



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
	Moir 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



Signature

Date

1st May 2025

Mr Michael Collop, Treasurer to the Trustees



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 £
Receipts				
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
Total Receipts	31,633	7,489	39,123	46,215
Payments				
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
Total Payments	36,195	7,904	44,100	38,845
Excess of receipts over payments	-4,562	-415	-4,977	7,370
Net transfers (accounting adjustment)	769	-769	0	0
Total change in assets	-3,793	-1,184	-4,977	7,370
All assets at 1 January 2024	25,992	8,519	34,511	27,141
All assets at 31 December 2024	22,198	7,335	29,534	34,511
Represented by:				
Unrestricted				
General fund	22,198	-	22,198	25,992
Restricted				
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) £
Current assets - Cash At Bank And In Hand				
CCLA	23,982	-	23,982	22,813
Petty Cash	-94	102	7	32
Cooperative Current Account	-1,690	7,234	5,544	11,665
total current assets	22,198	7,335	29,534	34,511

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
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted					
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
Unrestricted					
General	25,992	31,633	36,195	769	22,198
Totals	34,511	39,123	44,100	0	29,534

Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter

Financial Statements 2024

Analysis of Receipts and Payments

Receipts

	General	Restricted	Total This year 2024	Last year 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies				
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	-
Total	5,577	7,489	13,066	22,065
Income from charitable activities				
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
Total	23,080	-	23,080	19,161
Other trading activities				
MUe Shop Income	1,641	-	1,641	3,126
Income from recycling (ink + stamps)	93	-	93	26
MUe Postage	-	-	-	23
Total	1,734	-	1,734	3,176
Other receipts				
Investments - CCLA Annual Interest	1,169	-	1,169	958
Other - Closed Branch Funds	74	-	74	855
Total Receipts	31,633	7,489	39,123	46,215

Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter

Financial Statements 2024

Analysis of Receipts and Payments

Payments

	General £	Restricted £	This year 2024 £	Last year 2023 £
Raising funds				
MUe Stock	3,041	-	3,041	-
Expenditure on charitable activities				
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	-
Total	32,012	7,904	39,916	38,403
other expenditure - presentation gifts	1,142	-	1,142	442
Total Payments	36,195	7,904	44,100	38,845
surplus/deficit - excess of receipts over payments	-4,562	-415	-4,977	7,370

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

15th 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

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