a truly transformational experience, to be surrounded by so many faithful and committed CCN partners, to be reminded of the important roots embedded in post-war re-building and re-birth of Coventry Cathedral and the words on the cross "Father Forgive" as peacemakers and God's relationship with God.

As CCN partners committed to the ministry of reconciliation, Emma Crick De Boom Reconciliation Enabler and keynote speaker, provided members with an overview of the 'Difference Course' during Members' Evening. Members were tasked amongst other things to reflect on Archbishop Welby's comment: 'Reconciliation is not the ending of all difference, but the transformation of how we deal with difference.' One Mothers' Union member has already completed the training and has facilitated the Difference Course and the hope is that more members will follow suit.

#### Mothers' Union Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse Campaign

Members continue to support the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and this year Mothers' Union launched its Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse (DA) campaign. Many branches displayed Mothers' Union Rise Up posters containing tear off slips with the 24hr DA National Abuse Helpline number. Many also displayed boards with DA statements to match shoes and draped knitted 'no more 1 in 3' white and purple heart shaped bunting around their church. Silent prayer vigils were also held and several members led intercessions to pray for victim and survivors within their Sunday morning services.

Members also undertook training so as they had a better understanding and awareness of the many forms of DA and what to do if a concern was raised or if someone just wanted to tell their story. Several branches decorated DA themed Christmas trees within their churches to raise awareness about DA.

To prepare for the campaign, Emily Brailsford, Mothers' Union Domestic Abuse Manager, provided an informative talk via zoom to members about the Mothers' Union Rise Up campaign, as well as dispelling the myths that surround DA. Emily also shared stories about victim survivors and spoke of their courage, dignity and strength as well as providing members with ideas to support their local women's refuge.

As Diocesan President, I enjoy attending branch meetings, Deanery and Diocesan services, giving talks, enrolling members, presenting Long Service Certificates and representing the membership in a variety of ways e.g. at the Synod, Mothers' Union Diocesan Presidents Canterbury Province Conferences etc.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustee Board members for their support, hard work and diligence during 2023. Grateful thanks also to the many Office Holders who continue to lead our projects and the membership for their prayers, words of encouragement and fundraising efforts.

A special mention of thanks to Revd. Denise Burgess, Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain who continues to provide prayerful reflection and spiritual nourishment. Diocesan Treasurer, Gary Askew also, who has supported the Trustee Board in all things finance during his first year in office.

Heartfelt appreciation to Nicola Stephens, Diocesan Secretary who supported the very new Trustee Board in its first year and also provided excellent administrative support to the wider membership for over five years.

Reflecting on our Founder, Mary Sumner's personal prayer reminds us of our calling to touch the lives of others with love. We are to be Christ's hands here on earth, using our words, our prayers and our day-to-day living, to bless those we cannot physically reach.

We look forward to next year where we can build on the triennial theme of Transformation Now!

*Karen Morris - Diocesan President, Coventry Mothers' Union*

## Annual Review of Diocesan Projects and Outreach Initiatives

### Away from It All Holidays – AFIA 2023

The AFIA holiday scheme is a Mothers' Union initiative in the UK and Ireland, which is run by members in their local dioceses.



AFIA provides holidays and day breaks for those whose family life has met with adversity, thus giving them an opportunity to consolidate and nurture relationships.



Mothers' Union members are involved in AFIA in many ways, whether this be through prayers for the holidays and for the officers involved with the scheme, fundraising through lunches, coffee mornings or nominating a family to the local clergy in their branch. We also receive donations from Parochial Church Councils who support the scheme.

If the Diocese is in a position to offer a holiday, the family will be asked to complete an AFIA application form which will need to be supported by someone who knows them in a professional capacity, such as a social worker, member of the clergy, doctor or head teacher. Applicants do not have to be a member of a church or any organisation to apply.



Once the family has been away, the Diocese normally receives feedback from them regarding the holiday, which reflects how they just enjoy spending time together relaxing away from the everyday stress of life and often say what a difference the break has made to their lives.

In 2023 Mothers' Union paid for three families to enjoy a holiday at Haven Holidays in Mablethorpe by the sea. The total spent during 2023 was £3,664.

AFIA feedback received this year from a social worker:

*'The family were so happy today when I visited them. Their caravan was amazing. The children all share a room at home as they are in a two-bed maisonette so the space and room each had was overwhelming for them! They also had a dishwasher, which they had never seen before.*

*The entertainment was brilliant and they all talked about the furry characters in the shows that they loved and had hats and all sorts!!*

*They said again to thank you all so very much and from me too. You guys do a great job, I genuinely work with some of the poorest children in our society and this has made an incredible difference to their year.'*



A coach trip to Skegness seaside was also arranged for a group of 40, made up of mothers and children from a local women's refuge. This was a first for AFIA and was much appreciated by the mums, children and the staff.



Lynda Howells, AFIA Coordinator

## **Passionate About Parenting**

Mothers' Union parenting programmes continue to be delivered using Care for The Family resources in schools and we continue to link with Coffee Tots - an outreach café in Coventry city centre to support, share and learn from one another.

We currently have seven facilitators within the Diocese but due to the Flourishing Families (a new Mothers' Union parenting initiative) review process, Mothers' Union facilitator training has paused. However, two facilitators were able to update their training via Care for the Family and continue to be licensed to use Care for the Family resources.

'Time Out for Parents of Children with Special Needs' course proved successful with nine in attendance. The group was made up of a lovely mix of people with a wealth of experiences and strengths between them. The course consisted of six sessions and all were well attended.

A four-week course followed, focussing on children on the autistic spectrum, which was equally rewarding. Eight people attended from the previous course and one new parent. Both courses received very positive feedback from all participants.

A new resource from Care for The Family 'Parenting in a Digital Age' was used to lead a standalone session with 15 branch members in attendance with good feedback.



Coffee Tots piloted the Mothers' Union Flourishing Families six-week programme with positive feedback overall, with a view to more refinements being made before the final launch.

Within Coffee Tots there are two PAP facilitators who are best placed to engage with parents by running various courses such as cookery and financial management, to build trust and a mentoring environment. This is very important because of the complex issues that surround the majority of the families that visit there. Based on this success, Coffee Tots have been receiving more requests from statutory bodies to support the more vulnerable families around Coventry. Tailor-made parenting programmes are being delivered to support various degrees of need.

Felicity Hawke and Karen Morris (Joint Parenting Coordinators)

### **Action and Outreach 2023**

The work of Action and Outreach has followed a similar pattern as before, but with a widening remit. Our most recent outreach initiative, the President's Challenge, where branches were encouraged to use £50 to £250 maximum seed money to nurture the membership, spread the good news story or develop a new initiative, that re-connects their communities. Alternatively, hold a fundraising event to raise money for one of Mothers' Union's diocesan projects.

We, therefore, continue to look for outreach opportunities to support refugee families, asylum seekers and migrants and are seeking to build relationships with organisations and charities working in this field e.g. Carriers of Hope and Coventry Clothing being two of our primary connections.

Both charities support refugee families and provide them with everything from beds to saucepans to baby buggies and clothes.

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual event, to ensure no child goes without at Christmas as well as various appeals for clothing, such as school uniform, hats, gloves and scarves.

Our branches/friendship groups continue to support Coffee Tots, a Coventry city centre charity that provides a nurturing environment for parents and children of under-fives, hoping to meet some of their needs for support through loneliness and unsatisfactory housing conditions. Examples of support to families consist of Coffee Tots Mothers' Union accredited facilitators and Mothers' Union Coventry Parenting Team who work together to support families, evaluate parenting programmes and resources.

A new homeless initiative has picked up steam and is linked to St John Baptist, Berkswell Friendship Group. A member, along with several volunteers, does three times weekly drop offs of left over Sainsbury's food to Gateway, Salvation Army, Step for Change and Doorway. Members also donate toiletries, clothes, bedding and other useful household items.



Doorway, a youth charity based in Nuneaton, has continued to receive support from members in Nuneaton deanery, in the provision of bedding, kitchen items, hats, scarves and gloves for the 20 houses that have some 65 residents aged between 16 to 25.



An exciting development was being invited to help out at a Christmas lunch and Mothers' Union donated two large size turkeys and Christmas crackers. The Christmas lunch was a huge success with members helping to serve food and say the grace.

Parenting groups are mainly organised by Felicity Hawke, and both Karen Morris and Felicity have been involved in re-viewing the new Mothers' Union Flourishing Families parenting programme. Karen is a member of the Flourishing Families worldwide steering group whose main role is to continue to evaluate the Flourishing Families progress and to look at ways to keep facilitators engaged and connected.

Our work for prisoners at Rye Hill, and Onley continues. We provide Christmas gifts for prisoners' children at Onley and the Angel Tree initiative supports the provision of Christmas cards to Rye Hill inmates. Our members also support Family Days and help families prepare for their visit by phoning to ensure they bring the correct paperwork and are on hand to answer any questions.

Our knitters are active as ever, and the goods produced go far and wide. Members knit baby blankets and items of clothing for Coffee Tots families, prayer shawls for our Indoor Members and miniature knitted angels presented to babies at baptism are also popular.

Away from it all holidays (AFIA) under the care of Lynda Howells are active in achieving 'breaks' for families in need of a holiday, or a day out.

Mothers' Union's commitment to supporting healthy and flourishing relationships is ever present and one of the greatest threats to individuals and families and societies around the world, is violence and abuse, which is carried out against women and girls because of their gender.

As part of our on-going work to end gender-based violence, we are committed to supporting those who have been affected by domestic abuse by shining a light on domestic abuse in all its forms. This year as part of our support for the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence* and 'no more 1 in 3' campaign, we took part in a silent prayer vigil within our churches and displayed a red chair as part of the 'Red Chair' project (<https://www.restored-uk.org/>) which highlights facts about domestic abuse.

The new Mothers' Union Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse Campaign, launched this year saw the majority of branches displaying Rise Up posters, shoes and boards with domestic abuse statements.

Several of our members also attended the 'Counting Dead Women' vigil in Coventry City Centre, where local women come together to remember women who have been killed by men in the past year, due to domestic abuse and violence. Shoes are laid out for every woman killed, as a powerful message and visual aid.

*Karen Morris – Diocesan President*

## **Faith and Policy**

Prayers and worship continue to be foundational for Mothers' Union both individually and when members gather together. Lady Day and other Festival Services have been held in Deaneries, whilst 100 plus members attended the annual Diocesan Advent Carol Service held at Coventry Cathedral. Such services are occasions of gathering together in larger numbers to worship God, meet friends and share refreshments.

The Bishop of Warwick led a Quiet Day entitled 'Making Friends with God'. Those that attended were invited to contemplate Scripture, art, music and silence. There were over 50 in attendance.

We are thankful to Revd. Denise Burgess, our Diocesan Chaplain, who led a Eucharist service for the Board of Trustees January Away Day, held in the Diocesan Office. Revd. Denise also led a Eucharist service for our Celebratory Lunch, where over 50 members were in attendance.

With grateful thanks also to Revd. Canon Dr Mark Bratton of St John Baptist Church, Berkswell for leading a Eucharist service for the Board of Trustees September Away Day held in the Jordan Room at St John Baptist Church, Berkswell.

We have continued to develop our relationship as a partner in the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN). A moving service was held at Coventry Cathedral as part of CCN Sunday and in October our Mothers' Union CCN representative attended the CCN pilgrimage. I along with the CCN representative attended the 5 days International Gathering where 60 CCN partners gathered at Coventry Cathedral.

We also continue to raise awareness of the ways in which the work of Mothers' Union in Coventry Diocese contributes to peace and reconciliation, both locally and further afield and many are involved in knitting poppies for Remembrance Sunday. Emma Crick de Boom was our keynote speaker at Members' Evening and told us about the Difference Course. One of our members has completed the training and delivered the Difference Course during the period of Lent at her local church. The Difference Course explores what it means to follow Jesus in a complex and divided world. Participants are equipped to cross-divides, navigate disagreements and pursue a just and flourishing world.

I had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Mothers' Union at the Remembrance Service led by Dean of Coventry at the War Memorial Park on Remembrance Sunday.

Linked to this but with a different theme, is our on-going involvement in the global campaign, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. Members were encouraged to participate in a silent prayer vigil within their churches to pray for victim survivors as well as the perpetrators.

This year Mothers' Union launched its Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse Campaign with members displaying 'Red Chairs'; Rise Up posters with tear off slips, which provide the 24-hour Domestic Abuse helpline number. Boards with Domestic Abuse statements to match shoes were also displayed along with knitted white and purple love heart bunting linked to 'no more 1 in 3'.

Mothers' Union resources continue to be available to encourage advocacy activities locally and direct prayers.

*Karen Morris – Diocesan President*

## **Trustees Annual Review and Financial Statement**

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

### **Aim, Purpose & 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 will carry out all or any of the following objectives:

1. To promote and support married life;
2. To encourage parents in their role to develop the Christian faith of their children;
3. To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service;
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; and
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. In Coventry Diocese, it operates at Diocesan, Deanery and Branch levels.

Members of Mothers' Union believe in the value of each individual and their unique qualities; in the value of relationships; and in the value of family as a source of love and support for individuals and as the basis for a caring community. Jesus said, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.”*

Furthermore, our Mission is to demonstrate Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms. Promoting peace and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally.

### **Organisational Structure**

Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese is affiliated to Mothers' Union, a charity incorporated by Royal Charter (charity no: 240531) through its shared aim and objectives and by virtue of its acceptance as an affiliate by the central charity. The charity operates within the Anglican Diocese of Coventry. The Bishop of Coventry is Patron of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Coventry. Governance, policies and procedures of Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese are in line with suggested policies from the central charity based at Mary Sumner House. Trustees consider the major risks of our operation are safeguarding and health and safety with procedures in place to manage them.

## **Performance and Financial Review**

For 2023 total income was £35,175 (2022 £26,506) with expenditure of £40,719 (2022 £17,057) with a loss of £5,544 (2022 surplus £9,450). Total cash held in all accounts for 2023 was some £58,168 (2022 £63,712). Post year end events were a payment of £5,355 for donations (£1,595) and additional MSH subscriptions allocations (£3,760) carried over from 2022, that should have been paid prior to the year-end. There has been a recovery in membership during 2023 post Covid and costs have been controlled in 2023 to maintain a loss of £5,544 which includes an extra- ordinary payment of £5,355.

## **Finance and Central Services**

Annual subscriptions were increased in 2023 by £2 to cover the increase levied by Mary Sumner House, our central charity but no increase to cover the costs of the running the Diocese.

Our members remain loyal and continue to support Mothers' Union funds and projects. During 2023 £1,544 (2022 £1,721) was raised for the overseas funds and other projects that are administered by Mary Sumner House. Members also raised an amazing £8,027 (2022 £3,756) for the charitable works carried out within the Diocese of Coventry.

We continue to recruit new members and we all need to proactively enrol a friend, a colleague or a neighbour as our membership continues to be static at best. At the year- end we had 442 members a modest increase over 2022.

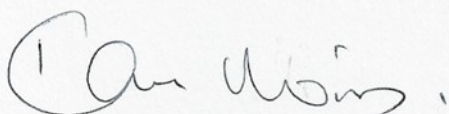
## **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees maintain financial reserves in line with suggested policies from the central charity based at Mary Sumner House.

## **Public Benefit**

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

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



**Karen Morris**

**Diocesan President**

**Date:** 26.10.2024

<b>ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023</b>				
<b>Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese - <i>Income</i></b>				
<b>CAF Cash Account - For year to 31st December 2023</b>				
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>		
<b><u>Coventry General Fund</u></b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>		
Subscriptions - this year	8,516	8,681		
Subscriptions collected by MSH	5,468	4,837		
Subscriptions - paid early for next year	297	100		
Gift Aid (Paid into CAF Gold Account)	0	0		
Donations into the General Fund	4,209	1,830		
MUe Commission (TRG)	613	399		
Administration - Insurance, Mailing, Printing	340	340		
Refreshments	89	52		
Bank Interest CAF Cash Account	43	20		
Bank Deposit Interest – CCLA Account	650	113		
Legacies	500	500		
Branch Closures	0	378		
Miscellaneous Income	1,590	61		
	<b>22,316</b>	<b>17,312</b>		
<b><u>Coventry Mission Funds</u></b>				
AFIA - Donations (ringfenced)	5,559	2,706		
Flourishing Families (Parenting)	27	505		
Kapsabet Donations - (ringfenced)	2,421	400		
Hug in a Mug (HIAM)	20	145		
	<b>8,027</b>	<b>3,756</b>		
<b><u>Events</u></b>				
Commissioning Service	0	509		
	<b>0</b>	<b>509</b>		
<b><u>Receipts on behalf of MSH</u></b>				
Overseas/Literacy Fund	213	315		
Relief Fund	200	330		
Make a Mother's Day	159	0		
Summer of Hope	622	856		
Seasonal Appeals Other - Christmas Appeal	150	0		
Other Income collected for MSH	200	220		
	<b>1,544</b>	<b>1,721</b>		
<b><u>Sales</u></b>				
MUe - Income from Sales	710	1,869		
	<b>710</b>	<b>1,869</b>		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>32,596</b>	<b>25,166</b>		

<b>Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese - <i>Expenditure</i></b>	
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<b>CAF Cash Account - For year to 31st December 2023</b>				
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>		
<b><u>Coventry General Fund</u></b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>		
Salary	1,320	4,576		
Insurance	450	0		
Bank charges - CAF Cash Account	60	82		
Link up	1,424	676		
Postage	263	54		
Telephone	77	7		
Stationery	149	134		
Travel	269	723		
Conferences	84	80		
Room/Hall Hire	0	296		
Website	123	970		
Laptop Security	0	65		
ZOOM - Admin	144	144		
Flowers & Vouchers	0	110		
Safeguarding Costs	157	190		
Speakers Expenses	40	0		
Legacy	1,034	0		
Miscellaneous costs	100	0		
	<b>5,695</b>	<b>8,106</b>		
<b><u>Coventry Mission Fund</u></b>				
AFIA - Costs (ringfenced)	3,664	1,099		
Flourishing Families	183	0		
Kapsabet - Admin, Events, Gifts, Travel Costs	3,066	0		
Hug in a Mug (HIAM) Expenses	176	26		
Presidents Challenge	1,930	375		
Pilgrimage	0	175		
Finance for Provincial Diocese	100	100		
	<b>9,118</b>	<b>1,775</b>		
<b><u>Events</u></b>				
Trustee's meetings	135	0		
Members Meetings/Evenings	760	77		
Commissioning Service Expenses	0	120		
	<b>895</b>	<b>197</b>		
<b><u>Payments to MSH</u></b>				
Subs 2023 (MSH £21.00 per member)	9,282	5,260		
Overseas/Literacy Fund	2,713	280		
Relief Fund	200	180		
Make a Mother's Day	159	0		
Summer of Hope	622	0		
Seasonal Appeals Other - Christmas Appeal	150	0		
Appeals - held over from last year	1,261	0		
Other Payments owing to MSH	6,260	0		

	<b>20,646</b>	<b>5,720</b>			
<b>Sales</b>					
MUe - Purchase Stock Items	986	1,258			
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>37,340</b>	<b>17,056</b>			

Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese			
<b><i>Other Accounts and Restricted Funds - For year to 31st December 2023</i></b>			

	<b>Income</b>			<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>CAF Gold Account</b>					
	2023	2022		2023	2022
Balance - Start of year	18,833	17,512			
Interest	359	67	Transfers - Out	3,379	0
HMRC Gift Aid	1,626	1,254			
Transfers - In	500	0	Expenditure Total	<b>3,379</b>	<b>0</b>
Income Total	<b>2,484</b>	<b>1,321</b>	Balance end of year	<b>17,938</b>	<b>18,833</b>
<b>CAF Gold Reserves Account</b>					
	2023	2022		2023	2022
Balance - Start of year	5,037	5,018	Expenditure	0	0
Interest	95	19			
			Expenditure Total	0	0
Income Total	<b>95</b>	<b>19</b>			
			Balance - End of year	<b>5,132</b>	<b>5,037</b>
<b>Income from CAF Cash Account</b>	32,596	25,166	<b>Expenditure from CAF Cash Account</b>	37,340	17,056
<b>Total Income all accounts</b>	<b>35,175</b>	<b>26,506</b>	<b>Total Expenditure all accounts</b>	<b>40,719</b>	<b>17,056</b>

<b>Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese</b>		
<b>Statement of Accounts 2023</b>		

<b>For year to 31st December 2023</b>	£	£
<b>Opening Balance from statements</b>	<b>1 January 2023</b>	<b>1 January 2022</b>
CAF Cash Account	22,842	14,733
CAF Gold Account	18,833	17,512
CAF Gold Reserves Account	5,037	5,018
CCLA Account	17,000	17,000
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>63,712</b>	<b>54,263</b>
Opening Balance	63,712	54,263
Add Income	35,175	26,506
Less Expenses	40,719	17,057
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>58,168</b>	<b>63,712</b>
<b>Closing Balance from statements</b>	<b>31 December 2023</b>	<b>31 December 2022</b>
CAF Cash Account	18,099	22,842
CAF Gold Account	17,938	18,833
CAF Gold Reserves Account	5,132	5,037
CCLA Account	17,000	17,000
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>58,168</b>	<b>63,712</b>
<b>Movement in the year - all accounts</b>		
Income per statements	35,175	26,506
Expenditure per statements	40,719	17,057
<b>Surplus or overspend for year</b>	<b>Loss (5,544)</b>	<b>Surplus 9,450</b>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese**

**Charity Number 250129**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2023.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act").

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 Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of examiner's statement**

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 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.

**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 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 to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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:   
Name: Stephen Marks  
Qualification: ACA  
Address: 33 Kelsey Lane, Balsall Common, CV7 7GR  
Date: 19 August 2024

Registered Charity No: 250129

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

England & Wales - Charity number 250129

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# Accounts

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## Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese

### Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022



# Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese

## Annual Report and Accounts 2022

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## Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese

Registered Charity Name	Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese
Charity address	Diocesan Office, 1 Hill Top Coventry, CV1 5AB
Registered Charity Number	250129
Trustees	Mrs Karen Morris – Diocesan President Mrs Ann Gibbons – Vice President Mr Paul Morris – Finance Trustee Mrs Lynette Askew – Trustee Mrs Jackie Gardiner – Trustee Mrs Annie Lane - Trustee Mrs Mary Leeson - Trustee
Diocesan Chaplain	Mrs Denise Burgess
Diocesan Secretary	Mrs Nicola Stevens
Diocesan Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Siggers
Patrons	Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II The Right Reverend Dr. Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25, Kings Hill Avenue West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ
Examiner	Steve Lee, Finance Director, Coventry Diocese Coventry CV1 5AB

## **Diocesan President Annual Report 2022**

The Bishop of Warwick commissioned me in January at Berkswell Church with some 100 MU members from various branches in the Diocese in attendance. Bishop John also commissioned the new Board of Trustees for a period of three years. Revd. Denise Burgess was also commissioned as Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain taking over from Revd. Pam Gould, who we thank for all her prayerful support and guidance to Mothers' Union over these past six years.

Also, eight Office Holders were also appointed in recognition of the important work they do in supporting the work of the Trustee Board and Mothers' Union Coventry Diocesan projects. It was truly a joyous occasion and we were also pleased to welcome the Mayor of Coventry who was in attendance.

During the summer of 2022 we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of our Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with a variety of events and activities at Branch, Deanery and Diocesan levels. It was with great sadness, therefore, that we watched Her Majesty's funeral several months later where members joined in prayerful unison to give thanks for the Queen's life of servitude and faithful Christian witness.

I am pleased that 10 special services were held this year, a Quiet Day also and an extremely well attended Advent Service, where 10 new Mothers' Union members were enrolled.

Another exciting development was the launch of a new initiative, the President's Challenge, where branches and diocesan member groups were challenged to use £25 seed money, taken from Mothers' Union Diocesan funds, to bring about transformation – our triennium theme. We were thrilled in October that Kathryn Anderson, Provincial President for Canterbury joined us for our Eucharist service and celebratory lunch. Kathryn spoke about transformation and how as an International Christian movement, our 4 million members across 84 countries work together to help transform lives in the world's hardest-to-reach families and communities. Kathryn's visit culminated with a message from our Worldwide President Sheran Harper and a vibrant marketplace, which highlighted the variety of action and outreach initiatives that have sprung from the President's Challenge. For example, providing 100 Christmas shoeboxes for Carriers of Hope asylum seekers, refugee and migrant families, fundraising craft initiatives that enabled Christmas food hampers and gifts to support Coffee Tots families and a special afternoon tea was hosted by Mothers' Union to support a relatively new church initiative 'Trini-tea', where everyone is welcome to drop in for a drink, cake, chat, a chance to play games, knit or relax. Most of the 10 new members that were enrolled during the Advent service sprung from this. Another branch as a way of bringing the community together and offset loneliness organised a weekly 'knit and natter' group to knit poppies to be hung from the bell tower on Remembrance Sunday.

Our links with Coffee Tots, an outreach city centre café, continue to flourish with branches also providing a variety of baby blankets and clothes as well as knitted jumpers for children starting school. The Hug in a Mug initiative continued with 25 mums receiving a gift and a plant to celebrate Mothering Sunday. To ensure no child missed out members also donated Easter eggs at Easter and gifts at Christmas.

The 'Make Lunch' initiative enables and equips churches to bring hope to struggling children through holiday clubs. Mothers' Union members donated toiletries and plants for mums and carers to celebrate Mothering Sunday.

We were also thrilled that two families benefitted from an AFIA (Away From It All) holiday and feedback has shown that these holidays are life changing. I would like to express my thanks to the members for holding strawberry teas and many other fundraising initiatives in respect of AFIA and to Lynda Howells, AFIA representative, who not only co-ordinates the holidays but has written a book 'Reflections of a Pilgrim' with all proceeds to be donated to the AFIA project.

Members have also been most generous in providing Christmas gifts to support Onley Prison Family Days as well as ensuring that every prisoner at Ryehill receives a Christmas card. Other forms of prison outreach consist of Mothers' Union members being on hand to support families that arrive at the prison, Christmas Family Days and to also help out with the crèche and one member also visits prisoners who would not receive any contact with the outside world otherwise.

Two members (one a Trustee) attended a national leadership residential conference in Liverpool with the theme of 'Reimagining' to discern the direction for Mothers' Union as it approaches its 150 years celebrations. I attended a residential conference for Diocesan Presidents from Canterbury Province with particular focus on fellowship and worship, as many were new to the role. We also listened to two Mothers' Union Speakers share their own personal stories on domestic abuse and both spoke with such courage and dignity, but also inspired hope. We continue to support the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and this year many churches within the Diocese engaged with the Red Chair Project as a way of shining a light on domestic abuse and also held silent prayer vigils.

The conference also provided an opportunity to receive feedback and discuss ways in which we can move forward with our Reimagining Conference pledges as well as familiarising ourselves with the Mothers' Union Metamorphosis course. The course was designed to help members and church communities to work together to build confidence and skills to engage with their local communities. There was also an opportunity to meet Bev Jullien, Mothers' Union Chief Executive and hear about her work and the new Provincial Chaplain Revd. Emma Ham-Riche who led our worship.

As a new Diocesan President, I made visits to many parts of the Diocese during the year and have seen and heard about much of the excellent work being undertaken by members of Mothers' Union in furtherance of our aim and objectives.

I wish to thank all members of the Trustee Board for their work and diligence during 2022 and look forward to continuing this throughout the next 2 years. A special mention of thanks to Revd. Denise Burgess, Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain who has been on hand to guide us in prayerful reflection and provide spiritual nourishment.

Grateful thanks also to our Diocesan Treasurer, Margaret Siggers who has supported the Trustee board, navigate all things finance during this first year in office. Margaret has expressed a wish to step down at the end of year with a view to finding someone to replace her come 1st of January 2023.

Where would we be without our faithful and committed membership, so it seems fitting to recognise all that they continue to do in the name of Mothers' Union and more.

*Karen Morris - Diocesan President, Coventry Mothers Union*

### **Annual Review of Diocesan Projects and Outreach Initiatives**

#### **Away from It All Holidays – AFIA 2022**

The AFIA holiday scheme is a Mothers' Union initiative in the UK and Ireland, which is run by members in their local dioceses. AFIA provides holidays and day breaks for those whose family life has met with adversity, thus giving them an opportunity to consolidate and nurture relationships.



The AFIA holiday scheme is a Mothers' Union initiative in the UK and Ireland, which is run by members in their local dioceses. AFIA provides holidays and day breaks for those whose family life has met with adversity, thus giving them an opportunity to consolidate and nurture relationships.

Mothers' Union members are involved in AFIA in many ways, whether this be through prayers for the holidays and for the officers involved with the scheme, fundraising through lunches, coffee mornings or nominating a family to the local clergy in their branch. We also receive donations from Parochial Church Councils who support the scheme.



If the Diocese is in a position to offer a holiday, the family will be asked to complete an AFIA application form which will need to be supported by someone who knows them in a professional capacity, such as a social worker, member of the clergy, doctor or head teacher. Applicants do not have to be a member of a church or any organisation to apply.

Once the family has been away, the Diocese normally receives feedback from them regarding the holiday, which reflects how they just enjoy spending time together relaxing away from the everyday stress of life and often say what a difference the break has made to their lives. In 2022 Mothers' Union paid for two families to enjoy a holiday at Haven Holidays. The total spent during 2022 was £1,099.



AFIA feedback received this year:

*Joeanna and Matthew said: "We wanted to say a massive thank you. We all had an amazing time and spent some lovely quality time together as a family. If there is anything we can do to help to gain funding for the charity please do let us know, as we would like to help if we can. Thank you for everything."*



Kaisey said: *"I loved swimming in the pool and going to the park."*

Lucas said: *"I enjoyed playing football on the beach, swimming and family time, playing cards at the end of the day."*

*Lynda Howells AFIA Coordinator*

## **Passionate about Parenting Report**

The Passionate about Parenting (PAP) Programme has continued to flourish with programmes delivered in schools and at Coffee Tots - an outreach café in Coventry city centre. We have seven active facilitators within the Diocese but due to the PAP review process, Mothers' Union facilitator training has paused but we have been able to access training via Care for the Family.

The year was a series of ups and downs in respect of parenting programmes due to the effects of Covid, so no parenting programmes were run. However, we continue to build good links with statutory bodies and schools in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire. We continue to be supported by branches with parenting opportunities, funding and prayerful support.

The PAP programme is currently undergoing a review and facilitators have been involved in the evaluation process, meeting up with facilitators from around the world on-line to pray, share ideas and exchange tips.

Coffee Tots link: within Coffee Tots there are three PAP facilitators who are best placed to engage with parents by running various courses such as cookery and financial management, to build trust and a mentoring environment which is very important, due to the complex issues that surround the majority of the families that visit there. Based on this success, Coffee Tots have been receiving more requests from statutory bodies to support the more vulnerable families around Coventry.

Tailor made parenting programmes are being delivered to support various degrees of need. The venue is also used to host Mothers' Union facilitator meetings.

*Felicity Hawke and Karen Morris Joint PAP Coordinators*

## **Action and Outreach 2022**

The work of Action and Outreach has followed a similar pattern as before, but with a widening remit. Our most recent outreach initiative is the President's Challenge where branches were encouraged to use £25 seed money to nurture the membership or spread the good news story, develop a new initiative that re-connects their communities or hold a fundraising event to raise money for one of Mothers' Union's diocesan projects. This was a time where, post Covid restrictions meant anxiety levels were still high and confidence was low.

We continue to look for outreach opportunities to support refugee families and asylum seekers and are seeking to build up contact with organisations and charities working in this field e.g. Carriers of Hope and Coventry Clothing being two of our primary connections.

Both charities support refugee families and provide them with everything from beds to saucepans to baby buggies and clothes.

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual event, to ensure no child goes without at Christmas as well as various appeals for clothing, such as school uniform, hats, gloves and scarves. Mothers' Union continues to publicise the work around the diocese and members had the opportunity to meet Carriers of Hope's inspirational founder at one of their members' day events.

Another growing venture we continue to engage with is Coffee Tots, a Coventry city centre charity that provides a nurturing environment for parents and children of under-fives, hoping to meet some of their needs for support through loneliness and unsatisfactory housing conditions. Coffee Tots Mothers' Union accredited facilitators are part of the Mothers' Union Coventry Passionate About Parenting team and work together to support families, evaluate parenting programmes and resources.

Parenting groups continue, organised by Karen Morris and Felicity Hawke, and both are involved in re-viewing the Mothers' Union Passionate About Parenting Programme having now reached its 20th anniversary.

Our work for prisoners at Ryehill, and Onley continues. We provide gifts for prisoner's children at Onley and the Angel Tree initiative supports the provision of Christmas cards to Ryehill inmates. Our members also support Family Days and help families prepare for their visit by phoning to ensure they bring the correct paperwork and are on hand to answer any questions.

Doorway, a youth charity based in Nuneaton, has continued to receive support from members in Nuneaton deanery, in provision of bedding for the 20 houses that have some 65 residents aged between 16 to 25.

Our knitters are active as ever, and the goods produced go far and wide. Members knit baby blankets and items of clothing for Coffee Tots families, prayer shawls for our Indoor Members and miniature knitted angels presented to babies at baptism are also popular. Away from it all holidays (AFIA) under the care of Lynda Howells are active in achieving 'breaks' for families in need of a holiday, or a day out.

Mothers' Union's commitment to supporting healthy and flourishing relationships is ever present and one of the greatest threats to individuals and families and societies around the world, is violence and abuse, which is carried out against women and girls because of their gender.

As part of our on-going work to end gender-based violence, we are committed to supporting those who have been affected by domestic abuse by shining a light on domestic abuse in all its forms. This year as part of our support for the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence* and 'no more 1 in 3' campaign, we took part in a silent prayer vigil within our churches and displayed a red chair as part of the 'Red Chair' project ([restored-uk.org](http://restored-uk.org)) which highlights facts about domestic abuse.

*Karen Morris – Diocesan President*

## **Faith and Policy**

Prayers and worship continue to be foundational for Mothers' Union both individually and when members gather together. Lady Day and other Festival Services have been held in Deaneries, whilst more than 100 members attended the annual Diocesan Advent Carol Service. Such services are occasions of gathering together in larger numbers to worship God, meet friends and share refreshments.

A Quiet Day entitled 'Our Identity in Christ' was led by Mother's Union members Revd. Mary Rai and Dr. Kal Rai. Those that attended were led into times of quiet reflection and prayer.

We are thankful to Revd. Denise Burgess, our Diocesan Chaplain, who led a Eucharist service for the two Board of Trustee Away Days and also led a Eucharist service (a first) for our Celebratory Lunch, where over 50 members were in attendance.

We have continued to develop our relationship as a partner in the Community of the Cross of Nails. A moving service was held at Coventry Cathedral as part of CCN Sunday and in October our Mothers' Union CCN representative attended the CCN pilgrimage.

We also continue to raise awareness of the ways in which the work of Mothers' Union in Coventry Diocese contributes to peace and reconciliation, both locally and further afield and many are involved in knitting poppies for Remembrance Sunday.

This year (another first) I laid a wreath on behalf of Mothers' Union at the Remembrance Service led by Bishop Christopher at the War Memorial Park on Remembrance Sunday.

Linked to this but with a different theme, is our on-going involvement in the global campaign: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. Members were encouraged to participate in a silent prayer vigil and display a red chair as part of the 'Red Chair' project within their churches to highlight details about domestic abuse. Mothers' Union resources are also available to encourage advocacy activities locally and direct prayers.

*Karen Morris – Diocesan President*

## **Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statement of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### **Aim, Purpose & 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 will carry out all or any of the following objectives:

1. To promote and support married life;
2. To encourage parents in their role to develop the Christian faith of their children;
3. To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service;
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; and
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. In Coventry Diocese, it operates at Diocesan, Deanery and Branch levels.

Members of Mothers' Union believe in the value of each individual and their unique qualities; in the value of relationships; and in the value of family as a source of love and support for individuals and as the basis for a caring community. Jesus said, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."*

Furthermore, our Mission is to demonstrate Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms. Promoting peace and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally.

### **Organisational Structure**

Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese is affiliated to Mothers' Union, a charity incorporated by Royal Charter (charity no: 240531) through its shared aim and objectives and by virtue of its acceptance as an affiliate by the central charity. The charity operates within the Anglican Diocese of Coventry. The Bishop of Coventry is Patron of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Coventry. Governance, policies and procedures of Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese are in line with suggested policies from the central charity based at Mary Sumner House. Trustees consider the major risks of our operation are safeguarding and health and safety with procedures in place to manage them.

### **Performance and Financial Review**

For 2022 total income was £26,506 (2021 £23,985) with expenditure of £17,057 (2021 £25,476) with a surplus of £9,450 (2021 loss £1,491). Total cash held in all accounts for 2022 was some £63,712 (2021 £54,263). Post year end events were a payment of £5,355 for donations (£1,595) and additional MSH subscriptions allocations (£3,760) carried over from 2022, that should have been paid prior to the year-end. There has been a recovery in membership during 2022 post Covid and costs have been controlled in 2022 to maintain a surplus of £9,449.

### **Finance and Central Services**

Annual subscriptions were increased by £2 to cover the increase levied by Mary Sumner House, our central charity.

Our members remain loyal and continue to support Mothers' Union funds and projects. During 2022 £1,721 was raised for the overseas funds and other projects that are administered by Mary Sumner House. Members also raised an amazing £3,756 for the charitable works carried out within Diocese of Coventry.

We continue to recruit new members and we all need to enrol a friend but overall our membership continues to decline, this being mainly due to the increasing age of our members. At the year end we had 451 members.

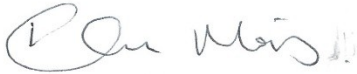
### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees maintain financial reserves in line with suggested policies from the central charity based at Mary Sumner House.

### **Public Benefit**

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

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



**Karen Morris**

**Diocesan President**

**Date:** 11.10.2023

## Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese

### *Income*

For year to 31st December 2022

#### Main CAF Cash Account

	£	£
<b><u>Coventry General Fund</u></b>		
Subscriptions 2022	8,681	
Subscriptions 2023	100	
Subscriptions collected by MSH	4,837	
Gift Aid (Paid into CAF Gold Account)	0	
Donations into the General Fund	1,830	
MUe Commission (TRG)	399	
Administration - Insurance, Mailing, Printing	340	
Refreshments	52	
Bank Interest CAF Cash Account	20	
Bank Deposit Interest - CCLA	113	
Legacies	500	
Branch Closures	378	
Miscellaneous Income	61	
		<b>17,312</b>
<b><u>Coventry Mission Funds</u></b>		
AFIA - Donations (ringfenced)	2,706	
Flourishing Families (Parenting)	505	
Kapsabet Donations (ringfenced)	400	
Hug in a Mug (HIAM)	145	
		<b>3,756</b>
<b><u>Events</u></b>		
Commissioning Service collection	509	
		<b>509</b>
<b><u>Receipts collected on behalf of MSH</u></b>		
Overseas/Literacy	315	
Relief	330	
Summer of Hope	856	
Other Income collected for MSH	220	
		<b>1,721</b>
<b><u>Sales</u></b>		
MUe - Income from Sales	1,869	
		<b>1,869</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>25,166</b>

## Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese

### *Expenditure*

For year to 31st December 2022

#### Main CAF Cash Account

	£	£
<b><u>Coventry General Fund</u></b>		
Salary	4,576	
Bank charges - CAF Cash Account	82	
Link up	676	
Postage, Telephone, and Stationery	195	
Travel	723	
Conferences	80	
Room/Hall Hire	296	
Website	970	
Laptop Security	65	
ZOOM - Admin	144	
Flowers & Vouchers	110	
Safeguarding Costs	190	
Miscellaneous costs	0	
		<b>8,106</b>
<b><u>Coventry Mission Fund</u></b>		
AFIA - Costs (ringfenced)	1,099	
Hug in a Mug (HIAM) Expenses	26	
Presidents Challenge	375	
Pilgrimage	175	
Finance for Provincial Diocese	100	
		<b>1,775</b>
<b><u>Events</u></b>		
Members Meetings/Evenings	77	
Commissioning Service Expenses	120	
		<b>197</b>
<b><u>Payments to MSH</u></b>		
Subs 2022 (MSH allocation £20.00 per member)	5,260	
Overseas/Literacy	280	
Relief	180	
Summer of Hope	0	
Other Payments owing to MSH	0	
		<b>5,720</b>
<b><u>Sales</u></b>		
MUe - Purchase Stock Items	1,258	
		<b>1,258</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>17,057</b>

# Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese

## Other Accounts and Restricted Funds

For year to 31st December 2022

Income		Expenditure	
<b>CAF Gold Account</b>			
Interest	67	Interest	0
HMRC Gift Aid	1,254	HMRC Gift Aid	0
Total	<b>1,321</b>	Total	<b>0</b>
<b>CAF Gold Reserves Account</b>			
Interest	19	Interest	0
Total	<b>19</b>	Total	<b>0</b>
<b>Income from main Cash Account</b>	<b>25,166</b>	<b>Expenditure from main Cash Account</b>	<b>17,057</b>
<b>Total Income for 2022</b>	<b>26,506</b>	<b>Total for 2022</b>	<b>17,057</b>
<i>For Information Purposes only</i>			
Income		Expenditure	
<b>AFIA (Protected Fund)</b>			
Donations	2,705	LH Book Expenses	37
Total	<b>2,705</b>	Total at 31st December 2022	<b>2,668</b>
<b>Kapsabet (Protected Fund)</b>			
Donation - Advent Carol Service	400	Expenses	0
Total	<b>400</b>	Total at 31st December 2022	<b>400</b>

## Mothers Union - Coventry Diocese

## Statement of Funds 2022

### Year to 31st December 2022

<b>Opening Balance from statements on 1/1/22</b>	
CAF Cash Account	14,733
CAF Gold Account	17,512
CAF Gold Reserves Account	5,018
CCLA	17,000
	<b>54,263</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	
Opening Balance at 1/1/22	54,263
<b>Add:</b> Income for 2022	26,506
<b>Less:</b> Expenses for 2022	17,057
	<b>63,712</b>
<b>Closing Balance from statements on 31/12/22</b>	
CAF Cash Account	22,842
CAF Gold Account	18,833
CAF Gold Reserves Account	5,037
CCLA	17,000
	<b>63,712</b>
<b>Movement in the year - all accounts</b>	
Income per statements for 2022	26,506
Expenditure per statements for 2022	17,057
	<b>9,449</b>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Mothers' Union Coventry Diocese**  
**Charity Number 250129**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1-15.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act").

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 Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of examiner's statement**

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 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.


**Independent Examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: 

Name: ~~25/12/23~~ STEPHEN LEE

Qualification: ACMA

Address: 1 HILLTOP, COVENTRY CV15AB

Date: 25/12/23