

## **Mothers' Union report to APCM 2020 for the year 2019**

Sheran Harper, a Guyanese, our new Worldwide President was commissioned in February 2019 by Archbishop Justin Welby in Southwark Cathedral along with the Trustees of the newly created Zones.

Our global membership is divided into 11 zones each with their own trustee. Canterbury is Zone G headed by trustee Nikki Sweatman previously our Provincial President, our Chichester Diocesan President, Kathryn Anderson, is now our Provincial President and Karen Hill is now our Diocesan President. FWW (Families World Wide) is now translated into English, South American Spanish, Kiswahili and French.

Members gather from across the globe for the AGM held last year in Portsmouth; our Diocese gather twice a year; in 2019 our District's Shrivng Service was hosted by St Barnabas, Pound Hill.

We support our Mothers' Union projects with prayers and money. There are two major Diocesan Projects, Eastbourne Family Contact Centre and Away from it all (AFIA) holidays. Horsham Branch is within Crawley District responsible for contact with the Detention Centres at Gatwick providing trainers, jogging bottoms, t-shirts, socks and cards at Christmas. The Mothers' Union is invited on the first Sunday of every other month to lead Sunday worship at Brook House and to join their Carol Concerts at both Brook and Tinsley House.

In 2019 three members of Horsham attended 'The Big Church Day Out' at Wiston House helping in the Mothers' Union families 'play tent' providing free baby changing facilities, a safe soft play area along with an area for older siblings and their guardians.

During May and June 2019 Hennie Sleeman ran a parenting group for carers of pre school children.

Most months we continue to have Corporate Communion on the **third Wednesday** and on the **first Tuesday** afternoon members meet to crochet or knit items such as premature baby bonnets and crib blankets; rugs to keep knees and legs warm for the less active; knitted jumpers, hats, scarves and gloves for the "Mission to Seaman". On **Friday** during term time we work along side members of QEII school providing refreshments at Little Footprints .

Our Branch AGM held in **January**, was chaired by Revd David Bouskill. Our committee is as follows; Branch Leader Sue Lismer; Secretary Win Fruin; Treasurer Christine Jackson; Christine Bright; Trish Clare; Karen Ind; and Fiona Prentice.

Our main fund raising events are our garden Party held in **June**, this year held at Blue Jays with the kind permission of Mike and Stella Schofield and **December's** Christmas lunch. **September's** social meeting also raised funds. In **April** we had a tour of Biffa and **August** to Okewood Church followed by pub lunch. In **July** Compline was in St Mary's followed by refreshments.

Last year's talks were; **February** Kay Jones about her recent trip with the Leprosy Mission; **March** Helen Crooks about the QEII school and it's link with a similar school in Kenya and their Jubilee Bakes; **May** Simon Quail presented "Life at Sea in the Merchant Navy"; **October** David Pellatt the history of 'Mission to Seaman' and why the warm clothes from our members are still so necessary; **November** Karen Hill about "Hayley's Wish" her branch's involvement with Worthing hospital.

Our yearly 'Wave of Prayer' for our linked overseas diocese followed our **February's** meeting.

Our branch organises the St Mary's Choral Evensong Choir Teas rota made up of members and non members. The teas are very much appreciated by the choir. A big thank you to all who take part.

**To Finish**

A big thank you to Revd David Bouskill for chairing our AGM; to the parish clergy and all who support them; to our many speakers; to our committee and their husbands and to all our members.

Sue Lismer

Branch Leader