

## Fressingfield Mothers' Union Report

In 2023 we had 30 members in our MU Branch.

Our members have provided 20 drain bags for patients recovering from breast surgery, 19 hats for seafarers, 13 hats for prisoners, 57 toiletry items for patients who arrive in hospital without them, 5 knitted breasts as aids for professionals teaching new mums to breast-feed, 5 premature- baby jackets, 2 premature- baby hats, 7 fiddlemuffs for people living with Dementia, 450 cards for prisoners, 5 bags of love for our clergy. We participated in the Rise Up against Domestic Violence campaign during the 16 Days of Activism against gender -based violence. Several individuals regularly help at the monthly community markets in Fressingfield and Metfield. One bakes for the community cafe and Baptist church in Stradbroke every week; four members help regularly at Playtime in Fressingfield, 6 of us have participated in Open the Book in both Mendham and Fressingfield Primary schools, 1 member has been helping with young people who go to Cook at Church once a month, and 1 listens to at least 15 young readers in Mendham school weekly in term time.

MU was invited by Rev. Ekins-Powell to plan, participate and co-lead a Mothering Sunday service in Mendham Church.

In March our members organised coffee, and prepared lunch for three couples, clergy and those of us who were serving them, at a Benefice Marriage Preparation Day, (thirteen people.).

On 17th and 18th June we participated in Fressingfield's Garden Festival.

We managed to raise £276.90 for the MU Summer of Hope Appeal by providing a delicious tea and inviting the public to donate.

We again raised a considerable sum for the work of MU worldwide by combining our efforts with other North Suffolk Branches by hiring the I-Chameleon shop for one week in October.

Four new members were enrolled during the year.

The public were invited to another afternoon tea combined with our annual Advent service. Donations of £50 resulted.

We had a busy and productive year to fulfil our purpose of "Christian Care For Families".