Mothers' Union Diocese of Southwark

Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Southwark covers the Greater London boroughs south of the Thames, and part of Surrey

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Southwark

SOUTHWARK DIOCESE MOTHERS' UNION
2025 ANNUAL REPORT










Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2025

Vision

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

Mission

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

Values

We are firmly rooted in voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration. Our governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide. We are inclusive and work with people of all faiths and none.

Aim

The Aim of the Mothers' Union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. Within this the aims are to:

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

Objectives and Activities

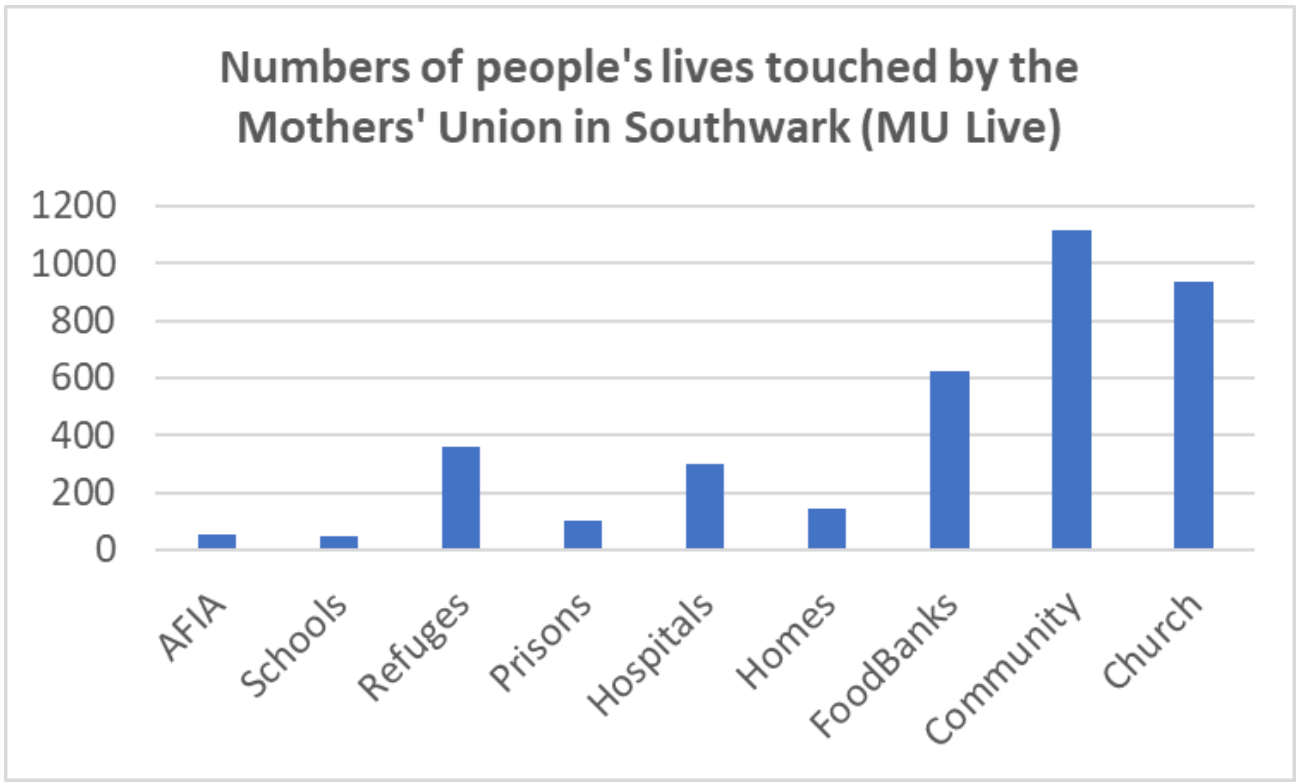
Together with members across the world, our objectives are:

- **Strengthen** communities all over the world
- **Help** the most disadvantaged at home
- **Shape** how we advocate for the rights of families
- **Build** supportive, loving relationships
- **Develop** our own relationship with God.

Achievements & Challenges

The MU theme in 2025 was Join Us, Join In and this report reflects on how action in the MU in Southwark has responded to this call so far. This also aligns with or our strategic themes of Growing in Confidence; Connecting with the wider Church mission; Having an Impact – focus on Social Justice.

The greatest impact can be seen where the work of the MU is underpinned by prayer and action. Many of the achievements we can see in the rest of the report show how the MU across Southwark has shone out in the ministry of the Church as a whole. From the data submitted by branches to MU live we can see some of the impact the MU has had on the lives within our Diocesan community



Growing in Confidence through:

Worship and Prayer: Prayer is the bedrock of the Mothers' Union, and this is evident in the various events that have taken place at both branch and diocesan level as well as in our participation in national events and programmes.

At branch level members are involved in leading and supporting:

- Cathedral prayers: Held monthly in the Harvard Chapel, led by branches across the Diocese.
- Lady Day services (25th March): supported with services held in Deaneries;
- Lent and Advent meditations: incl. members at Motspur Park
- Prayer Walks: including Sharing in God's creation in blue bell woods in Surrey
- Regular Communion Services: incl. members in New Malden, Caterham and Mitcham
- Bible Study: Weekly and monthly sessions held in South Lambeth and Sutton including bible stories for children on Sunday mornings.
- 16 days of activism / Domestic Abuse: Rise UP campaign and 'No More 1in3' events, services and prayers held in churches across the Diocese.
- Community outreach: Leading services in Care Homes; Providing bibles to school.
- Carol services: welcoming neighbouring branch members

At a Diocesan and National level, events include:

- Prayer network: Now facilitated by the Diocesan secretary and Trustees.
- Welcoming the new World-Wide President Kathleen Snow: Commissioning service at St Martin's in the Fields by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York and service held in the crypt at Canterbury Cathedral by members of the Southeast Cluster.
- Festival Service and Commissioning of the new Trustee Board: Held at Southwark Cathedral on 21st June supported by Bishop Alastair (Bishop of Woolwich) and Bishop Rosemarie (Bishop of Croydon).
- Mary Sumner Day Service: Held at St Mary's Oxted where former MU branch members were presented with 50-year, long service awards.
- Wave of Prayer: Held in several churches across the Diocese between the 31st August and 2nd September.
- The retreat at Wychroft: Held in October, focused on the theme of Seasons, growing with God through every stage of life. The event was well attended and ably led by led by Ish Lennox, latterly the Faith Coordinator at MSH.
- The Diocesan Advent service: Held at St Mildred's Addiscombe with Archdeacon of Croydon, Venerable Greg Prior as preacher.

Celebrating and Connecting: The Mothers' Union members in Southwark continue to show enormous energy and enthusiasm for arranging events that bring joy and interest to members lives. Examples of this focus on:

Keeping connected: Branch members meet regularly in fellowship for food and friendship as well as connecting with neighbouring members for events. They also keep in regular touch with more vulnerable members of their community.

Learning from others: A wide range of topics have been the focus for meeting, raising awareness of individuals' personal experiences, their faith and their work as well as how to better support the most vulnerable in our community. Examples include: Tea@2 (Lambeth South); Heraldry (Grove Park); Interactive talk on Prayer, Talk from 'Embracing Age', learning about the 'environment and us'; Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (Surbiton); Understanding the work of SAGE *Southwark and AGEing*; Hearing from 'Staywell'; Volunteering at Kew Gardens; memories and stories of VE day (Hook); Sharing cultural experiences, Living with Dementia (St Peter and St Paul, Mitcham); learning about Church Architecture, The portrayal of Jesus in art, Empowering women through literacy programmes (Ham); Understanding the work of Crossroads International (Norbiton); The work of the Princess Alice Hospice, the Importance of keeping moving, the experience of Windrush from a local member, also 'Sharing something precious' (Motspur park);

Being active and creative: Connecting with the arts and creativity continues, developing the skills of members. Examples of activities that have taken place includes Crafted cards and gifts for MU sales (Tadworth); Christmas decorations and cards (Caterham, Hook, Lambeth South); Advent Wreaths (Ham); Games afternoon (St Peter and St Paul, Mitcham); Block printing Gift bags (Motspur Park);

Outings: MU members have been active in getting out and about. This includes a trip to Southend on Sea (St Luke's Peckham); A trip to Morden Park (Caterham); Taking part in 'Unlock Walk' around London Churches (Hook, Caterham)

Celebrating: It has also been great to see branches celebrating anniversaries including 120 years at St Andrew's Ham, 130 years at St Mary's Lewisham, 23 years at All Saints Hatcham, 20 years of the branch at St Giles Camberwell and 19 years at St Lukes Church Peckham. In addition to this several members were recognised for their long service as well as significant birthdays.

Fundraising: Thanks are given to all branches who continue to be active in fundraising for AFIA, Summer of Hope and the Mothers' Union worldwide. The impact of the various fundraising events can be seen in the accounts and include:

- ***Sales and stalls***: Bring and buy sales; Cake and Mothering Sunday sales; Church event; Bible Object Auction and Craft events and artwork sales.

- ***Entertainment & Refreshment***: Barn Dances, Bingo, Quiz nights; Christmas festive lunch; Garden parties, Afternoon and Strawberry teas; Coffee mornings; Cheese and wine events and a sponsored walk round Richmond Park.

The impact of all these events has allowed us to maintain our outreach through AFIA and support the wider work of the MU.

Building the membership:

Over the next three years we have set the challenge of increasing membership by 150.

Although branches continue to face challenges of securing membership and leaders some areas have been successful in recruitment by sharing the mission and vision of the MU more widely. Congratulations to Sanderstead, All Saints; Horley Team Ministry; St Nicholas, Sutton; St Mary, Lewisham; St John, Deptford; St Giles, Camberwell; St Lukes, Camberwell; all who have been able to enrol new members.

Indoor members also continue to be supported with letters and card along with links to their local branches and as members get older this continues to be an important focus for our community.

Members whose Branches close continue to be encouraged to join other local Branches or become Diocesan members. There is always a welcome from neighbouring branches at events and meetings throughout the year. Diocesan members also remain an important group within the Southwark MU community. Thanks are given to Esther Mirrielees who works to keep connected with the 40 members through email, phone calls and Christmas Cards as well as by encouraging local links through the Area Vice Presidents.

Connecting with the wider Church Mission:

Building Connections: As well as building the capacity of its members the MU works alongside other organisations to promote the work of the MU and to enhance our impact in the world around us. This includes working with groups sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

- SAGE: Southwark and AGEing –developing material and training events for Grandparents
- SAMS: Southwark Against Modern Slavery – raising awareness across communities of the impact slavery in local communities.
- Zimbabwe / Southwark Diocese links: strengthening links across the Diocese with the Central Zimbabwe and Matabeleland Diocese and their Mothers' Union.

Most importantly, is the work Branches continue to do, to actively engage with their church community. Building a strong relationship with the incumbent and regular contact with the congregation brings benefits and helps branches flourish. To help members, Clergy packs, previously circulated continue to be available for branches to share with new members and church leaders. This information is also made available to clergy in training.

Strengthening our role within the parish: Where branches have an active membership, the MU is actively promoted along with its role in the mission of the local church and more widely. Members continue to support their churches in a range of lay ministry roles. Over the last year this includes:

- Taking part in worship: Participating and contributing and leading in Lady Day services, Mothering Sunday (cards, posies and preaching) as well as Mary Sumner Day. Preparing Christingles at Christmas; Supporting Bubble Church, Forest Church and Prayer Clubs; Celebrating National Marriage Week.
- Pastoral care: Hospital and home visits, visiting care home with gifts, prayers, songs and fellowship
- Welcoming people into the Church family: Supporting baptism families and distributing cards; providing gifts and arranging events including Christmas and Easter parties and workshops; supporting summer church events for families and Bible themed workshops and activity sessions for parents, carers and children.
- Community events: Including organising family games afternoon and evenings in. Running stalls at Church fairs, Lent Lunches, and displays at Heritage Open days, Christmas tree festivals and other parish events.

Having an impact:

Meeting with families facing injustice and adversity:

In line with our aims and objectives members continue to be active in wider diocesan outreach projects. Members have given of their time and talents in supporting:

AFIA (Away from it All) Holidays: As our flagship Diocesan outreach project, we were sad to note the death of Sally Steele who had been leading the programme for several years. Now under the leadership of Sue Newman (Trustee), with the support of Hazel Brown holidays and trips have continued to be arranged for some very needy and vulnerable families in the Diocese.

As Sally Steele was ill during the year, only five holidays with Haven were booked; four in the Easter holidays and one in October half term. Several holidays, however, are in the pipeline for 2026. A day trip to Fishers Farm took place for those attending the Croydon Refugee centre as well as a second trip to Chessington. Speaking to some of the families

who benefited from the visits it was clear to Sue Newman that they were very appreciative. Many of the families attending had never been to theme parks or farms and mothers said it was lovely to have the chance to enjoy time together doing normal family activities.

Members who have fund-raised and donated to the AFIA fund are thanked. This programme has made a difference to fourteen adults and thirty-two children; forty-six people in total.

We are also so grateful for the wonderful generosity of our "unknown" benefactor, who has really boosted our AFIA fund, ensuring many more families are able to take advantage of their kindness.

Tea @ 2: Thanks go to Hilary Richardson for coordinating Tea@2 team at the Evelina Children's Hospital. Following several departures and three new recruits, the year ended with 9 volunteers taking turns on the rota in pairs. The team value the chance of supporting parents at this challenging time in their lives with their new babies in the neo natal unit. Hilary also spends time promoting the work of the team across the Diocese and seeks to encourage others to join. The team also encourage members to provide knitted items including blanket squares, hats for the newborn babies in the birthing centre and hearts in all colours for the palliative care team.

Other Hospital Links: Members in Horley also provided sixty-four bags of toiletries for vulnerable patients on Emergency hospital wards.

Tea and Talk: This initiative, led by Cynthia Smith, supporting refugee families housed in South Croydon, closed at the end of the year as the result of families moving away. One of the local MU members involved in the area is a trustee of the Croydon Refugee Day Centre and so links with the wider refugee community continue to thrive on a more informal basis.

Prison Links: Links between Prisons and Southwark MU are also now expanding. The links with Belmarsh continue to be strong, facilitated by Jan Gosling. Events included a sports day for families. Links with Wandsworth prison have also developed with MU members in Horley making a total of 70 Christmas cards, members in Caterham making 25 Christmas decorations. As a Diocese, it has been agreed to fund equipment for family work via Prison Chaplaincy.

Campaigning against social injustice:

16 days of activism: Although campaigning against gender-based violence is a '365 days a year' programme many of the MU branches in Southwark took the opportunity, once more, to promote this more actively during the 16 days of activism at the end of November.

During this period branches engaged with the Red Chair project promoted by Restored https://www.restored-uk.org/partner/cneda/red-chair/ . It involved reserving an empty chair in a public place, alongside information about domestic abuse and violence against

women. The empty chair acts as a powerful symbol of the many women who have been killed through gender-based violence - women who should still be with us today.

Responding to those in women's Refuges: There continues to be active engagement by branches with their wider parish community, in providing gifts and equipment to local refuges in Croydon, Redhill, Richmond and Sutton. Hundreds of items and gifts have been supplied to these vulnerable women and their children.

RISEUP Campaign: Mothers' Union campaign against Domestic abuse continues to flourish. Known as RISEUP it stands for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. Congratulations to St Andrew's Ham and St Mildred's Addiscombe for achieving their silver RISEUP awards. This is alongside those who have previously achieved or are currently working for their Bronze award. The campaign is significantly raising awareness of the issue, providing support to those who are suffering and strengthening MU links with their wider church leaders (PCC and clergy). Congratulations to all those who are active in this area.

Moving forward in 2026

The 2025 theme *Join Us, Join In* continues in line with celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of the MU**.** The emphasis over the next three years is to promote growing and flourishing and consider how the MU can be relevant within the 21st Century. Goals include building membership by 150 over the next three years by:

- Developing strategies to develop the MU so it can grow in confidence by developing membership and build connections through shared stories with those at home and across the world.
- Strengthening the connection with the wider Church Mission through, Lay ministry, Synods, Family work / Parenting, Gender based violence and the Climate Crisis.
- Increase the Impact of the MU as it responds to Social Injustice by supporting vulnerable communities through RISEUP, Prison strategy, Modern Slavery, AFIA and MU overseas.

Safeguarding

As an organisation concerned with Christian principles and ministry in family life, the nurture and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of Mothers' Union. Both individually as members and collectively as an organisation, Mothers' Union fulfils its duty to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults, doing everything possible to ensure that they are safe when involved in Mothers' Union activities.

Safeguarding policies and practices issued by the Anglican Church, and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) charter for the safety of people within the churches of the

Anglican Communion are used as the basis for the MU in Southwark. In line with the duties of the Board the trustees have:

- reviewed safeguarding policies and procedures at the first meeting of the year.
- completed DBS checks on new Trustees using a DBS service from *Thirtyone:eight*.
- nominated a member to have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of the Mothers' Union activities across the Diocese (Susan Gibbin)
- reviewed the roles in Mothers' Union and ensure that recruitment is in line with good safeguarding practice.

As well as ensuring Trustees are aware of policy and practice, guidance is shared with all members to help establish strong practice at a local branch level. Strong links are also encouraged between branches, and their local Parish Safeguarding Officers and training is made available through the Church of England and Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding teams:

- http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-events/
- https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding/training

Data Protection

As an organisation the Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union takes its duties under the relevant Data protection legislation seriously. Actions are guided by Diocesan policy and advice from Mary Sumner House. Privacy notices are accessible and guidance to role holders is circulated along with consent forms to be used in line with Diocesan and Central MU advice. The Trustees have made it a priority to maintain good Information Governance practice and provide support to all those responsible for holding personal data.

Financial Review 2025

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have prepared a statement of accounts for 2025 which gives a true and fair view of the situation of the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese. Full details can be found in the Annual Accounts.

Accounting Policies: The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP. The accounts include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the Trustees are responsible in law.

Financial performance – General and Unrestricted Funds: General Funds represent the funds of the Trustees that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Trustees. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the Trustees are also unrestricted. In 2025, £15,000 was held within the General Funds as a Designated Contingency Fund.

In 2025 total income into Unrestricted Funds was £28,333. Of this income £25,133 was spent from Unrestricted Funds to support the administration and mission of the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union. The net result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £3,111. Unrestricted Funds totalling £53,802 were carried forward at 31st December 2025.

Financial performance - Restricted Funds: Restricted Funds are used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

There were restricted donations totalling £42,587 in the year (this includes money sent to MSH which contributes to the leadership, administration, and mission of MU worldwide). These funds support all the various Diocesan and Mothers' Union Central funds (these are set out in the accounts). The total balance of Restricted Funds on 31st December was £28,964.

Receipts: Collections, subscriptions, donations and interest are recognised when received, as is income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations. Income from all other sources, including sales of literature purchased from Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUe), is recorded gross.

Payments: Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

Reserves Policy: Reserves are defined as income that becomes available and which is to be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their objects, but which has not yet been spent, committed or designated. The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to allow protection of the core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced strategic planning. Through prudent housekeeping over several years, the reserves have been built up to the current level of £38,703 and include a residual legacy of £16,769 received in 2016.

The Trustee Board budgets and plans its expenditure and intends to maintain reserves that will protect the Charity against income shortfalls. A sum of £15,000 has also been set aside in a designated fund to rent and equip a Diocesan Mothers' Union Office should the present premises become unavailable, and to cover the secretary's salary for 6 months in an emergency.

Investment Policy: The Trustees continue to invest in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

Communication

The Southwark Mothers' Union continues to use a range of tools for communicating with its members and the wider community.

Digital tools: This includes our allocated space on the Southwark Diocesan website where information about the organisation, services, the wave of prayer and projects and publications are posted https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/mothers-union/ .

There has been a steady flow of visitors, however there is not yet the opportunity to offer a facility for people to ask questions (other than by 'contact us') or add comments.

During the year we had 278 views of our pages, split as follows:

- mothers-union: 112 views
- about-the-mu: 56 views
- mu-prayer: 73 views
- mu-projects: 37 views

The 2024 Annual Report was downloaded 157 times and the policies on Complaints, Volunteering and Equality Diversity and Inclusion, on the MU website were downloaded more than 220 times.

The Facebook page continues to be a success - sharing information from the wider MU community - nationally and internationally - as well as events and activities within branches and the Diocese https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnionSouthwarkDiocese

During the year, there has been a steady flow of readers with a good proportion using the information – liking, commenting or sharing - Project news has been particularly popular as well as "issues". There were 635 likes and 635 followers and a vast reach of many thousands.

We also have a YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@southwarkmu which although still early in its development has had 934 views.

Thanks to Margaret Simmons for all she does to keep us connected and online.

Publications: In addition to our Southwark News (three times a year) which we thank Val Green for editing, we have also had more than three articles published in The Bridge. This included articles on the work of the MU in supporting families and our campaigns around Gender Based violence, Domestic Abuse and AFIA, as well as the festival service. In addition, there have also been Blogs on the Diocesan website including one on Mary Sumner.

Leadership and Governance

Leadership in Southwark: The Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese. Under the Diocesan Constitution and Handbook, revised 2005 and regularly reviewed, the Trustees (outlined in the Annex) are elected on a triennial basis. All subscribing members of the MU in the Diocese are entitled to vote for the Diocesan President and Unit Co-ordinators. Members from each geographical Area also vote for their own Vice President and two area representatives on the Trustee Board. The new Trustee Board was appointed for three years from January 2025; there were still three vacancies at the end of the year.

In addition to those trustees that represent the branches within the Diocese and those that hold unit lead roles there three additional members can be appointed to the Board. These individuals are co-opted for the triennial because of their specific skills. In 2025 there were no additional co-opted members on the Board.

A part-time secretary is appointed to manage the office and administrative support for the Trustee Board. In 2025 Anne Love retired as Diocesan secretary after 34 years in the role. This was acknowledged with a presentation of the Lancelot Andrews medal for 'Godly Service and Zeal for the Gospel' by the Bishop of Southwark and a thankyou lunch and presentation in March by members of the Southwark MU. Rosemary Walsh an MU Member from St Barnabas, Sutton, has now been appointed to fulfil this role.

Appointed by the Trustees, Jean Cartwright also completed her final year as Honorary Treasurer after many years in the role. Mary O'Neill, MU a member from St Hugh's thankfully agreed to take on the role from 2026.

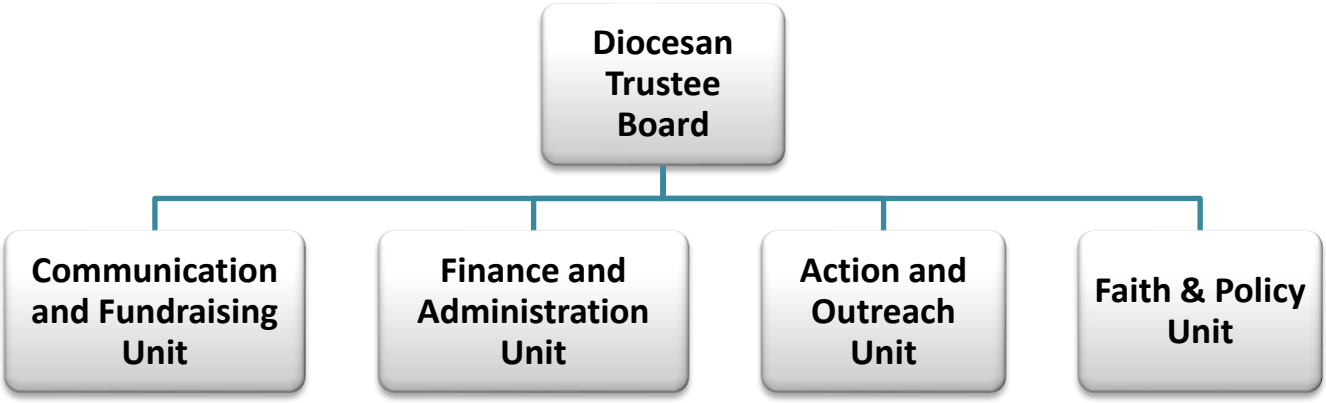
The Diocesan Chaplain is appointed after consultation between the Diocesan Bishop and the Southwark MU President. In June 2025 an Assistant chaplain, the Ven Carol Coslett was appointed.

A list of Trustees and other officers up until December 2025 can be found in Annex 1.

Governance: The Trustee Board met five times in 2025 and the Council twice (in addition to the AGM for 2024). The meetings were held in person with the opportunity for some members to join over zoom.

Within the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union, the work of four units continues to report to the Trustee Board and to Members Meeting (previously 'Diocesan Council', renamed

after the March DC Meeting), coordinating diocesan activity and advising on policy and performance.



Southwark Diocese MU can connect with and benefit from other members of MU across England as well as worldwide. Members of the Board as well as those directly connected to the four units also participate in meetings facilitated by Mary Sumner House. These include conferences within the Canterbury Province and attendance at Community of Interest Group meetings (COI). The areas covered by the COI and their representative are:

- AFIA (Sally Steele then Sue Newman)
- Communications (Meg Simmons)
- Craft (Norma McKnight)
- Diocesan Chaplains (Sandra Schloss & Carol Coslett)
- Faith (Penny Lochead)
- Finance / Treasurer (Jean Cartwright)
- Fundraising (Susan Gibbin)
- Governance (Joy Morrall)
- Membership (Ursula Hodges)
- Member Directory and Database (MU Secretary)
- Modern Slavery (Maureen Westmarland)
- Prisons (Jan Gosling)
- RISEUP (Ursula Hodges)
- Safeguarding (Susan Gibbin)

In addition, The Mothers' Union Vice Presidents and Area Representatives of the four geographical Areas (Croydon, Kingston, Reigate and Woolwich) continue to link with their deaneries and branches (in line with the Church of England Parish and Synod structures).

The challenges of maintaining branches continues to be difficult. Many members are happy to keep the connection with the MU but unwilling or unable to continue to take on leadership roles. Trustees continue to try and support their branch and diocesan members with new ways of working.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July is where the Annual Report and Accounts are presented to the membership. The AGM is open to all members.

Membership / Volunteers: In 2025, there were 45 branches in Southwark to which 824 branch members belong, in addition there are 40 diocesan members, giving a total of 864

known members across the Diocese. Although some branches continue to grow the total numbers of members and branches remain static. Enrolments do however include new members at All Saints Sanderstead; Good Shepherd Tadworth; St Andrew's Ham; St Nicholas Sutton; St Mary's Lewisham; St John's Deptford; St Giles Camberwell; St Luke's Camberwell and The Horley Team Ministry.

Members who have and continue to give of their time and talents to the MU are thanked for the service they have given with celebrations and awards.

Members also thank God for the wonderful lives and service given to the MU given by members who have passed during the year.

Indoor Members: Local Branches support members who are unable to attend meetings and events along with the Diocesan Indoor member correspondent, Jane Namurye. In 2025, there were 18 members. During the year one new member was registered and five members sadly passed away.

Member training and development: During 2025 branches continued to be supported by Trustees with information, policies, and presentations at Council and Members Meetings.

Branch Leader meetings with the Diocesan President have continued with good attendance and representation. In some areas of the Diocese, branches highlighted significant difficulties in securing leadership capacity to develop and grow their membership. Trustees do their best to keep members updated and informed of MU initiatives, local activities, and good practice. This continues to be cascaded down through the work of the communications lead, VPs and Area Representatives.

Feedback from local Branches: The engagement of members at branch, deanery and area level is regularly reported to Trustees as well as in the celebrating the years successes in the Annual Report. Each provides evidence of the many ways members have continued to engage with their local Church and its mission; in promoting the wider role of the MU in supporting families and in offering fellowship and prayer for those in need.

There is much to be proud of as all members seek to meet the aims, purpose, and mission of the MU. The work of members has had a lasting impact on families here in the Diocese and worldwide.

Administrative Information

The Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese is under the patronage and sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese. It is affiliated to its parent charity, The Mothers' Union (Reg. Charity No. 240531, headquarters at Mary Sumner House, Westminster), but is an autonomous organisation.

Registered office:

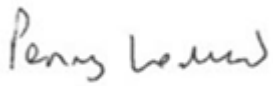
Mothers' Union Office,
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,
Borough High Street,
London SE1 1HW.
Tel: 020 7939 9459
Email: mu@southwark.anglican.org

Bank: HSBC, 66 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HD

Independent Examiner: Mr A J Kett FCA, Little Dolby, Ifield Road, Charlwood, Surrey, RH6 0DR

Report Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees of Southwark Mothers' Union on 23rd June 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Penny Lochead
Diocesan President (Southwark MU)

Annex 1

List of Trustees and officers for 2025

Trustees (in post from 1 January 2025)

Diocesan President	Penny Lochead
Vice President for Croydon	Sue Newman & Joy Morrall
Vice Presidents for Woolwich	Jennifer Davis & Yemi Ojumu
Vice President for Reigate	Susan Gibbin
Vice President for Kingston	Ursula Hodges
Action and Outreach Unit Co-ordinator	Sally Steele until July 25
Fundraising and Communications Unit Co-ordinator	Susan Gibbin
Finance and Administration Unit Co-ordinator	Joy Morrall
Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator	Ursula Hodges
Kingston Area Representatives	Sue Betts
Kingston Area Representative	Moira Greenfield
Reigate Area Representative	Margaret Fitch
Reigate Area Representative	Cathy Brown
Woolwich Area Representative	Roseline Okiti

Attendees (non-voting)

Hon Treasurer	Jean Cartwright
Diocesan Secretary	Rosemary Walsh
Chaplain	Revd Sandra Schloss
Deputy Chaplain	Ven Carol Coslett
Diocesan Safeguarding Lead	Susan Gibbin

Other Officers

Away From It All (AFIA) Co-ordinator	Sue Newman
Newsletter Editor	Val Green
Indoor Member Co-ordinator	Jane Namurye
Social Media Lead	Margaret Simmons
Gift Aid Coordinator	Ann Squirrell
Diocesan Member Co-ordinator	Esther Mirrielees

NOTES:


Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Southwark

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese

Registered Charity Number 249815

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2025

Prepared by Jean Cartwright

Examined by Anthony J Kett, FCA

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese - Registered Charity Number 249815
Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2025

Balance Sheet

2024		2025	
	Fixed Assets	N/A	
	Current Assets		
62,000	CBF Deposit	62,000	
5,099	Current Bank Account	19,887	
701	High Interest Savings	713	
35	Cash in Hand	68	
99	MUE Stock	88	
1,253	Debtors	0.00	
12,141	Branch funds (g)	12,129	
81,329	**Total Assets**		**94,885**
	Current Liabilities		
0.00	Current Liabilities	0.00	
0.00	Barclaycard	0.00	
0.00	**Total Liabilities**		0.00
81,329	**Total Assets less Current Liabilities:**		**94,885**
	Capital & Reserves		
85,117	Retained Balances	81,329	
(3,788)	Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	13,556	
81,329	**Retained Capital & Reserves**		**94,885**

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2025

Consolidated Fund Receipts

2024		Unrestricted Funds	Diocesan Restricted	MSH Restricted	Total
	MSH Fund Receipts				28,243
19,664	Subscriptions			20,098	
1,503	Overseas Fund (d)			1,893	
1,522	Relief Fund (d)			1,728	
50	B&I Development Fund (d)			0	
0	Fabric Fund (d)			0	
2,618	MSH Projects (e)			3,991	
310	MSH General Fund (d)			533	
	Diocesan Fund Receipts				14,344
9,368	AFIA (a)		13,994		
0.00	Choir		0		
200	SCIP (b)		350		
0	Indoor Members (c)		0		
	Unrestricted Fund Receipts				
10,931	Diocesan Subscriptions	11,106			11,106
2,589	Diocesan Donations	3,415			3,415
2,870	Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	4,421			4,421
674	Turnover Related Grant	608			608
	Receipts from Sales				
0	General	0			0
439	MUE Literature	344			344
	Activities				
1,010	Festival Services	539			539
2,785	Retreat	4,098			4,098
33	Refreshments	84			84
0	General	0			0
	Other Receipts				
42	Sundry	39			39
540	Gifts	807			807
0	Special Events	0			0
	Investment Income				
13	High Interest Savings Account	12			12
3,228	CBF Deposit Account	2,760			2,760
60,387	**Total Receipts**	**28,233**	**14,344**	**28,243**	**70,820**

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2025

Consolidated Fund Payments

2024		Unrestricted Funds	Diocesan Restricted	MSH Restricted	Total
	Payments to Mary Sumner House				28,243
19,664	Subscriptions			20,098	
1,503	Overseas Fund (d)			1,893	
1,522	Relief Fund (d)			1,728	
50	B&I Development Fund (d)			0	
0	Fabric Fund (d)			0	
2,618	MSH Projects (e)			3,991	
310	MSH General Fund (d)			533	
	Diocesan Grant Making				3,876
12,699	AFIA (a)		3,855		
500	SCIP (b)		0		
39	Indoor Members (c)		21		
0	Choir		0		
	Trustees and Units				
251	Trustees' Costs	511			511
0	Trustees - Unit Travel	0			0
	Activities				
30	Activities - General	0			0
572	Activities - Festival Services	57			57
3,150	Activities - Retreats	4,609			4,609
234	Activities - Conferences	261			261
34	Activities - Refreshments	51			51
0	Activities - Speakers' Expenses	0			0
0	Activities - Communicating English	0			0
(66)	Stock adjustment	11			11
	Total Payments				**5,500**
	Purchases				
0	Purchases - Southwark News	0			0
582	Purchases - MUE Literature	421			421
88	Purchases - General	399			399
	Total Purchases				**820**
	Other Payments				
13,905	Secretary's Salary	10,817			10,817
417	Office Admin and Payroll Services	435			435
17	Secretary's Expenses	0			0
150	Safeguarding	393			393
450	Insurance	480			480
5,708	Rent	5,708			5,708
215	Provincial Expenses	0			0
646	Gifts	855			855
0	Sundry Costs	37			37
110	Bank Charges	89			89
	Total Overheads				**18,814**
65,396	**Total Payments**	**25,133**	**3,876**	**28,243**	**57,252**

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2025

Analysed Summary of Fund Movements in Year

Restricted Funds	Balances 31/12/2024	Receipts 2025	Payments 2025	Net Income/ (Expenditure) in Year	Balances 31/12/2025
Diocesan Funds					
Away from it All (a)	13,175	13,994	3,855	10,139	23,314
Diocesan Choir	83	0	0	0	83
SCIP (b)	3,615	350	0	350	3,965
Indoor Members (c)	1,624	0	21	(21)	1,603
Total Diocesan Funds	**18,496**	**14,344**	**3,876**	**10,468**	**28,964**
Mary Sumner House Funds					
Central Subscriptions	0	20,098	20,098	0	0
MSH Overseas (d)	0	1,893	1,893	0	0
MSH Relief (d)	0	1,728	1,728	0	0
MSH B&I Dev (d)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Fabric (d)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Projects (e)	0	3,991	3,991	0	0
MSH General (d)	0	533	533	0	0
Total MSH Funds	**0**	**28,243**	**28,243**	**0**	**0**
Total Restricted Funds	**18,496**	**42,587**	**32,119**	**10,468**	**28,964**
General Diocesan Funds	35,592				38,703
Stock	99				88
Current Liabilities	0				0
Contingency (f)	15,000				15,000
Total General Funds	**50,691**	**28,233**	**25,133**	**3,100**	**53,791**
Total Funds	**69,188**	**70,820**	**57,252**	**13,568**	**82,755**
Branch Funds (g)	12,141	50,068	50,080	(12)	12,129
Retained Capital and Reserves	**81,329**	**120,889**	**107,333**	**13,556**	**94,885**

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2025

Notes

1. Employees – no employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

Funds

a) Away From It All (AFIA) - provision of holidays for deprived families within Southwark Diocese.

b) SCIP - supporting children affected by imprisonment (within Southwark Diocese).

c) Indoor Members - a diocesan fund to support housebound members.

d) Funds administered centrally by Mary Sumner House. These include the Overseas Fund, Relief Fund, Britain and Ireland Development Fund (B&ID Fund) and Fabric Fund. Donations are also sent to the General Fund at Mary Sumner House to be used when needed.

e) MSH Projects. Fundraising launched or continued by Mary Sumner House during the year. Some branches sent money directly to Mary Sumner House; others sent donations via the diocesan accounts. The amount sent in 2025 was £3,991.00 for the following projects:

£ 458.50	Make a Mother's Day
£2,577.60	Summer of Hope Appeal
£ 190.00	Literacy Appeal
£ 235.00	Positive Parenting
£ 50.00	Peace of Love Gift
£ 110.00	Uganda Appeal
£ 370.00	Seeds of Hope

Contingency

f) Money held under the agreed reserves policy to cover rent of office etc in an emergency.

Branch Funds

g) The Branch Funds stated at the year end include several historic balances which have no current evidential support and maybe over (or under) stated. However, the total included amount is less than £1,000, and accordingly there is no risk that the Capital & Reserves are materially overstated on the Balance Sheet. Similarly, it is recognised that the stated branch transactions for the year are incomplete due to the absence of annual reports from several branches, however this does not have any material impact on the fund movements as shown.

Little Dolby
Ifield Road
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Surrey
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The Trustees
Mothers' Union – Southwark Diocese
Mothers' Union Office
Trinity House
Chapel Court
Borough High Street
London SE1 1HW

29 September 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO TRUSTEES,
MOTHERS' UNION SOUTHWARK DIOCESE

I report on the accounts of the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese (Charity no. 249815) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

As trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) pf the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese 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 trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

    - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 130 of the Act); and
    - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

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



Anthony J Kett FCA

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese

Registered Charity Number 249815

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2025

Prepared by Jean Cartwright

Examined by Anthony J Kett, FCA

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese - Registered Charity Number 249815
Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2025

Balance Sheet

2024		2025	
	Fixed Assets	N/A	
	Current Assets		
62,000	CBF Deposit	62,000	
5,099	Current Bank Account	19,887	
701	High Interest Savings	713	
35	Cash in Hand	68	
99	MUE Stock	88	
1,253	Debtors	0.00	
12,141	Branch funds (g)	12,129	
81,329	**Total Assets**		**94,885**
	Current Liabilities		
0.00	Current Liabilities	0.00	
0.00	Barclaycard	0.00	
0.00	**Total Liabilities**		0.00
81,329	**Total Assets less Current Liabilities:**		**94,885**
	Capital & Reserves		
85,117	Retained Balances	81,329	
(3,788)	Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year	13,556	
81,329	**Retained Capital & Reserves**		**94,885**

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2025

Consolidated Fund Receipts

2024		Unrestricted Funds	Diocesan Restricted	MSH Restricted	Total
	MSH Fund Receipts				28,243
19,664	Subscriptions			20,098	
1,503	Overseas Fund (d)			1,893	
1,522	Relief Fund (d)			1,728	
50	B&I Development Fund (d)			0	
0	Fabric Fund (d)			0	
2,618	MSH Projects (e)			3,991	
310	MSH General Fund (d)			533	
	Diocesan Fund Receipts				14,344
9,368	AFIA (a)		13,994		
0.00	Choir		0		
200	SCIP (b)		350		
0	Indoor Members (c)		0		
	Unrestricted Fund Receipts				
10,931	Diocesan Subscriptions	11,106			11,106
2,589	Diocesan Donations	3,415			3,415
2,870	Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	4,421			4,421
674	Turnover Related Grant	608			608
	Receipts from Sales				
0	General	0			0
439	MUE Literature	344			344
	Activities				
1,010	Festival Services	539			539
2,785	Retreat	4,098			4,098
33	Refreshments	84			84
0	General	0			0
	Other Receipts				
42	Sundry	39			39
540	Gifts	807			807
0	Special Events	0			0
	Investment Income				
13	High Interest Savings Account	12			12
3,228	CBF Deposit Account	2,760			2,760
60,387	**Total Receipts**	**28,233**	**14,344**	**28,243**	**70,820**

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2025

Consolidated Fund Payments

2024		Unrestricted Funds	Diocesan Restricted	MSH Restricted	Total
	Payments to Mary Sumner House				28,243
19,664	Subscriptions			20,098	
1,503	Overseas Fund (d)			1,893	
1,522	Relief Fund (d)			1,728	
50	B&I Development Fund (d)			0	
0	Fabric Fund (d)			0	
2,618	MSH Projects (e)			3,991	
310	MSH General Fund (d)			533	
	Diocesan Grant Making				3,876
12,699	AFIA (a)		3,855		
500	SCIP (b)		0		
39	Indoor Members (c)		21		
0	Choir		0		
	Trustees and Units				
251	Trustees' Costs	511			511
0	Trustees - Unit Travel	0			0
	Activities				
30	Activities - General	0			0
572	Activities - Festival Services	57			57
3,150	Activities - Retreats	4,609			4,609
234	Activities - Conferences	261			261
34	Activities - Refreshments	51			51
0	Activities - Speakers' Expenses	0			0
0	Activities - Communicating English	0			0
(66)	Stock adjustment	11			11
	Total Payments				**5,500**
	Purchases				
0	Purchases - Southwark News	0			0
582	Purchases - MUE Literature	421			421
88	Purchases - General	399			399
	Total Purchases				**820**
	Other Payments				
13,905	Secretary's Salary	10,817			10,817
417	Office Admin and Payroll Services	435			435
17	Secretary's Expenses	0			0
150	Safeguarding	393			393
450	Insurance	480			480
5,708	Rent	5,708			5,708
215	Provincial Expenses	0			0
646	Gifts	855			855
0	Sundry Costs	37			37
110	Bank Charges	89			89
	Total Overheads				**18,814**
65,396	**Total Payments**	**25,133**	**3,876**	**28,243**	**57,252**

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2025

Analysed Summary of Fund Movements in Year

Restricted Funds	Balances 31/12/2024	Receipts 2025	Payments 2025	Net Income/ (Expenditure) in Year	Balances 31/12/2025
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Total Diocesan Funds	**18,496**	**14,344**	**3,876**	**10,468**	**28,964**
Mary Sumner House Funds					
Central Subscriptions	0	20,098	20,098	0	0
MSH Overseas (d)	0	1,893	1,893	0	0
MSH Relief (d)	0	1,728	1,728	0	0
MSH B&I Dev (d)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Fabric (d)	0	0	0	0	0
MSH Projects (e)	0	3,991	3,991	0	0
MSH General (d)	0	533	533	0	0
Total MSH Funds	**0**	**28,243**	**28,243**	**0**	**0**
Total Restricted Funds	**18,496**	**42,587**	**32,119**	**10,468**	**28,964**
General Diocesan Funds	35,592				38,703
Stock	99				88
Current Liabilities	0				0
Contingency (f)	15,000				15,000
Total General Funds	**50,691**	**28,233**	**25,133**	**3,100**	**53,791**
Total Funds	**69,188**	**70,820**	**57,252**	**13,568**	**82,755**
Branch Funds (g)	12,141	50,068	50,080	(12)	12,129
Retained Capital and Reserves	**81,329**	**120,889**	**107,333**	**13,556**	**94,885**

Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese Accounts 2025

Notes

1. Employees – no employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

Funds

a) Away From It All (AFIA) - provision of holidays for deprived families within Southwark Diocese.

b) SCIP - supporting children affected by imprisonment (within Southwark Diocese).

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e) MSH Projects. Fundraising launched or continued by Mary Sumner House during the year. Some branches sent money directly to Mary Sumner House; others sent donations via the diocesan accounts. The amount sent in 2025 was £3,991.00 for the following projects:

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Contingency

f) Money held under the agreed reserves policy to cover rent of office etc in an emergency.

Branch Funds

g) The Branch Funds stated at the year end include several historic balances which have no current evidential support and maybe over (or under) stated. However, the total included amount is less than £1,000, and accordingly there is no risk that the Capital & Reserves are materially overstated on the Balance Sheet. Similarly, it is recognised that the stated branch transactions for the year are incomplete due to the absence of annual reports from several branches, however this does not have any material impact on the fund movements as shown.

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29 September 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO TRUSTEES,
MOTHERS' UNION SOUTHWARK DIOCESE

I report on the accounts of the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese (Charity no. 249815) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

As trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) pf the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Mother's Union, Southwark Diocese 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 trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

    - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with Section 130 of the Act); and
    - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

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



Anthony J Kett FCA