



Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester

Registered Charity Number: 250038

Trustees' Annual Report & Consolidated Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Legal and administrative information

Registered Charity Name: The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Leicester Branch)

Charity Number: 250038

Address: St Martins House
7 Peacock Lane
Leicester
LE1 5PZ

Trustees:

Ruth Fryer	Diocesan President from 1/1/25
Margaret Rouse	Past Diocesan President
Susan Wilson	Past Diocesan President
Yvonne Smith	Past Diocesan President (to 31/12/24)
Mary Clarkson	
Janice Lunn (to 31/12/24)	
Noreen Mewies (from 1/1/25)	
Eileen Payne	
Cynthia Thomson	Faith Adviser (to 31/12/24)

The Trustees are constituted as follows:

Diocesan President	elected by the membership
Up to two Past Diocesan Presidents	chosen by them
Up to seven Trustees	elected by the membership

Administrator: Kate Cooper

Honorary Treasurer Susan Wilson

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Robert P. Appleby, MA, FCA

Rutland House, 23–25 Friar Lane, Leicester, LE1 5QQ

Trustees' Annual Report 1 January to 31 December 2024

Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester is a charity federated to similar charities bearing the same name, and with the same Aim and Objects and sharing the same ethos and direction as the central charity. It is governed by its own constitution (revised September 2024). The elected Board of Trustees makes major decisions and carries out or enables practical projects. The elected Chair of Trustees (Diocesan President) attends Provincial Conference and reports back to the Diocese. One part-time administrator is employed for 9 hours per week. All trading is channelled through Mothers' Union Enterprises Ltd.

The aim of Mothers' Union is to advance the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life and this is focused on five objectives: to promote and support marriage; 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.

There are over 500 Mothers' Union members in Leicester Diocese. Most are members of branches in Anglican churches throughout the Diocese; others (Diocesan Members) pay their subscription and receive mailings direct from our Leicester office and have the option of meeting in groups but without the administration involved in a branch. All are invited to attend our Members' Forum meetings, which are held twice per year to enable members to meet each other and to hear news of Mothers' Union work locally, nationally and internationally.

Members are involved in local projects and ministry as well as supporting the work of the central Mothers' Union charity. Involvement includes prayer, volunteer time, donating goods or funds. All our events and projects welcome involvement from members and non-members alike. We try to encourage new membership wherever possible and keep our local work under review to try to be as effective as possible.

In 2024, we were, once again, able to organise and fund a holiday on the east coast for 10 Leicestershire families who had either never had a holiday or not had one for several years. In addition, we were able to offer a holiday, in a suitable caravan, to a family with special needs on a different week. Unfortunately, that did not work out as well as hoped for that family. Our Away From It All Holiday Project provides a fully-funded holiday in self-catering

caravans at Haven Golden Sands Holiday Park in Mablethorpe. This holiday park has free activities and amusements for families, as well as being close to the beach. We also provide return transport and a generous grocery pack for each family. Members of the organising committee accompany the families to provide friendly support throughout the holiday. The holiday provides families with a welcome break from daily pressures. Families are referred to us by Mothers' Union members, clergy, health visitors, teachers, social workers or other agencies. Mothers' Union members, with occasional very welcome support from local charities, raise the money needed to provide the holiday and their funds are put to very good use. In 2024 we received a generous donation Barwell Poor's Platt Charity.

Members continued to support local initiatives to help families in need, including those of prisoners, vulnerable and elderly people throughout the year. We kept them regularly informed of current needs as they collected items such as clothes, toiletries and equipment for babies and mothers; Easter eggs; Easter and Christmas craft items; women's underwear; hats, gloves, scarves and toiletries. We donated Easter eggs, Christmas gifts and craft items to HMP Leicester and HMP Gartree and to Women's Aid. Via a prison chaplain, we sent Christmas cards to prisoners at HMP Fosse Way.

2024 was as busy as ever with requests for help from our Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire project fund. Blankets, hats and clothes were regularly requested, along with nappies, wipes and food for babies. Bedding and baby blankets were also supplied. Items were often sourced from charity shops, which sell at reasonable prices as well as, in turn, supporting their own charities. Those who received our support welcomed the help that we were able to offer.

One trustee represents Mothers' Union on the Diocesan Panel for Social Responsibility, and another is involved in the Diocesan response to modern-day slavery.

We continue to maintain a prayer chain to support anyone in need. We keep contact with members who are housebound by sending greetings cards and letters. As well as information by email, we produced our printed Diocesan newspaper twice in 2024. However, in the autumn members voted to revert to three issues for 2025, although with the option of a digital copy for those who would prefer it. The printed version is still a very important method of communication, particularly for those who do not have internet access.

We continue to work hard to establish and maintain contact with our five Mothers' Union prayer partners in Kenya, Nigeria (2), Solomon Islands and Zambia. We continue to pray for them all, encouraging all members to particularly remember them at the end of June and beginning of July each year when our group appears in the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer schedule.

Our members have continued to generously support the Mothers' Union project to combat Female Genital Mutilation in the Diocese of Kiteto in Tanzania, both in prayer and with donations. In January 2024, one of our members visited Kiteto and brought back news of the progress of the project and how the donation we made in 2023 was helping the Mothers' Union members there to challenge a deeply-rooted cultural practice that persists in practice, although it is now illegal in Tanzania. Funds collected in 2024 will be sent to the Diocese of Kiteto in January 2025.

We continued to support the work of the central organisation by selling Mothers' Union cards and gifts among our members and friends. Our Diocesan MU Enterprises Representative orders in bulk, but individuals can also put in orders. We received 10% commission on all our purchases, whether made by our Representative or by individuals.

We promoted events organised by central Mothers' Union throughout the year. Online Midday Prayers Monday to Saturday each week, led by central staff or members, continued to be a great success, with members participating from all over the world. We also encouraged members to support central fundraising appeals if they were able. Central Mothers' Union have continued to provide resources for members on their website.

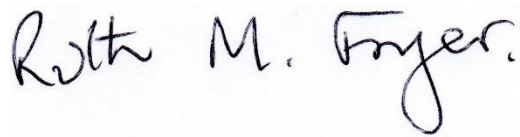
We are very grateful to the Diocese of Leicester for accommodating our part-time Administrator in St Martins House, Leicester, where she works one part-day each week. Her remaining hours are flexible and worked at home.

Our assets at 31 December 2024 were £2,095 less than at the start of the year, most of the decrease being seen in the funds held by branches. We are grateful to all our members for their financial support. The Trustees have examined the current level of unrestricted reserves, £26,543, and assess this to be satisfactory to secure the charity's immediate future. However, in common with most other dioceses, falling membership remains a concern.

Assessment and mitigation of risk is undertaken by the Finance and Administration Working Group and reported to the Trustees. The Trustees are paying due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit as we seek to meet our charitable objectives. Central Mothers' Union produced its own Safeguarding Policy at the end of 2023 and the Trustees adopted this in January 2024. Two Trustees attended training on the new policy during the year.

Prepared by Susan Wilson, Diocesan Treasurer.

The report was approved by the Trustees on 20th May 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruth M. Fryer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'R' and 'F'.

On behalf of the Trustees

Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

		General Fund	Central Funds	Local Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income		10,188	15,555	7,839	33,582	39,365
Expenditure		11,095	15,338	7,970	34,403	37,491
Surplus/(Deficit)		(907)	217	(131)	(821)	1,874
Balances brought forward 1 January		27,450	322	21,854	49,626	47,752
Balances carried forward 31 December		26,543	539	21,723	48,805	49,626

	Note	General Fund	Central Funds	Local Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Subscriptions		2,633	12,667		15,300	16,459
Insurance		106			106	124
Diocesan General Fund		2,624			2,624	4,099
Gift Aid Income Tax recovered		2,420			2,420	2,089
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme					-	110
MU Enterprises sales commission	1	480			480	482
Recycling		757			757	668
Investment income		1,148		281	1,429	1,061
Diocesan events					-	490
FGM Tanzania				1,979	1,979	1,345
Other income		20			20	-
Overseas Development Fund					-	50
Relief Fund					-	20
Britain & Ireland Development Fund			204		204	770
MSH Summer of Hope			263		263	140
MSH General Fund			2,421		2,421	2,819
MSH Christmas Appeal					-	9
MU Literature					-	61
Away From It All Holiday Project	2			3,960	3,960	6,742
Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire				1,478	1,478	1,827
Difference in Supporting Homeless in Leics funds				141	141	-
Total income		10,188	15,555	7,839	33,582	39,365

Expenditure	Note	General Fund	Central Funds	Local Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
MSH subscriptions		180	12,450		12,630	12,977
Staff salary		5,616			5,616	5,101
Insurance		450			450	450
Stationery & equipment		23			23	34
Postage		215			215	238
Photocopying					-	27
Bank charges		60			60	86
Meeting room hire & Zoom		90			90	365
Website					-	13
MUspaper		3,787			3,787	3,393
Officials' expenses		104			104	19
Training		167			167	116
Diocesan events		104			104	848
MSH publications		69			69	78
Canterbury Province		115			115	100
Other expenditure		20			20	-
Overseas Development Fund					-	50
Relief Fund					-	20
Britain & Ireland Development Fund			204		204	770
MSH Summer of Hope Appeal			263		263	140
MSH General Fund			2,421		2,421	2,819
MSH Christmas Appeal					-	9
MU Literature					-	61
Difference in MU Literature assets	1			166	166	89
Away From It All Holiday Project	2			5,855	5,855	6,246
Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire				1,478	1,478	1,888
Difference in Supporting Homeless in Leics funds					-	266
FGM Tanzania					-	1,050
Modern Slavery		60			60	-
Prisons		35			35	-
Difference in funds held by branches	3			471	471	238
Total expenditure		11,095	15,338	7,970	34,403	37,491

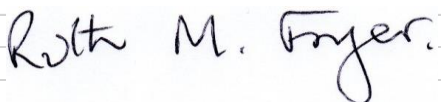
Away From It All Holiday Project:						
				2024		2023
				£		£
Income:						
Balance at 1st January				10,394		9,691
Donations				3,460		6,742
Grants				500		-
Interest on CBF account				281		207
Total				14,635		16,640
Expenditure				5,855		6,246
Balance at 31 December				8,780		10,394
Expenditure breakdown:						
Accommodation				3,868		4,162
Coaches				1,400		1,440
Food				500		500
Mobility scooters				-		144
Expenses				87		-
Total				5,855		6,246

Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire account:						
				2024		2023
				£		£
Income:						
Balance 1 January				5,582		5,848
Donations				1,478		1,888
Total				7,060		7,736
Expenditure				1,338		2,154
Balance 31 December				5,722		5,582

FGM Project:						
				2024		2023
				£		£
Income:						
Balance 1 January				345		50
Donations				1,979		1,345
Total				2,324		1,395
Expenditure				-		1,050
Balance 31 December				2,324		345

Current Assets:						
	Note	General Fund	Central Funds	Local Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
CAF Bank Cash Account		3,632	13,324	7,154	24,110	9,891
CAF Bank Gold Account		3,610			3,610	3,522
CBF Deposit Account		19,736			19,736	19,736
Nat West MU Literature account				508	508	619
MU Literature cash in hand				84	84	83
MU Literature debtors				-	-	2
MU Literature stock	1			517	517	571
CBF Away From It All Holiday Project account				5,405	5,405	5,405
Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire account				5,722	5,722	5,581
Funds held by branches	3			3,849	3,849	4,320
Creditors	4	(435)	(12,785)	(1,515)	(14,735)	(105)
Total Current Assets		26,543	539	21,724	48,806	49,625

Notes to the accounts

Notes forming part of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024:					
1. MU Literature					
Stock is bought at retail price from Mothers' Union Enterprises Ltd. £63 of dated or damaged stock was written off during 2024.					
2. Away From It All Holiday Project					
Fund balance at 31 December 2024 is £8,780.					
3. Funds held by branches					
At 31 December 2024 Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester had 21 branches. The total assets held at 31 December 2024 by the 19 branches which submitted returns was £3,849.					
4. Creditors at 31/12/24					
	General	Central	Local	Total	
	£	£	£	£	
Late subscriptions 2022/2023/2024	180	9,897		10,077	
Officials' expenses	97		37	134	
Stationery	23			23	
Prisons	35			35	
Canterbury Province	100			100	
Donations to central MU Funds		2,888		2,888	
Supporting Homeless in Leicestershire			1,478	1,478	
	435	12,785	1,515	14,735	
This is the financial position of Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester as at 31 December 2024.					
The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.					
Prepared by Susan Wilson, Diocesan Treasurer					
The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20th May 2025 .					
					
On behalf of the Trustees					

Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees and members of Mothers' Union Diocese of Leicester on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, set out on pages 8 to 11 of this document

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 of the Charities Act),
and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

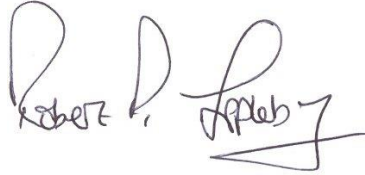
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert P. Appleby'.

Robert P. Appleby, MA, FCA
Rutland House
23-25 Friar Lane
Leicester
LE1 5QQ

8th August 2025