

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT FOR 2019

It has been a year since myself and a new committee took over running the Mothers' Union. In that time we enrolled 3 new members and 3 of our members became indoor members.

Sadly we said goodbye to one of our dedicated members – Joyce Smyth.

Over the year we had a programme of speakers from Night Stop, a talk on Maundy Money, Norma Wilmot enlightened us about the Family Support Centre at Acklington Prison. As a result of this we filled 3 backpacks with the requested goods for prisoners who were going into refuge accommodation or no accommodation at all.

Val did an interesting talk on shoes and their wearers, Mary Kelly spoke about the work of the People's Kitchen and there was a talk on Tax, Care and Toy Boys and this resulted in some people getting advice on wills etc. Very worthwhile. Our Vice-President gave us an insight into domestic abuse.

In Lent we had a Quiet Afternoon led by Fr. Bill and in December Peter Dobson took us through a time of readings and music for Advent which was in the Vicarage at the time of the Election.

In August we visited Rothbury and after lunch Pauline led a service in All Saints' Church followed by afternoon tea very kindly provided (unexpectedly) by the ladies from the MU at Rothbury. During the year we have visited All Saints' MU branch - for their Strawberry Tea and then for the Advent Carol Service. Some of us also attended a 100th Anniversary Service in Blyth, a Diocesan Service in July, meetings in Kingston Park, a Service in Leeds Cathedral and two of our members journeyed to Portsmouth for the Annual General Meeting.

We have asked our members for help over the year – for the back packs – the hats, socks and gloves for the people's kitchen, for goods for the stall at our Christmas Market, for raffle prizes etc. for the Coffee Morning when we raised monies for AFIA and Overseas Fund

It has been a busy year but a good one. We have been grateful to Pauline since she came to St, Columba's for all the support she has given the branch – it is good to have her as one of our members this year.

I would like to express my thanks to the committee for their hard work and dedication to Mothers' Union and not least to our branch members for their attendance and wonderful support over the year.

Mary Lobb

I must express much sadness in losing two of our members in 2020 – Wyn Blake and Johanna Davison. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.