

Mothers' Union is the largest Christian mission organisation in the world with over 4 million members in 84 countries. Our local Fressingfield Branch continues to flourish and we are proud to be part of this movement. We are an inter-denominational group and 2019 we had 31 members living in three of our Benefice parishes.

The worldwide theme for our work and worship in 2019 was, 'Listen, Observe and Act – in step with God'. We endeavour to support family life, in all its forms and variations, wherever there is a need and we do this through prayer, campaigning, giving and volunteering. Our aim is to bring about a world where God's love is shown in loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

At our monthly meetings we heard from a range of speakers on a variety of topics, all related either to our common faith or concern for family life. Members made a wide range of items from hats for seafarers, cardigans and quilts for premature babies, 'cross in my pockets' and bags for hospital drips through to Fiddle Muffs for those with dementia. We also collected toiletries and items of clothing for both the Women's Refuge and Night Shelter in Ipswich. Many members are involved with voluntary activities within their own villages and places of worship.

As well as our local meetings, there were several opportunities throughout the year to meet with other members from across the Diocese or within the North Suffolk Area. We also kept in touch with worldwide news and information through our magazines, newsletters and the internet.

In common with all groups we have been unable to meet since March but we continue to keep in touch with each other through phone calls, emails, newsletters etc. We all look forward to the time when we can meet once again.

Anna Vessey
Branch Leader