

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells



Mothers' Union Chapel - Wells Cathedral

Annual Report 2022

Registered Charity No. 250180

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bath & Wells

707 We Have
Members in the diocese

494 Branch members
Found in 28 Branches

213 Diocesan Members
either as Lone Members
or part of a Group



Vision

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue by praying, campaigning and enabling.

Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

Our Aims and Objectives are:

- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service:
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children:
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity:
- To promote and support married life:
- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children:

Maintaining a Worldwide Fellowship of Christians United in Prayer, Worship & Service

How we work towards achieving the following Objective

Cathedral Prayers:

This is a ½ hour Service held in Wells Cathedral on the 3rd Thursday morning of each month. Each month the service is written and led by a different Branch/Deanery, following the guidelines written by the former Faith Trustee, to fit in with the Annual Theme produced by the Worldwide Trustee Board. It includes the Wave of Prayer, when every MU member prays for the members and work in 4 or 5 designated dioceses across the world, following the format found in the central Prayer Diary.

Wave of Prayer Service:

This service, written by our former Faith Trustee, our MU Chaplain and the Diocesan President, is used by branches. Our Link Dioceses Project Officer forwards the Service to our Link Dioceses - Umuahia and Ijebu in Nigeria: Shinyanga, in Tanzania: False Bay in South Africa: and Vellore Church of South India. This year, 2022, we were able to hold 3 services in Wells Cathedral in The Mothers' Union Chapel. We were delighted to see on Social Media, that members from our Link Diocese, in particular by South Africa & India, were using the form of service sent to them.

Branch/Group Prayers:

To aid planning the branch pre-meeting Prayer Times, the former Faith Trustee produces a booklet with suggested hymns and readings to fit the Annual Theme.

In several Parishes where there is no longer a Branch, Diocesan Members often meet for a Coffee, Natter & Prayer. Bath District have continued their weekly email which included a weekly prayer sheet, specific prayer requests and mid-day prayers

2022 Wave of Prayer



Cathedral Prayers 2022 Commissioning Service



Maintaining a Worldwide Fellowship of Christians United in Prayer, Worship & Service

How we work towards achieving the following Objective - cont

Prayer Chain:

Former Faith Trustee was responsible for receiving information and forwarding it around the members.

Parish Eucharist:

These are held monthly in several Churches across the diocese.

Retreat:

This was arranged for 3 days in October as usual, and was held at Ammerdown Conference Centre lead by

Rev David Arnott on "Finding God in the Wilderness".



Quiet Days:

These were held by Branches in their own parishes.

Special Services:

Several Special services were held, although not as many as pre-covid years as many members are still nervous of big gatherings outside their own area.

There was the Service before the Annual Meeting, Two Mary Sumner Day Services, Advent Services and our very special tri-annual, Commissioning Service for the President and Trustees. (Unfortunately 2 Trustees were unwell).

Lambeth Conference:

Several MU members had the opportunity to meet up with visitors to the UK as part of the Lambeth Conference. One occasion in Bath and one, with the Diocese, in Wells. It was a privilege to meet with MU members from across the world.

To help those whose family life has met with adversity



Gifts for victims of GBV



e-Gift Card



Craft- Knitting



To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children

Baptism Gifts



Church Play-Bags



Christmas in the Community



To help those whose family life has met with adversity:

How we work towards achieving this Objective

AFIA:

It was good to be able to allocate 10
Holidays/Special Occasions



Period Poverty:

This Project is offered to 2 schools in Bath.

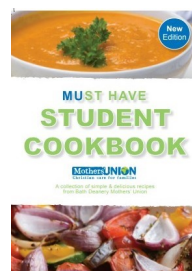
CRAFT: Knitting:

Members continue to knit, supplying regular places (Nursing Homes - Knee and Twiddle blankets, and The Seafarers Centre - Hats, mufflers and mitts) but now there's a greater diversity of items & outlets. Angel pockets, matinee jackets, Baby hats, small cot blankets and prem cardigans for newly born to RUH & MPH Baby Units: **Knitted** bed blankets for dementia sufferers aiding them to find their bed more easily, MPH Eliot Ward: Local charities (eg: Women's Refuges, tauntonopendoor.org.uk, forallhlc.org, RAFT, Refuge Aid From Taunton, baby-basics.org.uk) regularly request specific items:



Student Support/Cookbook:

The MU Student Cookbook was again brought to the attention of students at Freshers Fayres of both Universities in Bath. 6000 leaflets advertising the on-line Cookbook. Bath University also received hard copies. It was decided to extend this aid to *Help Those Whose Lives Had Met with Adversity* to assist families hit financially affected by the unprecedented rising cost of living (e.g. 'eating or heating'). In October a 1,000 hard copies were produced renamed the MU Family Cookbook with some content changes making it more relevant and appealing to Families as well as Students.



To help those whose family life has met with adversity:

How we work towards achieving this Objective - cont.



Diocese of Bath & Wells

Parenting shouldn't end when relationships do.

More than a million children have no contact whatsoever with one of their parents after separation. Unfortunately some children experience behavioural issues including antisocial behaviour, distress, unhappiness, and both physical & emotional problems.



To try and solve this problem The Mothers' Union works with NACCC - *The National Association of Child Contact Centres* - by providing safe spaces where children can meet the parents they don't live with.

NACCC oversees our 3 centres along with around 350 other contact centres across the UK, run by a network of nearly 3,000 volunteers including other Mothers' Union members.

Child Contact Centres are neutral places where children of separated families can enjoy contact with non-resident parents and sometimes other family members, in a comfortable and safe environment.

I am so grateful to our members for the dedication and brilliant way that they action our vision of **Helping Families whose Life has met with adversity.**

The Accreditation reports have recorded positive remarks about our 3 centres, Clevedon, Frome and Nailsea.

- The volunteers are friendly, welcoming and have enough information to be able to do their job safely
- Health and safety standards are met
- Safeguarding policies are in place and well known.
- Pre-visit meeting is completed for all resident & non-resident parents.
- Each family has a risk assessment
- Children are invited to look around the centre to help prepare them for their first contact session.
- Recruitment and induction is robust and volunteers are supported in their role.
- Excellent supported centres, run by a lovely group of people experienced in the area of supporting families.

To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children

How we work towards achieving this Objective

Anti Slavery Day & 16 Days of Activism:

Both activities were actively support by prayer

Modern Day Slavery:

Members were kept informed, via the monthly Newsletter, of MDS and how to spot potential victims and who to alert. Our MU member with a special interest in MDS was able to give a talk to several branches.

Support for those in the Refuges:

Gifts and vouchers continue to be steadily donated.



To promote and support married life

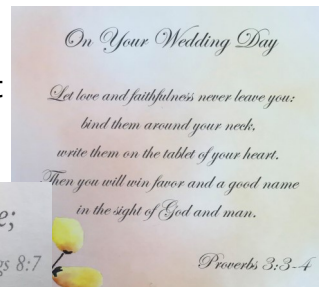
How we work towards achieving this Objective

Marriage Preparation:

1 Branch has supported Marriage Preparation sessions. In 2022 there were insufficient couples planning church weddings. The members involved commented that the meetings had been helpful to those thinking of getting married. Another benefice holds an annual Marriage Preparation Day with the MU providing refreshments.



A Mothers' Union card and a wedding prayer are given by several branches to welcome and support newly married couples



'Deep waters cannot quench love; nor floods take it away' Song of Songs 8:7

To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children

How we work towards achieving this Objective

By showing God's Love to their children, parents will learn about God's Love via our actions.

Birth:

Some branches begin their support at the birth of a baby, welcoming them into the Church family. At Christchurch in Nailsea, when a church member or a Tots mother gives birth they receive a baby bag containing a card, a gift for the child, a cardigan or shawl, Christian book for siblings, toiletries for mothers, a copy of the MU leaflet - *A Bit About Us*.

Baptisms:

Many Branches give something to the child or parents on the occasion of their Baptism: Card, Bible, Prayer Book or a Baptism Teddy. Again, DMs are continuing with this outreach, when branches close.

Children in Church: Many Branches have children's Play Bags with biblical story books, colouring and soft figures for use during services. Where branches have closed, these are maintained by Diocesan members.

Local Schools:

Several branches help with After-School Clubs, Bath United are supporting 2 schools combat Period Poverty.

Local Community:

Mother & pre-school children groups are supported by branches across the diocese; by regularly being there, parents get to know these MU members and trust them. MU members are frequently part of teams offering the "Open The Book" and "Messy Church" (in its various forms) Branches regularly give gifts on Mothering Sunday. Similarly the MU branches regularly create Christingles. Individual members reach out to neighbours using gardens, windows and a visiting Posada family to highlight the Christian faith.

Spreading The Word and Fund-raising to Support our WorldWide Mothers Union Friends



Lambeth Conference Visitors &
our Links & Communication Lead



How We Work Towards Alerting Parishioners and Visitors to the Work of The Mothers Union

- † The Diocesan President, the Communications Lead and the Treasurer attend Diocesan Synod and their local deanery Synods when possible.
- † Our Communication's Officer delivers extra display boards & leaflets when a parish holds a special function.
- † Branches keep their incumbent and PCC informed of the work that they do.
- † Most parishes have a Notice Board with a display of current MU activity.
- † Cathedral Visitors are invited to join in our monthly Cathedral Prayers service.
- † We were delighted to see that the MU kneeler from the Mothers' Union Chapel became part of the Cathedral Crib Scene.
- † Regular contact with the Diocesan Personnel continues with MU being asked to provide Teas for a special service in the Cathedral.
- † Contact occurs with the Ordinands and Training Incumbents if possible.
- † Social Media. Our Facebook page continues although not as active as during Lockdowns; as do our Instagram and Twitter accounts but again not as much, especially as the Controllers regularly change the systems.



www.youtube.com/channel/UCB-a2ek2KJ_j39BR-ackJbw
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MUBathWells>
 Instagram: Bath&Wells MU Twitter: @BathWellsMU

THE MOTHERS UNION DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	AFIA	Rowena Merson Travel Bursaries	Child Contract Centres	Shirley Penn Bursary Fund	Other restricted funds incl Diocesan Projects	Total 2022	Total 2021
Receipts								
Subscriptions	16,894						16,894	19,230
Gift Aid	2,365						2,365	1,823
Mue Grant	863						863	863
CCC grant	700						700	700
Donations	5,137	2,906		60			8,102	3,390
Donations - MSH projects						1,025	1,025	418
Donations - Diocesan projects						1,097	1,097	944
Donations - Shirley Penn Fund					400		400	725
Donations - WWF						31	31	103
Donations - BID							0	14
Retreat	2,250						2,250	1,600
Interest	56		352	457			864	711
Unknown donation							0	384
Total receipts	28,264	2,906	352	517	400	2,153	34,591	30,905
Payments								
Subscriptions to MSH	13,980						13,980	16,237
Finance & Administration Unit (1)	7,908						7,908	9,426
Meetings and training	1,514						1,514	336
Expenses of DP, chaplain & trustees	875						875	394
CCC expenses				2,498			2,498	2,166
Mue rep & communication unit expenses	264						264	207
Retreat	2,772						2,772	1,125
Bursary Payments - AFIA (2)		3,328					3,328	1,394
Bursary Payments - Rowena Merson			70				70	129
Bursary Payments - MSH projects						1,025	1,025	418
Bursary Payments - Diocesan projects						2,194	2,194	50
Bursary Payments - Shirley Penn Fund					500		500	200
Bursary Payments - WWF						31	31	103
Bursary Payments - BID							0	14
Total payments	27,312	3,328	70	2,498	500	3,250	36,958	32,199
Surplus/Deficit	952	-422	282	-1,982	-100	-1,097	-2,367	-1,294
Opening current account & petty cash	14,269	422	2,318	9,268	525	2,257	29,059	30,353
Closing current account & petty cash	15,221	0	2,600	7,286	425	1,160	26,692	29,059

Unrestricted funds

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Hampshire Trust - Two Year Bond (to Feb 23)	7,049						7,049	7,000
<i>Rowena Merson AFIA Travel Bursaries Fund</i>								
Hampshire Trust - Easy Access								5,136
Hampshire Trust - Two Year Bond (to Nov 23)			18,000				18,000	18,000
Hampshire Trust - One Year Bond (to Jan 23)				5,061			5,061	
<i>Child Contact Centres' Fund</i>								
Hampshire Trust - Two Year Bond (to Jan 24)				10,000			10,000	10,000
Hampshire Trust - Two Year Bond (to Feb 23)				5,035			5,035	5,000
Hampshire Trust - Two Year Bond (to Jan 23)				15,000			15,000	15,272
	7,049	0	18,000	35,096	0	0	60,145	60,408

THE MOTHERS UNION DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2022

Notes

Fund Descriptions

Away from it All (AFIA)

This is a Mother's Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members, to give opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life. Funds raised can be to:

Help fund part of the cost of a holiday

Cover a family's travel expenses

Pay for a whole holiday or a day trip

Organise family weeks for groups of families to have a break with activities and outings

Rowena Merson Travel Fund

This is an invested legacy left to Bath & Wells following the untimely death of a serving Trustee. It was decided by her fellow Trustees at the time to use it for reimbursing travelling expenses for the families benefitting from the AFIA breaks. The original donation is invested in 2 yearly bonds which can be cashed in and reinvested as the Trustees deem necessary. Until now the interest received has exceeded expenditure.

Shirley Penn Bursary Fund

This was created in 2021 following a generous funeral collection from the MU in Bath & Wells of a former Trustee. It was designated for the use of members who wished to deepen their lives spiritually by attending either one day courses or the Annual Retreat. It contributes to their overall expenses according to their means. The funds are topped up from time to time by the widower and members are free to raise additional funds if they so wish.

Child Contact Centres

Contact Centres in Frome, Nailsea and Clevedon. All are affiliated to the National Association of Child Contact, strictly monitored, and examined by their staff. To date, no-one is paid for their help, but each Centre has a highly trained coordinator who reports back to the diocesan MU CCC Committee twice yearly, of which one Trustee is a committee member. At present the funds not needed are invested in several 2-year bonds. Members across the diocese also raise funds to support this valuable cause.

Diocesan Projects

This covers more locally inspired projects that members can be involved in such as knitting hats for use by the Seamen Mission, clothing for premature babies, trauma or Christening teddies, sewing "angel pockets" for still births, children's activity bags for churches, "fiddle blankets" for those with dementia etc, Bath Deanery support an online Student Cookbook which is advertised to all new students at Freshers Week in the two Bath universities. There projects come and go according to the need of local communities, and unless members indicate the specific need, money raised goes into this fund for project expenses.

Specific points to note

(1) Expenses include secretary's remuneration, rent, insurance, accountant's fees, copyright and data protection licenses. Normally postage and printing costs would be included, but late invoices were received, including some costs for 2021, which are being queried.

(2) AFIA holidays - the balance brought forward (£422) and AFIA donations (£2,906) did not meet the total expenditure of holidays (£5,491) so £2,163 from the Diocesan Projects fund was used to make up the shortfall.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we approve the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2022 as presented to a meeting of the Board on

Madeline Hellier - Diocesan President

Sarah Bult - Treasurer & General Trustee

Margaret Willmott - General Trustee

THE MOTHERS UNION DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
Mothers Union Enterprises (MUE) Trading Account for the year ending 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Sales	9426	9700
Purchases	10500	8538
Surplus (Deficit) on Sales	-1074	1162
Opening Bank Account	1246	84
Surplus (Deficit) on Sales	-1074	1162
Closing Bank Account	172	1246

Notes:

This is the trading account of the Mothers' Union our diocesan representative deals directly with MSH for stock, which is then sent out to branches, or displayed at meetings and events such as our AGM or Diocesan Synod, on a sale or return basis. It has its own bank account which the Diocesan Representative administers.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we approve the Mothers Union Enterprises (MUE) Trading Account for the year ending 31st December 2022

Madeline Hellier - Diocesan President

Sarah Bult - Treasurer & General Trustee

THE MOTHERS UNION DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
Worldwide Fund Account for the year ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations for General Fund and various projects	8102		5690	
Donations for Emergency Relief Fund				
Donations for Literacy & Development - S Sudan				
Donations not declared in previous year			1001	
Bank Interest	<u>7</u>		<u>2</u>	
		8109		6693
Payments				
Transferred to Mother's Union, Mary Sumner House, for the various funds as donated		9700		
Surplus		<u>-1591</u>		<u>6693</u>
Opening Balance		9066		2373
Closing Balance		<u><u>7475</u></u>		<u><u>9066</u></u>

Notes:

This is a fund administered by the Central Council in Mary Sumner House and all funds raised in Bath & Wells go towards MU work all over the world. It has its own bank account which the MU Diocesan WWF Treasurer administrates.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we approve the Worldwide Fund Account for the year ending 31st December 2022

Madeline Hellier - Diocesan President

Sarah Bult - Treasurer & General Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Mothers Union Diocese of Bath and Wells

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Mothers Union of Bath and Wells (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records

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

Adam Turrell
FCA ICAEW
Maxwells Chartered Accountants
4 King Square
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 3YF

Date:

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Adam Turrell
FCA ICAEW
Maxwells Chartered Accountants 4 King Square
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 3YF

Date: