

## **Mothers' Union report to APCM 23 April 2019**

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

Our branch joins with our Diocesan, as well as our Crawley District to support projects and to join together in prayer. Most of our fundraising goes to two Chichester Diocesan Projects; Eastbourne Family Contact Centre and Away from it all (AFIA) holidays. Horsham within Crawley District works with the Detention Centres at Gatwick for gifting socks for detainees at Christmas. Hennie Sleeman ran a group for parents and carers of teenage last year and this May plans another for those of pre-school children.

At the 2018 'Big Church Day Out' four members of Horsham Branch helped in the families' play tent.

Last year we were pleased to serve refreshments at the Family Fun Day.

We are delighted to show appreciation of our magnificent choir by organising the monthly Choral Evensong choir teas rota. All church members are welcomed to join with us. Monies for the teas will be reimbursed.

On 19th July 2018 the Family Support Work (FSW) held their yearly Service in St Mary's followed by their AGM in the barn with the Mothers' Union preparing then serving their ploughman's.

On an ideal day in July we went to the Lavender Fields at Banstead. Our garden Party was held in the Vicarage Garden; Compline was hosted by St Leonard's; we had two social meetings one in April and the other in September; our Christmas Lunch was on a Wednesday in December. We had talks by St Catherine's Hospice then Meditation and Music given by Sue Hyland.

This year Rev. David Bouskill chaired our AGM. This year's committee is as follows; Branch Leader Sue Lismer; Secretary Win Fruin; Treasurer Christine Jackson; Christine Bright; Trish Clare; Karen Ind; and Fiona Prentice. Caroline Charman and Liz Hawkins stepped down from the Committee and we thanked them for their hard work.

In February Kay Jones talked about her recent trip with the Leprosy Mission followed by our yearly 'Wave of Prayer' for our linked overseas Diocese. Afterwards some of us lunched in Horsham before travelling to London for the Commissioning Service led by Arch Bishop Justin Welby in Southwark Cathedral of our new World Wide President, our first from outside the British Isles.

In March Helen Crooks gave an informative talk about the activities of QEII School. I found it especially interesting learning about the school's link with a similar school in Kenya and about Jubilee Bakes being in the peoples projects competition for whom we were asked to vote for.

Sunday Fellowship meets in St Leonard's Church Hall continues to meet on 3rd Sundays in October, November, January through to March between 2.15-4pm.

This year members of the Crawley District held our Shriving Service at Pound Hill, Crawley and Lady Day at Cuckfield parading our banners at both.

**To Finish**

Thank you to all who have contributed to our meetings, especially Rev David Bouskill for chairing this year's AGM in January, the parish clergy and all who support them, our members for your continued support and lastly the committee and all who help.

Sue Lismer

Branch Leader