

REPORT TO STAPLEFORD MU – AGM, DECEMBER 2017

We have had our usual busy year with some interesting speakers. We heard about the Link visit to Nachingwea from Steve Jones, a Year in California from Kay's granddaughter, about the youth work in our area from Zac Britton and Jo Wibberley's cycle ride around the Archdeaconry. All our speakers have informed or entertained us or made us think – particularly the Tales from the Vicarage from John Pinder, our previous incumbent, was very amusing about the trials of being a priest, and Simon Taylor's talk on the ethics of medical negligence cases was sobering and enlightening.

We have been more serious as well, hearing about the work of the Action & Outreach Unit from Maureen Haigh, hearing from Pam Reed about her work and beliefs, as well as a thoughtful address at our Opening Service from Jackie Metcalfe of our sister Branch in Milton. We organised again the Women's World Day of Prayer in March, preceded by the slide show from Kay about the women from ?? who put together the service. We led a Compline Service during Lent and our outing to Kings College in October was moving and uplifting. We are again having a collection for the Women's Refuge to support the MU national campaign against gender-based violence, generously supported by St Andrews congregation and parishioners.

But there's been a social side as well; the Mary Sumner Day teaparty at Janet Ellis' house was fun (despite the downpours), the Coffee Morning for Alice the Marathon runner in March (who raised eventually £3000+ for MU funds) was held with Sawston and Trumpington, the annual Ely Diocesan Garden Party in June in the beautiful grounds of the Bishop's garden was delightful, and our usual Garden Party at Philippa's house was our social occasion with Milton branch with our usual array of puddings. This was the last time we shall be there as Philippa and Mary are moving away – so I'd like to take this chance to thank them both for everything they done for the Branch over the years. We shall miss you both very much and wish you both well in your new homes.

Village events continue to be supported by our Branch, namely the Village Show and the Nachingwea Fair, as well as Diocesan events, such as the Mother & Baby tents at Wimpole show in June (**did you do any others, Mary?**). There were two Diocesan Days this year, one in March in April, and the other closer to home at Milton in October, when we heard from Felicity Hawke, Provincial President of Canterbury about her widespread work, all the way from East Anglia to the South West as well as the Channel Islands and the Diocese of Europe. We also heard there about the new MU constitution and the re-arrangement of the Worldwide Board of Trustees, to take into account the growing MU membership in other parts of the world.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee for their help and advice, and willingness to help to run the Branch. And of course to thank you all, the members, for your continued support of the MU here – although we are getting a smaller group, we still have much to offer both the MU and the Church in our parish.

We look forward to another good year in 2018 – the programme is all but finished. And the good news is that, firstly, all the committee members are willing to stand again for election, and secondly the annual subscription is remaining at £17. Thank you all very much

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