



DIOCESE of MONMOUTH MOTHERS' UNION.

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

CHARITY NUMBER 1073782

Diocese of Monmouth Mothers' Union Annual Report 2019

Legal and Administrative Information

PATRON the Bishop of Monmouth, the Most Rev'd Richard Pain

TRUSTEES.

President.

Pat Jarrett

General Trustees

Anne Griffiths

Wendy Gibbs

Joy Best

Susan Russell

Jean Hackett

Paula Pippen

Jenny Swattridge

Chaplain.

Rev'd John Humphries

Secretary.

Sheila Wells

Treasurer

Colin Jarrett

Unit Co-ordinators.

Pat Jarrett

Jean Hackett

Paula Pippen

Jenny Swattridge

Registered Address.

27, Ash Grove, Llanellen, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire. NP7 9HP. Email: colinpatjarrett@msn.com

Auditor

Michele McIntosh CPA

Ivy Cottage Clydach, Gilwern, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire. NP7 0LL

Bankers.

HSBC, 1, Bridge Street, Newport.

The Trustees are elected triennially by Council Members after nomination.

This the first year of the Triennium.

The Monmouth Diocese Mothers' Union is registered as a charity and its registered number is 1073782.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER 2019

The Diocese of Monmouth Mothers' Union is an autonomous member of the Mothers' Union subscribing to the Central Mothers Union Constitution but with its own constitution. Members pay a subscription to The Mothers' Union and to the Diocese. For the year 2019 the Diocesan Subscription was £20:00 (£14:50 to Mary Sumner House and £5:50 to the Diocese).

At the beginning of the year there were 480 subscribing members in 26 branches. At the end of 2019, 1 Branch had closed, a loss of 10 members.

The Trustee Board is made up of the Diocesan President, 7 General Trustees, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer and the Chaplain.

There are four units with specific area of responsibility.

Finance and Central Services looks after administration including Finance, Gift Aid and Database.

Members are the President (Co-ordinator), Secretary, Treasurer, MU enterprise representative, Gift Aid Secretary and Database Secretary.

There are 6 members of this committee.

Faith Support concerns itself with Faith, Social policy, indoor members, organising services and retreats.

Members are the Co-ordinator, Retreat Organiser, Indoor Members Representatives, Prison visiting and Projects.

There are 6 members of this committee.

Action and Outreach are responsible for Overseas Links, AFIA (Away from it All Holidays) and MU Projects.

Members are the Co-ordinator, World Wide Links Correspondent, AFIA Representative and Hospital Representative and Contact Centre Representative.

There are 6 members of this committee.

Fundraising and Communication organise overseas, publicity and events. Members are the Co-ordinator, New Members representative, Diocesan Members Representative, Publicity Officer and Speakers Representative.

There are 5 members of this committee.

Mission and Values

- Wherever Mothers' Union exists in the world we will express our Christian faith in the transformation of families and communities worldwide.
- We will achieve this by promoting the importance of marriage, supporting families and nurturing faith; with members sensitively spreading the news of a God who loves and cares for us all.
- Mothers' Union is a Christian mission organisation working with people of all faiths and none. We are firmly rooted in a voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration.
- Our governance, leadership, and activities are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide.

Risk Assessment.

The Trustees are satisfied that risks have been identified and a system is in place to manage and mitigate them.

Review of Diocesan Activities 2019.

The start of 2019 proved to be difficult as the President stood down to enable her to take on the role of Zonal Trustee for Wales. This left the Diocese without a President along with the need to restructure the Board in line with Mary Sumner House, this left only the Secretary and Treasurer remaining. After many appeals for someone to take on the role of President the Diocesan Treasurer allowed her name to be submitted. A ballot was held, which was administered by the Province, whereby the new President, along with 7 General Trustees were appointed, this still left the Treasurer's and Chaplain's posts to be filled.

This resulted in over 2 months passing before the Diocese had a fully operational Trustee Board, despite these problems the new Board met on 14th March.

A diary of events was quickly compiled to incorporate events in line with the theme for 2019 of **Listen, Observe, Act – in step with God**. Dates for Deanery Festivals were set along with services to celebrate Lady Day, a Quiet Day, dates for both Spring (14th June) and Winter (8th November) Council Meetings, along with future Trustees meetings.

February saw the President elect, Secretary and Treasurer travel to Southwark Cathedral for the Commissioning of the Worldwide President, Sheran Harper.

Our work with the Local hospitals continued but Mothers' Union can no longer supply knitted teddies and other soft toys due to health and safety regulations, however individuals continue to produce these items, therefore the supply continues. Members also continue to provide Angel Pockets, Blankets and Knitted items for the premature baby units. Our work for dementia patients is ongoing and we continue to produce the much needed and appreciated Fiddle Pinnies and Twiddle Muffs to enhance and encourage patient's stimulation.

The support for the Abergavenny Child Contact Centre, of which the Diocesan Treasurer is the registered National Association of Child Contact Centres Co-ordinator continues to expand. Mothers' Union volunteers continue to help, on a regular basis and fundraising for the Centre by members is ongoing. AFIA holidays were available but unfortunately 2019 saw no uptake.

August saw members join together to celebrate Mary Sumner Day with a Song of Praise held at St. Mary's Malpas, followed by afternoon tea provided by the St. Mary's members. All organised by the Faith Support Unit.

The highlight of the year came in September, having been advised that the Worldwide President would be visiting all Dioceses in the Province with the date for her visit to Monmouth set for 4th September the President elect arranged for her to Commission the whole of the Trustee Board at a Eucharist Service held at St. Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny, and celebrated by The Most Reverend His Grace John Davies Archbishop of Wales with Sheran giving the Address, this was followed by lunch for invited guests. Displays of the work and projects of the members of the Diocese were on display for Sheran and guests to peruse.

The Annual Retreat was held in October at Ty-Croeso Llantarnum Abbey with the theme of **Breaking Down Barriers**, this well attended retreat was organised and run by the Faith Support Unit with our Chaplain and Archdeacon Ambrose Mason, taking part.

Two Provincial meetings at Llanidloes took place along with Trustees training enabling members from the Province of Wales to come together to share experiences. The Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting was held in Portsmouth 16 members attended.

Spring and Winter Councils were well attended, also Deanery Festivals were supported by both Trustees and Unit Members whenever possible in order to show support for the members.

Speakers Forums met twice during the year with each speaker advising the Speakers representative of their chosen subject enabling her to compile a booklet of Speakers and their topic's for distribution to branches, who continue to pay an annual subscription of £15 towards the Speakers expenses. All speakers embrace the ethos of the Mothers' Union in their talks.

The **"16 Days of Activism on Gender Base Violence"** continues to be given support within the Diocese, aided by information provided by Mary Sumner House and the Faith Support Unit.

Our Overseas Representative continues to pursue contact with our Overseas Link Dioceses. Our Wave of Prayer encourages us to remember and pray for these Dioceses.

The Fundraising and Communication Unit continues to look at new ways of increasing membership and the awareness of the work of the organisation alongside members of the clergy.

Mothers' Union in Monmouth continues to have an input into HMP Usk as part of the prison Chaplaincy and also contact with HMP Prescoed open Prison through our ongoing Angel Tree Project. This Project enables prisoners to send their child a Christmas gift, thereby maintaining important family links and ensuring children do not feel unsupported or abandoned at this festive but vulnerable time.

Our Indoor Membership, of which there are 72, continue to be encouraged to be part of the Mothers' Union by the two Indoor Representatives forwarding Birthday, Easter and Christmas Cards along with the 3 monthly Diocesan Newsletters.

The Mothers' Union Enterprise representative and her team of volunteers work extremely hard by visiting Branches, Deanery Festivals and any Mothers' Union held events to increase the sale of merchandise to enable us to receive an increase in profits.

The Trustees Board accept that due to circumstances beyond their control they have not been able to fulfil many of the previously planned projects, but despite the late start were able to meet four times during the year to discuss the business of the organisation, update the constitution of Monmouth Mothers' Union and maintain communication with members throughout the Diocese whilst continuing to identify and address areas of concern. The last meeting of the year, the Trustees, Unit Members and guests were able to enjoy fellowship whilst sharing Christmas Lunch together.

Trustees and Unit Members have risen to the challenge of keeping the Mothers' Union in Monmouth Diocese functioning under very difficult circumstances and are to be congratulated for their commitment.

Unit Reports.

Finance & Central Services Unit.

The administrative and financial work of the society is carried out by members of the unit which has set and recorded the unit budgets for the year. The Annual Reports and Accounts for 2019 were compiled by the unit and after acceptance by the Trustees was made available to the general membership at Winter Council, held in November.

The Diocesan President attended the Annual General Meeting, in Portsmouth, Trustees training and together with members of the Trustees Board, the Provincial meetings at Llanidloes.

No Gift Aid has been claimed this year. The Mue team continue to sell merchandise.

The setting up of the database is ongoing, although some problems have still to be resolved.

Pat Jarrett, Finance & Central Services Unit, Co-ordinator.

Faith Support.

The Faith Support Unit is an active committee providing opportunities and resources to enable the MU members in Monmouth Diocese to deepen their faith and relationship with God. The Indoor Members of the Diocesan MU are nurtured. The MU involvement in HMPs Usk and Prescoed grows each year.

Events and Resources

A **Quiet Day** was held at St Margaret's Church Risca on the Friday before Palm Sunday to help our MU members to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. In the morning two members of the Unit gave short talks on the different reactions shown to Jesus and his ministry. These were interspersed with readings, prayers and quiet music. The members of the Unit prepared home-made soup for lunch and this was served with bread, cheese and grapes. In the afternoon we joined in a Eucharist.

On Mary Sumner Day, August 9th, we arranged a **Songs of Praise** in St Mary's Church Malpas. Members were invited to submit hymns, from which a variety of hymns and songs were chosen for use during the afternoon. In between the hymns members from around the diocese shared some of their memories of MU life through the years. The vicar, the Revd Becca Stevens, gave a brief address. Afterwards Malpas MU served afternoon tea in the hall.

The annual two-day **Retreat** took place in October at Ty Croeso, Llantarnam Abbey, with 10 members staying overnight and 16 others joining as day retreatants. Our theme was 'Breaking Down Barriers' and talks were given by Unit members, the Revd Canon Jenny Mole and Archdeacon Ambrose Mason. Our MU Chaplain, the Revd John Humphries, celebrated the Eucharist.

At the winter council the Unit provided packs for each branch containing a daily prayer cycle for every member, a special calendar for Advent, a copy of an Advent service for use in branches, and prayers for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Indoor Members

In November 2019 there were 72 Members subscribing and non-subscribing Indoor Members. Our IM Representatives send mailings (cards and letters) at Easter, in the autumn and at Christmas, along with birthday cards. In addition to this branch members receive birthday cards on their 90th birthdays and each year after that.

HMPs Usk and Prescoed

14 MU members are on the rota to worship at HMP Usk for the Sunday service and chat to the men over tea and coffee afterwards. Four music volumes of the hymn book 'Songs of Fellowship' were purchased by the MU and presented in the chapel at Usk.

MU representatives attended the Volunteer Day at HMP Usk on June 17th. Sue Griffiths, the Mu contact for prison work, attended Family Days at HMP Prescoed. At Easter 34 Easter eggs were given to the children attending. She was able to help with the Easter egg hunt and was asked to present prizes to winners of the family quiz. Sue asked MU members to donate unwanted games that they may have cluttering up their cupboards to give to Prescoed for the children to play with at family days. The MU bought Christmas presents for the children at Prescoed. These are given to the prisoners so that they can in turn give them to their children.

MU members attended the service in St Marys Usk to celebrate 175 years of the prison's service to the criminal justice system and the carol service in HMP Usk.

Members in the branches donated toiletries to be given to the prisoners at HMP Usk at Christmas.

Jean Hackett, Faith Support Unit Co-ordinator

Action and Outreach.

AFIA – During 2019, Monmouth Diocese did not have any referral for our allocated weeks at the caravan in Trecco Bay, Porthcawl, so they were offered back to Llandaff Diocese who own the caravan. We have had a referral for 2020.

MUe – We continue to promote and sell the range of MUe products

Contact Centre – The Contact Centre in Abergavenny operates on a fortnightly basis with a varying number of families referred. As one of our projects, volunteers continue to support and fund raise.

Hospital Projects – Our Hospital Projects continue to flourish due to the support of our members who continue to make emergency packs for our local hospitals. Also providing small knitted or fabric toys for infants being admitted into hospital; along with angel pockets and knitted items for the baby unit, also knee blankets, knitted or crocheted for the elderly or immobile.

Overseas – Our Overseas Rep, Rosemary continues to try and make contact with her colleagues in our Link Diocese of Freetown Diocese, Sierra Leone, Zanzibar Island, Tanzania, Gambella Region, South West Ethiopia, Awgu-Aninri, Eastern Nigeria, , but she does not have much regular response from them mainly due to lack of communication channels.

Jenny Swatridge, Action & Outreach, Co-ordinator.

Fundraising and Communication.

The tardy start to the year inevitably affected the activity of the Unit but a significant number of actions were achieved.

Mothers Union Listening Observing and Action, MULOA, was supported by MU Speakers making themselves available to visit branches and develop further the understanding of the theme amongst the members. Also, recommendations were made to use the resources on the MU website and read the inspirational words of Sheran Harper Worldwide President on the topic.

A survey was undertaken to assimilate the relevance and wishes of the branches regarding the topics being offered by the speakers. Also, a session was held to further develop the skills of the speakers.

Unfortunately, the training course on Membership organised by Mary Sumner House was postponed, but those who attended the MU AGM in Portsmouth were able to glean some ideas from presentations made and resources on the MU website were made available.

Communication amongst the members was improved by planning to issue four Diocesan newsletters per year to the membership, the response was positive as articles were based on information giving, sharing of best practices and general news in the branches. Also, Families First, the MU publication was recommended on several occasions.

When Sheran Harper visited the Diocese display boards were prepared to inform her of the projects undertaken; these boards were then made available to branches to raise awareness in their parishes, dispel myths, encourage interest in the MU and be used as a recruitment tool.

Diocesan Members are falling in number but those remaining were kept informed via the newsletters the MU magazine, Families Worldwide. Attempts were made to trace membership of closing branches to encourage them to remain as members or become Diocesan Members.

Paula Pippen, Fundraising and Communication. Co-ordinator.

Plans for 2020.

The theme for 2020 is **Building Hope and Confidence.**

Branches continue to be encouraged to hold meetings which embrace worship and prayer. Our work with the local hospitals will continue and members encouraged to provide toiletries, nightwear, underwear and loose-fitting bed socks, along with angel pockets and items for the premature baby unit.

Our work with Dementia Patients is ongoing and we produce Fiddle Pinnies and Twiddle Muffs. We continue to support both Usk and Prescoed Prisons with volunteers.

Indoor Members will also be provided for by way of a monthly Reflection from our Zonal Trustee and the 3-monthly newsletter.

The Trustees and members will still endeavour to support the homeless.

There are two Provincial meetings planned, one to include a Songs of Praise. The Annual General Meeting, now renamed the Annual Gathering will be held in September in Belfast, where members will have the opportunity to meet with Sheran Harper, the Worldwide President, along with the CEO Bev Jullien and staff from Mary Sumner House.

Spring and Winter Council continue to move around the diocese with Deanery Festivals well supported although membership continues to dwindle.

Services are planned for both Lady Day and Mary Sumner Day.

The Annul Retreat held at Ty-Croeso, Llantarnum Abbey is planned for October.

The Speakers representative plans two meetings to update speakers chosen topics which can be forwarded to all branches. It is hoped that 2020 will allow both Trustees and members to continue to meet and share worship and fellowship with each other.

Pat Jarrett, Diocesan President

DIOCESE OF MONMOUTH

MOTHERS UNION

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

Michele M. McIntosh, CPA
Certified Public Accountant

Diocese of Monmouth

Mothers Union

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Year Ended 31st December 2019

Receipts as per schedule (1)	£ 25272.42	Payments as per schedule (2)	£10487.66
Attached		Attached	
Interest COIF Share	949.56		
COIF Deposit	2.34		
Excess of payments over receipts			15736.66
Total	£ <u>26224.32</u>		£ <u>26224.32</u>

General Fund:

Accumulated Balance as at 1 st January 2019	31,789.16
Add Excess of payments over receipts -as above	15736.66
Accumulated balance as at 31 st December 2019	Total <u>47525.82</u>

Represented by:

Bank Account	18,971.19
COIF Share Account	27,500.00
COIF Deposit Account	1054.63
Total	<u>£ 47525.82</u>

I certify the above to be in accordance with the books of accounts, receipts and documents produced and explanations provided. I have examined the bank accounts and certify that the balances are correct.

Michele M. McIntosh, CPA

Certified Public Accountant

Auditor

DIOCESE OF MONMOUTH

MOTHERS UNION

Schedule 1

RECEIPTS

Members Subscriptions		9,606.00
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Insurance		812.00
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Donations:

Overseas	1714.64	
B&I Development Fund	86.40	
MSH General Fund	85.40	
MSH Fabric Fund	81.40	1967.84

Appeals:

Make a Mothers' Day	171.00	
Summer of Hope	1001.00	
Indoor Members	181.40	
AFIA.	421.40	
Diocese	1225.51	
Prisons	631.40	
Contact Centre	576.40	
Homeless	303.67	
Speakers	375.00	4886.78

Sales:

MUE Grant	472.50	
MUE	<u>4409.14</u>	4881.64

Events

Quite Day	180.00	
Song of Praise	160.00	
WWP Lunch	255.00	
WWP Offertory	501.16	
Retreat	1605.00	
Trustees Lunch	272.50	
AGM	144.50	3118.16

TOTAL		<u>£ 25,272.42</u>
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MONMOUTH DIOCESE

MOTHERS UNION

Schedule 2

PAYMENTS

Expenses:

Subscriptions 2019

Units:

Finance & Central Services	3966.29	
Faith Support	125.03	
Indoor Members	78.82	
Speakers	281.12	4451.26

Sales:

MUE	<u>2672.59</u>	2672.59
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Projects:

Prisons	292.59	
Contact Centre	207.94	500.53

Events:

Retreat -2019	1657.15	1657.15
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Misc

WWP Visit	686.53	
WWP Flowers	50.00	
AGM	144.50	
Trustees Lunch	325.10	
		1206.13

TOTAL		<u>£10487.66</u>
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