

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of Canterbury



## Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Canterbury

Registered Charity No 250124

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

# **Mothers' Union Canterbury Diocese Annual Report 2024**

## **Patrons**

The Lord Bishop of Dover Rt Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin

## **Reference and administration details**

Charity Name: Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Canterbury

Registered Charity Number: 250124

Charity's principal address: 3 Woodstock Road  
Sittingbourne  
Kent ME10 4HH

Names of the trustees who manage the charity:

Mrs Jackie Curd- Trustee and acting Diocesan President

Mrs Susan Thomas – Trustee and Diocesan Treasurer

Mrs Susan Spillett – Trustee

Ms Rachel Thomas – Trustee

Mrs Debbie Smith – Trustee

## **Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of Governing document Royal Charter granted 15<sup>th</sup> June 1926 as amended by supplemental Charter dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 1974

Trustee selection methods Elected from membership

## **Our aims and objectives are:**

### **Summary of the objects of the charity as set out by its governing document:**

- 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
- To promote and support married life

## **Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives:**

2024 was a busy year with our AFIA holiday and stabilising our membership. The reduced Trustee Board focused on the priorities of meeting the members, ensuring the key objectives were met and that the AFIA holiday was facilitated. The Trustee Board met bi-monthly with a structured meeting following a pre published agenda. Jackie Curd had attended the Provincial Conferences to represent the Diocese and reported back to the Trustee Board.

Several branches have maintained the running of their toddler group within their church buildings. The volunteers are all Mothers' Union members although one branch is able to fund a Playgroup Leader. The necessary DBS checks and First Aid qualifications were achieved. It was noted by one branch that by attending their toddler group many families sought to explore their Christian faith and were now regularly attending church services. Some members are actively participating in baptism preparation in their church and several branches send out baptism anniversary cards to let the families know we are still praying for them.

Many members are active in running Sunday School groups within their church. The members at St Nicholas, Allington participated in a living tableau – "Journey to Bethlehem" at local schools with an interesting variety of shepherds and angels.

Membership: The members were invited to three Diocesan meetings (March and November) and the AGM in June. The members meetings in the spring and autumn now start with a eucharist and we are grateful to our chaplain Rev Dr Emma Pennington for her continued support. The business then follows, and the meeting concludes with lunch which has proved very popular as a chance for members to chat and meet up with old friends. The AGM in June was chaired by Debbie Smith and was well attended.

The Diocesan Newsletter is published three times a year and delivered to every member of the Diocese. This contains reports and pictures of events that have been held locally, a report from Mary Sumner House, a prayer diary, a report from our overseas link dioceses and a list of forthcoming events across the diocese.

Diocesan Members: Sue Spillett is now corresponding regularly with these members and is planning to try and meet up with some of them. There was an increase in Diocesan Membership as members who had previously been members of branches that had closed transferred to become Diocesan Members.

Indoor Members: Each branch is encouraged to maintain contact with their members who can no longer participate in branch activities but maintain a ministry of prayer.

Cathedral Prayer Time: Every member is invited to join in with our monthly prayer time in the Jesus Chapel of Canterbury Cathedral. The prayer rota is managed by Margaret Horwood.

Wave of Prayer: Sue Spillett organised our Wave of Prayer. The Trustees compiled the service with help from Danielle Ligneau Wilton, our Overseas Link Co-ordinator and each branch held their service at the allocated time.

Corporate Communion: Many branches hold a monthly communion service for its members.

Branch Meetings: The larger branches are able to hold a monthly meeting but the smaller branches meet following a service in their church either midweek or on a Sunday. Each meeting begins with a time of worship and prayer reflecting on God's word followed by a speaker or a faith based activity. One branch has an evening branch for younger members who meet at the allotment in the summer and the pub in the winter. Another branch offers a monthly supper club to its younger mums.

Advent Service: The Advent Service was held in the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral by kind permission of the Dean, The Very Reverend Dr David Monteith. Dean David led our worship assisted by our Chaplain the Rev Dr Emma Pennington.

Rise Up against Domestic Abuse: Wendy Brown has agreed to be the representative on the Domestic Abuse Community of Interest. Branches were encouraged to pray for the victims of Domestic Abuse at their meetings. In November many branches and Canterbury Cathedral set up a red chair in their church as part of the global "16 days of Activism" campaign. Several held prayer meetings during this time and knitted purple and white hearts and origami doves were used symbolically to demonstrate the hope for peace and transformation in the lives of the victims.

Two churches have achieved the Bronze Rise Up Award – St Peter's, Boughton Monchelsea and St Martin and St Paul's, Canterbury. Other branches are working towards achieving this award.

Gifts of Support: Several branches supported the Blytheswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal by filling shoeboxes with gifts for those in Ukraine. Many branches also prepared wrapped gifts for those in local Mental Health hospitals who wouldn't otherwise receive a gift. Holy Trinity in Margate have supported young people leaving foster care with a new rucksack for their belongings. The rucksack also contains some toiletries. Several bags of knitted baby hats for newborn babies have been delivered to local maternity units. Some branches have been able to support their local refuge with specific gifts when requested and particularly at Christmas and Easter

Prisons: Marianna Poliszczuk and fellow members from Maidstone have maintained our links with the local prison and guided by the prison chaplain have given cards and gifts at festival times.

AFIA: August saw 12 families enjoy a fully funded, accompanied holiday in Ashburnham Conference Centre, Eastbourne. The team was led by Sue Thomas ably assisted by 11 volunteers. The families were greeted on the Sunday afternoon and shown to their rooms where a basket of toiletries and beach towels awaited them, all donated by the members. On Monday after a walk around the lake a series of craft activities organised by Ruth Baker helped everybody get to know each other. On Tuesday we were all on a coach to Knockholt Adventure Centre for the day. The weather was perfect and a large variety of animals, plenty of free rides and water play made for a perfect day out. On Wednesday we were back in the craft room and had fun with bubbles, tie dying, making picture frames and outdoor play. On

Thursday we went to Eastbourne where we had use of a local church hall for refuge if needed and the bonus of the Eastbourne Air Show. The following morning there were lots of tears as goodbyes were said we all returned home. The feedback from the families was very positive. Most families commented on the kindness they received and were amazed that there was an organisation that cared enough to fundraise for the holiday and then the volunteers were with them for the entire holiday.

The Trustees have looked at the Flourishing Families course being shared by Mary Sumner House but felt that there weren't enough resources to undertake this at present. The Trustee Board organised and ran the triennial elections for the next triennium 2025-2027.

Going forward:

We hope to increase the number of Trustees to the Board.

Explore the possibility of offering Quiet Days to our members.

Review the constitution.

Update Trustees on Governance training.

Cascade the Safeguarding training when available.

Plan events and marketing for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026.

**MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

Page 1

	<u>Year ended</u>		<u>Year ended</u>	
	<u>31st December 2023</u>		<u>31st December 2024</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>				
<b>Central Funds</b>				
Subscriptions		7,335.00		7,094.00
Overseas Funds		370.15		705.56
Emergency Relief Fund		60.00		130.00
General Fund		160.00		110.00
Fabric Fund		11.00		10.00
Britain & Ireland Development Fund		40.00		27.83
Wheels Appeal				
Christmas Appeal				
Make a Mothers Day				100.00
Summer of Hope		151.08		
<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>		<b>8,127.23</b>		<b>8,177.39</b>
<b>Diocesan Funds</b>				
Subscriptions		2,445.00		2,146.00
Donations				
Diocesan Project Fund				0.00
Diocesan Project - AFIA		6,431.50		7,761.58
Literature and Badges		189.75		
Miscellaneous Income		30.00		
Newsletter				
Bank Interest		38.77		238.17
CBF Interest		529.07		904.31
Sales Grant MSH		420.93		394.29
Tax Refund - Gift Aid General Fund		487.50		648.63
Archdeaconry fundraising				0.00
Diocesan General Fund		591.36		4,666.87
Archdeaconry		11,066.15		10,357.99
Branches		16,975.32		18,265.08
<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>		<b>39,205.35</b>		<b>45,382.92</b>
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>		<b>47,332.58</b>		<b>53,560.31</b>

**MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

Page 2

	<u>Year ended</u>		<u>Year ended</u>	
	<u>31st December 2023</u>		<u>31st December 2024</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Resouces Expended</u></b>				
<b>Central Funds</b>				
Subscriptions		7,329.00		7,038.00
Overseas Funds		370.15		705.56
Emergency Relief Fund		60.00		130.00
General Fund		160.00		110.00
Fabric Fund		11.00		10.00
Britain & Ireland Development Fund		40.00		27.83
Wheels Appeal				
Christmas Appeal				
Make a Mothers Day				100.00
Summer of hope		151.08		
<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>		<b>8,121.23</b>		<b>8,121.39</b>
<b>Diocesan Funds</b>				
Printing/Post		93.58		82.17
Insurance		449.50		449.50
Diocesan Project Fund		153.95		72.00
Diocesan Project - AFIA		1,906.00		15,710.00
Literature and Badges		211.70		11.90
Miscellaneous Expenditure		38.00		175.00
Newsletter		1,040.00		850.00
Travel Expenses				74.69
Trustees Expenses		114.30		
Hire of Rooms		120.00		190.00
Fundraising expenses		96.58		
Province Contribution				115.00
Conferences		107.50		117.00
DBS Checks				0.00
Archdeaonries		10,918.83		10,497.61
Branches		15,395.14		17,730.26
<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>		<b>30,645.08</b>		<b>46,075.13</b>
<b><u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u></b>		<b>38,766.31</b>		<b>54,196.52</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>8,566.27</b>		<b>-636.21</b>
<b>Opening Cash and Bank Balances</b>		<b>41,018.80</b>		<b>49,585.07</b>
<b>Closing Cash and Bank Balances</b>		<b>49,585.07</b>		<b>48,948.86</b>

## MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY

31-Dec-24

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>£</u>
Literature & Badges	-	Literature & Badges	11.90
Subs M.S.H.	7,094.00	Subs M.S.H.	7,038.00
Donations M.S.H.	1,083.39	Donations M.S.H.	1,083.39
Subs Diocese	2,146.00	Province Contribution	115.00
Diocese General Fund	1,365.90	Diocese Project Fund	72.00
Diocese Project Fund		A.F.I.A.	15,710.00
A.F.I.A.	7,761.58	Legacy	175.00
Archdeaconry Fundraising		Newsletter	850.00
Legacy	3,300.97	DBS Checks	
Bank Interest	238.17	Misc Expenditure	
CBF Interest	904.31		
		Travel Expenses	
		Trustee Expenses	74.69
Sales Grant M.S.H.	394.29	Print/Postage	82.17
Gift Aid General Fund	648.63	Insurance	449.50
Gift Aid Other Funds		Conferences	117.00
		Hire of Rooms	190.00
		Fundraising expenses	
	<u>24,937.24</u>		<u>25,968.65</u>

### OPENING BALANCES

#### Fund Balances

General Fund	11,045.29
Diocese Project Fund	14,011.33
Diocese Project - AFIA	12,743.13
Training Fund	222.46
Archdeaonries	2,647.00
Branches	8,846.86
Money due to M.S.H.	69.00
	<u>49,585.07</u>

#### Bank Balances

	-
Current account	6,015.14
Deposit account	15,038.77
CBF Deposit a/c	17,037.30
Archdeaonries	2,647.00
Branches	8,846.86
	<u>49,585.07</u>

### CLOSING BALANCES

#### Fund Balances

General Fund	14,852.33
Diocese Project Fund	13,939.33
Diocese Project - AFIA	4,794.71
Training Fund	222.46
Restricted Fund - Legacy	3,125.97
Archdeaonries	2,507.38
Branches	9,381.68
Money due to M.S.H.	125.00
	<u>48,948.86</u>

#### Bank Balances

	-
Current Account	5,841.25
Deposit Account	13,276.94
CBF Deposit a/c	17,941.61
Archdeaonries	2,507.38
Branches	9,381.68
	<u>48,948.86</u>

**Mothers' Union Diocese of Canterbury**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

	2023	2024
	£	£
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
Bank Current Account	6,015.14	5,841.25
CBF Deposit Account	17,037.30	17,941.61
Bank Deposit Account	15,038.77	13,276.94
Archdeaconries	2,647.00	2,507.38
Branches	8,846.86	9,381.68
	<u>49,585.07</u>	<u>48,948.86</u>



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

MOTHER UNION DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY

On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Charity no (if any)

250 124

Set out on pages

Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below\*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: P.B.T.

Date: 1/4/25

Name: PETER BARTON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

FCA