

## Tettenhall Wood Mothers` Union

It was lovely to resume our meetings again in September 2021, following the many months of lockdown. As no-one felt confident to take on the post of Branch Leader, we are now a committee-led branch, and are slowly getting to grips with this new way of operating.

At the time of reporting, I am pleased to say that things are slowly getting back to the way things were pre-pandemic, even though some members have been, and remain, slightly hesitant. The current number of members is 34. We continue to remember in prayer those members who are unable to be with us at our meetings, for whatever reason.

September saw the enrolment of Les Key (yes, men are welcome!) and we were also pleased to welcome our curate Rev. Lin Vawer to our fold. A lovely photo of them both made it into The Beacon!

In October we were fortunate to have Debbie Huxton as our speaker, giving us an insight into Modern Slavery. The diocese is very fortunate to have her working with Transforming Communities Together, funded by Mothers Union, and we hope to be able to welcome her again at some time .

We again marked the "16 days of activism against gender-based violence" in November, though our plans and good intentions to join with Perton branch to mark the 3-minutes silence on the Saturday were hampered by the snow and icy conditions that we awoke to on that morning.

We held devotional services during Advent and Lent, and our monthly meetings always have time of prayer and readings from scripture. The Mothers` Union Global Wave of Prayer is marked annually during February, when we meet together to express our commitment in prayer to each other, in all the places where we work and reside, knowing that we too are being prayed for.

Fund-raising has recommenced, and we had a very successful Bring and Buy for "Away From it All" holidays following the A.G.M. Our members are always very generous, and together with Christ Church`s congregation, 50 Easter Eggs and several bags of toiletries were taken to The Haven and very gratefully received. Thank-you all!

We have been unable to plan too far in advance because of the ever-changing rules regarding gatherings, but we are cautiously hopeful that things may stabilize and give us confidence to move forward more freely. Only a fortnight ago, we were thrilled to be able to attend a community event in Penn Fields, where we were able to inform the public about the work of MU both at home and abroad.

You are most welcome to join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month (not August) at 2p.m in the Jubilee Rooms.

Angela Williams

On behalf of the Tettenhall Wood Mothers` Union branch committee