

## Finance Officer's Report for Council Meeting - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### A personal message

This will be my last ever report to Council because on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 I am standing down as Diocesan Finance Officer to focus on the next stage of my breast cancer surgical journey.

I need to have at least one more operation, which will probably be split into two parts, and it's a crucial surgery that, together with intensive follow up physio, will determine how I live, and mobilise, for the rest of my life, so it's quite important.

It has been a privilege to act first as Diocesan Treasurer, then as Diocesan Finance Officer, over the past 4 years. I joined MU just weeks after the end of active treatment for my recurrent breast cancer, and at my very first branch meeting I heard the call out for a Diocesan Treasurer. What a whirlwind it was.

It's been something of a roller coaster health wise since then but I have very much enjoyed my time "minding the money", especially latterly with the sterling assistance of Rob Shackleton, as Diocesan Bookkeeper, who is also treasurer for Constable Churches branch.

Rob will be standing down as Diocesan Bookkeeper at the end of this year too to spend more time focusing on his, and his wife's, incredible fostering work.

Together we will do everything that we can to ensure as smooth a handover as possible to whoever comes next.

### Overview

This report is for the figures up to, and including, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

*MU Diocesan Consolidated Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024*

By the time you read this Jeanette and I will have met to file our Annual Return and 2024 Consolidated Accounts with the Charity Commission, thereby fulfilling the Trustees' legal obligation to file by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

I am delighted to report that Jonathan Beards, our new Independent Examiner, was so impressed with the accounting records that Rob and I keep he said it is the best laid out set of Excel spreadsheets that he's seen in a long time.

A pat on the back there for Rob and I. Recognition and praise is always lovely to receive, especially as we are all volunteers.

### *Diocesan Accounts*

Our diocesan accounts continue to be healthy, although, as ever, we could do with spending some of the nearly £40,000 that we have in hand!

## Balance Sheet

Our Balance Sheet up to, and including, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 is as follows:

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 10TH OCTOBER 2025 |                                           |                  |                                          |                  |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                                       | Closing Balances at<br>31st December 2024 |                  | Closing Balances at<br>10th October 2025 |                  | Variance          |
|                                       | £                                         | £                | £                                        | £                | £                 |
| <b>RESERVES</b>                       |                                           |                  |                                          |                  |                   |
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 10,218.85                                 |                  | 9,831.40                                 |                  | (387.45)          |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Account | 5,050.80                                  |                  | 5,167.75                                 |                  | 116.95            |
| <i>Sub Total</i>                      |                                           | 15,269.65        |                                          | 14,999.15        |                   |
| <b>WORKING CAPITAL</b>                |                                           |                  |                                          |                  |                   |
| CAF Bank Current Account              | 11,055.65                                 |                  | 6,452.33                                 |                  |                   |
| CAF Bank Gold Saver Account           | 15,558.94                                 |                  | 18,391.38                                |                  |                   |
| <i>Sub Total</i>                      |                                           | 26,614.59        |                                          | 24,843.71        | (1,770.88)        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS HELD</b>               |                                           | <u>41,884.24</u> |                                          | <u>39,842.86</u> | <u>(2,041.38)</u> |

You will see that I have altered the layout and presentation of the Balance Sheet a little to make some figures more obvious.

There are now sub totals for our Reserves and Working Capital bank accounts, along with a new Variance column.

The reduction in the value of our CBF Church of England Investment Fund of £387.45 (as last reported by CCLA, who manage these funds, up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025) is in effect down to the turmoil in the stock market following President Trump's various actions and tariffs, along with the repercussions of the wars in Russia / Ukraine and the Middle East.

Praise the Lord that, as I write, the Israeli hostages are being released.

I'm sure we've all been praying hard for a welcome development like this!

*This space has been left intentionally blank.*

## Fund Accounting

### FUND ACCOUNTING - Central Charity

|                                                   | £<br>B/F | £<br>In | £<br>Out | £<br>Balance |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|--------------|
| <b>MSH Designated Funds</b>                       |          |         |          |              |
| Literacy & Financial Education                    | 321.51   | 10.00   | 321.51   | 10.00        |
| Britain & Ireland Development                     | 227.51   | 5.00    | 232.51   | 0.00         |
| Overseas Relief Work - <i>Closed to donations</i> | 0.00     | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00         |
| Overseas Development                              | 204.51   | 162.23  | 355.74   | 11.00        |
| Provident Fund - <i>Closed to donations</i>       | 201.51   | 0.00    | 201.51   | 0.00         |

### MSH Appeals, Campaigns & Projects

|                                                                                              |        |          |          |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| Mothers' Day Appeal                                                                          | 0.00   | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00   |
| Summer of Hope Appeal                                                                        | 0.00   | 726.50   | 582.00   | 144.50 |
| Christmas Appeal ( <i>Kingdom Savings in Uganda for 2025</i> )                               | 180.30 | 0.00     | 180.30   | 0.00   |
| Illiteracy Campaign 2024 - <i>part of Literacy &amp; Financial Education Designated Fund</i> | 0.00   | 23.00    | 0.00     | 23.00  |
| Credit, Savings and Livelihoods Project                                                      | 0.00   | 5,531.51 | 5,531.51 | 0.00   |

### MSH Unrestricted Funds

|                       |                 |                  |                  |               |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Subscriptions 2026    | 0.00            | 375.00           | 50.00            | 325.00        |
| Subscriptions 2025    | 2,744.00        | 5,071.50         | 7,803.25         | 12.25         |
| Subscriptions 2024    | 3,404.00        | 23.00            | 3,427.00         | 0.00          |
| General Donations     | 0.00            | 0.00             | 0.00             | 0.00          |
| <b>MSH SUB TOTALS</b> | <b>7,283.34</b> | <b>11,927.74</b> | <b>18,685.33</b> | <b>525.75</b> |

In Fund Accounting I have rearranged the Central Charity items to better reflect the names of the Designated Funds that they operate.

Two of the MSH Designated Funds are currently closed to new donations and I've added a note to both Overseas Relief Work (which is heavily oversubscribed, a great position for the charity to be in) and Provident Fund to this end.

I have now grouped the MSH Appeals, Campaigns and Project items together and I have added notes to make it more obvious what each item is for.

It has already been announced that the 2025 Christmas Appeal will be for the Kingdom Savings project in Uganda, so I've added that as a note.

The MSH Unrestricted items, mostly consisting of subscriptions, are listed at the bottom of page 1 of the full PDF document attached.

At the bottom of page 1, and towards the end of page 2, you will see that there is a balance owing to MSH of £525.75. The breakdown of this figure is shown in the Balance column above.

On page 2 for the Fund Accounting - St Eds & Ips Diocese Designated Funds I have added notes to some of the Fund names to clarify what they are used for.

### FUND ACCOUNTING - St Eds & Ips Diocese

|                                                                       | £<br>B/F | £<br>In  | £<br>Out | £<br>Balance |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| <b>Diocesan Designated Funds</b>                                      |          |          |          |              |
| Easy Funding for AFIA                                                 | 891.49   | 57.91    | 0.00     | 949.40       |
| AFIA                                                                  | 2,677.96 | 246.00   | 0.00     | 2,923.96     |
| Parenting - <i>inc Grandparents' Days &amp; School Uniform Grants</i> | 1,611.82 | 360.73   | 637.51   | 1,335.04     |
| Womens' Refuge                                                        | 298.42   | 112.00   | 0.00     | 410.42       |
| Prisoners' Projects - <i>inc Christmas Cards</i>                      | 158.57   | 1,166.00 | 766.67   | 557.90       |
| Indoor Members                                                        | (19.37)  | 320.00   | 247.82   | 52.81        |
| Diocesan Members                                                      | 103.11   | 164.00   | 222.70   | 44.41        |
| Over 90s Members                                                      | 384.50   | 0.00     | 0.00     | 384.50       |
| Ipswich Area                                                          | 395.24   | 0.00     | 0.00     | 395.24       |
| North Suffolk Area                                                    | 554.43   | 200.00   | 650.00   | 104.43       |

### Diocesan Unrestricted Funds

|                                                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Gift Aid                                                     | 0.00             | 0.00             | 0.00             | 0.00             |
| Patricia Brown Legacy                                        | 0.00             | 12,500.00        | 6,000.00         | 6,500.00         |
| Outings (AGM etc) - <i>Closing this Fund, not required</i>   | 244.54           | 0.00             | 0.00             | 244.54           |
| Retreat & Quiet Day - <i>Closing this Fund, not required</i> | 394.99           | 0.00             | 0.00             | 394.99           |
| Reserves for distribution                                    | 9,850.81         | 0.00             | 850.81           | 9,000.00         |
| General Fund                                                 | 1,784.74         | 3,858.83         | 4,623.25         | 1,020.32         |
| <b>DIOCESAN SUB TOTALS</b>                                   | <b>19,331.25</b> | <b>18,985.47</b> | <b>13,998.76</b> | <b>24,317.96</b> |

In my report for the October Trustees' meeting I had suggested that we amalgamate the Easy Funding for AFIA and AFIA Designated Funds, to make it easier to see how much we available in total for AFIA grants.

I wasn't actually able to attend the October Trustees' meeting, and unfortunately this item didn't get discussed, or approved, so they are still shown on the report as separate items for the time being. Hopefully that will change by next year.

It was probably useful to split the two figures in the early days of Easy Funding but it is now very well established and it would be sensible to streamline our reports as much as possible from now on to make them easier to read and, in this case, to make it more obvious how much money is in our overall AFIA Fund = £3,873.36 at present.

At the time of writing we are yet to receive the AFIA fundraising monies from the Henley MU organised "Feast of Music", so the overall AFIA balance will increase in due course.

In the Diocesan Unrestricted Funds breakdown I have proposed closing the Outings (AGM etc) and Retreat & Quiet Day "funds" because these sums of money have sat in our reports, untouched, ever since I've been in post, and for some time before that. Unfortunately this also wasn't discussed at the October Trustees' meeting, but the proposal is to move the total of £639.53 to the Diocesan General Fund.

If we ever undertake this kind of expenditure in the future the Trustees can agree a specific budget as required at the time, and it can be reported on separately.

Finally I've also rearranged the bottom section of the Balance Sheet report layout to put the cross check calculations, that Rob and I use to ensure that we've posted everything correctly into the Diocesan Accounts spreadsheet, at the end because they are only for our reference.

The new layout makes the figure for any monies owed to MSH more obvious, as mentioned above.

#### *Statement of Income and Expenditure*

I've also streamlined the layout of the Statement of Income and Expenditure, which analyses the income and expenditure in the Diocesan Unrestricted General Fund, so that it fits on one page.

Now that we are paying a fee for our Independent Examination a new expenditure category has been set up to record this cost each year. I've removed a number of redundant categories from both parts of this report to make it easier to read and more relevant.

### **Central Charity**

We have paid a total of £18,685.33 to MSH so far this calendar year, which breaks down as follows:

| <b>Fund</b>                           |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Literacy & Financial Education        | £321.51           |
| Britain & Ireland Development Work    | £232.51           |
| Overseas Development                  | £355.74           |
| Provident Fund                        | £201.51           |
| Summer of Hope Appeal                 | £582.00           |
| Christmas Appeal                      | £180.30           |
| Credit, Savings & Livelihoods Project | £5,531.51         |
| Subscriptions 2026                    | £50.00            |
| Subscriptions 2025                    | £7,803.25         |
| Subscriptions 2024                    | £3,427.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>£18,685.33</b> |

### **Lloyds Bank Treasurers' Account Changes**

As those branches who bank with Lloyds know only too well as part of Lloyds' cost cutting measures they are withdrawing the long standing, free of charge, Treasurers' Account for small charities.

They are trying to impose a new Community Account onto our branches, for which they will be charging a monthly fee.

Jeanette and I are working with those branches that have decided to stick with Lloyds (others have closed their Lloyds bank accounts, some in protest) to assist them in sending appropriately worded letters, with supporting documentation, to try and get Lloyds to see sense and offer our branches their new Charity Account, which is free of charge, instead.

Here's hoping our representations bear fruit in the form of some common sense.

### **Summary**

It has been a pleasure and privilege to "manage the money" for MU in the Diocese for the past 4 years.

Here's to 2026.

**Amanda Langan**  
**13<sup>th</sup> October 2025**