

# MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF EXETER BRANCH)

England & Wales · Charity number 250823

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1967-01-03

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

## Contact

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**Address** St. Sidwells Chapel  
Sidwell Street  
Exeter  
EX4 6NN

**Phone** 01392254126

**Email** [office@mu-exeter.co.uk](mailto:office@mu-exeter.co.uk)

**Website** [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)

## Activities

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

**Activities:** Overseas: raising funds for development projects and emergency aid. In Devon, arranging holidays for disadvantaged families; providing toys for prisoner's children visiting prisons; knitting goods for the elderly and for still-born babies; providing goods for womens' refuges and prisoners, supporting rufugees. Supporting actions against gender based violence and modern day slavery.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** DIOCESE OF EXETER.
- Devon

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£39,123	£44,100	-	-
2023-12-31	£46,215	£38,845	-	-
2022-12-31	£37,649	£47,061	-	-
2021-12-31	£36,384	£64,353	-	-
2020-12-31	£45,687	£65,418	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anna Scott Venables		2025-01-01
Mary Elizabeth Harrison		2024-05-24
Michael John Collop		2023-07-17
Nicola Jean Over		2013-01-01
Nicola Mary Sweatman		2025-01-01
Ruth Denise Collop		2019-01-01

**MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF EXETER BRANCH)**

England & Wales - Charity number 250823

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# Accounts

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**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Reg charity 250823

**Diocese of Exeter**



# Mothers' Union: Exeter Diocese

Registered Charity No 250823

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

# Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

## Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter

Registered Charity Number: 250823

Charity's Principal Address: Exeter Mothers' Union Office  
St Sidwell's  
Sidwell Street  
Exeter  
EX4 6NN

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Mrs Heather Sayle	Diocesan President
Mrs Janet Jones	Vice President and AFIA Coordinator

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing document	The Mothers' Union: Exeter Diocese Constitution says this organisation is an Unincorporated Association Registered as Charity Number 250823. It is affiliated to Mothers' Union, a Charity incorporated by Royal Charter (Charity No: 240531) through its shared aim and objects, and by virtue of its acceptance as an Affiliate by the Central Charity and its adherence to the rules and regulations of the movement.
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Trustee selection methods	Elected from membership
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### Trustees

Diocesan President	Heather Sayle	2022 to 2024
Diocesan Vice-President	Janet Jones	2019 to 2024
Diocesan Treasurer	Michael Collop	from July 2023
	Sue Addy	2019 to 2024
	Ruth Collop	2019
	Moira Devonport	2019 to 2024
	Nicky Over	2022
	Diane Passey	2022 to 2024
	Mary Harrison	2025

MU Matters Editor	Mary Harrison with Katie Drew
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## Officers

MU Diocesan Chaplain	Revd Tracey Voysey	2022
Office Administrator	Lorna Young	2022

## Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out by its governing document:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church
3. To maintain a worldwide 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
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity

### Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objectives:

In planning the activities, the trustee board have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including the specific guidance for charities involved in the advancement of religion.

During the year the Trustee Board met ten times, as well as convening the AGM on 24th May at the Boniface Centre in Crediton, and a Members' Meeting on 22nd November at St Rita's Conference Centre, Honiton. The Cluster Leaders from the eight Clusters met together twice at the MU Office in Exeter, and separately in their own areas for special events, some in person and some on Zoom. January 2025 is the start of a new Triennium year and there remain several vacancies on the Trustee Board. Two members, Nikki Sweatman and Anna Venables (both former Trustees) have been co-opted to join the Board as acting Trustees until they can be confirmed in office at the 2025 AGM. We also welcome Revd Alison Hardy, Rector of Holsworthy, to be a second MU Chaplain alongside Revd Tracey Voysey, and she will be commissioned for this role by the Bishop of Exeter, Rt Revd Mike Harrison, at a date to be announced.

## Achievements and performance

The structure of Mothers' Union in our Diocese, with Clusters, Branches, Diocesan Members' Groups and individual Diocesan Members, continues to adapt to changing circumstances. More branches have chosen to close and their members to become Diocesan Members Groups with the additional freedom this gives to operate without the need for Officers. By the end of 2024, total membership stood at 560, of whom about two-thirds were members of the 21 remaining branches, the rest meeting in 10 Diocesan Members' Groups or attending events across the Diocese. Many of our members are vulnerable and unable to get to events due to age and underlying health matters so the Trustees are

most grateful to everyone who has continued to support them by visiting, calling them on the phone and writing to keep in touch.

### **Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the year:**

#### **Governance**

There is a responsibility to ensure that the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter meets the requirements of the Charity Commissioners, particularly with regard to safeguarding, data protection and financial management, and that correct accounting procedures are followed. These matters are continually under review. The Trustees continue to encourage undertaking Risk Assessments for all MU venues, meetings and projects within the diocese, both at local level and for diocesan-wide events.

During 2024 we have continued to work on the new Governance documents which have been issued by our Central Charity. A South West Cluster will be established in 2025, and we shall be asking our membership to consider joining it. We have also distributed to members through their Cluster leaders, branch and group leaders, and via the Diocesan Member contact list, the emerging new policies and procedures as they are published. This work will continue into the new Triennium beginning in 2025.

#### **Database**

The Trustees continue to be represented on the Database Community of Interest set up by the Central Charity at Mary Sumner House. Meetings have been held at least twice a year on Zoom in preparation for the release of the new central database in February 2025. During the year the Exeter MU Database continued to be maintained and updated, and information shared with the Central Charity.

Ongoing work for the next Triennium includes checking information held in the newly-released central database, and ensuring it is correct and up-to-date in so far as it relates to Exeter members.

#### **Safeguarding**

A new Safeguarding Officer has been appointed by our Central Charity and a new policy has been published, and adopted by the Exeter Trustees. During the year our Safeguarding Officer has reviewed the policies, reporting to each Trustee meeting and ensuring that everyone in a leadership capacity is aware of their responsibilities, undertakes the prescribed training courses and is subject to the required DBS checks. The Trustees agreed the Risk Assessment policies. Advice has been distributed to branch and group leaders with their end-of-year returns. These policies and practices will be kept under review in the new Triennium.

#### **'Away From It All' (AFIA)**

AFIA is strongly supported in Exeter MU, with our own group led in 2024 by our Vice- President and AFIA Rep. They have been working on effective ways of making the money raised go further to provide effective support to families under stress. During the year an AFIA Application Pack was developed with which to invite local churches and other organisations with compatible aims to Mothers' Union to apply for resources for project work with families, children and young people. After approval by Mothers' Union Central Charity, this was launched in 2024, and an initial list of 6 such projects was identified and approved for grants by Exeter Trustees, as follows:

£1,000 for Devon Christian Youth Camps;  
£1,500 for children's drama workshops and after school-groups by Med Theatre charity;  
£600 to Ivybridge Youth for Christ for equipment for the South Brent Bridge Project drop-in youth café;  
£500 to The Daylight Collective to subsidise participation in art and cultural events, with childcare, for parents under financial stress;  
£800 for the Buckfastleigh Primary School gardening project;  
£600 to Wings charity working with disadvantaged young people in North Devon

Work is continuing into 2025 to extend the range and the scope of projects to benefit from AFIA funding and to increase the involvement of our members in similar events supporting families.

## **Faith**

A second Lent Course, 'True Freedom', written by the Clewer Initiative on the theme of modern-day slavery, was held on Zoom from 12th February to 8th March, led by our chaplain Revd Tracey Voysey. She was subsequently asked to report on this experience to the World Council of Churches.

Lady Day, the Feast of the Annunciation, falling this year on 8th April, was celebrated with a Eucharist, followed by fellowship over refreshments, at St Andrew's Colyton.

A members' retreat was held from 10th to 13th May at St Rita's Community Centre, Honiton, led by Revd Tracey, with the theme 'Our identity in Christ – who am I?' Fourteen members attended, 11 in residence and 3 as day visitors.

Cathedral Prayers services continued at mid-day in Exeter Cathedral on the final Friday each month (apart from August and December), led variously by the Trustees and the Clusters, and moving between chapels as required by the internal re-ordering work within the Cathedral. We also presented a 'Souls of our Shoes' display in the Cathedral for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, that attracted interest from many visitors.

Mary Sumner Day on 9th August was marked by a Eucharist in St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren, - close to the former site of the Exeter caravan for AFIA holidays – and was followed by a presentation and exhibits celebrating the past achievements of the AFIA project, and plans for its future.

The Emergency Prayer Chain continues to pray for members in particular need.

We have continued to participate in the Faith Community of Interest, working with Ish Lennox, the Mary Sumner House Faith Representative, to develop its work across the provinces, including materials for the new Triennium under the title of 'Join Us and Join In', and preparations to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union in 2026.

## **Outreach Initiatives**

Many branches and groups have held innovative fundraising events and used opportunities to represent Mothers' Union at a variety of church and community occasions. This offers MU members a chance to get out and about and meet with non-members including those who are on holiday or visiting family in Devon. Of particular note is that Mothers' Union Trustees and members took part in the celebration of marriage and family life at Lew Trenchard, one of a series of services in that church during its Revd Sabine Baring-Gould Centenary commemoration.

Members also contribute to the pastoral work of the churches and parishes to which they belong, particularly through keeping in touch with MU@Home members and those members that can no longer get to meetings. Trustees and MU Speakers visited Branches and Clusters to keep them informed of the

work of MU and to support fund-raising events, both within Devon and for Central Charity projects for communities overseas. A link with the Mothers' Union in Melanesia has been maintained, with the collection of sewing machines for use by members in the Solomon Islands continuing in collaboration with the Melanesian Mission.

### **Social Policy**

The two major strands of social policy that we continue to work on are raising awareness of Modern-Day Slavery and campaigning to eliminate Gender Based Violence in all its forms. During the year the office distributed Rise Up resources for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to all Branches, Trustees, Clusters and Diocesan members. Silent Vigils were held in parishes around the Diocese during the 16 Days from 25th November to 10th December 2024, with Red Chairs (representing those who have lost their lives at the hands of their partners) and Purple and White Hearts. Others contributed decorated Christmas Trees at Tree Festivals in their parishes. Similar work will continue in 2025.

### **Communication**

Two issues of 'MU Matters' magazine were produced during the year and circulated to members to keep them informed of Mothers' Union activities and events. MU speakers continue to be active across the diocese and some groups have widened their invitation to include non-members. Links with MU@Home members are maintained by sending cards by post twice a year and by personal contacts. We continued to be represented on the Communications Community of Interest group, started by the Communications Officer at our Central Charity, while we continued to work on improving our promotional resources for Diocesan MU events.

### **Financial Review**

Total receipts into the unrestricted General fund were £31,633 and are detailed in the financial statements. £13,498 of this amount was collected as subscriptions on behalf of the Mary Sumner House Central Charity. Subscriptions collected for Diocese of Exeter Mothers' Union direct costs amounted to £7,038. A further £2,196 was received as income to the Diocesan General Fund from fund raising by the branches and groups, and donations by individual members. In addition, a legacy of £1,000 (unrestricted) was received from the estate of Mrs Mary Probert.

Total expenditure for the year from the General Fund was £36,195. The transfer to the Fund of £769 from Restricted funds represents an adjustment to the accounts to reclaim an overpayment of restricted project funds to the Central Charity in 2022. After transfers, the accounts show a deficit for the year (before interest on CCLA deposit funds) of £3,793 on unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds are those funds providing resources specifically for Mothers' Union projects, including both MU Exeter projects and those of the Central Charity. Fund movements are listed in the table on page 8. AFIA and the Big Book Share are the two main Exeter projects. Grants for AFIA totalling £5,000 were made from the available balance (£5,864) brought forward from 2023 when no payments were made pending the change of project focus away from funding holidays to other work with families (see above). Balances of £4,943 (AFIA) and £2,392 (Big Book Share, providing books for prisoners in Devon prisons) were carried forward for future use. Funds for Mary Sumner House projects amounting to £2,726 were raised in 2024, mainly for Overseas and Literacy and Financial Education Projects (MULFEP), and these together with some smaller balances brought forward from 2023 were transferred to the Central Charity before the year end.

The Trustees agreed to increase the individual MU subscription to £38 a year for 2025 (up from £35 in 2024): of this, £26.50 (up from £25) is to be collected on behalf of the Central Charity and £13.50 (up from £12) is retained by Exeter Mothers' Union.

#### **Reserves Policy**

It is our policy to maintain at least £20,000 investment in a COIF Charities Deposit Fund with CCLA. This is there as a Reserve Fund and any interest gained is currently re-invested. The balance at the year-end was £23,982 including the interest £1,169 received in 2024. It is likely that we shall need to draw on this in 2025 to cover the deficit on General Fund.

#### **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above and the Financial Statements which follow.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Trustee

*M. J. Collop*

Signature

Date

1st May 2025

Mr Michael Collop, Treasurer to the Trustees

*M. J. Collop*

Signature

Date

1st May 2025

# Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter Financial Statements 2024

## Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2023 total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations and legacies	5,577	7,489	13,066	22,065
Income from charitable activities	23,080	-	23,080	19,161
Other trading activities	1,734	-	1,734	3,176
Investments	1,169	-	1,169	958
Other income	74	-	74	855
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>31,633</b>	<b>7,489</b>	<b>39,123</b>	<b>46,215</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Raising funds	3,041	-	3,041	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	32,012	7,904	39,916	38,403
Other expenditure	1,142	-	1,142	442
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>36,195</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>38,845</b>
Excess of receipts over payments	-4,562	-415	-4,977	7,370
Net transfers (accounting adjustment)	769	-769	0	0
<b>Total change in assets</b>	<b>-3,793</b>	<b>-1,184</b>	<b>-4,977</b>	<b>7,370</b>
<b>All assets at 1 January 2024</b>	<b>25,992</b>	<b>8,519</b>	<b>34,511</b>	<b>27,141</b>
<b>All assets at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>22,198</b>	<b>7,335</b>	<b>29,534</b>	<b>34,511</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
General fund	22,198	-	22,198	25,992
<b>Restricted</b>				
Restricted - AFIA	-	4,943	4,943	5,864
Restricted - BIGBOOK	-	2,392	2,392	1,707
Restricted - LADYDAY	-	-	-	104
Restricted - MULFEP	-	-	-	441
Restricted - OVERSEAS	-	-	-	85
Restricted - SUMMER	-	-	-	240
Restricted - UKNEEDS	-	-	-	78

## Statement of assets and liabilities

	General £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Last year (2023) £
<b>Current assets - Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>				
CCLA	23,982	-	23,982	22,813
Petty Cash	-94	102	7	32
Cooperative Current Account	-1,690	7,234	5,544	11,665
<b>total current assets</b>	<b>22,198</b>	<b>7,335</b>	<b>29,534</b>	<b>34,511</b>

# Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter

## Financial Statements 2024

### Fund movements 2024

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted</b>					
AFIA	5,864	4,079	5,000		4,943
Big Book Share	1,707	685	0		2,392
Lady Day	104	0	104		0
MULFEP	441	1,471	1,227	-684	0
Overseas	85	795	795	-85	0
Summer of Hope	240	310	550		0
UK Needs	78	150	228		0
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General	25,992	31,633	36,195	769	22,198
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34,511</b>	<b>39,123</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,534</b>

# Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter

## Financial Statements 2024

### Analysis of Receipts and Payments

#### Receipts

	General	Restricted	Total This year 2024	Last year 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
Overseas Fund	-	795	795	1,172
MULFEP	-	1,471	1,471	1,487
Lady Day	-	-	-	144
Summer of Hope	-	310	310	240
UK Needs MSH	-	150	150	78
Diocesan Fund	2,196	-	2,196	3,045
AFIA	-	4,079	4,079	5,233
Big Book Share	-	685	685	651
Legacies	1,000	-	1,000	8,050
Miscellaneous Donations/Income	270	-	270	496
MSH Christmas Appeal	160	-	160	-
Presentation donations	1,111	-	1,111	435
donations in memory	-	-	-	1,034
Gender based violence	225	-	225	-
Saving/Credit groups overseas	300	-	300	-
MU Melanesia	315	-	315	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,577</b>	<b>7,489</b>	<b>13,066</b>	<b>22,065</b>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Diocesan Members MSH Subscriptions	4,097	-	4,097	2,745
Branch Members MSH Subscriptions	9,401	-	9,401	9,513
Branch Diocesan Subscriptions	4,899	-	4,899	4,825
Diocesan Members Subscriptions	2,139	-	2,139	1,575
Annual Retreat	2,210	-	2,210	-
Make a Mothers Day MSH	100	-	100	32
Speakers Charge	234	-	234	471
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,080</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,080</b>	<b>19,161</b>
<b>Other trading activities</b>				
MUe Shop Income	1,641	-	1,641	3,126
Income from recycling (ink + stamps)	93	-	93	26
MUe Postage	-	-	-	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>3,176</b>
<b>Other receipts</b>				
Investments - CCLA Annual Interest	1,169	-	1,169	958
Other - Closed Branch Funds	74	-	74	855
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>31,633</b>	<b>7,489</b>	<b>39,123</b>	<b>46,215</b>

# Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter

## Financial Statements 2024

### Analysis of Receipts and Payments

#### Payments

	General	Restricted	This year 2024	Last year 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Raising funds</b>				
MUe Stock	3,041	-	3,041	-
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>				
DM Subscriptions to MSH	4,094	-	4,094	3,150
Branch Subscriptions to MSH	9,401	-	9,401	9,387
Overseas Fund	-	795	795	9,402
MULFEP	734	1,227	1,961	1,121
Lady Day	-	104	104	40
UK Needs	-	228	228	-
Trustee Expenses	139	-	139	130
Staff Costs	8,316	-	8,316	7,838
Telephone/Internet	553	-	553	460
Gas	435	-	435	836
Electricity	512	-	512	606
Rent	1,613	-	1,613	968
Event Room Hire	787	-	787	346
Business Rates	25	-	25	25
Insurance	495	-	495	484
Maintenance	120	-	120	84
Office Equipment	564	-	564	900
Stationery	7	-	7	68
Postage (Office)	3	-	3	6
Printing Costs	211	-	211	723
Conference Expenses	234	-	234	84
MU@Home Admin Costs	152	-	152	105
Diocesan Members Admin Costs	183	-	183	567
Retreat	2,007	-	2,007	-
AFIA	-	5,000	5,000	-
Outreach Projects	50	-	50	-
Big Book Share & Toy Box Scheme	-	-	-	499
Sundries	54	-	54	21
Bank Charges	0	-	0	45
Miscellaneous	55	-	55	2
Speakers expenses	-	-	-	173
MSH Appeal	160	-	160	-
Summer of Hope from Branches	-	550	550	-
Make a Mothers Day (MAMD)	100	-	100	-
Chaplain's expenses	183	-	183	335
Projects against Gender-based Violence	525	-	525	-
Saving/credit groups overseas	300	-	300	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,012</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>39,916</b>	<b>38,403</b>
other expenditure - presentation gifts	1,142	-	1,142	442
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>36,195</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>38,845</b>
<b>surplus/deficit - excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>-4,562</b>	<b>-415</b>	<b>-4,977</b>	<b>7,370</b>

# Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter

## Financial Statements 2024

### Notes to the Accounts

Note 1: Payments to Trustees

Total payments to members of the Trustee Board in 2024 were £487, as follows, all incurred for work of the charity:

Diocesan Members administration, stationery and postage £143, travel £40

Chaplains' travel expenses £183

Other Trustees (2), travel £121

Note 2: transactions between the charity and members of the Trustee Board or related parties: nil

The Financial Statements have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis.  
Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

for the Trustees



Nikki Sweatman  
for the Trustees



Michael Collop  
Treasurer

(signed) May 2025

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter

I report on the accounts of the charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

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

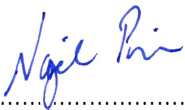
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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.



Date: 27 May 2025

.....  
Nigel Price  
Chartered Accountant  
12 Estuary Avenue  
Appledore  
Bideford  
EX39 1GF

**MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF EXETER BRANCH)**

England & Wales - Charity number 250823

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# Accounts

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**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Reg charity 250823

**Diocese of Exeter**



# Mothers' Union: Exeter Diocese

Registered Charity No 250823

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

# Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

## Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter

Registered Charity Number: 250823

Charity's Principal Address: Exeter Mothers' Union Office  
St Sidwell's  
Sidwell Street  
Exeter  
EX4 6NN

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Mrs Heather Sayle	Diocesan President
Mrs Janet Jones	Vice President and AFIA Coordinator

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing document      The Mothers' Union: Exeter Diocese Constitution says this organisation is an Unincorporated Association Registered as Charity Number 250823. It is affiliated to Mothers' Union, a Charity incorporated by Royal Charter (Charity No: 240531) through its shared aim and objects, and by virtue of its acceptance as an Affiliate by the Central Charity and its adherence to the rules and regulations of the movement.

Trustee selection methods      Elected from membership

### Trustees

Diocesan President	Heather Sayle	2022
Diocesan Vice-President	Janet Jones	2019
Diocesan Treasurer	Michael Collop	from July 2023
	Sue Addy	2019
	Ruth Collop	2019
	Moira Devonport	2019
	Nicky Over	2022
	Diane Passey	2022

MU Matters Editor	Vacant	Anna Venables Autumn 2021, resigned 8 August 2023
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## Officers

MU Diocesan Chaplains	Revd Caroline Luff Revd Tracey Voysey	2017 - 2023 2022
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Office Administrator	Lorna Young	2022
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## **Objectives and Activities**

Summary of the objects of the charity set out by its governing document:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church
3. To maintain a worldwide 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
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity

### **Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objectives:**

In planning the activities, the trustee board have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including the specific guidance for charities involved in the advancement of religion.

During the year the Trustee Board met twelve times plus the AGM. The Spring Council Meeting and AGM and the Autumn Members Meeting were held at St Boniface Centre, Crediton. The Cluster Leaders from the eight Clusters met twice as a group at the MU Office in Exeter and these meetings were considered successful and productive. The Cluster groups met together in their own geographical areas for special events some in person and some on Zoom. There is a Triennium year coming up so there will be a number of vacancies on the Trustee Board to start in January 2025. We currently have one MU Chaplain and are awaiting news from the Acting Bishop of Exeter Rt Revd Jackie Searle for another MU Chaplain, hopefully by AGM 2024.

## **Achievements and performance**

The structure of our Diocese through Clusters, Branches, Diocesan Members' Groups and individual Diocesan Members continues to adapt and change and it has been good to welcome new members to our organisation. Some Branches have sadly closed and some of their members have now become Diocesan Members. Other former branches have chosen to become new Diocesan Members Groups and organise themselves less formally without the need for Officers. Special events have been organised which have brought people together sometimes from across the Diocese which have been well received and enjoyable occasions. Six MU members represented Exeter Diocese at the Annual Gathering in York in September. Many of our members are vulnerable due to age and underlying health matters so the Trustees are most grateful to all those who have continued to support these members by visiting, calling them on the phone and writing to them to keep in touch.

## **Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the year:**

### **Governance**

There is a responsibility for ensuring that the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter complies with Charity Commissioners requirements and that correct accounting procedures are followed. The Trustees continue to encourage undertaking a Risk Assessment on MU Projects within the diocese and set the Annual Diocesan Subscriptions.

During 2023 we:

- Have continued to work on the new Governance documents which have been issued by our Central Charity

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- To continue to review the new policies and distribute them to the members across Devon.

### **Database**

A 'Database Community of Interest' has been set up by the Central Charity at Mary Sumner House and meetings are held at least twice a year on Zoom. This has helped dioceses understand the strategies being used to tender for the new system and to give real feedback around issues to do with mailings and other database matters.

During the year the following was achieved:

- the Exeter MU Database was updated and ably maintained locally and information shared with the Central Charity from the Exeter MU Database Officer, the Administrator and Database Super Admins.

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- keeping up to date with the progress of the new Central Charity Database which is due to be installed in 2024/25.

### **Safeguarding**

A new Safeguarding Officer has been appointed by our Central Charity and a new policy has been produced and approved and adopted by the Exeter Trustees.

During the year the following was achieved:

- our Safeguarding Officer held regular meetings of the new Safeguarding Team and reported to each Trustee meeting
- The Safeguarding Team maintained good communication with the new Central Charity's Safeguarding Officer
- The Trustees approved a new Risk Assessment Policy
- the new Safeguarding Policy and Appendices from the Central Charity were circulated to all Branches and Diocesan Members

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- To work through the new Safeguarding Guidelines for AFIA

## **AFIA**

This AFIA Community of Interest group has been re-established and is working closely with the new Safeguarding Officer at our Central Charity. We are pleased to have several people who are keen to support this work on our own AFIA group led by our Vice- President and AFIA Rep.

During the year the following was achieved:

- The AFIA group met to review and explore the work of AFIA across the diocese
- steps have begun to be made to develop a new Application Pack for funding days out for families across Devon
- The AFIA group are working on new ways of making the money raised go further to support and resource families affected by the cost of living crisis to access days out and Holiday Clubs run in local churches

Hopes for 2024-25

- To develop a new AFIA Application Pack for funding days out for families in accordance with the new Safeguarding Guidelines
- Use the monies that have been donated to AFIA to help more families enjoy some special time together

## **Faith**

The 'Faith Community of Interest' has continued to meet and develop its work across the provinces. During the year the Faith Rep from our Central Charity retired and a new person was appointed. The new person has been busy getting up to speed with all the many regular publications and looking to develop new ways of engaging with our membership and beyond. Part of this has been to review Midday Prayers which are held online on Facebook and she has offered the possibility for new people to lead these on a rotational basis. Our Faith Co-ordinator has worked hard to ensure we are all well-resourced and has worked with both of our MU Chaplains. This year we said thank you to our previous two MU Chaplains and great appreciation was expressed for all their support of Mothers' Union over the six year tenure and when they had held other offices as well.

During the year the following were achieved:

- Hosted our first Diocesan MU Lent Course called Journeys written by the Clewer Initiative and led by our MU Chaplain and Diocesan President on Zoom for 5 weeks
- monthly Cathedral Prayer services were held in the Sacristy and Lady Chapel at the Cathedral led by the Trustees and Clusters
- we continued to provide an Emergency Prayer Chain
- Our Faith Co-ordinator and MU Chaplain organised an Advent Quiet Day at the MU Office and the Chapel in November
- MU Members held Quiet Days around the Diocese
- We were generously and very ably supported by our two Diocesan Chaplains

Hopes for 2024-25

- To hold a three-night Diocesan MU Retreat at St Rita's in Honiton for all members who wish to attend either residentially or as day visitors
- To improve our monthly Cathedral Prayer attendance

- To promote the work and prayer life of the Mothers' Union in St George's Chapel in the Cathedral

### **Outreach Initiatives**

Many branches and groups have held innovative fundraising events and used opportunities to represent Mothers' Union at a variety of church and community occasions. This offers MU members a chance to get out and about and meet with non-members including those who are on holiday or visiting family in Devon.

During the year the following was achieved:

- Trustees and MU Speakers visited Branches and Clusters to keep them informed of the work of MU and support social events for the Summer of Hope campaign, Make a Mothers Day and our fellow MU Members around the world
- We have improved links with the Diocese through wider MU representation on Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synods and PCC membership
- We continue to promote some of our projects through Roots and Shoots – the weekly diocesan online newsletter and via local parish magazines and through the Cathedral

Hopes for 2024-25

- Continue to provide our real stories of MU for MU Live and report them to our Central Charity
- We look forward to celebrating family life at Lew Trenchard as part of the Revd Sabine Baring-Gould Centenary celebrations

### **Social Policy**

There are currently two major strands of work in this area that we as a diocese have been working on: Raising Awareness of Modern-Day Slavery and campaigning to eliminate Gender Based Violence in all its forms.

During the year the following were achieved:

- The Office sent out Rise Up resources for the 16 Days against Gender based Violence to all Branches, Trustees, Clusters and Diocesan members
- We held Silent Vigils around the Diocese inc Red Chairs, Purple and White Hearts, and decorated Christmas Trees at Tree Festivals in parishes from 25<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- We held a successful Resources Day at the MU Office for Rise Up to raise awareness and to resource Clusters, Branches and Diocesan Members
- Our Prison Bookshare rep. delivered £500 worth of books to Channings Wood Prison for the Prison Bookshare project
- A Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition was displayed in Exeter Cathedral during the 16 Days. The shoes represented people who had lost their lives to Domestic Abuse and there were real quotes from survivors. It was a new MU venture in the Cathedral and was very well received

Hopes for 2024-25

- Build on the response to the Resources Day held at the MU Office and offer one looking at the work of The Clewer Initiative and Modern Day Slavery
- To request permission from the Dean and Chapter and plan for another exhibition for 16 Days in the Cathedral

### **Overseas**

During the year the following was achieved:

- We celebrated our MU link with Melanesia at our Mary Sumner Day Service in Ottery St Mary
- We successfully arranged for delivery of 35+ sewing machines and other sewing equipment to the Solomon Islands
- Members resourced volunteer groups supporting refugees from Ukraine with hand-knitted clothing for children

Hopes for 2024-25

- to continue to promote the MU overseas, through talks and feedback from the projects
- to encourage members to support our Diocesan fundraising campaigns

### **Training**

As some new Community of Interest groups have begun through the Central Charity, online training events have made the opportunity for members to join with members worldwide.

During the year the following was achieved:

- we have been offered Clewer Initiative training through the Central Charity
- we have been offered Domestic Violence awareness training through the Central Charity
- offered Gender Based Violence awareness through a Resources Day at the MU Office

Hopes for 2024-25

- continue to encourage new MU Speakers
- offer a day at the MU office for new Branch leaders, Branch Secretaries and Branch Treasurers at least every Triennium
- offer a Resources Day at the MU Office to raise awareness of Modern Slavery
- offer Domestic Violence Awareness, Gender Based Violence Awareness and Modern Slavery awareness training through our Central Charity

### **Metamorphosis**

This MU Project was evaluated this year by our Central Charity and we were encouraged to use the core materials and the new Bitesize books which are available through MU Enterprise (MUe).

During the year the following was achieved:

- some groups used the Bitesize materials in their meetings with church and community groups.

Hopes for 2023-24

- encourage the use of Bitesize to explore new MU opportunities in the local community

## **Communication**

A 'Communications Community of Interest' group was started by the new Communications Officer at our Central Charity and meetings have been most informative and helpful. MU Speakers continue to be very active across the diocese and groups have widened their invitation to members around Devon and non-members too.

During the year the following was achieved:

- maintained links with MU @ Home members by sending cards by post twice a year
- produced two issues of 'MU Matters' magazine
- we continued to work on improving our promotional resources for Diocesan MU events
- the improved broadband connection has helped with hosting more hybrid meetings
- Administrator has new headphone mic and webcam for phone calls and Zoom meetings
- new topics from the MU Speakers were added to the Speakers List

Hopes for 2024-25

- Continue to update the web address and build a new MU Diocesan website
- To improve our social media and online presence to be more up to date
- get a Zoom licence to allow more hybrid meetings to be held across the diocese.

## **Finance and Office**

During the year the following was achieved:

- The Trustees agreed to increase the individual MU subscription to £35 a year for 2024
- Our MUE Rep ensured whenever possible that Mothers' Union literature was on sale at events
- We promoted the new improved system to buy goods/cards online from the Central Charity
- Members were encouraged to pay subscriptions by BACS
- The Trustees changed our phone and broadband provider and install a Smart Meter for our electricity to reduce our office costs

Hopes for 2024-25

- To source a compatible VoIP phone to enable phone calls from the office more easily than using headphone microphone or mobile phone
- To review MUE and offer drop in events at the office to show how to order MU goods online
- Begin to properly catalogue the Local Archive material from MU branches across Devon

## Financial Review

Total receipts on the unrestricted General fund were £29,160 and are detailed in the financial statements. £12,258 of this amount was collected on behalf of the Central Charity. Total expenditure for the year on unrestricted funds was £27,783 so there is a surplus for the year of £1,376 leaving a balance on the General fund at the year end of £25,992.

Many of the restricted fund balances were forwarded to the Central Charity and movements on all funds are detailed in the notes to the accounts. There is a large balance for AFIA and this has been notified to the lead on this initiative so that when the new Days Out Scheme is ready it can be utilized. There also remains a significant balance for the Big Book Share (prisons bookshare scheme), ready for allocation in 2024.

It is our policy to maintain £20,000 investment in a COIF Charities Deposit Fund with CCLA. This is there as a Reserve Fund and any interest gained is currently re-invested. We had thought we might need to draw down the interest but that has not yet been necessary.

### Policy on Reserves:

It is good practice for the Diocesan Trustee Board to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 6 months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. At the year end the General fund balance (including the CCLA investment) was well in excess of this target.

## Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above and the Financial Statements which follow.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Mrs Heather Sayle, Diocesan President

Signature *H. J. Sayle* Date *3rd May 2024*

Mr Michael Collop, Treasurer to the Trustees

*M. J. Collop* *3rd May 2024*

Signature

Date

**Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter**  
**Financial Statements 2023**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations and legacies	5,010	17,055	22,065	12,965
Income from charitable activities	19,161	-	19,161	20,613
Other trading activities	3,176	-	3,176	3,663
Investments	958	-	958	211
Other income	855	-	855	197
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>29,160</b>	<b>17,055</b>	<b>46,215</b>	<b>37,650</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Raising funds	-	-	-	6,027
Expenditure on charitable activities	27,342	11,062	38,403	41,035
Other expenditure	442	-	442	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>27,783</b>	<b>11,062</b>	<b>38,845</b>	<b>47,062</b>
Net movement of funds (excess of receipts over payments)	1,376	5,993	7,370	-9,412
<b>All assets at 1 January 2023</b>	<b>24,615</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>27,141</b>	<b>36,553</b>
<b>All assets at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>25,992</b>	<b>8,519</b>	<b>34,511</b>	<b>27,141</b>
<b>Represented by</b>				
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
General fund	25,992	-	25,992	24,615
<b>Restricted</b>				
AFIA DIOCESE	-	5,864	5,864	631
BIG BOOK SHARE DIOCESE	-	1,707	1,707	1,555
LADY DAY MSH	-	104	104	-
Overseas and MULFEP MSH Funds	-	526	526	340
SUMMER OF HOPE MSH	-	240	240	-
UK NEEDS DIOCESE	-	78	78	-

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

	General £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Last year (2022) £
<b>Current assets - Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>				
HSBC Current Account (account closed 2023)	-	-	-	2,767
CCLA	22,813	-	22,813	21,856
Petty Cash	-69	102	32	40
Cooperative Current Account	3,247	8,418	11,665	2,478
<b>total current assets</b>	<b>25,992</b>	<b>8,519</b>	<b>34,511</b>	<b>27,141</b>

# Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter

## Financial Statements 2023

### Fund movements 2023

Fund	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Fund balances Carried forward £
<b>Restricted</b>				
AFIA	631	5,233	-	5,864
Big Book Share	1,555	651	499	1,707
Lady Day	-	144	40	104
MULFEP	75	1,487	1,121	441
Overseas	265	9,222	9,402	85
Summer of Hope	-	240	-	240
UK Needs	-	78	-	78
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
General	24,615	29,160	27,783	25,992
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27,141</b>	<b>46,215</b>	<b>38,845</b>	<b>34,511</b>

## Analysis of Receipts and Payments

### Receipts

	General £	Restricted £	Total This year 2023 £	Last year 2022 £
<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
Overseas Fund	-	1,172	1,172	1,176
MULFEP	-	1,487	1,487	644
Community Development Co-ordinators	-	-	-	194
Emergency Relief	-	-	-	639
Lady Day	-	144	144	-
Summer of Hope	-	240	240	-
UK Needs MSH	-	78	78	-
Diocesan Fund	3,045	-	3,045	2,239
AFIA	-	5,233	5,233	6,574
Big Book Share	-	651	651	1,216
Legacies	-	8,050	8,050	-
Miscellaneous Income	496	-	496	283
Presentation donations	435	-	435	-
donations in memory	1,034	-	1,034	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,010</b>	<b>17,055</b>	<b>22,065</b>	<b>12,965</b>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Diocesan Members MSH Subscriptions	2,745	-	2,745	2,816
Branch Members MSH Subscriptions	9,513	-	9,513	9,400
Branch Diocesan Subscriptions	4,825	-	4,825	4,690
Diocesan Members Subscriptions	1,575	-	1,575	1,498
Annual Retreat	-	-	-	2,030
Make a Mothers Day MSH	32	-	32	20
Speakers Charge	471	-	471	159
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,161</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,161</b>	<b>20,613</b>
<b>Other trading activities</b>				
MUe Shop Income	3,126	-	3,126	3,640
Income from recycling (ink + stamps)	26	-	26	24
MUe Postage	23	-	23	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>3,663</b>
<b>Other receipts</b>				
Investments - CCLA Annual Interest	958	-	958	211
Other - Closed Branch Funds	855	-	855	197
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>29,160</b>	<b>17,055</b>	<b>46,215</b>	<b>37,650</b>

## Analysis of Receipts and Payments

### Payments

	General £	Restricted £	Total	
			This year 2023 £	Last year 2022 £
<b>Raising funds</b>				
MUe Stock	-	-	-	5,904
MUe Postage	-	-	-	123
<b>Total</b>				<b>6,027</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>				
DM Subscriptions to MSH	3,150	-	3,150	3,000
Branch Subscriptions to MSH	9,387	-	9,387	9,840
Overseas Fund	-	9,402	9,402	1,282
MULFEP	-	1,121	1,121	885
Community Development Co-ordinators	-	-	-	304
Emergency Relief	-	-	-	749
Lady Day	-	40	40	-
Diocesan President Expenses	-	-	-	187
Trustee Expenses	130	-	130	495
Staff Costs	7,838	-	7,838	6,074
Telephone/Internet	460	-	460	1,030
Gas	836	-	836	268
Electricity	606	-	606	617
Rent	968	-	968	2,142
Event Room Hire	346	-	346	208
Business Rates	25	-	25	-412
Insurance	484	-	484	484
Maintenance	84	-	84	711
Office Equipment	900	-	900	1,153
Stationery	68	-	68	18
Postage (Office)	6	-	6	33
Printing Costs	723	-	723	706
Conference Expenses	84	-	84	635
MU@Home Admin Costs	105	-	105	62
Diocesan Members Admin Costs	567	-	567	68
Retreat	-	-	-	2,120
AFIA	-	-	-	6,681
Big Book Share & Toy Box Scheme	-	499	499	291
Sundries	21	-	21	16
Bank Charges	45	-	45	170
Miscellaneous	2	-	2	104
Speakers expenses	173	-	173	152
MSH Appeal	-	-	-	769
Make a Mothers Day (MAMD)	-	-	-	20
Chaplain's expenses	335	-	335	172
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,342</b>	<b>11,062</b>	<b>38,403</b>	<b>41,035</b>
other expenditure - presentation gifts	442	-	442	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>27,783</b>	<b>11,062</b>	<b>38,845</b>	<b>47,062</b>
<b>surplus/deficit - excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>5,993</b>	<b>7,370</b>	<b>-9,412</b>

The Financial Statements have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Heather Sayle  
Diocesan President

Michael Collop  
Treasurer

Date: 3rd May 2024

*H. J. Sayle*

*M. J. Collop*

**MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF EXETER BRANCH)**

England & Wales - Charity number 250823

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# Accounts

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**Mothers' UNION**

Christian care for families

Reg charity 250823

**Diocese of Exeter**



# Mothers' Union: Exeter Diocese

Registered Charity No 250823

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

# Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

## Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter

Registered Charity Number: 250823

Charity's Principal Address: Exeter Mothers' Union Office  
St Sidwell's  
Sidwell Street  
Exeter  
EX4 6NN

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Mrs Heather Sayle	Diocesan President
Mrs Janet Jones	Vice President and AFIA Coordinator

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing document      The Mothers' Union: Exeter Diocese Constitution says this organisation is an Unincorporated Association Registered as Charity Number 250823. It is affiliated to Mothers' Union, a Charity incorporated by Royal Charter (Charity No: 240531) through its shared aim and objects, and by virtue of its acceptance as an Affiliate by the Central Charity and its adherence to the rules and regulations of the movement.

Trustee selection methods      Elected from membership

### Trustees

Diocesan President	Heather Sayle	2022
Diocesan Vice-President	Janet Jones	2019
Diocesan Treasurer	Vacant	Nov 2022 - date
	Nikki Sweatman	Jan 2022 – Nov 2022 (resigned)
	Sue Addy	2019
	Revd Ian Blyde	Feb 2022
	Ruth Collop	2019
	Moira Devonport	2019
	Nicky Over	2022
	Diane Passey	2022
	Lesley Thurley	2019 – Feb 2022 (resigned)

MU Matters Editor	Anna Venables	Autumn 2021
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## Officers

MU Diocesan Chaplains	Revd Caroline Luff Revd Tracey Voysey	2017 - 2023 2022
Office Administrator	Lorna Young	2022

## **Objectives and Activities**

Summary of the objects of the charity set out by its governing document:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church
3. To maintain a worldwide 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
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity

### **Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objectives:**

In planning the activities, the trustee board have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including the specific guidance for charities involved in the advancement of religion.

The MU Office began to get back into operation with the Administrator working in the office. The rooms were rearranged to allow the front office previously the MU Bookshop to become a useable meeting room which is easily and more cheaply heated.

During the year the Trustee Board met 12 times plus the AGM. The Spring Council Meeting and AGM was held at St Boniface Centre, CREDITON and then the Autumn meeting was held at St Sidwell's, Exeter, in person for those who felt able to attend. The Cluster Leaders from the eight Clusters unfortunately did not meet as a group until September due to a Covid infection earlier in the year. The meeting was held in the MU Offices and was considered successful and productive. The Cluster groups met together in their own geographical areas for special events some in person and some on Zoom. The elected Trustees currently numbers nine members and two MU Chaplains with plans to appoint another Trustee in May at the AGM.

A special Evensong Service was held in the Cathedral led by the Lord Bishop of Exeter, Rt Revd Robert Atwell on 18<sup>th</sup> June for the Commissioning of the Diocesan President, Vice President and Trustees followed by a drink's reception in the Chapter House. Another Commissioning Service was held for our newly appointed MU Chaplain Revd Tracey Voysey and another Trustee in the Chapel at the Bishop's Palace on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022. This was followed by coffee and mince pies in the Drawing Room at the Palace.

## **Achievements and performance**

Our Diocesan Branches have continued to adapt and change following covid and it has been good to welcome new members to our organisation. Some Branches have sadly closed but some have chosen to become Diocesan Groups and meet less formally without the need for Officers. Special events have been organised which have brought people together in Clusters and from across the Diocese which many have enjoyed and appreciated. Many of our members are vulnerable due to age and underlying health matters so the Trustees are most grateful to all those who have continued to support these members by visiting and calling them on the phone to keep in touch.

## **Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the year:**

### **Governance**

There is a responsibility for ensuring that the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter complies with Charity Commissioners requirements and that correct accounting procedures are followed. The Trustees continue to encourage undertaking a Risk Assessment on MU Projects within the diocese and set Diocesan Subscriptions.

During 2022 we:

- developed an annual review of the MU Office equipment and diarise renewals
- continued work on the Branch Pack
- re-established the MU Office as a base for the Administrator post covid

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- produce an updated Health and Safety Policy
- review office practices

### **Database**

During the year the following was achieved:

- the Database was updated and ably maintained locally and information shared with the Central Charity from the Exeter MU Database Officer
- installed new software including antivirus and a cloud back-up system

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- ensure that all additions and amendments to membership details are correct
- continue to liaise with the new staff members at the Central Charity in charge of the Database

### **Safeguarding**

During the year the following was achieved:

- our Safeguarding Officer reported regularly to the Trustee meetings
- maintained good communication between the Central Charity's Safeguarding Team, the CofE Diocesan Safeguarding Team Lead and the Exeter MU Safeguarding Officer
- establish regular meetings of new Safeguarding Team and report to each Trustee meeting
- produced a new Safeguarding Policy

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- continue to review the Risk Assessment Procedure
- await new instructions from the Central Charity following the Central Charity Safeguarding Review

### **AFIA**

During the year the following was achieved:

- we continued to work in partnership with schools, GP's, Homestart, Social Workers and Clergy for Away From It all (AFIA) referrals
- a new AFIA group was formed to help our AFIA rep with members from across the diocese.
- steps have been made to develop a new project for days out for families (Plymouth)

Hopes for 2023-24

- encourage local members to raise funds for our local Away From it All Holiday (AFIA) Projects
- develop a new project for days out for families in North Devon

## **Faith**

During the year the following were achieved:

- monthly Cathedral Prayer services were held in the Lady Chapel led by the Trustees and Clusters.
- Opening Prayers and a Eucharist for Diocesan Council and Trustee Board meetings
- we continued to provide an Emergency Prayer Chain
- Our Faith co-ordinator ably organised our Annual MU Retreat at Millhouse, Devon
- MU Members held Quiet Days around the Diocese
- we were generously and very ably supported by our two Diocesan Chaplains
- one of our Chaplains continued with her daily email message produced during covid to members who opted in to subscribe

Hopes for 2023-24

- build on our new connections with the Cathedral Co-ordinator and continue the monthly Cathedral Prayers led by our Clusters amidst their current building works
- encourage and improve our links with Clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers in the Diocese
- have a few MU Quiet Days and special MU services across the Diocese for members to attend

## **Outreach Initiatives**

During the year the following was achieved:

- provided warm knitted garments for preschool children from Ukraine
- visited Branches and Clusters to keep them informed of the work of MU and built on the success of social events for the Summer of Hope campaign and Make a Mothers Day
- improved links with Diocese through wider MU representation on Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synods and PCC membership
- supported the new Bishop of Plymouth on his pilgrimage from Exeter to Plymouth by meeting him at several of his stopovers and joining with him on his walks
- had two invitations to speak live on BBC local Radio about the 16 Days of Activism and our Red Chair campaign
- we were able to promote some of our projects through Roots and Shoots – the weekly diocesan online newsletter

Hopes for 2023-24

- encourage groups /branches to engage with the new MU Comms team when putting on MU events locally for Summer of Hope and Make a Mothers Day
- Maintain MU Live updating on Central Charity online platform

## **Social Policy**

There are two major strands of work in this area Raising Awareness of Modern Day Slavery and campaigning to eliminated Gender Based Violence in all its forms

During the year the following were achieved:

- Sent out 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence resources to all Branches, Trustees, Clusters and Diocesan members. We held Silent Vigils around the Diocese inc 18+ Red Chairs put in parishes from 25<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- kept members up to date with Social Policy matters, including Domestic Violence (DV), Gender Based Violence (GBV), The Clewer Initiative (Modern Slavery), Restored, the Prison Book Share, DP News, MU Matters emails and presentations at Diocesan/ Cluster/ Branch meetings

Hopes for 2023-24

- keep members informed of Social Policy issues from local diocese and Central Charity
- encourage membership of Communities of Interest associated with GBV and DV

### **Overseas**

During the year the following was achieved:

- celebration of MU link with Melanesian Mission at Mary Sumner Day Service in Ottery St Mary
- successfully started a new project resourcing our MU members with sewing machines and other sewing equipment in the Solomon Islands

Hopes for 2023-24

- continue to promote the MU overseas, through talks and articles in Roots and Shoots etc
- continue to encourage members to support Make a Mother's Day
- find new contacts to practically (knitting etc) resource projects and encourage groups to take initiatives to support similar projects like the Sewing Workshop Project

### **Training**

During the year the following was achieved:

- held a local training session for a MU speakers
- offered Clewer Initiative training through the Central Charity
- offered another Metamorphosis online course through the Central Charity and Metamorphosis Bitesize training
- Community of Interest groups from the Central Charity hosted training events online

Hopes for 2023-24

- continue to encourage new MU speakers
- offer a day at the MU office for new Branch leaders, Branch Secretaries and Branch Treasurers at least every Triennium
- offer Domestic Violence Awareness, Gender Based Violence Awareness and Modern Slavery awareness training

### **Metamorphosis**

This was run again this year via Zoom online for 16 weeks meeting with members meeting online from across the Canterbury Province every fortnight.

During the year the following was achieved:

- some members took part in the MU Metamorphosis programme and have used Bitesize resources to work with PCC and other groups in parishes, deaneries and Mission Communities

Hopes for 2023-24

- encourage the use of Bitesize to explore new opportunities for MU in their local community

### **Communication**

During the year the following was achieved:

- maintained links with MU@Home members by sending cards by post twice a year
- produced two issues of 'MU Matters'
- maintained our Instagram feed for Exeter MU and improved our promotional resources for Diocesan MU events and services
- established email groups for sending out DP News and items from Mary Sumner House

#### Hopes for 2023-24

- update and build a new MU Diocesan website with new Communication group
- improve our social media and online presence to be more up to date

#### **Finance and Office**

During the year the following was achieved:

- agreed to increase the individual MU subscription to £32 a year for 2023
- Our MUE Rep ensured whenever possible that Mothers' Union literature was on sale at events
- promote the new improved system to buy goods/cards online from the Central Charity
- improved audio and visual equipment for hybrid meetings (Zoom and in-person meetings) with new microphone, new webcam and (new to us) computer monitor
- updated the printer in the office
- encouraged more Diocesan Members to pay subscriptions by BACS
- arranged for new computer to be installed in the office in early Jan 2023

#### Hopes for 2023-24

- update the phone and broadband system
- review MUE following covid
- review possible grant funding applications

## Financial Review

Total receipts on the unrestricted general fund were £27,186 and are detailed in the financial statements. £12,839 of this amount was collected on behalf of the Central Charity. Total expenditure for the year on unrestricted funds was £38,494. so there is a deficit for the year of £11,308 leaving a general reserve at the year end of £24,615.

Most of the restricted fund balances are spent and movements on all funds are detailed in the notes to the accounts. There is a large balance for Big Book Share and this has been notified to the lead on this initiative so that it can be utilized.

It is our policy to maintain £20,000 investment with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund. This is there as a reserve fund and any interest gained is currently re-invested.

Policy on reserves:

It is good practice for the Diocesan Trustee Board to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds [if possible], which equates to at least 6 months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. At the year end, balances were in excess of this target.

## Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above and the financial statements which follow.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Mrs Heather Sayle Diocesan President

Signature: *H J Sayle*

Date 10th May 2023

:

## Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations and legacies	2,522	10,443	12,965	13,684
Income from charitable activities	20,593	20	20,613	18,066
Other trading activities	3,663	—	3,663	4,512
Investments	211	—	211	3
Other income	196	—	196	117
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>27,186</b>	<b>10,463</b>	<b>37,649</b>	<b>36,384</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Raising funds	6,026	—	6,026	1,670
Expenditure on charitable activities	32,467	8,567	41,034	62,682
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>38,494</b>	<b>8,567</b>	<b>47,061</b>	<b>64,353</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments before transfer</b>	<b>(11,308)</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>(9,411)</b>	<b>(27,968)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>				
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	25,490
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	(25,490)
<b>Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses</b>	<b>(11,308)</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>(9,411)</b>	<b>(27,968)</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(11,308)</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>(9,411)</b>	<b>(27,968)</b>
<b>All assets at 01 January 2022</b>	<b>35,923</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>36,553</b>	<b>64,522</b>
<b>All assets at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>24,615</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>27,141</b>	<b>36,553</b>
<b>Represented by</b>				
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
General fund	24,615	—	24,615	35,923
<b>Restricted</b>				
AFIA DIOCESE	—	631	631	—
BIG BOOK SHARE DIOCESE	—	1,555	1,555	630
MULFEP MSH Fund	—	75	75	—
Overseas MSH Fund	—	265	265	—

## Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Restricted	This year	Last year
<b>Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
HSBC Current Account -	1,609	1,157	2,767	14,888
CCLA -	21,855	—	21,855	21,644
Petty Cash -	(61)	101	39	20
Cooperative Current Account -	1,211	1,267	2,478	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24,615</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>27,141</b>	<b>36,553</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>24,615</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>27,141</b>	<b>36,553</b>

## Fund movement by type

<b>Closing</b>		<b>Opening</b>	<b>Incoming</b>	<b>Outgoing</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Gains/losses</b>	<b>Journals</b>
<b>AFIA DIOCESE</b>							
Restricted		—	6,574	5,943	—	—	631
	<b>Sub-total for AFIA</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,574</b>	<b>5,943</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>631</b>
<b>BIG BOOK SHARE DIOCE</b>							
Restricted		630	1,215	290	—	—	1,555
	<b>Sub-total for BIGBOOK</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,555</b>
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>							
Restricted		—	194	194	—	—	—
	<b>Sub-total for CDC</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>EMERGENCY RELIEF MSH</b>							
Restricted		—	639	639	—	—	—
	<b>Sub-total for ER</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Make a Mothers Day M</b>							
Restricted		—	20	20	—	—	—
	<b>Sub-total for MAMD</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>MULFEP MSH Fund</b>							
Restricted		—	644	569	—	—	75
	<b>Sub-total for MULFEP</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Overseas MSH Fund</b>							
Restricted		—	1,176	911	—	—	265
	<b>Sub-total for OVERSEAS</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>General fund</b>							
Unrestricted		35,923	27,186	38,494	—	—	24,615
	<b>Sub-total for General</b>	<b>35,923</b>	<b>27,186</b>	<b>38,494</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24,615</b>
	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>36,553</b>	<b>37,649</b>	<b>47,061</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>27,141</b>

## Analysis of receipts and payments

			Total	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	This year	Last year
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
Overseas Fund	—	1,176	1,176	853
MULFEP	—	644	644	625
Community Development Co-ordinators	—	194	194	531
Emergency Relief	—	639	639	387
Summer of Hope	—	—	—	769
Diocesan Fund	2,239	—	2,239	1,679
Gift Aid Claim	—	—	—	1,715
AFIA	—	6,574	6,574	6,152
Big Book Share	—	1,215	1,215	570
Miscellaneous Donations/Income	282	—	282	37
MSH Christmas Appeal	—	—	—	364
Total	2,522	10,443	12,965	13,684
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Diocesan Members MSH Subscriptions	2,816	—	2,816	1,640
Branch Members MSH Subscriptions	9,400	—	9,400	10,454
Branch Diocesan Subscriptions	4,690	—	4,690	3,650
Diocesan Members Subscriptions	1,498	—	1,498	622
Annual Retreat	2,030	—	2,030	1,630
Diocesan Member Admin	—	—	—	69
Make a Mothers Day MSH	—	20	20	—
Speakers Charge	159	—	159	—
Total	20,593	20	20,613	18,066
<b>Other trading activities</b>				
MUe Shop Income	3,639	—	3,639	4,496
Income from recycling (ink + stamps)	23	—	23	15
Total	3,663	—	3,663	4,512
<b>Investments</b>				
CCLA Annual Interest	211	—	211	3
Total	211	—	211	3
<b>Other income</b>				
Closed Branch Funds	196	—	196	117
Total	196	—	196	117
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>27,186</b>	<b>10,463</b>	<b>37,649</b>	<b>36,384</b>

## EXPENDITURE

### Raising funds

MUe Stock	5,904	—	5,904	1,612
MUe Postage	122	—	122	57
Total	6,026	—	6,026	1,670

### Expenditure on charitable activities

DM Subscriptions to MSH	3,000	—	3,000	2,343
Branch Subscriptions to MSH	9,839	—	9,839	10,329
Overseas Fund	371	911	1,282	949
MULFEP	316	569	885	505
Community Development Co-ordinators	110	194	304	687
Emergency Relief	110	639	749	533
UK Needs	—	—	—	124
Diocesan President Expenses	187	—	187	222
Trustee Expenses	494	—	494	313
Staff Costs	6,074	—	6,074	9,467
Telephone/Internet	1,030	—	1,030	622
Gas	267	—	267	410
Electricity	616	—	616	360
Rent	2,142	—	2,142	864
Event Room Hire	207	—	207	172
Business Rates	(411)	—	(411)	1,034
Insurance	484	—	484	463
Maintenance	711	—	711	—
Office Equipment	1,152	—	1,152	—
Stationery	18	—	18	11
Postage (Office)	33	—	33	94
Printing Costs	705	—	705	238
Conference Expenses	635	—	635	—
MU@Home Admin Costs	62	—	62	55
Diocesan Members Admin Costs	68	—	68	18
Retreat	2,120	—	2,120	1,670
AFIA	737	5,943	6,681	19,342
Outreach Projects	—	—	—	9,901
Big Book Share & Toy Box Scheme	—	290	290	—
Sundries	15	—	15	250
Bank Charges	170	—	170	—
Miscellaneous	103	—	103	323
SPEAKERS EXPENSES	152	—	152	—
MSH Appeal	769	—	769	605
Summer of Hope from Branches	—	—	—	769
Make a Mothers Day (MAMD)	—	20	20	—
Chaplain's expenses	171	—	171	—
Total	32,467	8,567	41,034	62,682
<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>38,494</b>	<b>8,567</b>	<b>47,061</b>	<b>64,353</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>(11,308)</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>(9,411)</b>	<b>(27,968)</b>

The financial statement of the diocese have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs Heather Sayle  
Diocesan President

Mrs Lorna Young  
Diocesan Administrator

*H J Sayle*

*L F Young*

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

## **Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter**

I report on the accounts of the charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 10 to 13.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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.



.....  
2023

Date: 10 May

Nigel Price  
Chartered Accountant  
Highfield  
Green Lane  
Appledore  
Bideford  
EX39 1QZ

**MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF EXETER BRANCH)**

England & Wales - Charity number 250823

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# Accounts

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Reg charity 250823

Diocese of Exeter

# Mothers' Union: Exeter Diocese

Registered Charity No 250823

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

## Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

### Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter

Registered Charity Number: 250823

Charity's Principal Address: Exeter Mothers' Union Office  
St Sidwell's  
Sidwell Street  
Exeter  
EX4 6NN

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Mrs Nickie Johnson	Diocesan President (until 31 Dec 2021)
Mrs Janet Jones	Vice President and AFIA Coordinator

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing document	The Mothers' Union: Exeter Diocese Constitution says this organisation is an Unincorporated Association Registered as Charity Number 250823. It is affiliated to Mothers' Union, a Charity incorporated by Royal Charter (Charity No: 240531) through its shared aim and objects, and by virtue of its acceptance as an Affiliate by the Central Charity and its adherence to the rules and regulations of the movement.
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Trustee selection methods	Elected from membership
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#### Trustees

Diocesan President	Nickie Johnson	2015 - 2021
	Heather Sayle	2022
Diocesan Vice-President	Janet Jones	2019
Diocesan Treasurer	Julie Hingston	2019 - 2021
	Sue Addy	2019
	Maureen Bennett	2015 - 2021
	Ruth Collop	2019
	Moira Devonport	2019
	Helen Fensome	2019 - 2021

Heather Sayle	2019 – 2021
Lesley Thurley	2019 – Feb 2022
John Vinton	2016 - 2021

MU Matters Editor

Nicky Over	2015 - 2021
Anna Venables	Autumn 2021

## **Officers**

MU Diocesan Chaplains

Revd Caroline Luff	2017 - 2023
Revd Ian Blyde	2016 - 2022

Office Manager

Julie Hingston	2019 – 2021
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Administration Assistant

Lorna Young	2020 - 2021
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Diocesan Administrator

Lorna Young	2022
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## **Objectives and Activities**

Summary of the objects of the charity set out by its governing document:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church
3. To maintain a worldwide 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
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity

### **Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objectives:**

In planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. Despite the Mothers' Union (MU) Office remaining closed for another year because of new variants of Covid now circulating in the community much has been achieved. Only the administrator went into the office once workers were allowed to enter their workplaces otherwise the whole of the Diocese continued to work remotely online. This was an unprecedented time which impacted us all not least because of the longevity of the Covid restrictions.

The elected Trustees numbered 11 members with two MU Chaplains. During the year the Trustee Board met 11 times plus the AGM. Due to Covid, the meetings were conducted by Zoom. The Cluster Leaders from the eight Clusters met twice during the year once on Zoom and in October they met face to face with the Diocesan President at the MU Office, St Sidwell's.

The Spring Council Meeting and AGM was held on Zoom then the Autumn meeting was held at St Matthew's, Exeter, in person for those who felt able to attend. The Cluster groups met together in their own geographical areas for special events some in person and some on Zoom.

Cathedral Prayers continued to meet online via Zoom led by Clusters and by some of our Diocesan Members until November when they resumed in the Lady Chapel. Services resumed in the Cathedral in the month of August for the Mary Sumner Day Service when some covid restrictions were eased.

The Diocesan MU Matters magazine was produced for the members once during the year, the previous edition had been in Spring 2020. During the year some branches sadly decided to close, and others have become Diocesan Members Groups. Some branches have found it difficult to find officers to cover the roles and so this has been their best alternative. As the Diocesan Members (DM) community is growing we need to look at new ways to support them and hope to produce a DM Group pack similar to the new Branch Pack which is in the process of being prepared for print.

In response to the request by the Central Charity several successful Coffee Mornings were held to consider Re-imagining the Mothers' Union. These meetings were well received and produced lots of ideas, suggestions and proved a valuable insight into our membership looking forward. This information will be worked on more in-depth by the Diocesan Trustees and others following the Britain and All-Ireland MU Re-imagining Conference which has been postponed three times due to Covid.

## **Achievements and performance**

Despite entering a second year of uncertainty around the world due to the global pandemic our Diocesan President continued to lead the Mothers' Union in Exeter Diocese. This enabled us to meet remotely online and, in some instances, meet up face to face following the restrictions and guidelines which changed during the year depending upon the infection rates in the area. As many of our members are vulnerable due to age and underlying health matters the Trustees are most grateful to all those who kept in touch with their members and offered creative and inventive ways to keep in touch and meet up often outside safely. As restrictions eased we were allowed to meet up and gather in small groups inside our church buildings and at conferences.

Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the year:

### **Governance**

There is a responsibility for ensuring that the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter complies with Charity Commissioners requirements and that correct accounting procedures are followed.

The Trustees continue to encourage undertaking a risk assessment on MU Projects within the diocese and set diocesan subscriptions

During 2021

- continued to produce and develop the Annual Report
- commenced producing a members' database
- agreed to increase the individual MU subscription to £30 a year and it would then be the same for both Branch members and Diocesan members from 2022 onwards

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- continue preparing and reviewing the new annual budgets
- review newsletter production and other communication inc Instagram
- produce a new MU Diocesan website
- revise resources and renewing licences associated with technology ie Zoom etc
- improve accessibility for those who are hard of hearing to access meetings online
- promote Gift Aid
- produce a Health and Safety Policy
- evaluate Diocesan Projects
- produce a Branch Pack
- update the Members' Directory
- produce a DM Group Pack

### **Database**

During the year the following was achieved:

- the Database was updated and ably maintained locally and information shared with the Central Charity from the Exeter MU Database Officer
- two new central charity administrators were added to support Database Officer
- the Database Officer kept up to date with any new GDPR requirements

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- add another member administrator to deal with Diocesan membership updates
- work with the Central Charity as they implement a new Database Programme
- ensure that all additions and amendments to membership details are correct
- support Branches when details need amendment
- liaise with Diocesan Officers when required
- liaise with the Exeter MU office to ensure all data is stored safely
- install new software and keep all antivirus and cloud back-up systems up to date

## **Safeguarding**

During the year the following was achieved:

- our Safeguarding Officer reported regularly to the Trustee meetings
- safeguarding procedures were reviewed when booking AFIA holidays
- maintained good communication between the Central Charity's Safeguarding Team, the CofE Diocesan Safeguarding Team Lead and the Exeter MU Safeguarding Officer

Ongoing work for the next triennial includes:

- produce new Safeguarding Policy
- continue to review the Risk Assessment Procedure
- encourage all Trustees to do Safeguarding Training
- keep safe records of all DBS and Safeguarding Training Certificates
- continue to support MU members through Safeguarding Training
- establish regular meetings of new Safeguarding Team and report to each Trustee meeting

## **AFIA**

During the year the following was achieved:

- sent 24 families on a caravan break during 2021 having not been able to send families away on holiday in 2020 due to covid restrictions
- established a working relationship at new site location based in the north of the county
- continued to work in partnership with schools, GP's, Homestart, Social Workers and Clergy for Away From It all (AFIA) referrals
- developed a new AFIA group to help our AFIA representative with members from across the county

Hopes for 2022

- encourage local members to raise funds for our local Away From it All Holiday (AFIA) Projects
- encourage and develop the AFIA team to include folk from a wider area across the Diocese
- develop a new project for days out or membership for local visitor attractions for families unable to afford holidays (Plymouth)

## **Faith**

During the year the following were achieved:

- provided monthly Cathedral Prayer services, online rather than at Exeter Cathedral until November when we returned to the Lady Chapel.
- provided opening prayers for Diocesan Council and Trustee Board meetings
- continued to provide an Emergency Prayer Chain
- held an Annual MU Retreat at Millhouse 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> September led by Revd Ian Blyde
- no MU Members Quiet Days were held around the Diocese
- members were generously and very ably supported by our two Diocesan Chaplains

Hopes for 2022

- continue the monthly Cathedral Prayers led by our Clusters
- Bishop of Exeter to appoint a new MU Diocesan Chaplain for this triennium to replace Revd Ian Blyde
- prayerfully support our work with refugees in the Diocese
- establish better links with Clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers in the Diocese

## **MU Prayer Network Report**

During the year we have had at least 50 requests for prayer.

The majority of these are for health reasons, hospital appointments, people who are anxious about test results and for procedures for themselves or for loved ones. Prayers are also asked for those who have died and those who mourn.

We also have Good News and are asked to share and thank God for the news of a new baby, a wedding, success in exams and ventures and for happy health outcomes after illnesses. Not all the requests are for MU members but is for anyone we hear of through the Exeter Diocese or other Dioceses who need our prayers.

We are a group of 36 (mostly on and via email) who use the information for private prayer, for sharing at MU meetings and with fellow members and at church services. It is up to the individual as to how they use the news.

It is important that I have the permission of those we are praying for, and I do not use full names unless this is allowed.

It is a shame that some are not using this helpline and we get second hand news after a death or illness. It is here for everyone.

Do let me know if you wish to join this group of praying members and I will send requests to you. You don't have to do anything except pray!

Prayer is our first and foremost MU promise – MU is underpinned by prayer.

Marigold Seager-Berry

## **Outreach Initiatives**

During the year the following was achieved:

- provided 10 Primary schools with £1000 each to purchase computers for children who need them to access lessons during Covid
- provided garments for premature and poorly babies in hospital
- supported the NHS and GP surgeries making scrubs, facemasks etc.
- made items for dementia sufferers – Twiddlemuffs
- collected books ready for Prison Bookshare redistribution when allowed

- visited Branches and Clusters to keep them informed of the work of MU
- contacted South West Ministry Training Course Leaders (SWMTC) to restore lapsed link with Ordinands and Licensed Lay Ministers in training

#### Hopes for 2022

- increase visibility of our association through attendance as MU reps at Diocesan training
- encourage MU members to actively involve themselves with Diocesan 'Next Steps' strategy in their local parishes
- work with the Central Charity on a Pilot Project in 4 areas across Devon supporting young families
- improve links with Diocese through wider MU representation on Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synods and PCC membership
- establish a MU link with SWMTC and St Mellitus College for Ordinands and Licensed Lay Ministers in training

### **Social Policy**

There are two major strands of work in this area Raising Awareness of Modern Day Slavery and campaigning to eliminated Gender Based Violence in all its forms

During the year the following were achieved:

- sent 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence resources to all Branches, Trustees, Clusters and Diocesan members. This campaign ran from 25<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- held Silent Vigils around the Diocese during the 16 Days Campaign
- improved wider access to online learning as part of an initiative in some schools to help reduce the impact of the digital divide
- kept members up to date with Social Policy matters, including Domestic Violence (DV), Gender Based Violence (GBV), The Clewer Initiative ( Modern day Slavery), Restored, the Prison Book Share, and various projects supporting our NHS and GP surgeries by email, MU Matters and Diocesan meetings
- visited Branches to speak about Social Policy

#### Hopes for 2022

- keep members informed of Social Policy matters
- encourage membership of Communities of Interest associated with GBV and DV
- encourage members to ensure that monies raised locally can also be used locally for MU Projects to help alleviate poverty or assist in areas of need

### **Overseas**

During the year the following was achieved:

- contact continued with overseas links
- celebration of MU link with Melanesian Mission 150yrs Anniversary at Exeter Cathedral

#### Hopes for 2022

- continue to promote the Mothers' Union Overseas, through talks and articles in the Diocesan Newsletter etc.

- initiate further contact with our new overseas link dioceses
- encourage members to support Mothers' Union work overseas through Make a Mother's Day

## **Training**

During the year the following was achieved:

- held a training session for a MU speakers
- offered Clewer Initiative training

Hopes for 2022

- review the Trustees Skills Audit for training needs
- continue to encourage new MU speakers
- offer a day at the MU office for new Branch leaders, Branch Secretaries and Branch Treasurers at least every Triennium
- provide information sessions associated with Communities of Interest
- offer training for members in Safeguarding
- offer Domestic Violence Awareness and Gender Based Violence Awareness training

## **Metamorphosis**

This is a new Provincial Project launched in 2021 following the success of pilot projects in the UK from 2016. This was run via Zoom online for 16 weeks meeting with members meeting online from across the Canterbury Province every fortnight. It offers training in how to explore ways of bringing the local church, community and other organisations together to work on community-based projects

During the year the following was achieved:

- four Trustees attended and completed the Metamorphosis training run by the Central Charity
- used the resources to link and work with PCC and other groups in parishes, deaneries and Mission Communities
- utilized the skills learned for the benefit of communities across the Diocese

Hopes for 2022

- meet up with all who have completed their Metamorphosis courses last year and this year
- develop new strategies to enable MU to work with the 'Next Steps' vision in the Diocese
- use the skills learned to help our members to explore new opportunities in their local community

## **Communication**

During the year the following was achieved:

- maintained links with MU@Home members by sending cards by post at significant times of the year
- produced a publication 'MU Matters' with the details of MU activities locally, nationally and globally
- sent out appeals to Cluster Leaders for details to be included in the monthly Nickie's Notes / Cluster Chronicles during the year
- distributed copies of 'Connected' when not received direct; a free publication for members produced by our Central Charity in London
- communicated with branches the marketing initiatives from our Central Charity

- promoted of our activities through maintaining a Diocesan website and utilising the internet social media and a wider distribution of the newsletter through electronic media
- started an Instagram feed for MU
- held meetings and services by Zoom online and by phone for members and Trustees
- Nickie's Notes and Cluster Chronicles were sent out to members by the Diocesan President, Nickie Johnson
- grateful thanks to Nicky Over for editing both MU Matters and Cluster Chronicles until Autumn 2021, a mammoth job, without the addition of covid restrictions.
- Anna Venables took over as Editor of MU Matters in September 2021

#### Hopes for 2022

- update and build a new MU Diocesan website
- review online communication from the MU Office
- with new MU Diocesan website link the CofE Diocesan website to church websites with MU branches
- improve our promotional resources for events and services
- listen to feedback about mailings and communication and agree any changes

#### **Finance and Office**

During the year the following was achieved:

- the Administrator managed to go into the MU office when restrictions were eased for workers
- decided to keep MUE Shop as a mobile enterprise not office-based
- ensured whenever possible that Mothers' Union literature is on sale at all our events and available for our Branches' participation in events in the community
- promoted the new improved system to sell goods/cards from the Central Charity

#### Hopes for 2022

- update the computer systems in the office
- install anti-virus and cloud-based back-up for office equipment
- improve audio and visual equipment for hybrid meetings (Zoom and in-person meetings)
- update printer facility in the office
- update the phone and broadband system
- encourage more Diocesan Members to pay subscriptions by BACS
- encourage branches to pay £12 Speakers expenses to MU Office direct so that MU Speakers can claim back at full mileage rate and branches can invite speakers from further afield at no extra cost to the branch.

## **Financial Review**

Total receipts on the unrestricted general fund were £26,492 and are detailed in the financial statements. £12,458 of this amount was collected on behalf of the Central Charity.

Most of the restricted fund balances are spent and any excess expenditure was covered from the general fund. There is a balance for Big Book Share and this has been notified to the lead on this initiative so that it can be utilized. Provision for Initiatives and member training will be reviewed during 2022.

It is our policy to invest some of the funds balances with the COIF Charities Deposit Fund. During the year £10,000 was withdrawn to support the Central Charity during the difficult financial caused by Covid19, and £10,000 to use for the diocesan initiatives.

The balances at the year-end include £2,800 that was due to the Central Charity, and £3,108 due on the Mothers' Union Enterprises account. Both amounts were paid early in 2022.

Policy on reserves:

It is good practice for the Diocesan Trustee Board to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds [if possible], which equates to at least 6 months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £35,900 on the unrestricted General Fund exceeded this target. In light of the recent pandemic, during 2022 the Trustee Board will review and formulate a policy on the amount of reserves required.

## **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Mrs Heather Sayle Diocesan President (w.e.f. 1 January 2022)

Signature:

Date:

## Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	1,716	—	9,887	—	11,604	18,912
Income from charitable activities	364	—	—	—	364	1,081
Other trading activities	4,496	—	—	—	4,496	5,062
Other income	19,918	—	—	—	19,918	20,631
<b>Total income and endowments from:</b>	<b>26,496</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9,887</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>36,384</b>	<b>45,687</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	14,417	769	22,141	—	37,327	38,199
Expenditure on charitable activities	9,901	—	—	—	9,901	50
Other expenditure	17,123	—	—	—	17,123	27,169
<b>Total expenditure on:</b>	<b>41,442</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>22,141</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64,353</b>	<b>65,418</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>(14,946)</b>	<b>(769)</b>	<b>(12,253)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(27,968)</b>	<b>(19,731)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,779	769	21,942	—	25,490	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(21,942)	—	(3,548)	—	(25,490)	—
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>(34,109)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,140</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(27,968)</b>	<b>(19,731)</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>70,032</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(5,510)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64,522</b>	<b>84,253</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>35,923</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>36,553</b>	<b>64,522</b>
<b>Represented by</b>						
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
General fund	35,923	—	—	—	35,923	70,032
<b>Restricted</b>						
AFIA DIOCESE	—	—	—	—	—	3,169
BIG BOOK SHARE DIOCESE	—	—	630	—	630	60
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MSH	—	—	—	—	—	(9,734)
EMERGENCY RELIEF MSH	—	—	—	—	—	206
MULFEP MSH Fund	—	—	—	—	—	2,094
Overseas MSH Fund	—	—	—	—	—	(1,430)
SUMMER OF HOPE MSH	—	—	—	—	—	—
UK NEEDS DIOCESE	—	—	—	—	—	124

## Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
<b>Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand</b>						
HSBC Current Account -	14,258	—	630	—	14,888	22,881
CCLA -	21,644	—	—	—	21,644	41,640
Petty Cash -	20	—	—	—	20	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35,923</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>36,553</b>	<b>64,522</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>						
Due to Central Charity	2,800	—	—	—	2,800	—
Due to MUE	3,108	—	—	—	3,108	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,908</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,908</b>	<b>—</b>

## Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
<b>AFIA - AFIA DIOCESE</b>						
Restricted	3,169	6,152	19,342	10,020	—	—
<b>Sub-total for AFIA</b>	<b>3,169</b>	<b>6,152</b>	<b>19,342</b>	<b>10,020</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>BIGBOOK - BIG BOOK SHARE DIOCE</b>						
Restricted	60	570	—	—	—	630
<b>Sub-total for BIGBOOK</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>CDC - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMEN</b>						
Restricted	(9,734)	531	687	9,890	—	—
<b>Sub-total for CDC</b>	<b>(9,734)</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>9,890</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>ER - EMERGENCY RELIEF MSH</b>						
Restricted	206	387	533	(60)	—	—
<b>Sub-total for ER</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>(60)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>MULFEP - MULFEP MSH Fund</b>						
Restricted	2,094	625	—	(2,719)	—	—
<b>Sub-total for MULFEP</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,719)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>OVERSEAS - Overseas MSH Fund</b>						
Restricted	(1,430)	853	1,454	2,031	—	—
<b>Sub-total for OVERSEAS</b>	<b>(1,430)</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>SUMMER - SUMMER OF HOPE MSH</b>						
Designated	—	—	769	769	—	—
Restricted	—	769	—	(769)	—	—
<b>Sub-total for SUMMER</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>UKNEEDS - UK NEEDS DIOCESE</b>						
Restricted	124	—	124	—	—	—
<b>Sub-total for UKNEEDS</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>General - General fund</b>						
Unrestricted	70,032	26,496	41,442	(19,163)	—	35,923
<b>Sub-total for General</b>	<b>70,032</b>	<b>26,496</b>	<b>41,442</b>	<b>(19,163)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>35,923</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>64,522</b>	<b>36,384</b>	<b>64,353</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>36,553</b>

## Analysis of receipts and payments

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	
					<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>						
<b>Donations and legacies</b>						
Overseas Fund	—	—	853	—	853	4,445
MULFEP	—	—	625	—	625	2,094
Community Development Co-ordinators	—	—	531	—	531	1,118
Emergency Relief	—	—	387	—	387	2,430
Summer of Hope	—	—	769	—	769	—
UK Needs MSH	—	—	—	—	—	124
Diocesan Fund	1,679	—	—	—	1,679	186
AFIA	—	—	6,152	—	6,152	7,611
Big Book Share	—	—	570	—	570	60
Miscellaneous Donations/Income	37	—	—	—	37	643
MSH Emergency Appeal Covid19	—	—	—	—	—	200
Total	1,716	—	9,887	—	11,604	18,912
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
MSH Christmas Appeal	364	—	—	—	364	241
AFIA NHS	—	—	—	—	—	840
Total	364	—	—	—	364	1,081
<b>Other trading activities</b>						
MUE Shop Income	4,496	—	—	—	4,496	5,062
Total	4,496	—	—	—	4,496	5,062
<b>Other income</b>						
Diocesan Members MSH Subscriptions	1,640	—	—	—	1,640	2,391
Branch Members MSH Subscriptions	10,454	—	—	—	10,454	9,364
Branch Diocesan Subscriptions	3,650	—	—	—	3,650	6,160
Diocesan Members Subscriptions	622	—	—	—	622	1,743
Closed Branch Funds	117	—	—	—	117	190
Income from recycling (ink + stamps)	15	—	—	—	15	54
Gift Aid Claim	1,715	—	—	—	1,715	—
Annual Retreat	1,630	—	—	—	1,630	400
Diocesan Member Admin	69	—	—	—	69	218
CCLA Annual Interest	3	—	—	—	3	109
Total	19,918	—	—	—	19,918	20,631
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>26,496</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9,887</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>36,384</b>	<b>45,687</b>

## EXPENDITURE

### Raising funds

DM Subscriptions to MSH	2,343	—	—	—	2,343	1,087
Branch Subscriptions to MSH	10,329	—	—	—	10,329	8,989
Overseas Fund	—	—	949	—	949	3,977
MULFEP	—	—	505	—	505	1,898
Community Development Co-ordinators	—	—	687	—	687	10,852
Emergency Relief	—	—	533	—	533	2,224
UK Needs	—	—	124	—	124	—
MUe Stock	1,612	—	—	—	1,612	3,337
MUe Postage	57	—	—	—	57	177
MU@Home Admin Costs	55	—	—	—	55	79
Diocesan Members Admin Costs	18	—	—	—	18	294
AFIA	—	—	19,342	—	19,342	5,282
Summer of Hope from Branches	—	769	—	—	769	—
Total	14,417	769	22,141	—	37,327	38,199

### Expenditure on charitable activities

Outreach Projects	9,901	—	—	—	9,901	50
Total	9,901	—	—	—	9,901	50

### Other expenditure

Diocesan President Expenses	222	—	—	—	222	389
Trustee Expenses	313	—	—	—	313	394
Staff Costs	9,467	—	—	—	9,467	9,968
Telephone/Internet	622	—	—	—	622	707
Gas	410	—	—	—	410	569
Electricity	360	—	—	—	360	392
Rent	864	—	—	—	864	864
Event Room Hire	172	—	—	—	172	112
Business Rates	1,034	—	—	—	1,034	1,034
Insurance	463	—	—	—	463	532
Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	64
Audit Fees	—	—	—	—	—	60
IT Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	202
Office Equipment	—	—	—	—	—	474
Stationery	11	—	—	—	11	61
Postage (Office)	94	—	—	—	94	828
Printing Costs	238	—	—	—	238	249
Retreat	1,670	—	—	—	1,670	—
Sundries	250	—	—	—	250	31
Miscellaneous	323	—	—	—	323	32
SPEAKERS EXPENSES	—	—	—	—	—	51
MSH Appeal	605	—	—	—	605	10,150
Total	17,123	—	—	—	17,123	27,169
<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	41,442	769	22,141	—	64,353	65,418
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	(14,946)	(769)	(12,253)	—	(27,968)	(19,731)

The financial statement of the diocese have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the amendments of the Charities Act 2006 and 2011.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs Heather Sayle  
Diocesan President

Mrs Lorna Young  
Diocesan Administrator

*HJ Sayle*

*L Young*

Date: 6/5/2022

Date: 6/5/2022

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Exeter

I report on the accounts of the charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 15.

## **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

## **Independent examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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.

*N Price*

Date: 16 May 2022

Nigel Price  
Chartered Accountant  
Highfield  
Green Lane  
Appledore  
Bideford  
EX39 1QZ

**MOTHERS' UNION (DIOCESE OF EXETER BRANCH)**

England & Wales - Charity number 250823

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# Accounts

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## **Reports for Exeter Diocese Mothers' Union AGM 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

### **Report on AFIA 2020 for AGM Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

As usual we sent out the application forms in November 2019, and they came back in the spring and summer of 2020. We had in the pipeline 20 holidays for the caravan site at Haven Exmouth for the 3-night break. For the first time as well, we were supporting two families to attend the Spring Harvest festival and one family attending New Wine to take place in August 2020. This was supporting church families wishing to experience a Christian event.

If 2020 had gone ahead, we would in total supported: 30 Adults to include 2-parent families, grandparents and single-parent families; 50 Children in total - 50 children varying in ages from 6 months up to 17 years.

Then in March the Covid pandemic started, and all holiday camps and festivals closed, so all the holidays were cancelled. All the 2020 families were offered a holiday in 2021.

The Trustees agreed to give each family £100 to spend on themselves to give the family a treat for the summer. Families bought games, sports equipment, craft materials and Wendy houses and paddling pools. Thank goodness for online shopping.

Looking forward, the Trustees agreed that we would source a camp site in North Devon to enable families in that area to experience a 3-night break.

*Janet Jones, AFIA Representative*

### **Diocesan Members' Representative's Spring report 2021**

- Branches continue to close - some members then become DMs. A couple of people have moved to Devon and become DMs.
- Numbers have remained stable because of ex-Branch members becoming DMs. Many DMs have not renewed this year. Various reasons: moving, becoming MU@Home members, joining Branches - or no reason given. Not obvious what action can be taken to keep membership up. Cluster Co-ordinators will be sent up-to-date information once numbers confirmed after AGM.
- Around two-thirds of DMs have e-mail addresses or contact with someone who does, maybe as a member of a group of DMs who meet together. We are grateful for this, and those who keep in touch by phone, and looking forward to groups meeting up again.
- More e-mails being sent out than before - hopefully this makes people feel more connected. Subjects include: *Roots and Shoots*, resources for prayer and Bible study, messages from MU received to forward. Material sent by post to DMs not on e-mail more than in the past.
- Anyone who has not received *Connected* magazine contact Sue Addy for a copy.

Sue moved last year. New contact details: e-mail is the same; tel 01364 73069; address: Book View Cottage, 6 New Orchard, South Brent. TQ10 9DL

**Sue Addy**

### **Social Policy report for AGM Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

This year has seen the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act working its way through Parliament and it now has the Royal Assent. It is a milestone for women and girls throughout the UK, whether or not they are currently victims or survivors of domestic abuse or sexual violence. Mothers' Union had the privilege to be involved in advocating for certain amendments or additions to the Bill and although these

efforts were not as fruitful as many hoped the government has for example commissioned ongoing research into the issue of migrant women with insecure residential status when they become victims of abuse. We look forward to further news.

This year I have also become involved as part of the new Mothers' Union Focus Group on Domestic Abuse. This consists of some 56 women from all over Britain and All Ireland, plus me and one other man, all of us members of Mothers' Union. The group decided that it needed a smaller group of some 9 of those people to form a Steering Group and I offered, and am therefore a member, of that Steering Group. We meet by Zoom every quarter to discuss ongoing issues around the topic. The Focus Group is referred to now as the **Advocacy and Policy Community of Interest**. I have been asked specifically to do some research into organisations which exist for men and boys who wish to be involved in campaigning for an end to violence against women and girls. The aim is to explore forming working partnerships with these organisations on the basis that together we are stronger. I have so far had very interesting conversations with Restore, the White Ribbon Campaign and MenEngage. The latter is a global organisation whose aims and objects are very similar to our own in this specific regard. These talks have been very positive, we have a lot in common, they are interested in working with us and I am to report back to my Steering and Focus groups in June.

We have kept up our contact with dioceses and Mothers' Union groups on the question of Modern Day Slavery, entirely by means of Zoom meetings because of the restrictions. The Clewer Initiative, which is owned and operated by the Church of England, is a vitally important participant in this campaign and they are a valuable source of guidance, information and training and awareness resources. We have all learned a great deal from these and myself and Lesley Thurley, fellow Trustee here with a great interest in this subject, are better-equipped for when we are able to meet other people and resume our 'live' talks to Mothers' Union branches. Invitations to come and talk are very welcome please!

A highlight of the year for me has been the opportunity to attend online the 65<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. This took place in March this year and was for the first time done 'virtually' via online computer link because of the pandemic. I learned a great deal and would love to talk to members about what takes place at this convention, which is joined by thousands of women from all over the world, plus a few men! Please invite me to come to your branch or group to tell you more.

*John Vinton, Trustee, Social Policy*

### **Prison work - Big Book Share**

The Big Book Share is set up and running in all three Devon prisons - Dartmoor, Channings Wood and Exeter. Provision at Exeter was established before lockdown.

Dartmoor and Channings Wood have over 100 books each; Exeter has 150 books and puzzles. Exeter is different because of being a remand prison, so prisoners are not there for so long.

Lockdown has prevented much being done but it is hoped that work will re-start, pick up and continue when lockdown measures are lifted completely.

Maureen Styler hopes to have more to report at the AGM, and has photos of the activities.

### **Safeguarding Report 2020**

The Trustees reviewed our safeguarding procedures.

We adopted the policies and procedures laid out by the safeguarding team at Mary Sumner House.

We advise the Branch Leaders to know the name of the safeguarding person in their parish and discuss any concerns with them and to be aware of the Exeter Diocese safeguarding procedures.

We will offer a training session with our branches if they should ask for information.

During 2020 we have not had brought to our attention any safeguarding concerns from our members.

*Janet Jones, Trustee Board Safeguarding Representative*

**Mothers' Union Diocese of Exeter**

**End of Year Financial Statements**

**Year ending December 2020**

- Introduction

Mothers Union Diocese of Exeter 2020 Accounts

## Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	1,029	17,883	—	18,912	19,248
Income from charitable activities	241	840	—	1,081	—
Other trading activities	5,062	—	—	5,062	5,033
Other income	20,631	—	—	20,631	35,046
<b>Total income</b>	<b>26,964</b>	<b>18,723</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>45,687</b>	<b>59,328</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	13,965	24,233	—	38,199	31,633
Expenditure on charitable activities	50	—	—	50	189
Other expenditure	27,169	—	—	27,169	13,080
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>41,184</b>	<b>24,233</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>65,418</b>	<b>44,903</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>(14,220)</b>	<b>(5,510)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(19,731)</b>	<b>14,424</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(14,220)</b>	<b>(5,510)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(19,731)</b>	<b>14,424</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>84,253</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>84,253</b>	<b>69,828</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>70,032</b>	<b>(5,510)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64,522</b>	<b>84,253</b>
<b>Represented by</b>					
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General fund	70,032	—	—	70,032	84,253
<b>Restricted</b>					
AFIA DIOCESE	—	3,169	—	3,169	—
BIG BOOK SHARE DIOCESE	—	60	—	60	—
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MSH	—	(9,734)	—	(9,734)	—
EMERGENCY RELIEF MSH	—	206	—	206	—
MULFEP MSH Fund	—	2,094	—	2,094	—
Overseas MSH Fund	—	(1,430)	—	(1,430)	—
UK NEEDS DIOCESE	—	124	—	124	—

## Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
<b>Current assets</b>			
6300	HSBC Current Account	22,881	42,721
6301	CCLA	41,640	41,531
	<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>64,522</b>	<b>84,253</b>

## Reserves

Z01	Excess / (deficit) to date	(19,731)	—
	Starting balances	84,253	84,253
	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>64,522</b>	<b>84,253</b>
	<b>Represented by funds</b>		
	Unrestricted	70,032	84,253
	Designated	—	—
	Restricted	(5,510)	—
	Endowment	—	—
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64,522</b>	<b>84,253</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
<b>Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand</b>						
HSBC Current Account -	28,391	—	(5,510)	—	22,881	42,721
CCLA -	41,640	—	—	—	41,640	41,531
<b>Totals</b>	<b>70,032</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(5,510)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64,522</b>	<b>84,253</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>70,032</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(5,510)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64,522</b>	<b>84,253</b>

## Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
<b>AFIA - AFIA DIOCESE</b>						
Restricted	—	8,451	5,282	—	—	3,169
<b>Sub-total for AFIA</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,451</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,169</b>
<b>BIGBOOK - BIG BOOK SHARE DIOCE</b>						
Restricted	—	60	—	—	—	60
<b>Sub-total for BIGBOOK</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>CDC - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMEN</b>						
Restricted	—	1,118	10,852	—	—	(9,734)
<b>Sub-total for CDC</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>10,852</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(9,734)</b>
<b>ER - EMERGENCY RELIEF MSH</b>						
Restricted	—	2,430	2,224	—	—	206
<b>Sub-total for ER</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>MULFEP - MULFEP MSH Fund</b>						
Restricted	—	2,094	—	—	—	2,094
<b>Sub-total for MULFEP</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,094</b>
<b>OVERSEAS - Overseas MSH Fund</b>						
Restricted	—	4,445	5,875	—	—	(1,430)
<b>Sub-total for OVERSEAS</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,445</b>	<b>5,875</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(1,430)</b>
<b>UKNEEDS - UK NEEDS DIOCESE</b>						
Restricted	—	124	—	—	—	124
<b>Sub-total for UKNEEDS</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>General - General fund</b>						
Unrestricted	84,253	26,964	41,184	—	—	70,032
<b>Sub-total for General</b>	<b>84,253</b>	<b>26,964</b>	<b>41,184</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>70,032</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>84,253</b>	<b>45,687</b>	<b>65,418</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64,522</b>

## Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
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### INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

#### Donations and legacies

0113 - Overseas Fund	—	—	4,445	—	4,445	2,702
0114 - MULFEP	—	—	2,094	—	2,094	1,918
0115 - Community Development Co-ordinators	—	—	1,118	—	1,118	1,571
0116 - Emergency Relief	—	—	2,430	—	2,430	2,629
0117 - Lady Day	—	—	—	—	—	—
0118 - Summer of Hope	—	—	—	—	—	—
0124 - UK Needs MSH	—	—	124	—	124	—
0125 - Diocesan Fund	186	—	—	—	186	1,700
0129 - AFIA	—	—	7,611	—	7,611	8,129
0132 - Big Book Share	—	—	60	—	60	595
0133 - Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	—
0134 - Miscellaneous	643	—	—	—	643	—
Donations/Income						
0136 - MSH Emergency Appeal Covid19	200	—	—	—	200	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>17,883</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>18,912</b>	<b>19,248</b>

#### Income from charitable activities

0137 - MSH Christmas Appeal	241	—	—	—	241	—
0138 - AFIA NHS	—	—	840	—	840	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>—</b>

#### Other trading activities

0119 - MUE Shop Income	5,062	—	—	—	5,062	5,033
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,062</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,062</b>	<b>5,033</b>

#### Other income

0101 - Diocesan Members MSH Subscriptions	2,391	—	—	—	2,391	2,499
0102 - Branch Members MSH Subscriptions	9,364	—	—	—	9,364	9,604
0120 - Branch Diocesan Subscriptions	6,160	—	—	—	6,160	16,221
0121 - Diocesan Members Subscriptions	1,743	—	—	—	1,743	2,375
0122 - Closed Branch Funds	190	—	—	—	190	314
0123 - MU@Home Subscriptions	—	—	—	—	—	—
0126 - Income from recycling (ink + stamps)	54	—	—	—	54	147
0127 - Gift Aid Claim	—	—	—	—	—	2,053
0128 - MSH Conference	—	—	—	—	—	—
0130 - Annual Retreat	400	—	—	—	400	1,280
0131 - Diocesan Member Admin	218	—	—	—	218	317
0135 - CCLA Annual Interest	109	—	—	—	109	235
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,631</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>20,631</b>	<b>35,046</b>
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>26,964</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>18,723</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>45,687</b>	<b>59,328</b>

## EXPENDITURE

### Raising funds

2201 - DM Subscriptions to MSH	1,087	—	—	—	1,087	1,484
2202 - Branch Subscriptions to MSH	8,989	—	—	—	8,989	9,604
2203 - Overseas Fund	—	—	3,977	—	3,977	2,094
2204 - MULFEP	—	—	1,898	—	1,898	1,918
2205 - Community Development Co-ordinators	—	—	10,852	—	10,852	1,296
2206 - Emergency Relief	—	—	2,224	—	2,224	2,629
2207 - Lady Day	—	—	—	—	—	—
2208 - UK Needs	—	—	—	—	—	—
2209 - MUE Stock	3,337	—	—	—	3,337	4,762
2210 - MUE Postage	177	—	—	—	177	12
2231 - MU@Home Admin Costs	79	—	—	—	79	225
2232 - Diocesan Members Admin Costs	294	—	—	—	294	384
2235 - AFIA	—	—	5,282	—	5,282	7,221
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,965</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24,233</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>38,199</b>	<b>31,633</b>

### Expenditure on charitable activities

2236 - Outreach Projects	50	—	—	—	50	50
2237 - Big Book Share & Toy Box Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	138
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>189</b>

### Other expenditure

2211 - Diocesan President Expenses	389	—	—	—	389	636
2212 - Trustee Expenses	394	—	—	—	394	1,673
2213 - Staff Costs	9,968	—	—	—	9,968	3,079
2214 - Telephone/Internet	707	—	—	—	707	722
2215 - Gas	569	—	—	—	569	487
2216 - Electricity	392	—	—	—	392	471
2217 - Rent	864	—	—	—	864	864
2218 - Event Room Hire	112	—	—	—	112	251
2219 - Business Rates	1,034	—	—	—	1,034	907
2220 - Insurance	532	—	—	—	532	418
2221 - Maintenance	64	—	—	—	64	—
2222 - Audit Fees	60	—	—	—	60	60
2223 - IT Maintenance	202	—	—	—	202	37
2224 - Office Equipment	474	—	—	—	474	124
2225 - Stationery	61	—	—	—	61	189
2226 - Postage (Office)	828	—	—	—	828	—
2227 - Printing Costs	249	—	—	—	249	955
2228 - Photocopier costs	—	—	—	—	—	94
2229 - Marketing/Advertising	—	—	—	—	—	21
2230 - Training Courses	—	—	—	—	—	175
2233 - Clothing Label Costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
2234 - Retreat	—	—	—	—	—	1,465
2238 - Sundries	31	—	—	—	31	—
2239 - Bank Charges	—	—	—	—	—	—
2240 - Miscellaneous	32	—	—	—	32	447
2241 - SPEAKERS EXPENSES	51	—	—	—	51	—
2242 - MSH Appeal	10,150	—	—	—	10,150	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,169</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>27,169</b>	<b>13,080</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>41,184</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24,233</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>65,418</b>	<b>44,903</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>(14,220)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(5,510)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(19,731)</b>	<b>14,424</b>
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- **Conclusion**

Well, what a year! We had to close the office in March 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic in the UK. Lorna and I, along with our Diocesan President, Nickie, Vice President, Janet and the Trustees and Chaplains have been working in our various ways for the good of the Mothers' Union. I was very thankful to welcome Lorna into our midst. She has become a great friend and colleague. Financially we have kept our heads above water and have been able to make some large and valuable donations to Mary Sumner House. We have had the usual overheads of rent, business rates and utility bills etc. and of course we realise that our branches and members haven't been able to organize much in the way of fundraising. Let us pray that 2021 will bring some cheer and easier times.

**Financial figures:**

The starting balances in the two bank accounts were a total of £84253.00 and at the end of December 2020 were £64522.00.

Apart from the usual Mary Sumner House subscriptions and branch donations we made two large donations to Head Office. These were £10000.00 for Community Development Co-ordinators and £10000.00 to help with Head Office finances.

Julie Hingston

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

## To the Trustees of the Mothers' Union – Exeter Diocese

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

**Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner**  
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**  
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

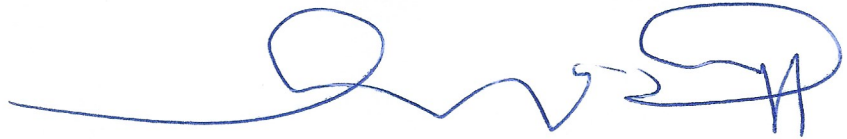
### Independent examiner's statement

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 2011 Act; and  
• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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



Hugh MacGregor MA (Cantab) AFA/MIPA  
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20 May 2021