

Mothers' UNION 

Christian care for families

Diocese of Portsmouth

CHARITY NUMBER 1067369

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2024**

Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Portsmouth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2024

Mothers' Union in the Portsmouth Diocese, is registered with the Charity Commission (no 1067369). The Bishop of Portsmouth is our patron.

Mothers' Union Aim is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. To carry out its aim its objectives are:

- To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding.
- To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Our Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by helping the sustainable transformation of communities worldwide. We do this by helping nature strong relationships at all levels, promoting peace and reconciliation nationally and globally.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world where everyone prospers. We actively purpose this vision through prayer and action, helping to build confident people and resilient communities. Our movement challenges prejudice and advocates change.

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do

Our prayer and worship are central to our work. We believe that prayer can be transformational and can make a huge difference to the lives of individuals and communities.

Here in the Diocese of Portsmouth we believe in praying with our feet moving and our prayer, with purpose, underpins all of our activities.

The Trustee Board as of 1st January 2024

Felicity Keeping
Yvette Dawson
Valerie Griffiths
Vacant

Diocesan President & Chair of Trustees
Diocesan Secretary (Ex-officio)
Diocesan Treasurer (Ex-officio)
Diocesan Chaplain (Ex-officio)

Sue Williams
Caroline Scull
Sabrina Gwyn
Sue Hamilton
Vivien Gowlett

Archdeaconry Vice-Chair Isle of Wight
Archdeaconry Vice-Chair Mainland
Deanery Co-ordinator Bishops Waltham
Deanery Co-ordinator Fareham and Gosport
Deanery Co-ordinator Havant and Portsmouth

Vacant
Vacant

Unit Co-ordinator Training
Unit Co-ordinator Diocesan Members

Other Trustees:

Hilary Batchelor
Theresa Bignall
Chris Long

Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian membership charity that aims to demonstrate the Christian faith in action through the transformation of communities worldwide.

We are working with people of all faiths and none in 83 countries to promote stable marriage, family life and the protection of children through praying, enabling and campaigning.

Our aims and objectives are:

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

Mission Statement

The Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation which promotes the wellbeing of families world-wide.

We achieve this by:

Developing prayer and spiritual growth in families

Studying and reflecting on family life and marriage and their place in society.

Resourcing our members to take practical action to improve conditions for families, both nationally and internationally and in the communities in which they live

The Mothers' Union was established in 1876. Its purpose was to encourage parents in caring for their children, not just physically and mentally but also spiritually. From the outset it recognised that strong relationships and the role of the family, however defined, are critical in building healthy communication.

Our vision

While the ways in which we operate to fulfil that need may be different from that of the world of the 19th century, our vision today is still of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is still the essence of our work.

Our mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We try to do this through the promotion of stable marriage, family life and the protection of children. **This is our mission.** It is what we aim to achieve.

Our values

There are more than four million members of the Mothers' Union today in 83 countries around the world. Each member subscribes to the same values; the moral and ethical codes that are central to the ways in which we operate.

Firstly, we are firmly rooted in a voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration.

Secondly, our governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide.

Thirdly, we work with people of all faiths and none.

The Diocese of Portsmouth

The Mother's Union in the Portsmouth Diocese extends from Petersfield to the North, Bishops Waltham and Fareham in the West, Emsworth to the East, and all of the south including the Isle of Wight.

We currently have approximately 433 members in 22 branches.

Members of Mothers' Union in the Portsmouth Diocese elect the Trustees every three years. 2024 is the end of our current triennium.

The charity owns 1 laptop, 1 colour printer, large advertising banner, and display boards and a roll-down banner for the Wedding Fayres.

The board of Trustees acknowledges its responsibility to identify, assess and manage risks. This is undertaken on an ongoing basis regarding all activities undertaken by the Portsmouth Mother's Union. Dynamic risk assessments are undertaken for all activities and formal documented risk assessments are carried out where any larger event for example those events involving a variety of activities and the general public.

Each Member organising an activity is responsible for the initial dynamic assessment and judge whether the activity requires a documented risk assessment. Formal risk assessment documents are available on request from the Board of Trustees and the completed forms are sent to the Trustees for approval.

During 2024

The 2024 theme is 'Transformation Now'. This and is what Mothers' Union has been undertaking during the last one hundred and fortyeight years that is how we shall present our report. Transforming the lives of people we meet who need our help.

Transformation Now



We all need to rebuild hope and confidence following the Covid pandemic which has affected so many people in many ways. We need to help our members regain the confidence to start enjoying their local branches again in person and to meet with other branches. We need to follow in Mary Sumner's footsteps in rebuilding this hope and confidence.

Pray

Prayer is at the heart of Mothers' Union life and all we undertake is upheld by it.

- Each month on the third Wednesday at mid-day members gather in the Cathedral for Holy Communion celebrated by a member of the Cathedral staff or a member of the retired clergy in the absence of a MU diocesan chaplain assisted by members from the deaneries in rotation who read the lessons and lead the intercessions.

- The 430 + members in the diocese each receive a copy of Connected which encourages and enables daily prayer for families throughout the world. It provides information about MU projects and our link dioceses and their leaders to aid prayer and understanding. Members are encouraged to pray at mid-day each day. We also produce a Diocesan magazine 'Contact' which is delivered to all members in the Portsmouth Diocese to keep them up to date in events in the Diocese.
- Wave of Prayer – From June 15th to 17th the branches in the archdeaconry were allocated different times to meet for the Wave of Prayer services. We prayed for the work of MU and specially for our link dioceses abroad, which are New Guinea Islands in Papua New Guinea, Gboko in Benue State Nigeria, Bukavu Diocese in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nyahururu in Kenya.
- Prayer Chain – The prayer chain is made up of a representative from each deanery. They undertake to pray regularly for those who are sick or who have asked for prayer.
- Every year on Lady Day, March 25th, Havant and Portsmouth Deanery hold a Lady Day Service. A service on Mary Sumner Day, August 9th, was held in the Havant and Portsmouth Deanery.
- Council and Trustee meetings begin with prayer usually led by the Diocesan President in the absence of the Mothers' Union Chaplain and also at mid-day. There are two Council meetings a year, one of which includes the AGM and four Trustee meetings a year.
- During the Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence, some of our branches meet to pray for people suffering from the effects of gender based violence. We also held a Zoom service for Gender Violence instead of meeting in a centralised church.
- Members of Portsmouth Mothers' Union volunteer help at the Roberts Child Contact Centre. 'The Child Contact Centre is a place where children living with one parent can meet the parent they do not live with in a safe comfortable environment. Research tells us that children have better outcomes when they have contact with their non-resident parent. The Child Contact Centre is run by a team of trained staff and volunteers whose primary role is to help parents make sure their child's contact experience is positive.'

- We have two projects supporting Queen Alexandra Hospital. MGN Support Project (Maternity, Gynaecological and Neo-Natal Support) we supply tiny baby-grows for the neo-natal unit and knitted matinee jackets and blankets. The knitted hats have to be knitted to a special pattern to allow tube to go through the hat. We also provide black-out quilts to go on top of the incubators. Many members also sew gowns for still-born babies, they always make two of each garment so that the bereaved parents can keep one in their memory box. If any of the knitted garments are unsuitable for the hospital, too big, too small, wrong colour etc., the finished garments are taken to the Roberts Centre for use with the families.

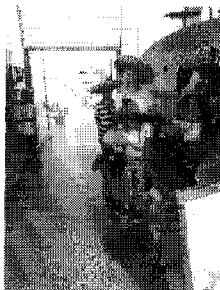
- The Fareham and Gosport deanery provide twiddle-muffs for people suffering from dementia. These go to a local nursing home and a local Memory Clinic.



- Members in the Isle of Wight support the Seafarers' Mission by knitting hats and mittens. They also knit for the neonatal unit at St Mary's Hospital and collect toiletries for those admitted unexpectedly to St Mary's Hospital.

- We provide recipe cards for all the Food Banks in the Portsmouth Diocese. These are suitable recipes to be made with the food given by the banks.

- Throughout the year members raised funds for us to provide a week's holiday or days away for families who are unable to fund a holiday themselves.



We provide holidays or breaks for vulnerable families who are recommended to us by the clergy or other organizations such as schools. We offer days out or short-break holidays. We also provide an annual AFIA day at Lee on Solent for families from the local Women's refuges.

This year we gave 15 families a break at the seaside. Unfortunately, it was very cold and windy but this did not prevent the families from having fun in a nearby water park. We had a fish and chip lunch followed by tea on our return from the beach and games in the hall and garden. We are supported by a faithful group of volunteers who join in the fun with the families.

We sent a mother and her children to a play park in Gosport for the day so that they could spend some 'quality time' together.

We also sent a lady who was caring for her disabled husband for a cream tea at a local garden centre. As the centre was accessible, the couple were able to go together and have a good time.

We sent seven families away to local holiday parks for a short break of three or four nights. We usually use parks at Selsey and Bognor Regis.

We also provide a £50 voucher to help cover the cost of food. Families are very appreciative that they can give their children a well-needed break.

- Four of our members look after the MUE (Mothers' Union enterprises) stall. They sell cards, badges, gifts etc., that are ordered from Mary Sumner House. The proceeds go to help the running of Central Mothers Union and a percentage is received back annually.
- The members from different branches run Mothers & Baby groups. With the "cost of living" crisis, more families are now turning to Grandparents to look after their children during the day whilst they work. We now provide Grandparent and Toddler groups which give the Grandparents support and enable them to socialize, to combat isolation. The friendship they make at the groups often continue when the grandchildren move on to school.
- Many branches also provide 'bags of love' to parents whose children are starting reception class at a local school. The bags include a tea-bag, a pouch of tissues, a bar of chocolate and a prayer. These gifts are welcomed by the parents.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Felicity Keeping

Portsmouth Diocesan President



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Mothers Union Portsmouth Diocese

No (if any)
1057369

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from **01/01/2024** To **31/12/2024**

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donors	16,668	-	-	16,668	16,583
Legacy	500	-	-	500	80
Operating Activities	5,431	-	-	5,431	5,311
Fund Raising	810	6,846	-	7,656	17,213
Investments	624	379	-	1,003	645
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	24,033	7,225	-	31,258	39,832
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	24,033	7,225	-	31,258	39,832
A3 Payments					
Projects	1,333	5,368	-	6,701	5,227
Activities	17,840	-	-	17,840	16,793
Management	4,380	-	-	4,380	16,308
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	23,553	5,368	-	28,921	38,328
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	23,553	5,368	-	28,921	38,328
Net of receipts/(payments)	480	1,857	-	2,337	1,504
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	20,133	12,822	-	32,955	-
Cash funds this year end	20,613	14,679	-	35,292	1,504

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit Account	12,381	-	-
	Current Account	6,486	2,751	-
	Business Account	1,747	-	-
	Afia Fund	-	6,207	-
	Afia Deposit	-	5,721	-
	Total cash funds	20,614	14,679	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Agreement Error OK OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		06/02/2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Mothers' Union Portsmouth Diocese

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1067369

Set out on pages

1 & 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2024**.

**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 (other than that disclosed on page 2) 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.

Signed:

C Lodge

Date:

11/04/2025

Name:

Gill Lodge

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCCA

Address:

University of Portsmouth

Richmond Building

Portland Street

Portsmouth

PO1 3DE

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

The trustees' annual report was not available at the time of the independent examination.