

This year's committee is as follows; Branch Leader Sue Lismer; Secretary Win Fruin; Treasurer Christine Jackson; Caroline Charman; Christine Bright; Karen Ind; and Liz Hawkins.

Last year we have had a varied programme learning about the 'Farming Community Network' FGN, the work of 'Rape Crisis Surrey & Sussex' RCS&S and 'Jews for Jesus'. We also had a garden party at 'Blue Jays', Compline at Holy Trinity, Lower Beeding, visits to NT properties and enjoyed a Christmas Lunch.

The 'Working Party', originally started in the 1970's, headed by Anne Apted, meets monthly in the Manor Room making items for premature Baby Units and 'Link to Hope'.

We also run 'Sunday Fellowship' in St Leonard's hall each third Sunday from September through to March for all who wish to spend Sunday afternoons with others in a warm, friendly environment. Optional craft and/or games are available with refreshments (children with guardians welcome).

On February 28th our branch hosted the District Shriving Service with Wave of Prayer in St Mary's Barn both falling on our regular meeting day. The doors opened at 10am for 10.30 start. Jimmy led the service. For the intercessions different branches talked about and said prayers for each of our overseas dioceses. Hazel Lamb played quiet music before and after as well as hymns during the service. Karen Ind gave the talk. The morning finished with traditional pancakes, lemon and sugar.

Meeting friends learning about other charities and, yes, cake, is only a small part of the Mothers' Union. We have an active 'Action and Outreach' within Sussex and beyond with over 4,000,000 members worldwide. However, while other countries' membership is rising ours is falling.

To publicise our work, Chichester diocese manned a stand at May's 'Big Church Day Out' along with Head Office staff. Two from Horsham Branch spent an enjoyable day helping in the families' play tent for young children.

In September four of us went to a packed Winchester Cathedral to hear Justin Welby's talk celebrating 140 years of the Mothers' Union. On 13th May Saltmine are performing 'Chosen' the story of its founder. There are two 1 hour performances 10.30am and 2.30pm. Visit www.chichestermu.org or our notice board's poster in St Mary's Porch. Free admission for all and non-members welcome.

Our thanks to St Leonard's for the use of their hall and to St Mary's for the use of the Barn and Manor Room throughout the year.

Thank you to all who contributed to our meetings, the parish clergy and all who support them, our members for your continued support and lastly our committee and all others who help at our activities.