

Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union

Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2022

Vision

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue by praying, campaigning and enabling.

Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through supporting strong relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation at all levels.

Values

We are firmly rooted in voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration. Our governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide. We are inclusive and work with people of all faiths and none.

Aim

The Aim of the Mothers' Union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In particular we aim to:

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

Objectives and Activities

Together with members across the world, our objectives are:

- **Strengthen** communities all over the world
- **Help** the most disadvantaged at home
- **Shape** how we advocate for the rights of families
- **Build** supportive, loving relationships
- **Develop** our own relationship with God.

Achievements & Challenges

The MU theme in 2022 has been *Transformation – Now!* This has been fundamental to how we have driven forward our Strategy *Flourishing together*.

Connecting with the Church Mission:

Strengthening our role within the wider church community

The MU continues to play a big part in the mission of their local church. This includes active roles in worship as well as outreach. Examples of engagement in worship events includes:

- Distributing crafted paper flowers with an “eco” flavour. The leaves of the flowers were “decorated” with a packet of seeds plus a bible verse, at the Mothering Day service at Christ Church Purley
- MU members providing mulled wine and mince pies and a warm space as a place of respite in support of a Live Nativity at Christ Church Purley with a donkey, (Pedro), support cast, narrative and carol singing.
- Members helping to make the poppy display in church at St Paul’s Hook
- Leading one of the monthly Sunday services focused on Mission partners with a focus on AFIA (South Norwood)
- Leading a service for Mary Sumner day (Caterham St John’s).
- Leading Mothering Sunday worship including the sermon, and organising the local Ecumenical World Day of Prayer service in Sanderstead. Both were live streamed and can be viewed on YouTube.



The Church Mission and that of the MU has much in common and reaching out to those in need and to support children and families to flourish is a key focus for both. Examples of joint activity during 2022 includes

- Involvement in the baby and toddler group called “Carousel” as part of the Church’s Outreach at Christ Church Purley
- Responding to the war in Ukraine by providing a home for a Ukrainian family in the local area in Sanderstead
- Distributing Angels in the community in Horley
- Making 12 loaves of sandwiches every Friday during the winter and delivering them to Nightwatch in Croydon (South Norwood)

Other events where members have a key part to play include:

- Supporting an exhibition of the history of St Mark’s South Norwood with MU members sourcing gifts to sell.
- Arranging easter events with crafts, activities games and refreshments for mother and toddler group in Purley and Church and Baptism families in Caterham.



Having an impact:

Meeting the needs of families facing injustice and adversity



Tea @ 2 (previously Tea@3) started back in the autumn with 9 volunteers. The team continue to provide a relaxed space and listening ear for the parents of the tiny babies being cared for at the Evelina unit whilst offering tea and

home-made cakes in the parent’s room.

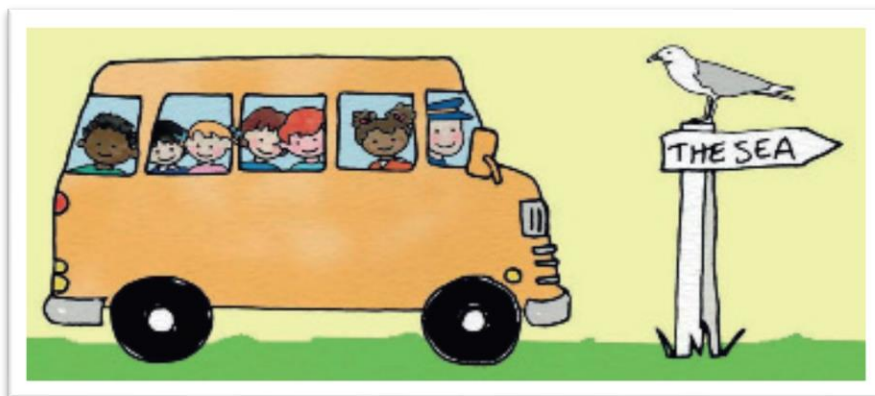
Prison Links: Belmarsh Prison Visitor Centre continues to be supported by Jan Gosling and although the Trustees continue to offer funds to support activities with the children there is more that could still be done to encourage links to all the Prisons in our diocese. At



Christmas members from Horley made Christmas tree decorations for Wandsworth Prison. Members are also making woollen hats for prisoners, now a Diocesan wide initiative.

Tea and Talk initiated by Cynthia Smith continues in South Croydon. Although the group is small the impact has been enormous for those who have been able to engage. The support has been so strong that connections have been maintained with a family who had to move away whilst waiting for asylum. The MU has also provided funds for Christmas presents for the families.

AFIA continues to be a jewel in the crown of our outreach work. Over the year 38 adults, and 46 children have benefited from the money spent (totalling nearly £14,000). This has included holidays and day trips; with accommodation in Bed and Breakfast hotels and Combe Haven caravan park. This could not continue without the support of MU funding and the willingness of organisations to be flexible to the needs of our families. One family who had never had a holiday sought our help. They have a child with a life-limiting condition who needs round the clock care. As such the venue needs to accommodate the day nurse and the night nurse and 8 members of the family. Butlins were very good in finding suitable accommodation even though it was expensive. Sadly, the child was



admitted to hospital so the family were unable to get away but Butlins gave us the option to save the total amount of money until next year or the year after, to hopefully enable the family to get away in the future. We are grateful to the flexibility of all the providers

used and for their willingness to provide discounts where possible. In providing the funding for 12 adults and 12 children from a local women's refuge to enjoy a day trip to Butlins at Bognor Regis, we received a 25% discount on the entrance fee.

Responding to Gender Based Violence

For many years now we have had a focus on Gender Based Violence in particular raising its profile during the 16 days of activism at the end of November. However, for many this is not a once-a-year focus. Many branches continue to look at ways throughout the year through prayer, campaigning and action. This includes collections for women's refuges in Sutton (St Dunstan's Cheam supported by other Branches in the Deanery) Croydon (St Mildred's Addiscombe) and in Horley. In each case



members continue to collect gifts from their communities for the women, all of which are really appreciated.



In order to raise awareness of the issues facing women as well as other vulnerable groups in our community, a number of members attended an event on the 26th November at Southwark Cathedral. The focus was Modern-Day Slavery and was organised by the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus. There was the opportunity to hear from other organisations also working to eradicate this scourge on society. Following on

from the event, a course designed by the Clewer initiative is being rolled out across Reigate to bring churches together to plan for action. The MU members in the area are key players in this partnership.

Developing members:

Faith and Prayer

We have continued to meet and pray and engage with our programme of monthly Cathedral Prayers, Lady Day, Festival and Advent services, Quiet days, Wave of Prayer and our Prayer Chain. These events have taken place across the Diocese and within branches. There has been links with World Day of Prayer, vigils for peace in Ukraine and involvement with 'Thy Kingdom Come'. These included recordings of Hymns sung by members of the MU from St Mildred's Choir Addiscombe.

Thanks, are given to the Revd Esther Foss who led our Lent and our Mary Sumner Quiet Days and to the Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon for Reigate who led the retreat at Wychcroft.

Learning more about social injustice

Other events that took place in 2022 included talks focusing on

- Refugees: our Neighbours. With a talk from the Croydon Refugee Day Centre (Christ Church Purley).
- The Resilience of Older people (St Barnabas Mitcham).
- Gender Dysphoria: a personal reflection (St John's Caterham)
- 'A Day in the Life of East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service' (Tandridge and Reigate)



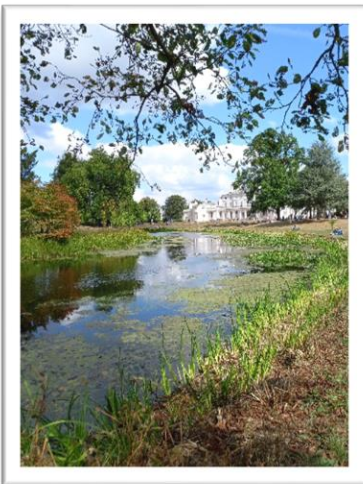
- Clewer Initiative Lent course 'Children in the Shadows' highlighting problems of domestic abuse (Addiscombe, St Mary Magdalene with St Martin's)
- Christians against poverty (St Paul's Hook)

Fellowship & Fundraising

The Mothers' Union members in Southwark continue to show enormous energy and enthusiasm for arranging events that bring joy and interest to members lives. Examples of this include:



- Programmes included talks from members about their experiences, talks about features in church such as stained-glass windows as well as time to explore crafts, painting in Horley and Christmas Wreaths in Gipsy Hill



- There were numerous celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee including tea parties at St Peters Norbiton, St Marys Addington, St Barnabas Sutton and Christ Church Purley, Good Shepherd Tadworth.
- Anniversary celebrations including 120 years of the MU in Caterham
- Days out including visit to Frogmore House as it opened its doors to MU members. Enjoyed by members from Tandridge and Croydon

Fundraising continues to be an important focus for branches across the deanery. Many of the events above also held opportunities to fund raise including:

- Talks on AFIA at a local church afternoon tea (Caterham)
- Garden parties and cake sales in Addiscombe
- St Matthew's Redhill receiving support from their PCC to fund AFIA as their nominated charity.



Developing leaders

During 2022 the Trustees published a new branch guide. This includes:

- Our duties as part of a charity and some useful guidance including ways to manage branch meetings as well as the AGM
- Roles and responsibilities how to share the load of administration
- Planning programmes and ways to look at this differently
- Resources and contacts

Trustees are also working closely with MSH to disseminate tools and techniques which can be used to transform the way we operate.

Growing the MU Community: *Inspiring others and showing the relevance of the MU*

As Branch membership in particular continues to drop there is a greater urgency to consider how the MU can build its community which may mean operating differently.

Promoting the MU more widely

The Southwark MU strategy '*Flourishing Together*' is only going to be successful if we can reach out and demonstrate the relevance of the MU. In response to this we spent the year looking at new ways in which we could do more to promote our mission and build alliances with others.

During the year members had a presence at the Southwark Conference where we were able to distribute literature and talk to priests from all over the Diocese about the work of the MU as well as the benefits of members in their parishes. It also gave members an opportunity to hear from and connect with organisations which have a common mission.

Since that event a folder has been designed to contain MU literature. The aim is for this to be filled with information and shared not only with all the parishes but also those priests in training. Literature is a good first step but this will only have an impact if supported by relationships with these people.

It is clear that the MU needs to show the tangible impact it has on supporting families at home and overseas. One way this has been achieved is in taking our campaigning out into the world around us. In response to the 'No More 1-in-3' campaign a number of members have taken the opportunity to raise awareness through public visual displays of support for action, in town centres, in their churches and through connections with other



organisations e.g. the use of promotional material used at Church events (Horley Christmas fair) and services (included in the intercessions at main services)

On the 25th November at the Modern-Day Slavery event mentioned above, the MU led more than 25 people in the MU Global Event for no more 1-in-3 with a three-minute silence at 1.03pm followed by prayers in the grounds of the Cathedral.



Moving forward in 2023

The 2022 theme of *Transformation- Now!* continues in 2023 and continues to be an impetus for us to drive forward the Diocesan strategy ***Flourishing Together***. In this all our members are called to transform the MU in Southwark so it is recognised as an integral, relevant and visible part of the Church of England's Mission for Prayer, Action and Outreach.

In doing so we will continue to:

- Strengthen our links with Diocesan colleagues – links particularly to the Communications team with articles in the Bridge and invitations to MU events.
- Explore the impact of The Archbishops' commission on Families and Households '*Love Matters*' and strengthen our Diocesan links with Zimbabwe.
- Connect with parishes across the diocese through the circulation of briefing packs as well as presentations and attendance at Deanery and Diocesan synod. Using opportunities to connect and promote the work of the organisation as partners in local ministry and mission.
- Continue to promote the work of the MU through fundraising activities and by being present and working with those families who face challenging times here in England e.g., refugees, prisoners, those facing poverty and significant life stresses as well as those overseas.

Safeguarding

As an organisation concerned with Christian principles and ministry in family life, the nurture and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of Mothers' Union. Both individually as members and collectively as an organisation, Mothers' Union fulfils its duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults,

doing everything possible to ensure that they are safe when involved in Mothers' Union activities.

Safeguarding policies and practices issued by the Anglican Church, and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) charter for the safety of people within the churches of the Anglican Communion are used as the basis for the MU in Southwark. In line with the duties of the Board the trustees have

- reviewed safeguarding policies and procedures at the first meeting of the year.
- completed DBS checks on new Trustees. This year we commissioned a DBS service from Thirtyone:eight.
- nominated a member to have an overview of the safeguarding aspects of the Mothers' Union activities across the diocese (Susan Gibbin)
- reviewed the roles in Mothers' Union and ensure that recruitment is in line with good safeguarding practice.

As well as ensuring Trustees are aware of policy and practice, guidance continues to be shared with all members to help establish strong practice at a local level. Strong links are encouraged with local Parish Safeguarding officers and training is made available through the Church of England and Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding teams:

- <http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-events/>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding/training>

Data Protection

As an organisation the Diocese of Southwark Mothers' Union takes its duties under the relevant Data protection legislation seriously. Its actions are guided by Diocesan policy and advice from Mary Sumner House. Work is underway to ensure access to privacy notices are available through the website and in hardcopy. Guidance to role holders has been circulated along with consent forms to be used in line with Diocesan and Central MU advice. The Trustees have made it a priority to maintain good Information Governance practice and provide support to all those responsible for holding personal data.

Financial Review 2022

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have prepared a statement of accounts for 2022 which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese. Full details can be found in the Annual Accounts.

Accounting Policies: The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trustees are responsible in law.

Financial performance – General and unrestricted funds: General Funds represent the funds of the Trustees that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Trustees. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the Trustees are also unrestricted. In 2022, £15,000 within the General Funds was held in the designated contingency fund.

In 2022 total income into unrestricted funds was £20,782. Of this income £26,296 was spent from unrestricted funds to support the administration and mission of the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union. The net result however for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £5,514 on unrestricted funds. This was managed through the use of reserves which totalled £40,303 at the beginning of 2022. Unrestricted funds totalling £49,858 were carried forward at 31st December 2022.

Financial performance - Restricted Funds: Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

There were restricted donations totalling £36,590 in the year (this includes money sent to MSH which contributes to the leadership, administration and mission of MU worldwide). These are given to support all the various Diocesan and Mothers' Union Central funds (these are set out in the accounts). The total balance of restricted funds at 31st December was £21,475.

Receipts: Collections, subscriptions, donations and interest are recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Funds raised through any other sources, including through sales of literature purchased from Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUe) are accounted for gross.

Payments: Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

Reserves Policy: Reserves are defined as income that becomes available and which is to be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their objects, but which has not yet been spent, committed or designated. The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to allow protection of the core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced strategic planning. Through prudent housekeeping over a number of years, the reserves have been built up to the current level and include a legacy of £26,989 received in 2016.

The Trustee Board budgets and plans its expenditure and intends to maintain reserves that will protect the Charity against income shortfalls. A sum of £15,000 has also been set aside in a designated fund to rent and equip a Diocesan Mothers' Union Office should the present premises become unavailable, and to cover the secretary's salary for 6 months in an emergency.

Investment Policy: The Trustees continue to invest in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

Communication

The Southwark Mothers' Union continues to use a range of tools for communicating with its members and the wider community.

Digital tools

This includes our allocated space on the Southwark **Diocesan website** where information about the organisation, services, the wave of prayer and projects and publications are posted. <https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/mothers-union/>. There has been a steady flow of visitors however we are unable to offer a facility for people to ask questions (other than by 'contact us) or add comment. During the year we had about 301 visits to our pages with the about us and prayer pages being the most popular.

There has also been an active use of **Twitter** https://twitter.com/MU_Southwark with 806 tweets and 106 followers. There were 1443 impressions and 223 engagements (where people took action). These figures have been rising steadily.

The **Facebook** page continues to be a success - sharing information from the wider MU community - nationally and internationally - as well as events and activities within branches and the Diocese. <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnionSouthwarkDiocese> During the year There has been a steady flow of readers with a good proportion using the info in some way – liking, commenting or sharing - Project news is particularly popular as well as 'issues.' We have 410 followers and a reach of about 3376. This is much bigger than previous years.

Although early days we have also been exploring the opportunity to post our own content on **YouTube**.

Thanks to Margaret Simmons for all she does to keep us connected and online.

Publications

In addition to our Southwark News (three times a year) which we thank Val Green for editing. We have also been exploring how we can promote the MU more widely and have built up a strengthened link with communication colleagues at the Diocese. Articles from the MU are now a key contributor to the Bridge and the Diocesan team are now linked into our programme of events.



Leadership and Governance

Leadership in Southwark

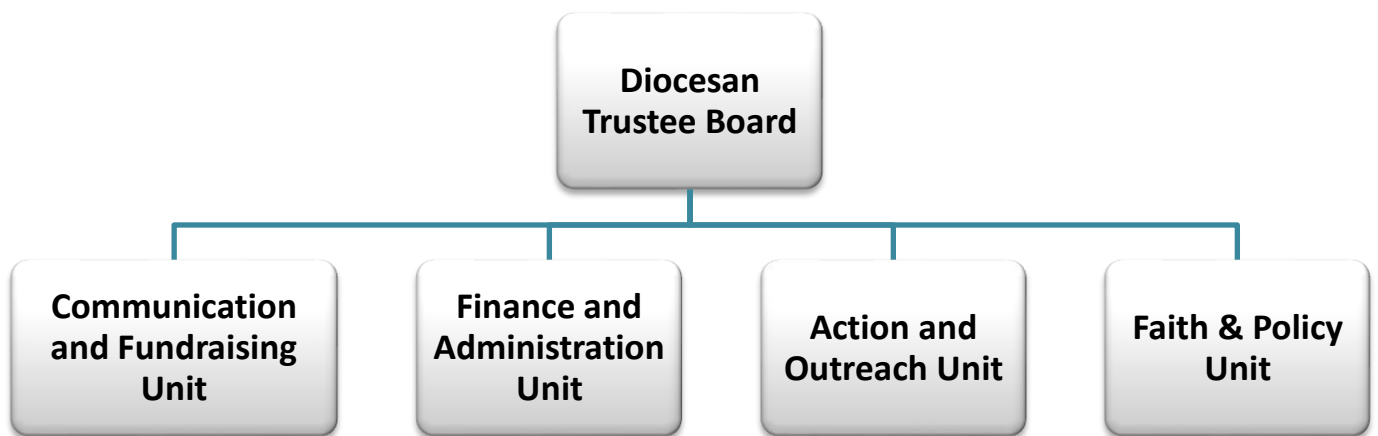
The affairs of the Mothers’ Union in the diocese are managed by the Board of Trustees. Under the Diocesan Constitution and Handbook, revised 2005 and regularly reviewed, the Trustees are elected on a triennial basis. The new Trustee Board was appointed for three years from January 2022 and commissioned at the festival service in May. All are thanked for their commitment to the role.

All subscribing members of the MU in the diocese are entitled to vote for the Diocesan President and Unit Co-ordinators. Members from each geographical Area also vote for their own Vice President and two area representatives on the Trustee Board. To date no election has been held due to a lack of candidates and a number of vacancies were held open last year.

The Honorary Treasurer, appointed by the Trustees continues to keep a close eye on the MU’s financial governance. Jean Cartwright is thanked for her continued service. In addition to those trustees that represent the branches within the diocese and those that hold unit lead roles there is an opportunity to appoint three additional members on the Board. These individuals are co-opted onto the Trustee Board for the triennial because of their specific skills. In 2022 there were no additional co-opted members on the Board.

The Diocesan Chaplain (Revd Esther Foss) is appointed after consultation between the Diocesan Bishop and the Southwark MU President. Also appointed by the Trustee Board are a number of officers listed in Annex 1. The Trustees also employ a part-time secretary, who manages the office and provides administrative support for the Trustee Board.

Governance



The Trustee Board met five times in 2022 and the Council twice (in addition to the AGM for 2021). During these times meetings were held in person with the opportunity for some members to join over zoom. Thanks to all those who helped manage the technology.

Within the Southwark Diocesan Mothers' Union, the work of the four units continue to report to the Trustee Board and to Diocesan Council, coordinating diocesan activity and advising on policy and performance.

In order that Southwark MU is able to connect with and benefit from other members of MU across England as well as worldwide, members of the Board as well as those directly connected to the four units also participate in meetings facilitated by Mary Sumner House. These include, provincial conferences (we are within the Canterbury Province) and Community of Interest Groups. The areas we are engaged with include:

- Finance / Treasurers
- Governance
- Member Directory and Database
- Safeguarding
- AFIA
- Communications
- Prisons
- Craft
- Faith
- Diocesan Chaplains
- Membership
- Metamorphosis
- Policy

In addition, The Mothers' Union (Southwark Diocese) Vice presidents and area representatives of the four geographical areas (Croydon, Kingston, Reigate and Woolwich) continued to link with their deaneries and branches (in line with the Church of England parish and synod structures). The challenges of maintaining branches continues to be difficult. Many members are happy to keep the connection with the MU but unwilling or unable to continue to take on leadership roles locally. Trustees continue to try and support their branch and diocesan members and try to help find new ways to work.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is arranged for July at which meeting the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented to the membership. The AGM is open to all members although voting rights at Diocesan Council are restricted.

Membership / Volunteers

In 2022, there were 53 branches in the Diocese to which 1031 branch members belong, in addition to 38 diocesan members, a total of 1069. Although some branches continue to grow, total numbers of members and branches are sadly falling.

There have also been a number of people who have and continue to give of their time and talents to the MU. We celebrate these individuals and thank them for the service they have given.

Indoor Members are also well supported by local Branches as well as the additional support of the Diocesan Indoor member correspondent. Olu Akitoye led this work until April and we thank her for all she has done. We also welcome Jane Namurye who has taken over the role. In 2022, we had 1 new member however, 6 members sadly passed away and 1 moved out of the diocese.

Member training and development

During 2022 branches continued to be supported with information, policies and presentations at Council meetings. In March we received a talk on Spiritual gifts by the Revd Stanley Njoka and in October 2 we celebrated and shared our experiences during the Platinum Jubilee and also watched a video presentation by Alison Fernandes on Bitesize Metamorphosis. There was also a presentation after the AGM by Peter Graystone, the Southwark Diocesan Lay Training Officer.

Branch leader meetings with the Diocesan President have continued and have been well represented. A programme of more formal training events to support officers was not possible in 2022. It is unclear how these might be progressed and further discussions are necessary as we do not have a designated training officer.

In some areas of the Diocese, branches highlighted significant difficulties in securing leadership capacity to develop and grow their membership. As a result of this the branch guide was redesigned. Trustees do their best to keep members updated and informed of MU initiatives, local activities and good practice. This continues to be cascaded down through the work of the communications lead, VPs and area representatives.

Feedback from local Branches

The engagement of members at branch, deanery and area level is seen through regular reports to trustees as well as in the celebrating the years successes in the Annual Report. Each provides evidence of the hard work members have continued to do to find new ways of engaging with their local Church and its mission; in promoting the wider role of the MU in supporting families and in offering fellowship and prayer for those in need.

There is much we can be proud of as we all seek to meet the aims, purpose and mission of the MU. It has been wonderful to see the lasting legacy members work has had on families here in the Diocese and worldwide.

Administrative Information

The Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese is under the patronage and sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese. It is affiliated to its parent charity, The Mothers' Union (Reg. Charity No. 240531, headquarters at Mary Sumner House, Westminster), but is an autonomous organisation.

Registered office:

Mothers' Union Office,
Trinity House,
4 Chapel Court,
Borough High Street,
London SE1 1HW.
Tel: 020 7939 9459
Email: mu@southwark.anglican.org

Bank:

HSBC, 66 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HD

Independent Examiner:

Mr A J Kett FCA, Little Dolby, Ifield Road, Charlwood, Surrey, RH6 0DR

Trustee Board members are appointed for three years from 1 January 2022. A list of Trustees and other officers can be found in Annex 1.

Report Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 20th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Comfort Idowu-Fearon

Diocesan President (Southwark MU)

Annex 1

List of Trustees and officers

Trustees (appointed from 1 January 2022)

Diocesan President	Comfort Idowu-Fearon
Vice President for Croydon	Sally Steele
Vice Presidents for Woolwich	Vacancy
Vice President for Reigate	Susan Gibbin
Vice President for Kingston	Wendy Moss
Action and Outreach Unit Coordinator	Sally Steele
Fundraising and Communications Unit Coordinator	Susan Gibbin with Margaret Simmons
Finance and Administration Unit Coordinator	Joy Morrall
Faith and Policy Unit Coordinator	Penny Lohead
Croydon Area Representative	Cathy Brown
Woolwich Area Representative	Roseline Okiti
Reigate Area Representative	Margaret Fitch
Kingston Area Representatives	Ursula Hodges
	Alistair Wharton (from mid-2022)

Attendees (non-voting)

Hon Treasurer	Jean Cartwright
Diocesan Secretary	Anne Love
Chaplain	Revd Esther Foss
Diocesan Safeguarding lead (co-opted)	Susan Gibbin (Also Trustee)

Other Officers

Away From It All (AFIA) Coordinator	Sally Steele
Newsletter Editor	Val Green
Training Officer	Vacancy
Indoor Member Coordinator	Olu Akitoye (Up to April 2022)
	Jane Namurye (From April 2022)
Gift Aid coordinator	Ann Squirrell