

Mothers' Union report to Fressingfield Parish Council AGM April 2023

In 2022 Fressingfield branch of Mothers' Union was able to have a full programme of branch meetings with speakers. The subjects included:

- What it was like to be an English girl living in Hong Kong for 30 years, from the 1950s
- WaterAid;
- A Lent Reflection;
- The charity, Emmaus;
- The diocese of Byumba in Rwanda;
- Modern slavery in Suffolk;
- Life and culture in the Philippines.
- We spent one meeting having a lively discussion about our various definitions of "What is Family"?
- We had a workshop afternoon when we made "Cross in my Pockets" to send to our link Diocese in Kagera.
- We had another workshop session when we used re-cycled Christmas cards to make 500 new Christmas cards – a third of those needed to give one to every prisoner in Highpoint Prison. Other branches made the rest.

In July we had a "Wave of Prayer" service in Fressingfield church .

In August we had a garden party with a Bring and Buy stall, raising £267 for MU charitable projects via The Summer of Hope Appeal. In December 48 members and guests enjoyed our Advent service and afternoon tea in Sancroft Hall.

Our branch is one of six that form the North Suffolk Area Group. This group organises larger-scale events. In 2022 these included a Quiet Day in Westleton church in July, and an Area morning at Reydon. Then the I - Chameleon shop in Halesworth in October. We raised £1463.94 The majority of the profits went towards MU charitable funds. The remainder was used to help local projects such as Lighthouse women's refuge, Ipswich Night shelter, and those living in Hope into Action housing.

Mothers' Union is part of the Anglican Communion and the largest Christian organisation in the world, with a membership of more than four million, and Branches in 84 countries. We share a vision to bring about a world where God's love is shown in loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Christine Christian
Branch Leader