



## **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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	(Steve Marks (ACA) Balsall Common)

## **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.

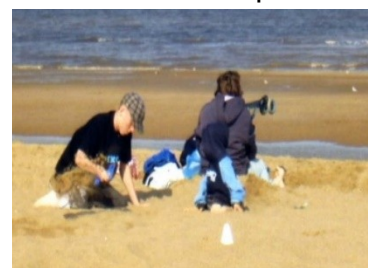


AFIA provides holidays and day breaks for those whose family life has met with adversity, thus giving them an opportunity to consolidate and nurture relationships.



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.

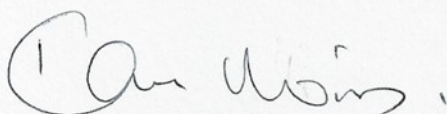
## **Reserves Policy**

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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CAF Cash Account - For year to 31st December 2023					
	£	£			
<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><u>Sales</u></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><i>Statement of Accounts 2023</i></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