

# **Mothers' Union - Diocese of Norwich**

Registered Charity Number 249682

Patron: The Bishop of Norwich

Mothers' Union Diocesan Office  
Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Norwich, NR9 5ES

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018**

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Mothers' Union, Norwich Diocese is one of the federated, registered Mothers' Union charities in the British Isles and Europe, together with many more in other parts of the world, supported by the Central Charity of Mothers' Union. It is responsible for the overall conduct of the affairs of Mothers' Union in the Diocese, including the maintenance of the spiritual life of the Mothers' Union and its members.

The work of the Diocesan Mothers' Union is carried out voluntarily by its members, apart from a part-time Administrator.

The relationship between Norwich Diocesan Mothers' Union (Charity No 249682) and the Central Mothers' Union (Charity No 240531) is maintained formally by the Diocesan President who remained a member of the Worldwide Council until December 31st 2018

<b>Bankers:</b>	<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	<b>Administrative, Constitutional &amp; Legal Advice:</b>
The Co-operative Bank plc P O Box 101 Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP	Aleathia Mann 14 Townsend Court Reepham Norfolk NR10 4LD	The Chief Executive Mothers' Union 24 Tufton Street London SW1P 3RB

### **AIM & OBJECTS**

Our Aim is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life, which is achieved through our five objectives:

- ◇ To uphold Christian 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.

Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese is governed by a new constitution dated 2017.

Mothers' Union Norwich Diocese is a separate charity which co-exists within the World Wide Mothers' Union, which is incorporated by Royal Charter, 15<sup>th</sup> June 1926, amended by Order of HM The Queen in Council dated 24 April 2018 ; Order of the Privy Council approving revised Bye-laws dated 24 April 2018; Regulations changed by resolution of Worldwide Council with effect from 24 April 2018.

The Election and appointment of officers for the triennium 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 was carried out in 2018 in accordance with the Norwich Diocese Mothers' Union Constitution 2017.

## TRUSTEES

The Trustees met five times during the year. Attendance is shown in brackets after each name.

Marguerite Phillips (5)	Diocesan President
Sheila Tuffield (5)	Diocesan Vice-President & Finance & Central Services Co-ordinator
Barbara Lashley (5)	Treasurer & Finance Officer
Felicity Randall (4)	Action & Outreach Co-ordinator
Eunice Norwood (0)	Fundraising & Communications Co-ordinator
Sonia Mann (4)	Faith & Policy Co-ordinator
Valerie Ovenden (4)	General Trustee
Ruth Vaughan (3)	General Trustee
Sybil Martin (4)	General Trustee
Anne Epps (3)	General Trustee
Paulette Yallop (4)	General Trustee
Betty Ellis (4)	General Trustee
Marie-Lyse Numuhoza (4)	General Trustee

These persons have served as Trustees of the Society for the whole year.  
Eunice Norwood had a dispensation to operate from home.

### CHAPLAIN

The Reverend Simon Lawrence

### FINANCE & CENTRAL SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR

Sheila Tuffield

## STRATEGY FOR 2019 - 2021

Engaging our members by

- ◆ Nurturing their spiritual and prayer life;
- ◆ Supporting those working in their local communities;
- ◆ Growing our links with diocesan clergy and the wider Christian community to identify and address together rural and urban deprivation;
- ◆ Continuing our support to resettle Syrian refugees and to raise awareness of Mothers' Union national and local campaigns;
- ◆ Maintaining a firm financial basis by growing our membership and seeking other sources of funding through our partnerships.

# THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2018

### OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Marguerite Phillips

2018 was exceptionally busy, preparing the hand-over for a new trustee board before the year's end. Our new Administrator, Rebecca, came quickly to grips with the database changes and together with the Finance and Central Services Team we prepared systems to comply with the new GDPR requirements. Elections for the future Diocesan President and Trustee Board took place under our new constitution.

Finding leaders is becoming increasingly difficult and there are still four vacancies on the new Board. Old-age and family commitments are affecting our general membership and the year's end brought the closure of three branches. Most of these members will become Diocesan members next year but ways will need to be found to allow this membership to attract others.

2018 was also a busy year of involvement with the national charity. Together with Sheila Hanmer I spent seven days with leaders from across the UK experiencing the *MULOA* initiative, discerning at grassroots level the way forward for Mothers' Union locally and worldwide. I then led *MULOA* events at Members' Days in Norwich, Mid-Norfolk, Waveney and Broadland plus branch workshops in Attleborough and Cringleford. This process has proved to re-invigorate members and will be ongoing as Sheila and I are booked to take workshops to 101 members in 2019.

At Worldwide Council in February we approved the new Central Constitution which launched the election process that eventually brought us the first Worldwide President from beyond the UK. I attended a further six days of Provincial meetings to prepare a way forward for the Province of Canterbury. The last meeting of the East-Anglian Cluster in Ely in May was a bitter-sweet occasion as we presidents of similar rural dioceses have found these an invaluable source of encouragement and mutual support

Throughout my years as President I have found my prayer-life greatly enriched by the opportunities to share in worship around the diocese. This year was no exception as I joined in the Diocesan Quiet Day by the sea, our annual Festival Service in the Cathedral, Bishop Graham's celebration of 25 years as a Bishop, shared home-communions with a housebound member as well as Advent Services in Cromer and Old Catton, made a small presentation at Bishop Graham's Farewell Service and led the final monthly midday prayers in the Cathedral on behalf of the Trustees.

Highlights of the year were: Garden Parties at the Bishop's House – the one a fundraiser for us and the other a celebration for the Syrian refugee families who attained their first certificates in English as a second language; our plan to take 50 children for an action-packed day at the Diocesan Activity Centre at Horstead came to fruition; finally the three-day visit of the Worldwide President Lynne Tembey in October. We had other visitors too: our Provincial President Nikki Sweatman, and Church Development Worker Anna Heydon from Great Yarmouth. Coincidentally they both raised the issue Modern Slavery and we will hear more on this in future as Mothers' Union nationally joins in partnership with the *Clewer Initiative*.

I enjoyed participating on our stand highlighting Mothers' Union Overseas at International Women's Day in Gressenhall, *Celebrate* in Norwich and the Norfolk Show. As ever our partnerships with the Diocese and other Norfolk women's organisations have proved an invaluable source of support and ways of promoting our shared goals.



Provincial President, Nikki Sweatman, addressed members at Diocesan Council

I cannot finish without thanking the trustees with whom I have served for the last six years, Simon our Chaplain, who has been hands-on and Bishop Graham our wonderful Patron who has been there to offer wisdom, guidance and encouragement, both of whom are also retiring. The Unit Leaders and Project Champions have worked tirelessly to maintain our Projects, Campaigns and Communications for which I am very thankful and I am grateful for the members' prayers and the dedication of the Branch and Area officials.

So many positive things have happened in my time as President and for me personally the successful resettlement of 18 Syrian families has been the most heartening. It has been a real privilege to serve Mothers' Union in this Diocese and with confidence I commend Val, our new President, and the new trustees to you all as they lead the membership in the years ahead.

*Marguerite Phillips*

**OUR CHAPLAIN, REVD SIMON LAWRENCE, writes ...**

Dear Friends,

This really is my final report after just over seven privileged years as your Chaplain. In a way my final year has not been any different than the previous years. I spent time travelling around the Diocese and saw what different branches were doing. Preaching and speaking. I found as always members with a strong Christian faith who inspired in the way that they conducted their branches, being involved in their local Church, and further supporting the MU at both Diocesan and national levels. They had fully grasped MU in Action and in Prayer and really did endeavour to support the young and the newly married and their families in practical ways too. All of which was heart-warming to see. Mothers' Union has always been so much more than another Women's Group because as we know it is always God centred and Worldwide.

Of course it also has men amongst its membership now!



During the last year, as each year, I have enjoyed and been privileged to work alongside our Diocesan President and the Diocesan Board of MU Trustees and it is always so good to know that the work is supported by your prayers. I suppose it is all indicative of living amongst an active Christian family which has been a great enrichment of my Ministry. I have enjoyed planning and leading our Diocesan Cathedral MU Services. It was, as I have said, particularly moving to meet again our World-wide President Lynne Tembey and have her preach for us. Lynne describes herself as "an ordinary housewife" but called by God and equipped by Him for His Service. Humble inspiration for us all.

So the year ends for me in gratitude for the past and the joy of having been called to serve MU in our Diocese in the role of Chaplain, but looking forward to the future and all that God intends for us.

Every Blessing,

*Simon*

Lynne Tembey with Simon Lawrence after the Cathedral Festival Service in October.

## **WORK IN THE UNITS**

### **ACTION & OUTREACH - Unit Leader: Felicity Randall**

#### **Diocesan Projects**

2018 was another year of amazing activity by members, making all our Projects such a wonderful success.

First I must again thank all the individual project leaders for their hard work, and generosity with time. 'Away From it All', 'Angel Tree' and 'Loving for Life' – they could not happen without the dedication of our volunteers. Thank You.

Then, of course, there is the tireless fund raising by branches and individuals towards our project work, including in 2018 the very successful 'Big Day Out' at Horstead, which was financed by money raised on bicycles during the previous year.

Following the exciting news that Norfolk was to take a further 1000 Syrian refugees over the next two years, our Refugee Resettlement Fund was re-opened and beds were made ready for the next five families who arrived in November.

And knitting! Jumpers and skirts continue to come even though we had lost our Ugandan connection. I am happy to tell you that during the year we sent knitted items to Malawi and The Gambia through other agencies, plus contributing to a charity collection point in London set up to provide supplies for any charities as and when they are needed.

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital piloted a scheme using red, yellow and green hats for new-borns. Along with the regular blankets and little hats for all three hospitals, members rose to the challenge and 'traffic light' hats have been delivered (I hope we will soon be able to report back on these).

Many branches also ran events during the year for the central Summer of Hope appeal.

The end of a triennium is always a process of winding down ready for new people and new ideas. I thank you all for your work over the last six years. You will be in safe hands going into the future – so keep up the good work.... as always!

### **ANGEL TREE - Sybil Martin and Daphne Gibson**

After all these years I think we may have cracked it!

76 children in 44 families were sent gifts.

Angel Tree ran well this year. We have a good friend at HMP Wayland in the shape of Annabelle. She is a Prison Fellowship member who helps out in the chaplaincy office and was able to see that our queries were answered. In the wider scheme of things, Rev James, the Chaplain has transferred to the Ministry of Justice so good news as perhaps we shall see some improvement in prison policy.

We didn't send as many books with the gifts this year. The form has been redesigned and although on the whole it's an improvement, someone has reworded the question about whether or not the prisoner would like his children to receive a Christian book. The men have to tick a box if they DON'T want the book. They have an average reading comprehension age of seven years and they've ticked the box ... a tick means NO BOOK. I've fed that back to the Prison Fellowship and hope they sort it out.

Wrapping day ran really smoothly – thank you again to the regular team, and please come again to the new recruits. Marvellous work, everybody.

And the usual thanks to everyone for shopping, for getting the gifts to St Luke's all packed up as works best for us, and to Barbara and Rebecca in the office who put up with me, and of course to the staff at DHL who do not panic when they see the pile of packages.

### **AWAY FROM IT ALL [AFIA] - Sandra Sacks and Sandra Bendall**

This year we booked a total of 25 holidays with Haven using their sites at Caister and Seashore in Great Yarmouth: two in June and one in July at Caister, 21 in October half-term at Caister plus one at Seashore, Great Yarmouth. Unfortunately out of the 25 holidays booked, two were cancelled by the families but with a cancellation fee of £60.00 per holiday, we were otherwise credited for the remaining money by Haven.

Out of the 25 holidays booked, 14 of these had family members who were eligible for the Highcroft funding for which we are as ever very grateful.

Because of the problems in contacting Health Visitors based in South Norfolk, we sent the final booking forms in their cases directly to the families, to ensure they would have the paperwork to enable them to have their holidays.

Family feedback we received included:

*It encouraged us to enjoy life. It was a safe and entertaining haven for me and my children. Something to do everyday and accommodation was restful too. This is what me and my children needed. Thank you.*

and

*To all staff at Mothers' Union: Thank you so much for giving us a holiday and a chance to have some quality family time. We have been so lucky to have some amazing weather and we made the most of every day there. It has meant the absolute world to us how kind and generous you have all been in making our holiday possible. We had a fantastic time and the children have thoroughly enjoyed every minute. It is a wonderful thing you are doing, giving families opportunities such as this. We have created many lovely memories from this holiday. Thank you so much. All our love.*

We had enjoyable visits to Mothers' Union branches at North Walsham and Reepham this year to give them an update about AFIA. We are always happy to visit any branches across the Diocese to talk about AFIA and so far we have three visits booked for 2019.

### **LOVING FOR LIFE PROGRAMME - Jenny Holcombe**

During 2018 our team of nine facilitators ran six relationship workshops across the Diocese. As ever, all the feedback from couples, clergy and the parish teams was positive, at the various churches and other parish premises. We are very flexible in our approach to this lovely service we give, planning with parishes and priests and tailoring our material to fit, not least with the audio-visual equipment we may use.

Our Team Meeting discussed the way forward from 2018, and despite the falling numbers of church weddings and take up by parishes and engaged couples, everyone wanted to continue the project. Among ways to improve the downturn in take up it was suggested that as Mothers' Union members are often on PCCs and Synods, they should be asked to take leaflets, if not speak, and invite the use of our relationship workshops, emphasising its flexibility. There are promotional cards to give and information leaflets for clergy available.

Once more we ran the Diocesan stand for 'Your Church Wedding' at two commercial wedding shows. If you are able to help with this outreach, which is always on a Sunday, we would be very glad to hear from you. It really puts us in the public eye and perhaps reaches hearts too, and fits so well with our mission.

At the weddings shows we use the prayer tree for requests for prayers for weddings, and all couples at Loving for Life workshops are also promised prayers for the Day. If you and your branch are part of this ministry, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all your prayers for these couples as they set off on their married lives together.

### **OVERSEAS LINKS - Felicity Randall for Sonia Mann**

Following a difficult time when we had no contact with our worldwide prayer links we have at last been in touch with Swaziland during the second half of 2018. Alleluia!

Lizzie Dlundla is our correspondent there and we were initially in touch via email. However she supplied a postal address and a Christmass card, plus a copy of Families Worldwide with our Wave of Prayer leaflet were posted early in December – and arrived in Swaziland before Christmass. Lizzie is sharing those with her members.

In spite of high hopes we have not yet made contact with Ruaha in Tanzania – but watch this space. Contact with Nigeria continues to be a problem for the time being, so for our members there and for Chotanagpur in North India we will of course pray and hope that we might have news to share in the future.

### **FAITH & POLICY - Unit Leader: Sonia Mann**

We start the year in this diocese with the Wave of Prayer service. This gives us a good way to focus on what we would be doing in the year ahead. The service was completely rewritten to reflect our theme which was “In the Footsteps of Mary Sumner”. I know some branches turned this into a beautiful occasion with candles, music and cakes.

We were able to return to The Pleasaunce in Overstrand this year for our Quiet Day beautifully led by The Revd Dr Sally Wallace-Jones. She took as her theme ‘The Water of Life’. This was very thought provoking and brought forward a lot of comments so it was not entirely a quiet day at times! The Pleasaunce was as delightful as ever and it was good to sit down altogether for lunch and have time to walk down to the sea.

Our Festival Service at the Cathedral was extra special this year as we had our Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey as our preacher. She was so inspirational that one of our guest officials actually asked to be enrolled as a member of M.U. This surely must be a first!

I can't bring this to an end without thanking all those who have led Cathedral Prayers on a Thursday which I know have been much appreciated by many visitors wandering around.

‘In Mary Sumner’s  
Footsteps’ -  
Cathedral Festival  
Service  
in October



### **SOCIAL POLICY - Sybil Martin**

Social media: At last! Alongside many other family orientated campaigning bodies, MU has eventually succeeded in bringing Social Media to the top of the public's list of Things To Worry About. Its been a lot of unrelenting hard work, quietly done, but at long last public pressure has forced the powers that be into taking notice of the actions (or lack of them) of the social media platforms themselves, and of the knock on effect some of the trends in social media use are having on the wellbeing of children and also on those who care about children en masse.

Otherwise – MU has been taking an interest in Universal Credit and the increasing gap between the costs of providing education, health care, and social care. Increasing regulation has its purpose in



ensuring we have transparency in the way public money is spent, but increasing regulation carries a great deal more social cost than anyone ever allows for, hitting the number of wards in your hospital ... classes in your school ... workers in your kitchen.

16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence was observed at Cathedral Prayers in December as well as the Norwich Area Advent Service when members wrote on paper hands and offered them up in prayer

Thank you to all the branches who have invited me to talk about social policy over the last six years. It's been such fun coming to meet you all.

### **FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATION - Unit Leader: Eunice Norwood**

The 'Marketing' arm of the Mothers' Union deals with 'selling' our wonderful organisation to the wider public to ensure growth and continuation of the work which has been ongoing for over 140 years. Whereas 'Communications' covers Angles, Facebook, Twitter and the Website, also leaflet, prayer cards and poster designs to be used by the branches and diocese at events.

In March 2018 we joined with the WI merging International Women's Day and Mother's Day into a grand event entitled "**Light the Flame**" and held at Gressenhall. Families were invited to bring their mothers for a free cream tea to celebrate Mothers' Day and to discover the work done throughout Norfolk by organisations and groups such as ours. It gave the opportunity to meet many other organisations, and share our worldwide work with those who visited, despite footfall being poor.

**Celebrate** was held once again at the Forum on June 16th and as in previous years we took a stand alongside the Diocese. It was an opportunity to voice the issue of abuse against women throughout the world and new posters were designed relating to worldwide projects together with a treasure hunt as below.

**The Royal Norfolk Show**, another regular and well attended event held on June 27th / 28th allowed us to work alongside the diocese and spread the word about the Worldwide Mothers' Union, with a wonderful treasure hunt designed to highlight and inform on projects around the world.

**The Bishops' Garden Party** - a wonderful family fun day raising awareness of the MU in Norwich, with stalls and teas to raise funds for our work. High Oak provided a music group which kept people interested and provided a lovely atmosphere. After expenses, £1400 was raised to be shared between Diocesan and Overseas Funds.

Despite my inability to attend these events which showcased our work in the diocese, members rallied and staffed the stands and stalls for which I am deeply grateful.

## **AROUND THE DIOCESE**

### **BROADLAND AREA - Leader: Val Ovenden**

Our members enjoyed another busy year with branch meetings, Quiet Mornings, Coffee Mornings for AFIA and the Overseas and Diocesan Funds, knitting and Angel Tree presents and Christmas cards for inmates at HMP Bure.

The Wayford Group was formed last year by the amalgamation of the Smallburgh benefice and Stalham branch. Officers and other members from our Area branches (all are welcome) met again four-monthly to share news and plans in St. Nicholas Rooms North Walsham – many thanks to our members there for their hospitality. Sue Cobb from Wroxham is taking over as Area Correspondent and Ann Herd from North Walsham will be taking Minutes – I should like to thank them both for their support. As Diocesan President I shall, with great interest, keep in close touch with what is going on in our Area.



### **CROMER AREA - Leaders: Carole Broadhead and Dorothy Kendall**

The year began quietly for all our branches and we were particularly pleased to report that Cromer have managed to keep together as a branch with Pat Dodson at the helm. The ladies have rallied around her and the branch is continuing and we are so thankful that prayers have been answered.

Thanks to Helen the Aylmerton branch, though small, continues to meet. All branches have met together for Ash Wednesday at Metton hosted by Roughton Branch, Mary Sumner Day with the Runton group and of course the Advent Celebration service at Cromer Church. Runton group also hosted a Quiet Day in the Summer at the Home of Pat Baggaley.

It is refreshing to see members from the Area come together and also to welcome Diocesan Members to these events.

It is with sadness though that we report that the Runton Group have decided to close as no one is willing to lead in the future, however the ladies are to become Diocesan Members and will continue to meet informally.

I am sorry to say that Dorothy and I have also been unable to enlist a new Area Leader for Cromer which will mean more work for the office in the future.

### **MID-NORFOLK AREA - Leader: Sheila Hanmer**

Sadly the mid Norfolk group of MU branches lost Reephram branch last year. A decision was made to close the branch due to ageing membership and an inability to find new leaders. This branch has served the MU well over the years raising much money for MU projects and flying the MU flag high in the congregation of Reephram. We had a joint meeting in September at Swaffham Parish Church where we heard about the work of Christians Against Poverty followed by worship, fellowship and lunch. Anne Handley has recruited two new dynamic leaders for Swaffham branch. Dereham branch ran a Loving for Life marriage preparation course for five couples getting married in the benefice. Marguerite Phillips and Sheila Hanmer ran a MULOA session for area members at Fakenham.

### **NORWICH AREA - Leader: Jenny Holcombe**

Last year the Norwich Area continues to cover seven Branches and a number of no-branch members, several of whom are restricted to their homes. We value the prayers and support of our faithful older members, many of whom are visited by Mothers' Union friends.

Branches generally keep in touch with the wider Mothers' Union by inviting speakers on MU topics to their meetings, raising funds, attending Diocesan meetings and taking monthly midday prayers in turn at the Cathedral. This is easier for our Area than elsewhere in the Diocese, so we carry a special responsibility here. Several branches play a part in Toddler Clubs and the giving of Baptism anniversary cards.

The Area Advent Service was at Old Catton in 2018, where 40 of us were inspired by the theme based on the '40 Days of Activism' for abuse of the vulnerable across the world in many dire situations. We used symbolic 'Hands of Hopelessness and Helpfulness', to show our responses in reaching out and concern in that season of penitence and hope.

I will continue to be available to offer support to Branch Leaders and Diocesan Members, to continue to express our MU mission and values in whatever way suits them.



### **WAVENEY & YARE AREA - Leader: Mary Carr**

2018 was again another busy year for our ten branches. The first main event of the year was the Lady Day service held at St Nicholas church Bradwell; a very nice service at which several branches were represented. Refreshments were served afterwards and thank you to Doreen Hall and members for organising an enjoyable afternoon.

Throughout the summer months and into the autumn, several fundraising events took place across the area in the form of coffee morning and afternoon teas all held, without exception, in glorious weather.

We were again at Bradwell in in September when they hosted the area Members' Day led by Marguerite Phillips, which was a great success. It is a very convenient and pleasant venue for the spread of our branches and we are grateful for always being made welcome. Several of us also went to their October meeting when the speaker was the Very Revd Jane Hedges, Dean of Norwich Cathedral.

Throughout the year some of our branches have led the midday prayers at the Cathedral. However, I was unable to do my own owing to the very bad weather conditions in early March - even the trains between Lowestoft and Norwich were not running. In June we held our area annual meeting.

In December, Pakefield branch hosted the Advent Carol Service at which there were three enrolments for Carlton Colville Branch. A very nice service and thanks to Anne Everitt and her members for arranging this. As usual the afternoon concluded with seasonal refreshments.

Projects continue to go well, especially the knitting with large supplies of hats delivered to the James Paget Hospital Maternity department and all branches have purchase Angel Tree presents. Pakefield has hosted 'Loving For Life'.

We finished our year with nine branches as Reedham has made the decision to close. It is thanks to Teresa Trueman and her few remaining members who have kept the branch going and I am pleased to say that they have all now become Diocesan Members.

Membership remains stable as several branches have either enrolled or welcomed new members during the year.

As usual, I would like to thanks all branch leaders and members for their continued hard work and commitment. Also for the support I have received from them during my six years as Area Leader. This has now come to an end and I am handing over to Anne Everitt and Sara Will who will be job-sharing the post. I wish them both well for the future.

### **WESTERN AREA - Leader: Betty Ellis**

The priority for 2018 was to establish that the remaining members of Mothers' Union in west Norfolk were in a good position to carry forward into the next triennium. Members find the distance from Norwich daunting. Heavy traffic on busy roads makes a tiring day.

The branches are struggling for members willing to take up office. This year I have visited branches to encourage those who were doing the work without taking the official role.

Middleton diocesan group continues to meet regularly with suitable speakers. They run a monthly coffee morning in Middleton church when the weather is milder. Hopefully there will be a Mothers' Union group for some time.

The branch leader of the Woottons retired and there was talk of the branch closing. Members were determined to keep going, so thanks to two newer members who are happy to lead the group they are in a healthy position once again and very much enjoying being a valued part of the church because the two new 'leaders' asked for parish support for Mothers' Union projects thus informing the parish of what their Mothers' Union is up to. We now have hopes of a steady future for 'The Woottons' branch.

Heacham has had a chequered year with their long-standing treasurer leaving for the diocese of Ely and the promised replacement moving into and then out of area again. They run by committee and share the load. They are still heavily involved in the Heacham Book Shop. Heacham seems to be a popular village for retired charity workers, vicars and missionaries, leading to some very interesting speakers showing the conditions some of our world-wide members cope with.

Dersingham is an active, capable, branch in the centre of our area. They now run an annual Quiet Day to which parishioners are invited. Their vicar likes to use the Loving for Life workshops. Their carol service is well attended and the summer Strawberry tea much appreciated. Members enjoy hosting regular coffee mornings to raise money for M.U. projects.

The branches continue their support of local refuge centres, the food banks of Hunstanton and King's Lynn, also the Purfleet drop-in shelter for the homeless in King's Lynn. This winter churches together in King's Lynn ran a night shelter for the homeless. Clients now have more support both day and night.

Diocesan members remain faithful.

For 2019 I personally hope to show a Mothers Union presence at local church events where there is no branch.

### **WYMONDHAM AREA - Leader: Anne Epps**

All the branches had a varied and exciting year.

Pulham had an interesting talk in September from Norwich Street Pastors and joined together with Wymondham for Mary Sumner Day but sadly in October lost Revd Margaret Doggett, a keen member for many years and former Treasurer.

Cringleford held a soup lunch in March and the Revd Graham led a Lenten Quiet Afternoon. In May the speaker was Margaret Adlam who showed some of her fantastic needlework together with relevant portions of scripture and songs. In August Pulham Market joined them for afternoon tea.

Hethersett had a Strawberry Tea and an outing to Walpole St Peter Flower Festival together with an enjoyable lunch. Eleven books were presented at baptismal services and twenty-eight baptism anniversary cards were sent. Members also help at Messy Church and Sunday Club

High Oak held a Children's Activity Morning with families gathering around the Cross. In April they watched Victoria and Abdul at a Village Cinema and in June they held a Coffee Morning in aid of the Literacy Programme.

Wymondham held Lenten Meditation in February and joined the Hope Church in March for Women's World Day of Prayer. They hosted a Garden Party in June and in December a Christmas Celebration.

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February Members' Day - Norwich



# MULO

Mid-Norfolk - ranking priorities



Autumn Members' Day - Bradwell



Cringelford



Autumn Members' Day - North Walsham



Attleborough



**Mothers'  
Union  
Listening  
Observing  
Acting**

*- the name we are using to explore the essence of what it is to be Mothers' Union*



## EVENTS GALLERY



Our former Administrator, Sheila Taylor, waits to greet visitors to the Garden Party at the Bishop's House.



The Angel Tree stand and others in the Bishop's Garden.



Our members brave a gale at the National Annual Review in Swansea.



Royal Norfolk Show - 'Team McClean'



*Front cover:*  
Our Administrator, Rebecca, and Elijah with Jenny at the Bishop's Garden Party.

*Right:*  
Our International Women's Day stand at Gressenhall.





## EVENTS GALLERY



### HORSTEAD

#### BIG DAY OUT

Rock  
Climbing

Climbing  
to the  
Zipwire

Crate  
Stacking

Canoeing



Worldwide Treasure Hunt at 'Celebrate' ...  
and the winner is ...  
The Lord Mayor, Councillor Martin Schmeirer.



## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2018

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources during the year and of its state of affairs at the end of the year.

In preparing the accounts the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees' responsibilities include keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and breaches of law and regulations.

### FINANCIAL POSITION & RESERVES

The Diocesan Trustees have reviewed the position of the Diocesan Charity. They are satisfied that

- the Charity has a sound financial basis;
- the charity can meet its commitments and that,
- where appropriate, plans are formulated and actioned to reduce reserves which are considered surplus to necessary and prudent requirements.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

### ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The Financial Statements of The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Norwich) have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.
- The General Fund is not subject to any special restrictions and is available for the general purposes of the Mothers' Union.
- The Designated Funds may only be used for purposes for which the Trustees have determined. They may, however, re-designate the Funds, if necessary.
- Restricted Funds may only be used for the purpose specified.
- Endowments may not be touched; the income generated is credited to a Restricted Fund in accordance with the terms of the Endowment.
- In accordance with the Charity Commissioner's 'Statement of Recommended Practice' the accounts of Branches within the Diocese have been consolidated into the Diocesan Financial Statement.
- The Statement of Assets and Liabilities lists all material assets for which the Trustees can be held responsible, giving monetary values where relevant. Debtors, creditors and liabilities are not included where the value is less than £100.

**The Financial Statements on the following pages were approved by the Trustees on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**



## **TREASURER'S REPORT - Barbara Lashley**

Any budget agreed by the trustees is, of necessity, reflective of a worst-case scenario and this was the case for 2018. With some unknowns, such as MULO conference costs, office changes, the pending visit of our world-wide president and even whether it would rain on the day of our Bishop's Garden party, we set an operational budget with a deficit of £3000. Thankfully, this proved unduly pessimistic and we ended the year with our expenditure being balanced by our income. The income to run our operation is mainly from the portion of membership subscriptions we retain, but is supported by the income from gift aid, MU enterprises grant, easy-fundraising commission and any donations to the diocesan general fund. Our MU enterprises grant is down to the hard work of our representative, Sheila Tuffield, and we extend thanks to her for this, and for the support she gave during the year working alongside me in her trustee role of Finance and Central Services co-ordinator.

The Finance and Central Services committee met five times during the year, when they scrutinised the monthly financial reports in detail and made recommendations to the Trustees where necessary. The trustees also considered the monthly reports and took decisions on transfers or expenditure where required.

At the beginning of 2016, the trustees had agreed that the money raised during our 140th anniversary 'Cycle to Horstead' appeal would be spent supporting church groups which enabled youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds to spend time at the Horstead Centre, with any surplus going to an MU overseas project. However, it became clear that, while churches did not often arrange their own groups, they knew of youngsters who would benefit from the experience. So, in April 2018, the very successful MU organised Big Day Out took place. At their meeting in June this year, the trustees discussed what to do with the remainder of the fund, taking into account the most recent information from MSH regarding central funds. As a result, £1000 was sent to the Relief fund, £1000 to the general Overseas fund and £854 to the Literacy and Development fund. The 140th anniversary fund is now closed.

Fortunately, we were blessed with fine weather for our Bishop's Garden event in May and realised a profit of about £1400. Having considered the future need to replace some of our own ageing technology but also that we had been promoting the Mothers' Union as a world-wide charity, the trustees agreed that the proceeds be distributed with £400 going to the Overseas fund, £750 to our designated equipment fund and the remainder to the diocesan general fund.

With the news that Norfolk would be welcoming more Syrian refugee families in 2019, we renewed our commitment to supply the bedding and re-opened our refugee resettlement project fund.

In 2018 we based our budget on having 885 members but in fact only had 847. Mary Sumner House advised us that they would be raising their portion of the subscription by 50p to £14 in 2019. With these and other factors in mind, the outgoing trustees decided to pass on that increase to members in 2019 and recommended an advisory budget to the new trustees based on a membership of 800. Maintaining our membership numbers will always be a challenge and taking every opportunity to be 'out there' in our communities is one way of letting people know we are here and inviting them to join us. Thank you to all branch treasurers and officers for all you do throughout the year – your notes which come in with your donations show not just how much money you have raised, but how much fellowship you have enjoyed doing it.

As I write this, there are so many unanswered questions about our organisation, our country, our climate and the wider world – but, like Mary Sumner, we will stay in step with God and welcome those that fall in alongside.

**Independent examiner's report  
to the trustees of The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Norwich)**

I report on the accounts of The Mothers' Union for the year ended 31st December 2018, which are set out on pages eighteen to twenty together with the accounting policies on page 15.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and Independent examiner**

The charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

You consider that an audit is not requirement for this year 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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with the accounting records

I 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 financial statements to be reached.

Aleathia Mann F.C.A., F.C.I.E  
Aleathia Mann Ltd  
Chartered Accountants.  
14 Townsend Court  
Reepham  
Norfolk  
NR10 4LD

Date: 10th June 2019

## Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	Endowment fund £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Diocesan operations	1	–	–	33,389	33,389	33,235
Diocesan designated	2	–	–	1,208	1,208	5
Diocesan restricted	2	–	19,585	–	19,585	20,910
Central restricted	2	–	7,174	–	7,174	3,913
Branches	3	–	–	9,483	9,483	12,272
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>26,759</b>	<b>44,080</b>	<b>70,839</b>	<b>70,334</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Diocesan operations	1	–	–	31,610	31,610	34,677
Diocesan designated	2	–	–	373	373	6
Diocesan restricted	2	–	25,806	–	25,806	19,415
Central restricted	2	–	7,630	–	7,630	4,595
Branches	3	–	–	10,545	10,545	10,680
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>33,435</b>	<b>42,528</b>	<b>75,963</b>	<b>69,373</b>
Surplus of receipts over payments		–	(6,676)	1,552	(5,124)	961
Transfer between funds	2		94	(94)		
Balance at 1 Jan 2018		7,910	44,661	68,128	120,699	119,738
Balance carried forward 31 Dec 2018		7,910	38,079	69,586	115,575	120,699

## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December 2018

	Endowment fund £	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>					
Co-operative Bank	–	–	33,813	33,813	38,219
Other banks (branches)	–	–	18,073	18,073	19,135
Cash balance held	–	–	60	60	31
CCLA: CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	7,910	38,079	17,640	63,629	63,315
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>38,079</b>	<b>69,586</b>	<b>115,575</b>	<b>120,699</b>
<b>Other assets</b>					
Centenary Bond			5,000	5,000	5,000
Imprest float with payroll provider			490	490	490
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Subscriptions 2019	–	–	(1,281)	(1,281)	(540)
MSH Restricted Funds	–	(802)	–	(802)	(1,163)
Insurance			(495)	(495)	
Independent Examination			(600)	(600)	

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10 June 2019 and have been signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Valerie Ovenden, President

.....  
Barbara Lashley, Treasurer

## Notes to the accounts

1 Diocesan operations	Receipts 2018 £	Receipts 2017 £	Payments 2018 £	Payments 2017 £
Subscriptions for 2018	21,468	21,307	11,354	12,116
Subscriptions for 2019 paid in advance	1,281	540		–
Donations including gift aid	3,207	2,662	386	–
Families First	–	2,148		2,148
Sale of goods from MU Enterprises	1,796	1,721	1,839	1,656
Grant based on sales from MU Enterprises	470	469		–
Commission from easyfundraising	75	140		–
Salary		–	5,590	5,304
Salary administration		–	363	336
Office rent		–	4,800	4,800
Office supplies		–	176	418
Printing and postage	156	140	1,503	1,383
Attendance at national general meeting	1,422	2,141	1,870	2,144
Diocesan meetings	1,499	977	1,317	759
Events	1,491	792	1,491	1,160
Members' expenses (see also note 4)	197	–	921	1,126
Insurance		–		1,327
Interest	327	198		–
Bank charges		–		–
	<u>33,389</u>	<u>33,235</u>	<u>31,610</u>	<u>34,677</u>
General Fund balance brought forward 1 January			45,970	47,412
Net (payments) / receipts			1,779	(1,442)
Transfer to Restricted fund			(94)	
General Fund balance carried forward 31 December			<u>47,655</u>	<u>45,970</u>

## Notes to the accounts (continued)

2 Designated and restricted funds	Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
	1-Jan-18	2018	2018	2018	31-Dec-18
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Branches in Abeyance	2,414	458	319	–	2,553
Office equipment	335	750	54	–	1,031
Shirley Young Memorial Fund	274	–	–	–	274
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,023</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,858</b>
<b>Restricted funds - Diocesan</b>					
“Away From It All” Holidays	17,284	15,732	16,538	–	16,478
Diocesan Outreach fund	2,905	570	803	–	2,672
Angel Tree	941	1,013	206	–	1,747
Loving for Life	–	606	606	–	–
Children’s and youth work	250	–	–	–	250
Shows and exhibitions	–	590	590	–	–
Refugee resettlement	2,389	459	1,390	–	1,458
Links	425	–	–	–	425
Special projects	12,950	–	–	–	12,950
Retreat	1,190	609	502	–	1,297
140th anniversary	5,163	7	5,170	–	0
Shirley Young Memorial Fund	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,498</b>	<b>19,585</b>	<b>25,806</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>37,277</b>
<b>Restricted funds - Central (Mary Sumner House)</b>					
Literacy & Development	235	1,171	1,366	–	40
Overseas	575	4,168	4,298	–	445
Relief	261	1,658	1,601	–	317
MSH fabric and other	93	178	364	94	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>7,174</b>	<b>7,630</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>802</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>44,662</b>	<b>26,759</b>	<b>33,435</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>38,080</b>

The overdrawn balance on the MSH fabric and other fund has been cleared by a transfer from Diocesan General fund.

3 Branch accounts	Branch receipts	Branch payments	Charity net receipts	Charity net payments
	2018	2018	2018	2018
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	15,665	16,523	–	859
Fund-raising	11,275	10,126	3,845	2,696
Payments for MU Shop items	533	682	533	682
Special projects	702	888	702	888
Families First	61	71	–	10
Contributions to Church projects	–	960	–	960
Authorised expenses	–	952	–	952
Meetings – room hire	–	1,238	–	1,238
Fund raising expenses of branches	–	60	–	60
Branch other activities	4,401	2,201	4,401	2,201
Bank interest	1	–	1	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,638</b>	<b>33,700</b>	<b>9,483</b>	<b>10,545</b>
				19,135
<b>Balance brought forward 1 January 2018</b>				<b>(1,062)</b>
Surplus of payments over receipts				<b>18,073</b>
<b>Balance carried forward 31 December 2018</b>				

Where branch payments are payments into other accounts held by the charity they are netted against receipts in the charity’s receipts and payments account.

## 4 Trustee expenses

During the year payments totalling £907 (2017: £795) were made to nine (2017: eight) Trustees in reimbursement of expenses