ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR YEAR ENDING

31ST DECEMBER 2025



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Guildford

The Mothers' Union – Guildford Diocese

All Saints' Church Hall Office, 564 Woodham Lane, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5SH

Registered Charity No – 249931

Patron – HRH Duchess of Edinburgh

Officers

Diocesan President	Mrs Sylvia Taylor, Nuthatch, Green Lane, Ockham, Woking GU23 6PQ
Vice Presidents	Mrs Kim Darby, 10 Taleworth Park, Ashtead KT21 2NH
	Mr Edwin Catt, 9 Cricket Lea, Lindford, Bordon GU35 0PY
Administrator	Mrs Lesley Templeman, Cornerways, Horsell Park, Woking GU21 4LY
Treasurer	Mrs Elizabeth Newhouse, Whyteleafe, Druids Close, Ashtead KT21 2UH
Chaplain	Revd. Betty Hayes, Cross Foxes, Old Welmore, Yateley GU24 6XU
Banker	Lloyds Bank Plc 147, High Street, Guildford GU1 3AD
Independent Examiner	John C Oliver (MA, FCA),The White Cottage,Crampshaw Lane,Ashtead KT21 2UD

Trustees

Diocesan President	Mrs Sylvia Taylor
Vice Presidents	Mrs Kim Darby and Mr Edwin Catt
Unit Co-ordinators	Mrs Celia Richardson (Finance)
General Trustees	Mrs Jenny Banks, Mrs Elizabeth Newhouse and Mrs Kate Pearmain

Vision, Aims and Objectives

The vision of Mothers' Union is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

The aim and purpose of Mothers' Union is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

In furtherance of this aim and purpose Mothers' Union Guildford will carry out all or any of the following Objects:

2.1 To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding

2.2 To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church

2.3 To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service

2.4 To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children

and

2.5 To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Mothers' Union is firmly rooted in a voluntary ethos. Its governance, leadership and activities are driven by and undertaken through its members.

Activities in Guildford Diocese

1. Women's refuges: The charity supports women in five refuges across the diocese. Members donate food, toiletries and other items, which are collected at the Members' meetings and taken to the refuges by volunteers. Members also respond to ad-hoc appeals for items needed (such as cots or buggies) and provide Christmas gift bags for the women and Easter eggs for the children. The charity gives a small grant to women leaving the refuge to purchase household goods.
2. Woking Night Shelter and Guildford Action: Members support these local charities which offer support to the homeless and those on low incomes by donating goods which are collected at Members' Meetings.
3. Hospital Emergency Admissions: Some branches have direct links with local hospitals to provide small bags of basic toiletries. Members donate items for these bags at Members' Meetings.
4. Prisons: MU members volunteer at Send women's prison, leading craft activities and social sessions, and they also provide craft packs for prisoners to use on their own, a scheme that was set up during the pandemic.
5. Parenting Programme: The charity has a number of accredited parenting coordinators who can lead a range of parenting courses.
6. Advocacy, Lobbying and Consultation: Many campaigns on women's issues and family matters have been led by Mothers' Union nationally and internationally. Some members from Guildford Diocese form part of a panel feeding in views and opinions in furtherance of such campaigns.
7. Communications: The charity has a website which is continually reviewed and updated to provide a more accessible and useful portal for members and non-members. Members receive a twice-yearly magazine from the Mothers' Union ("Connected") and another from Guildford MU ("The Angel"). Regular newsletters are sent out by email to promote MU activities and events.
8. Monthly Pilgrimage of Prayer: This service is traditionally held at the Lady Chapel in Guildford Cathedral, led by members from various deaneries across the diocese in rotation.
9. Intercessory Prayer: A coordinator alerts a team by email when a particular emergency or

prayer need arises, and in some cases small groups meet to focus on prayer for particular requests.

10. Wave of Prayer: Our "Wave of Prayer" is a continuous expression of our commitment in prayer to each other. It runs throughout the year so that the work and members of each and every area in which Mothers' Union is active is prayed for at some point. We include this in our Midday Prayers whenever we meet across the diocese.

The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Guildford Branch) Annual Report & Accounts 2025

Financial Statement

The finance committee met a number of times during 2025 to review the finances in more detail than time allowed during full trustee meetings.

The diocese continues to operate cautiously and seeks to use its funds prudently to support the aims and vision of the Mothers' Union.

We now have just two bank accounts with Lloyds, the general business account and an account mainly used for members' subscriptions, as the MUe trading account was no longer needed.

We hold shares administered by the Guildford Diocese Board of Finance and have shares with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund; we also have a deposit account with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. There was a small loss in the value of our investments over the year.

Members donate generously and fundraise in a variety of ways to support the work of Mothers' Union. In 2025 projects which we helped to finance including AFIA holidays and days out, support work in local prisons and women's refuges, national appeals including the Make-a Mother's Day appeal and the Summer of Hope appeal and the diocesan summer party for families in need.

President's Report for 2025



The year started with a new and smaller Trustee Board – Sylvia Taylor continued as Diocesan President with six trustees to support her. It had proved impossible to get other candidates to stand for election, but trustees continue to look for potential candidates to co-opt.

Trustees met mainly in person (in the Chapter House at Guildford Cathedral), but on occasion via Zoom. They continued to support members by visits to branches.

The work of the Board in 2025 focussed on improving communications, using the traditional means of our twice-yearly magazine, The Angel, but also our website, Facebook page and regular email updates to members.

Trustees looked at ways in which the charity could work with other charities to promote its aims and objectives. To this end guest speaker Rebekah Legg, the CEO of 'Restored' – a Christian charity which speaks out against violence directed at women and girls – came to address members at the Members' Meeting in November.

Trustees also spent time discussing material for a clergy pack to promote the work of Mothers' Union to clergy across the diocese and planning for events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union in 2026.

Sylvia Taylor represented Guildford MU at various Provincial and Cluster Meetings, and Vice President Edwin Catt attended the Leadership Conference held in Liverpool.

Action and Outreach

Refuges:

At present we support five refuges within the diocese: two in Woking, one in Guildford, one in Aldershot and one in Waverley. All families at the refuges were invited to our annual summer party in August which was very successful with about 70 children being entertained by a bouncy castle, a ball pool, a magician and crafts.

The members are very generous, and donations are brought (from a list of needs provided by the refuges) to our two Members' Meetings. 50 Christmas bags for the women at the refuges were assembled by our Hinchley Wood branch and contributions were given to their Christmas party.

Prisons:

At Send women's prison, we held card-making sessions twice a month as well as a social evening for the over 50s in the first half of 2025, but these activities have had to be suspended due to a shortage of prison officers to supervise the sessions.

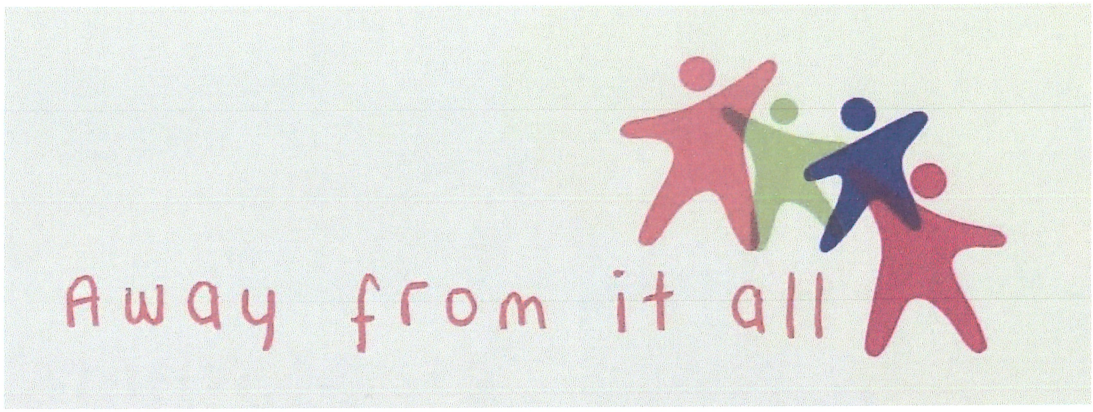
Some members provide card-making packs that are provided for ladies who are not comfortable mixing with other prisoners.

Other activities:

Some branches make up and supply emergency toiletry bags for hospitals.

Goods are collected and donated to the women's night shelter in Woking, the night shelter in Guildford and the drop-in centre for rough sleepers in Guildford. Our members also donate to Guildford Action, a local charity which provides services for people who have fallen through the net or find themselves outside normal society.

Many members use craft skills – knitting for babies and toddlers (with some garments given to local refugees and others sent to a linked MU charity in Uganda), knitting for Missions to Seamen or creating fiddle pinnies and twiddle muffs for dementia sufferers in local care homes. Members have also knitted knee rugs for stroke victims at local hospitals, and hats for prisoners in Wandsworth Prison.



AFIA (Away from It All)

AFIA has again been able to support quite a number of families in need this year.

Working with counselling groups we arranged 4 family holidays to caravan parks near the sea in West Sussex and Dorset. Unfortunately the demand was not high but it was with very short notice, so the holidays provided were at a higher cost than usual. These holidays were for 5 adults and 9 children in total.

AFIA also provided transport so that visitors including refugees and those based in refuges could attend the Mothers' Union summer party at Normandy Village Hall.

At the end of the year we managed to obtain a dedicated email address which will not change each time the AFIA rep for Guildford changes, this should make changeovers as well as bookings, easier for all concerned.

Edwin Catt AFIA Rep



Faith and Prayer

Monthly Pilgrimage of Prayer services continued in the Lady chapel of Guildford Cathedral, led by members from different deaneries/branches across the year.

Two Quiet Days were held in 2025. In June the Day was led by Gertrude Sollars (Spiritual director and past Warden of Readers) and looked at the work of the Holy Spirit. In October the Quiet Day was held at All Saints Woodham, led by Revd. Camilla White on the theme of "Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness" focusing minds on the autumn of our lives. It was greatly enjoyed by the 20 who attended.



A Remembrance Service, devised by the group, was held in the Lady Chapel at Guildford Cathedral on 4 November and led by our chaplain. Funeral Orders of Service were brought of past members and displayed on the altar. Tea lights were lit at the altar rail to remember those who had died over the year and relatives and friends of the loved ones were amongst the congregation.

Members were encouraged to hold a silent vigil in their parish to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence, and to highlight the help available to those suffering abuse.



West Horsley branch mounted an exhibition in church to highlight the issue of domestic abuse.



Reports from Branches

Our branches vary in size – a few have just a handful of members while the largest have over 70. Activities vary from branch to branch, but all are involved in fundraising for MU projects and service to their local community.

- Ashtead branch makes 'Bags of love' for the parents of new pupils at the local CofE Infant School. These paper gift bags are handed out to parents as they drop off their children on the first day of the new school year. The bags contain tissues, a pack of wipes, lip salve, tea and coffee bags and a packet of biscuits, plus an invitation to a coffee morning and prayer card. A similar project has been run at Lyne branch for several years.
- Cake stalls are always a popular way to raise money and were held by many branches over the course of the year. Regular raffles and bring-and-buy stalls also raise funds for a variety of good causes, as do ploughman's or "Soups'n'puds" lunches.
- Members at Camberley St. Paul's branch are all encouraged to bring toilet rolls to each branch meeting! These are given to a local Christian charity, the Hope Hub, which works to support homeless people. On average 48 rolls per month are donated, and the branch also contributes Easter eggs and special food treats at Christmas.
- Members at St Peter's Ash branch send out baptism anniversary cards to families whose infants have been welcomed into the church
- Members at many branches help to run church mother and toddler groups



Safeguarding: a report from Jenny Banks, General Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding

The trustees of Mothers' Union Guildford Diocese continue to follow the guidance issued by Mary Sumner House, the international headquarters for the Mothers' Union.

I have continued to visit several MU branches to talk about safeguarding. These meetings have been well received and there has been much discussion generated about family, lifestyle, and adults' right to choose how they live. As some activities for children and families where MU members help are run by church leaders, there are sometimes issues about who is responsible for safeguarding and how members should raise concerns, so I try to address these issues too.

I try to attend as many as possible of the twice-yearly Members' Meetings and Branch Leaders' meetings to encourage people to openly talk about any concerns they may have.

The trustees continue to use thirtyone:eight for safeguarding checks.

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Mothers' Union - Guildford Diocese ('the charity') for the year ended 31/12/2025.

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 2011 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 2011 Act.

Independent Examiners Qualification

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Independent Examiner's Details

Name: John C Oliver (MA, FCA),

Address: The White Cottage,
Crampshaw Lane,
Ashtead
KT21 2UD

Signature 

Date 3 July 2026

Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

		Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Income from				
	Membership		24,961	24,346
	Gift Aid received		0	0
	Charitable activities		13,448	9,759
	Other trading activities		98	1,022
	Other income		2,084	232
	Investment income	5	2,163	2,172
Total			42,754	37,531
Expenditure on				
	Subscriptions to Mary Sumner House		15,964	15,640
	Diocesan projects	7	4,280	7,305
	Direct charitable expenses		4,743	2,640
	Summer party for refugees and other guests		2,037	2,042
	Retreats & conferences		270	117
	Management & administration	3	14,179	16,209
	Lady Day Service		1,577	1,741
Total			43,050	45,694
Net (deficit)/income before investment gains/(losses)			(296)	(8,163)
Net gain / (loss) on investments			(2,670)	2,118
Net movement in funds			(2,966)	(6,045)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward			81,668	87,713
Total funds carried forward			78,702	81,668

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Investments	5	64,124	66,794
Total Fixed Assets		64,124	66,794
Current Assets			
MUe Stock		0	134
Debtors		-	-
Cash held by branches	8	6,907	8,000
Cash at bank and in hand		16,769	18,654
Total Current Assets		23,676	26,788
Current Liabilities			
Creditors < 1 year	6	(9,098)	(11,914)
Net Current Assets		14,578	14,874
Total Assets less current liabilities		78,702	81,668
Total Funds		78,702	81,668

The notes on page 15 - 17 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 3 July 2026.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Sylvia Taylor
Diocesan President

Elizabeth Newhouse
Honorary Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of Accounting

a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A small entities.

b) The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.

c) The value of the remaining stock was written off in 2025.

d) The unrealised gains/(losses) on investments are based on the market value at the end of the financial year. The market value is deemed to be the mid-market value, which is the average of the bid and the offer price. Unrealised gains/(losses) are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

e) Member subscriptions are considered to be donations in substance and are recognised in the year to which they relate. Subscriptions totalling £9,098 received in 2025 but relating to 2026 have been deferred and shown in creditors.

f) Legacies and donations are accounted for as income either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is virtually certain; this will be once confirmation has been received from the representatives of the estate that payment of the legacy will be made or property transferred and once all conditions attached to the legacy have been fulfilled

g) Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid by the bank.

h) Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

2 Income and Expenditure

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and support of its volunteers. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

3 Analysis of Expenditure

		2025	2024
		£	£
Management & Administration	Office and hall rental	3,329	4,494
	Remuneration incl. expenses	4,913	6,017
	Broadband, Post, Phone, Stationery, Zoom	2,616	2,588
	Insurance	480	405
	Travel incl. mileage	897	617
	The Angel magazine, website	1,599	1,511
	Other expenses	345	577
Total		14,179	16,209

4 Paid staff

The charity has 1 remunerated member of staff in 2025.

5 Investment Assets

Fixed assets investments	£
Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	66,794
Plus net gain (loss) on revaluation	(2,670)
Carrying (market) value at end of year	64,124

Analysis of investments	Market value at year end	Income from investments for the year
	£	£
COIF – 2,577.3 income shares in the CBF CofE Investment Fund	57,212	1,656
Guildford Diocesan BofF Fund – 311.39 shares	6,912	200
Deposit account interest		307
Total	64,124	2,163

6 Creditors & Accruals

Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Subscriptions	9,098	11,914

7 Designated Funds for Diocesan Projects

Funds are held for their designated use for work within the Diocese or passed on to Mary Sumner House or as the Trustees decide.

Movement of Funds

Details of funds held and movement in funds in the current reporting period. These funds are held in Cash at Bank.

	Brought forward	Income	Resources expended	Balance in the year	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Away from it all	4,764	445	3,980	(3,535)	1,229
Women's refuges	0	485	0	485	485
Work in prisons	2,626	150	0	150	2,776
Parenting	919	0	0	0	919
Literacy	2,052	250	300	(50)	2,002
Total Designated Funds	10,361	1,330	4,280	(2,950)	7,411

8 Branch Accounts

Some of the charity's activities are run through the local branches based in the Guildford diocese. Each branch generates some income from items such as membership subs, donations, raffles and refreshment sales and has some related expenses, for example speaker fees. Some branches have their own bank account and they all operate partly or wholly through petty cash.

Branches occasionally remit funds to the charity's main bank account, where it is recorded as a donation. They may also send donations directly to Mothers' Union at Mary Sumner House. The balance held in cash by branches at 31 December 2025 is £6,907 (£8,000 at 31 December 2024).

The total income and expenditure across the branch network is not shown separately within the charity's income and expenditure account and only the net increase or decrease is included.

9 Transactions with Trustees and related parties

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits. No Officer received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity. Trustees are reimbursed for expenses incurred whilst undertaking their duties. These are included in Management and Administration costs.