

THE MOTHERS' UNION WAKEFIELD DIOCESE
FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008

1) The Wakefield Diocesan Mothers' Union (hereinafter referred to as 'The Society') is constituted by Deed of Trust and is registered charity No. 249804 in England and Wales.

2) The Society's Office Address is:

Mothers' Union, Church House, 1 South Parade, Wakefield, WF1 1 LP

3) The charity shares the same Aim, Purpose, and Mission as Mothers' Union (Charity number 240531). Its Aim and Purpose is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities world wide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

In order to carry out this Aim and Purpose, its Mission is:

- * To promote and support married life
- * To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children
- * To maintain a world wide 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

4) The affairs of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese are governed by a Constitution, which was revised and updated during 2008. This new Constitution will take effect from January 2010. The charity is managed by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has four scheduled meetings each year and meets additionally at the request of the President, if urgent decisions need to be taken.

5) The Trustees are as follows:

Mrs Molly Batty
Mrs Jean Brooke
Mrs Sheila Crosby
Miss Gillian Dawson
Mrs Monica Dodds
Mrs Joan Dunn
Mrs Yvonne English
Mrs Trees Fewster
Mrs Christine Garside

Mrs Barbara Hardwick
Mrs Cynthia Hindley
Mrs Doreen Hope
Mrs Olive Houghton
Mrs Gina Netherwood
Mrs Kath Noble
Mrs Cynthia Osborne
Mrs Hilary Pollard
Mrs Margaret Stears

6) The Society's Trustees are elected tri-annually by the members of the Society's Council. The Chaplain is appointed by the President. The Council meets twice annually to debate matters and advise the Trustees; its members are the Trustees, Diocesan and Deanery officers, Diocesan Speakers and Branch Leaders. Training is provided for Trustees on a continuing basis, and particularly at the beginning of each three-year cycle.

7) The Society's Trustees conduct an evaluation of its risks on an annual basis. Recovery plans have been made to respond to any situation in which its administrative or financial records were unavailable (either temporarily or permanently). Risk assessment at the locations where our volunteer members undertake work (e.g. prisons) is undertaken jointly with the other organisations involved. Advice is made available to branches to assess the risks and Health and Safety implications of events they organise.

8) The Society has about 1859 members. Most are members of 75 branches attached to specific churches. About 99 active members, who attend churches without a branch, are designated Deanery Members. They

are invited to Deanery and other significant events, and are welcome to attend any branch meeting. 101 members, who are unable to attend meetings, generally due to age or infirmity, are designated Indoor Members. They regularly pray for the activities of the Society and other Mothers' Union organisations, and receive letters from 106 other members (correspondents).

9) Branches usually meet once monthly, and in addition undertake work in their parish in support of the Society's aims. They also collect funds for the activities of the Society and Mothers' Union central charities. The result of these collections is given in paragraph 20 below. Each year a suggestion is made by the Affiliated Groups within the Diocese as to a project for which money will be raised throughout the year. During 2008 £3126 was raised towards 'Loving for Life', a Mothers' Union programme which aims to train facilitators to run courses in marriage preparation. Several members from our Diocese have been trained. A total of eight computers, bought from the proceeds of the 2007 project, were given to refugees across the Diocese and a games console to the Visitor Centre at New Hall Prison. Members also give other forms of support, such as gifts of bedding, clothing and toiletries, to the refugees within the Diocese.

10) Members of The Society undertake work supporting its aims at New Hall Prison. Members work in the Chaplaincy Team and the Mother and Baby Unit, including running the Mothers' Union Parenting course. The project in the Visitor Centre at New Hall had a successful first year. Mothers' Union members provide a welcome, the first contact that visiting families have before they enter the prison. Members also make a refreshment service available for the visitors. The prison authorities have expressed their thanks for this valuable contribution.

11) Our members organise holidays for people who would otherwise be unable to afford one, and we raise the money to pay for these holidays. The holidays take place in a caravan or apartment on the Lancashire or Yorkshire coasts and range from full weeks to single days. In 2008 we were able to provide holidays for 16 adults and 19 children. £3861 donated from the Bishop of Wakefield's Lent Appeal helped with the provision of these holidays during 2008. We intend to continue to promote this facility widely during 2009

12) Students at University of Huddersfield are supported, including the provision of emergency supplies of food for distribution by the Chaplaincy staff. Over 500 copies of our publication 'Grub on no grant' containing up to date information and recipes, were given to grateful students at the Freshers' Fair.

13) Each Friday morning for 25 years members from at least one branch have provided refreshments for visitors to Treacy Hall, attached to Wakefield Cathedral. A large proportion of our members were engaged in this outreach activity. The money raised was divided equally between the cathedral, the Charity's administrative expenses, and Mothers' Union work world wide (see paragraph 20). Unfortunately, this came to an end in December 2008 as the Cathedral has plans for redeveloping the Cathedral area.

14. The Marketing Unit had another successful and busy year promoting the work of Mothers' Union in the Diocese and publicising the new programmes and policies for our work at home and abroad. 2008 saw the launch of two new magazines introducing a new, more modern face of Mothers' Union. In 'Families First', replacing 'Home and Family' magazine articles are aimed to live up to, and to reflect the aim and purpose of Mothers' Union and showcase the diversity of its work world wide. 'Families Worldwide' is a new resource magazine, free to every member, which includes the Prayer Diary. It features the countries where Mothers' Union is working, news of policy and project work plus ideas for branches to use in their own localities. A wider range of Mothers' Union cards and gifts became available during 2008, helping to provide income from their sale to help with work in the Diocese. A total of £8736 worth of goods was sold during 2008. The specific pages relating to the Mothers' Union on the website of the Diocese of Wakefield help to publicise the work of the Mothers' Union.

15) Prayer underpins all the work of The Mothers' Union and the Faith and Policy Unit aims to develop these aspects in all our members. The Diocesan Chaplain, together with officers of this Unit, conducts brief services at meetings of Diocesan Council and Trustees. During 2008 the Unit organised three 'Time for Reflection' days at locations across the Diocese and a Quiet Weekend outside the Diocese. A network of contacts across the Diocese has been established to work to raise awareness of, and follow through, social issues which affect families, an example of the growing emphasis within Mothers' Union on national and

international issues. The Unit has a well established Prayer Chain, helping members to target their prayers at those in particular need. Services were prepared for Mary Sumner Day and to support the Wave of Prayer which connects members throughout the world. The Triennial Diocesan Conference was held in October at Grange over Sands. The theme was 'Time for Relationships'. Those who attended found it a worthwhile and challenging experience. The Kitty Cooper Bursary Fund is used to give financial support to those members who would otherwise be unable to attend such events. The Fund was established for this purpose.

16) The Society's Auditors are Simpson Wood, Bank Chambers, Market Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2EW
The Society's Bankers are Barclays Bank, Victoria Square, Holmfirth, Huddersfield.

17) As at 31st December 2008 the Society had net assets of £55,516
Total income for the year was £77,076 Total expenditure for the year was £73,071

18) The Society now has two paid Officers; the Diocesan Secretary, Mrs Caroline Asquith, and the Diocesan Treasurer, Mrs Alexandra Roberts who took up her post at the beginning of October 2008.

19) The Society recognises that it holds a significant reserve in relation to its turnover. Previous understanding was that this money should be invested to provide further income for the Society's objects, but the Trustees now recognise that they should be utilising all their assets towards the fulfilment of the Society's objects. The Trustees will continue to make appropriate use of the Society's reserves during 2009.

20) The following amounts were raised for specific purposes:

Action and Outreach Unit:

£2064 for the General Fund

£5443 for Away From It All Holidays (This includes the donation from the Bishop's Lenten Appeal)
(see paragraph 11)

£8294 for Mothers' Union work outside British Isles

£1950 for Special Relief

£896 for Britain and Ireland Development Fund

£3126 for 'Loving for Life' (see paragraph 9)

Marketing Unit

£498 for the Marketing Unit

Faith and Policy Unit: (Faith, Prayer and Policy in Wakefield Diocese)

£718 for the General Fund

£490 for Indoor Members Prayer Circle (see paragraph 8)

The Treacy Hall coffee mornings realised £2993 (see paragraph 13)