The Mothers' Union

Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

(Registered charity, number 249878)

Annual Report & Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025



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Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Full name The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

Registered charity number 249878

Principal address
Jubilee House, Westgate, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, NG25 0JH

Trustees

S Baird-Smith, Diocesan President
I Garratt
E Toplis
A Hensby
M Pates
S Massey
J Smith from, 01/02/2025

The Board of Trustees meets three times a year. The Members of the Board of Trustees are: The Diocesan President, the Newark and Nottingham Archdeaconry Vice-President, the Unit Co-ordinators, and the Deanery Leaders.

Banking
CCLA Investment Management Ltd, One Angel Lane, London, EC4R 3AB
National Westminster Bank Plc, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3NZ

Independent examiner
Eva Stevens, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2, North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management
The charity is operated under the rules of the Royal Charter of the Mothers Union charity number 240531, dated 15 June 1926 and last amended 24 April 2018.

Overall management of the charity is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the constitution. Deanery Leaders are elected by branch leaders, Diocesan President and Unit Co-ordinators by members of Diocesan Council, and each Vice President by Members of Council in their Archdeaconry. Day to day project activity is managed and carried out by volunteers.

Public benefit statement
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

State of the Diocese
The membership of Mothers' Union Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham is 327 plus 20 honorary life members for the year ended 31 December 2025 with 17 active branches.

The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

Objectives and Activities

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 lifeof the church. 3) to maintain a world-wide 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, and 5) to help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Summary of the main achievements during the period:

TO PROMOTE and support married life.

Members are involved in Pastoral care in their Parishes in co-operation with their incumbents. Members meet regularly in branches, deaneries and archdeaconries. Meetings provide for social and pastoral needs of members, often including lunch or afternoon tea. Speakers are invited to speak on a range of subjects of general interest and to raise awareness of issues and current and future projects and many include this year's theme – Join Us, Join In.
A team of volunteer's co-ordinate hospital visits within the diocese. Services are held in local Care Homes.



The letters of RISE UP stand for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone from any walk of life. It's our goal that Mothers' Union members and churches will work together to be a part of the change and will get involved with our RISE UP challenge.
Domesticabuse@mothersunion.org.

The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

The Mothers' Union Central website has kept members informed of local MU issues and has links to the Diocesan website. This enables members to access worldwide news and information about the organisation.
All members receive a triannual newsletter 'LinkUp' to keep members informed of Mothers' Union projects and news from around the Diocese.

To ENCOURAGE parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.

Many members are involved in Messy Church, Sunday Schools and Toddler groups in their parish churches. Volunteers at Time Travelling! (a Diocesan project for school-age children run in the Cathedral and in several parish churches) include a significant number of MU members.

TO MAINTAIN a worldwide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer, worship and service.

The Indoor Members Prayer Circle keeps in regular contact with elderly members who are no longer able to attend meetings.

Many fund-raising events have taken place to support the Burundi Literacy and Financial Education Programme. ‘Make a Mother’s Day’ campaign sells ethical gifts for Mothering Sunday.

We have 5 allocated overseas link Dioceses; Sebei in Uganda, Buye in Burundi, Ekiti-Oki and Abakaliki in Nigeria, and Belize. We are building up these relationships to support their members in prayer and fellowship.

MU Publications have been sold throughout the diocese to support our projects and also provide resources for use in branch meetings as well as greeting cards and gifts.

TO PROMOTE conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.

The diocese has embraced the national Bye, Buy Childhood campaign which seeks to protect children from excessive and inappropriate marketing. MU believes children should be valued as children and not targeted as adult consumers. The campaign challenges consumerism, seeks to empower parents in making positive choices in how they handle their finances and to challenge retailers, advertisers and the Government.

The Mothers’ Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

A new partnership with the Clewer Initiative is working against modern slavery, which affects children as well as adults.

Mothers' Union is also partnering with Girls' Brigade to empower girls and young women, the campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence was once again well supported.

TO HELP those whose family life has met with adversity.

In 2025 we were able to send eight families to Golden Sands, which is the Haven Caravan Park in Mablethorpe for a week's holiday during the Spring Bank break 2025. None of the families had been on a holiday for at least 3 years and some of the children had, in fact, never had a holiday or even been to the seaside before!

The Haven Group kindly provided, yet again, 8 beautiful caravans at a reduced price to the Mothers Union, including both 2 and 3 bedroomed self-catering vans and access to all the holiday activities and facilities. We were also able to provide gift vouchers for the local Lidl supermarket which helped towards food costs for the families for the week.

Following the holiday in May/June 2025 families were also provided with the 'Bags of Blessings' Christmas gifts for the children and hamper and gift cards to help towards Christmas which were all really appreciated!

While the management of the Contact Centre in Retford (where children can meet their non-custodial parent in a safe environment) is under the control of Children's Links, we continue to support the centre with volunteers and funds collected to help needy families access the service.
We support Police Aid Convoys.

We provide toiletries for homeless people and women's refuges.
Many members use their knitting skills to make premature baby clothes, trauma teddies and vests for African babies. We continue to make 'Prayer Shawls' to be given to those who are sick to bring assurance of Prayer and God's comfort.

The charity's policy on reserves

The charity aims to keep at least enough in the unrestricted funds to cover 3 months' ordinary expenditure, the main risk to the charity would be a severe drop in membership and/ or fundraising. We try to manage our costs effectively and encourage new members to join e.g. the increase in deanery and diocesan member numbers.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed Shelagh Baird-Smith Date 29/06/2026
S Baird-Smith, Trustee

Signed E.G. Toplis Date 29/06/2026
E Toplis, Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese for the year ended 31 December 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

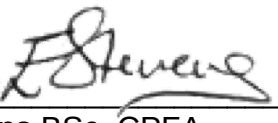
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed  Date 29/06/2026

Eva Stevens BSc, CPFA

Employee of Community Accounting Plus

The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2025

2024 Total Funds £		Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	*2025* Total Funds £
	Receipts				
11301	Subscriptions & donations	2	-	8577	8577
7564	Diocesan funds		6363	896	7259
14072	Charitable funds		-	11052	11052
1671	Literature sales		1661	-	1661
5922	Deaneries & branches	3	-	4191	4191
1263	Bank interest		345	790	1135
366	Sundry receipts	4	-	-	-
42159	**Total receipts**		**8369**	**25506**	**33875**
	Payments				
12446	Charitable funds		-	6926	6926
102	Diocesan funds		-	-	-
9625	Management & administration	5	9754	-	9754
343	General expenses	6	182	-	182
1524	Literature		1234	-	1234
985	Link Up & marketing		212	-	212
13581	Mary Sumner House		-	10227	10227
5986	Deaneries & branches	3	-	4866	4866
44592	**Total payments**		**11382**	**22019**	**33401**
(2433)	**Net receipts/(payments)**		(3013)	3487	474
52365	Cash funds at start of this period		11296	38636	49932
-	Transfers between funds	9	1802	(1802)	-
49932	**Cash funds at end of this period**		**10085**	**40321**	**50406**

The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2025

2024			***2025***
£	**Cash assets**	**Note**	**£**
12858	Nat West current account		12873
25062	CCLA deposit account		26195
12012	Cash & bank balances for deaneries & branches		11338
49932			**50406**
	Other monetary assets		
257	Stock (books & cards etc.)		182
600	Prepayments	**7**	480
857			**662**
	Liabilities		
-	Rent & photocopying		(99)
(876)	Independent examination		(933)
(178)	Management & admin		(67)
(65)	Payroll		(109)
(119)	Trustees expenses		-
(1238)			**(1208)**

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____ Dated 29/06/2026

E Toplis, Trustee

The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Subscriptions & donations

These comprise numerous donations and subscriptions from members, collected centrally or through the branches and deaneries.

3. Deaneries & branches

	Gross	Transfers to Centre	Net
	£	£	£
Receipts	25028	(20836)	4191
Payments	(25702)	20836	(4866)
	(674)	**-**	**(674)**

4. Sundry receipts

	£
	-

5. Management & administration

	£
Accountant payments	1500
Secretary payments	3103
Treasurer payments	1872
Jubilee House Rent	162
Liability Insurance	520
Independent Examiner Fees	876
PPS + Telephone	14
Printing & Stationery	608
Photocopying	96
Payroll charges	263
Trustees expenses - General	33
Trustees expenses - Travel	557
Other control payments	150
	9754

6. General expenses

	£
Conference expenses	130
Sundry payments	52
	182

7. Prepayments

	£
AFIA caravan deposits	480
	480

8. Trustees' and officials' remuneration

During the year trustees and officials received the following sums:

- J Hempstead, £1,500 as Diocesan Accountant
- J Hempstead, £1,872 as Diocesan Treasurer
- J Mason, £3,103 as Diocesan Secretary
- 5 Trustees also received a total of £557 for travel expenses
- 2 Trustees also received a total of £33 for general expenses

The Mothers' Union Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

9. Funds analysis

	Opening balance	Receipts	(Payments)	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Charitable funds:					
Action and Outreach	163	7	-	-	170
Access & Contact Centre	3368	184	-	-	3552
AFIA	16540	9224	(6411)	(169)	19184
Count Your Blessings	-	2078	(416)	(1662)	-
Prison Work	206	6	-	-	212
Time Travelling	26	175	(100)		101
Parenting fund	2394	104	-	-	2498
Subs & donations:					
MSH Fabric	-	50	(50)	-	-
Overseas	75	480	(496)	-	59
Literacy	25	245	(230)	-	40
B+IDF	-	65	(16)	-	49
MSH Subs	1568	7727	(8599)	29	725
Diocesan Projects	2117	65	-	-	2182
Big Summer Appeal	-	475	(455)	-	20
Worldwide	-	430	(380)	-	50
Discretionary fund	142	-	-	-	142
Other:					
Deaneries & Branches	12012	4191	(4866)	-	11337
	38636	**25506**	**(22019)**	**(1802)**	**40321**
Unrestricted funds					
General	11296	8369	(11382)	1802	10085
	11296	**8369**	**(11382)**	**1802**	**10085**

The transfers to the Unrestricted and Time travelling fund from the Access and Contact Centre, the AFIA Funds and Count Your Blessings are to reflect the costs of managing these areas of work.

Description of funds

Charitable funds are run by the Diocese:

Action & Outreach – Funds to support the charity.

Access & contact centre - Supports the work of the contact centre. Where the separated parents meet with their children.

AFIA (Away from it all) – Supports families that are in need of a holiday and haven't been on a holiday in 3 years.

Count your blessings – Each year members fundraise and share the funds between the chosen causes for the year.

Prison work – To support children in a crèche when spouse has visited a prison.

Time Travelling – This project is led by Southwell Minster, to support children visiting and learning about the Minster.
Parent fund – Funds held are to run parenting courses.

Deaneries and branches are funds held in the individual Deaneries and branches:
Diocesan Projects – Funds available to be spent by the Diocese.
Discretionary fund – Funds to help pay subscriptions to Mary Sumner House.
All the other subs and donation funds are to be passed onto the national headquarters of Mothers Union.

Other:
Balances held by the Deaneries and branches.

10. Glossary of terms

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.