



MOTHERS' UNION LEICESTER DIOCESE

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 250038

PATRON: THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE

CONSTITUTION

17 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. MEMBERSHIP

Mothers' Union Leicester Diocese is affiliated to Mothers' Union (charity no. 240531), operates in line with its Constitution and with charity law, and shares the same Aim and Objects, namely:

Aim: the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life

Objects:

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

Membership is open to all who:

- have been baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and

- declare their support for the Aim and Objects of the Charity.

Members may be formally enrolled during a church service or meeting of Mothers' Union.

An annual subscription shall be paid by each member, either direct to Mothers' Union Leicester Diocese or to a local branch of the Charity.

2. TRUSTEES

The Trustees manage the affairs of the Charity and comprise:

- the Diocesan President
- up to 2 past Diocesan Presidents
- up to 7 elected Trustees
- The Trustees may co-opt one person for the duration of that triennial period.

The Trustees shall meet at least 4 times a year, either in person or by suitable electronic means, and shall:

- encourage the outworking of the Charity's Aim and Objects in Leicester Diocese
- transact business referred by the central Charity
- arrange and carry out all necessary business, including financial

Meetings of the Trustees may be chaired by the Diocesan President or by another Trustee.

The quorum for the transaction of business by the Trustees shall be fifty percent plus one.

Any matters requiring a decision at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes by members present and in the case of a tied vote, the chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

3. ELECTIONS

Elections shall be held during the third year of each triennial period, either in person, by post or by suitable electronic means, where more than the required

number of candidates are nominated for any role. Voting is by straight majority, with the Diocesan President holding a casting vote in case of a tie.

- The Diocesan President shall be elected by the membership.
- All past Diocesan Presidents resident in the Diocese shall elect up to 2 of their number to serve as Trustees during each triennial period.
- Up to 7 Trustees shall be elected by the membership to serve as Trustees during each triennial period.
- Each member shall have one vote in all elections.

4. FINANCE

Finances shall be handled in accordance with charity law. A bank account shall be held in the name of the Charity, not in the name of an individual. Accounting records shall be kept and independently examined annually.

The annual membership subscription shall be made up as follows:

- the annual subscription payable to central Mothers' Union
- the annual subscription set by the Trustees, and payable to Diocesan funds
- the annual subscription set by a branch, if appropriate, and payable to branch funds

5. FURTHER GUIDANCE

Detailed guidance notes accompany this Constitution and should be read in conjunction with it.

6. AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

The Trustees shall have power to revoke, amend or add to this Constitution, subject to any such alteration being in harmony with the Constitution of central Mothers' Union. Notice of any proposed revocation or amendment shall be subject to consultation with the members.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR MEMBERS

17 SEPTEMBER 2024

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONSTITUTION

7. MEMBERSHIP

Individuals may join in any one of the following ways:

- **branch member:** paying their annual subscription through a local branch, usually focused on a church, and receiving most communication through the branch
- **diocesan member:** paying their subscription direct to the diocese and receiving all communication by post and/or email
- **fellowship group member:** a diocesan member who also belongs to a group where all are diocesan members
- **indoor member:** receiving cards and letters at Easter, Christmas and birthdays

8. BRANCHES

In order to ensure members are kept informed about the activities of Mothers' Union locally and further afield, and subscriptions and other finance are handled correctly, a branch should elect a committee, including a Leader, Secretary and Treasurer.

Close contact should be maintained between the branch and the clergy and between the branch and the diocesan Mothers' Union.

In the event that a branch considers closing, this should be discussed in advance with the clergy and with the diocesan Mothers' Union. If the branch goes on to close, a closure service should be organised in consultation with the diocesan Mothers' Union and members should be encouraged to take up another form of membership. Any funds remaining should be sent to the Diocesan Treasurer for Mothers' Union work. Written records should be deposited either in their church archive or at the local Record Office.

9. AREA GROUPINGS

Members may organise themselves over wider areas, for example deaneries, and form committees to enable them to work together.

10. SAFEGUARDING

Subject to the requirements of Mothers' Union, the Trustees shall ensure that a safeguarding policy has been adopted.

11. AMENDMENTS TO THESE GUIDANCE NOTES

The Trustees shall have power to revoke, amend or add to these guidance notes, subject to any such alteration being in harmony with the practice and Constitution of the Mothers' Union. Any proposed changes shall be communicated to the members as soon as possible.