

Mothers' Union St. Gabriel's Report 2020

We have had a MU branch at St Gabriel's since June 2017, so I thought it would be a good opportunity to write a report this year.

The MU is open to all ages both male and female. As an organisation that spans the world, we strive to achieve many things, helping many people of all walks of life.

Most branches have monthly meetings where we have varied discussions and plenty of tea and cake on how we can help our own communities. The cake usually brings the Vicar in!

Our groups latest venture is the Contact Centre which we run on alternate Saturdays in the Church Hall. This Centre enables parents who are estranged from the family unit to be able to see their children for a couple of hours under a supervised safe environment and is run on a rota basis.

During the last year we have also had several speakers who come to our meetings. This is very enlightening as we learn about different activities, projects all over the world, charities, and fundraising events that other branches have put on successfully. Some of our other meetings include visits to other branches which are highly informative.

In the last year April 2019-2020, we have also visited Romsey Abbey for a Diocesan Service, this event was the first outing for our magnificent banner which stands in the church and was paraded with many other banners.

Our second big outing was in September, Marion, Jackie, Sandra, and I travelled down to Portsmouth for a two-day MU General Meeting, which takes place once a year at various venues around the UK. The first event started in Portsmouth Cathedral where we met up with Linden and had a service to include a Eucharist.

Day Two ~ after an overnight stay in the Queens Hotel Southsea, saw us at the Guildhall for a meeting. We met our new President for the first time and lots of other members. We had a fantastic informative time and the weather was glorious.

In October we at St Gabriel's hosted our annual Overseas Service. We put together the service which included Songs, Prayers, Communion, and a banner procession. We had a bring-an-buy stall and put on a buffet lunch. It was a successful and enjoyable day.

We do like to have a couple of social events as well, including a lovely afternoon tea in July in the Vicarage garden and a Christmas lunch at a local restaurant.

If you would like to join us at any of our meetings we usually meet on the last Thursday of the month. It's always advertised on our monitor in the church foyer. We would love to see you.

Marilyn Botham

Mothers' Union at St. Gabriel's Church

