

### **Mothers' Union report to APCM 26 April 2018**

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.

We had two outings during the summer; Polesden Lacey at the end of May; Hardham Church in June ending with a pub lunch.

May's evening meeting was Cathy Hatton's 'World Vision - visit to India'; July's Compline at St Mark's; September's Margaret Symonds' 'My visit to Beats'; HDC's Emma Bailey talked about 'Safe Link etc'; Rev'd Canon Ian Hutchinson-Cervantes, Chichester Diocesan World Mission Officer, spoke about this role as well as his visit to Kenya the previous month. Both May and July evening meetings were well attended.

Many of our Parish Church family joined us in July for our Mothers' Union Diocesan family day out to Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre.

Member Helen Crooks went to Kenya in the Autumn to form a link between QE2 school with a similar in Nyahururu Diocese in Kenya.

This year we hosted a Lent Lunch on 24th February in the Barn the profits split between 'Thanks a Million' £70 and AFIA £69 (for our two caravans giving families a break away from it all). Thanks to all who supported this.

The first day of snow was on our February meeting with the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, following day was our 'Wave of Prayer' for Chichester Mothers' Union link Diocese. Our March meeting during Holy Week was a Lectio Divina led by Karen Ind.

#### **Sunday Fellowship in St Leonard's Church Hall**

Sandra Gooding's death during the summer left a big hole in our Sunday Fellowship. She seldom missed a month was always willing to share her knowledge and was a good listener.

Sunday Fellowship, not just for Christians, continues to meet on 3rd Sunday in the month September through to March. These afternoons remain free unless previously stated. It's okay to come just for company and/or refreshment.

We started our new season in September with a special event: Rachel Ellis' gave a presentation of her time at Kampala's School of Music interspersed with violin pieces accompanied by Rosemary Hensor. Our branch provided and served the refreshments.

October we arranged flowers; November drew; December our Christmas get together; January Easter card making; February crocheted a square; March discussed the future plus played scrabble and cards. We meet again September 16th between 2.15-4.15

### **In the District and Diocese**

Meeting friends learning about other charities and, yes, cake, is only a small part of the Mothers' Union.

The Mothers' Union Chichester Diocese is linked to both Mundri, South Sudan as well as Madi & West Nile, Uganda. We have not heard anything from Mundri for months. In May 2017, Madi & West Nile emailed a long report to our overseas officer about coping with over 700,000 mostly Sudanese refugees. The abbreviated report is on our Mothers' Union notice board inside St Mary's porch.

This year members of the Crawley District held our Shrivings Service at East Grinstead and Lady Day at Cuckfield parading our banners at both.

Three from Horsham Branch helped in the families' play tent at the 2017 'Big Church Day Out'. Next to us was 'Open the Book'.

At our Spring Members' Meeting in May 2017, at Bishop Hannington, Hove, the Saltmine Theatre Company performed 'Chosen', the Mary Sumner Story.

At the Autumn Members' Meeting Daniel MacCallister, our speaker, who is the Fundraising and Communication Coordinator at MSH (Mary Sumner House) spoke about MULOA – MU Listening, Observing, Acting. A worldwide initiative now launched a way of exploring the essence of MU and how we can make a difference in people's lives. He then explained the changes taking place at MSH including the database to be compliant with the new Data Protection Act.

In return for helping at East Sussex Citizen Ceremonies, Ringmer Park Gardens nr Lewes was opened for the Chichester Diocese Mothers' Union providing us with much needed funds. In September Ringmer branch provided refreshments for their 'Help for Heroes' open garden.

Our Diocese gives socks at Christmas to the Gatwick Detention Centres.

### **To Finish**

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.

Sue Lismer, Branch Leader