

**MINUTES OF NUNEATON DEANERY MEETING**

9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at St Paul's Stockingford

**Present:** Rosemary Jacobs, Heather Greaves, Frances Ray, Phyllis Taylor, Gill Laycock, Nancy Bradley, Dee Croyman, Vivien Hopkins, Brenda Moss, Mary James, Chrissie Hughes, Pauline Wilkes, Wendy O'Brien, Cynthia Cogley.

1. Rosemary welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers.

2. **Apologies:** Josie Lee and Sue Foster.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting of the 23rd February 2015 accepted.

4. **Matters arising:**

25th March – Lady Day at Alcester- Very Good

25th April – International day – Very informative and put over very well.

3rd June – Deanery Festival at Holy Trinity Hartshill – Very Good. Hartshill enjoyed doing.

18th June – Strawberry Tea at Attleborough (Branch event) £321 for Wheels Appeal.

8th August – Royal Garden Party at Attleborough raised £263.71 for Wheels Appeal.

22nd September – Quiet retreat at Shipston-Wendy and Pauline attended – well received.

17th October – Members Day at Finham – Good day looking at future with Young people, speakers excellent.

22nd October – Deanery Service at Stockingford – much appreciated.- £90.00.

5. **Finance Report:**

Dee gave a report on the year's finances (copy attached) showing an Income of £1108.08.

Expenditure of £813.40., donations already made to MU projects of £249.69. It was agreed that £90.00 from Stockingford should go to Relief, and whatever is left after paying for the Coach to the Advent Service (in case there is a shortfall) should also go to Relief, leaving approximately £100.

Dee now retires and thanked everyone for the Dobbies Voucher and plant presented at the Stockingford service. Thanks to Dee for her work in the last 6 years.

6. **Elections:**

(1) **Deanery Chair** – January 2016 – 2019. **Proposed – Gill Laycock**, by Mary James and seconded by Pauline Wilkes. All agreed and Gill was duly elected. Gill thanked everyone for the opportunity and will be looking forward to help from us all.

(2) **Treasurer** – January 2016 – 2019. **Proposed Heather Greaves** by Brenda Moss and seconded by Viv Hopkins. All agreed and Heather was duly elected. Dee will obtain the appropriate forms to alter the Bank details.

(3) **Secretary** – Cynthia agreed to continue.

Thanks were expressed to Rosemary Jacobs, Dee Croyman and Cynthia Cogley for their work over the last 6 years.

7. **Branch Reports for 2015:**

**Exhall Afternoon:** Three members had passed away, Sybil Cole, Sylvia Edwards and Gladys Lacey. Three more are unable to attend through ill health. All meetings commence with a service in Church. Speakers included Revd. Andrew Gandon – trip to Peru; Chrissie Hughes – Prayers and Meditation; Margaret Marshall – Overseas visit with the Council of Churches; Jane Hill – Visit

to Sudan; Visit from former Curate at Exhall Revd. John and Liz Horton and members of their Newbold MU; Kate Marshall from the Blue Sky Centre. There have been 2 Open meetings. An outing to York. Two Table top cake stalls jointly with the Evening Group raising £268 for the Wheels Appeal. All Deanery and Diocesan events have been supported.

**Mancetter:** Brenda is determined to keep the group going and was pleased to hold the Deanery Prayers followed by Coffee morning on St George's Day, some members wore red roses. Speakers included Jane Bennett and friend Mike. Jane has a dog through the 'Canine Partners' and explained how the dog supported her. Representative from the National Arboretum see Website for details (highly recommended for outings); Someone who helps on a local level with Friendship/Care and Housing; Karen Wilkinson from 'Home Instead' on how to recognise scans. All her members are church Members and Brenda is thankful for who introduced her to MU and the support she has received.

**Exhall Evening:** Maintained numbers. 2 possibly 3 to be enrolled. Speakers included Member Denise Crampsie a Nurse on the Importance of Water; Alan Proctor- Organist at George Eliot Chapel on Faith in his Life; Barbara Russell – Cycling in Vietnam & Cambodia in aid of Robert Winston's project for 'Women's Problems'; Di Sliwinski on her Madagascar trip; Di Castledine- Retired Nurse; Member Mandy Williams-Project in Azerbhajan building a safe house for 'women off the street and disabled' (Will speak in Deanery 024 7633 7188). Members have attended all Deanery and Diocesan events.

**Attleborough:** 23 Members. First meeting of the New Year was Holy Communion. Two new members recruited onto the Committee, but Pauline Millership retired due to family commitments. The Funeral of Mary Brown (former Deanery Treasurer) was attended by many MU colleagues. Speakers included Sonia Wilson- member of Nuneaton Street Pastors; Revd. Ricarda Witcombe – Chaplain at George Eliot Hospital; David Stanier – Food Bank; (Contact [davidstanier1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidstanier1@yahoo.co.uk)) Syd –Church Army - personal journey and work of the Church Army ([syddy1955@gmail.com](mailto:sydddy1955@gmail.com)). Di Sliwinski – Trip to Madagascar. Sunday School memories proved very interesting at another meeting. A Firsh & Chip Lunch was followed by Harvest Praise. One new member Dorothy George. Presentation of Long Service Certificates to Esme- 55 years and Joan Franklin 25 years. Outing to the National Arboretum in Alrewas. The flower bed leading up to the Church has been adopted by MU. Members still help each week with the Luncheon club.

**Stockingford:** 12 Members, 3 Indoor Members. They held their usual Ploughman's Lunch for Candlemas. Speakers included Diane Castledine on Cruises 024 7672 5584; Derek Smith who worked at the old Hat Factory 'Phillips'; Cheryl Evans from Blue Sky Centre; Heather Greaves on her visit to Madagascar; Judith Missendon – Macular Degeneration; and their Vicar Revd. Kate. Their outing in June was on the canal. Members attended Deanery events.

**Hartshill:** 16 members, 1 new Member and Heather is joining from Fillongley. Speakers included Brenda Moss – Time to Spare, Time to Care'; Rob Kinderman – a Street Pastor in Nuneaton; Di Sliwinski – Who are Mothers' Union. Activities have included Hand Bell ringing; Desert Island Disc (each chose a piece of music meaningful to them) Hymn singing; Making paper flowers; Barbecue and Christmas Party. Sue has created a website for Hartshill to keep everyone informed of Deanery and Diocesan information <http://www.little-blue-boat.co.uk/mu/> It is updated monthly. Knitted blanket squares for Chintowa Charity which supports a school in Malawi for street children. Hartshill would like more events in the evening as most of them work.

**Atherstone:** Continue to meet and have Lunch first followed by a Speaker. They have 13 members. Speakers included Kulwinda Kaur who has a bakery in Atherstone – Sikh Weddings and Lifestyle. Greta Randle – Ministry in India; Ricarda Witcombe and Jane Carr (a Quaker) from George Eliot Hospital; Daphne Cooke – Episodes in the Life of Christ; Revd. Don Jones Wife; Sybil, Curate's Wife – How has God touched you yesterday/today; Alan Proctor; Janet Ager – Harvest. Watch Saltmine DVD '3 Wise Men on a Camel at Dee's. Enjoyed knitting blankets which were blessed. Outing to Trentham Gardens, lots to do with gorgeous wild garden + shops. Still hold Knitting/Natter and Nosh under the MU umbrella, anyone welcome, knitting knee blankets. They raise money to buy Bibles for Baptism candidates and their new Minister makes a feature of including MU and invites Rosemary to present the Bibles.

## **8. Unit Reports:**

**Action & Outreach:** Viv reported that work continues. AFIA arranged 6 holidays with positive feedback. Linda Howells is taking over. Lots of knitting being done, but the pillows that had been trialled had not been taken up. There are a number of suggested craft patterns. Teddies for Tragedies still come from all over, some have gone into Prisons. Di Griffiths has sent some 25,000 teddies abroad. There are new Parenting co-ordinators trained and running courses. There are some changes to regulations in Prisons, Angel Tree will go ahead but in a different Prison in the Rugby Group. Christmas cards will be welcomed – keep them coming but no names. Di is struggling to set up links with our new partners, but hopefully we will get information eventually. A Recipe Card has been produced for Students and a new A & O leaflet. Margo Grant will be the New A & O Co-ordinator. Thanks to Gill for her involvement. Gill in turn thanked us for our support.

Mary James advised that 20 blankets had been produced for Coffee Tots. She had also had a request for larger cardigans, they get lots of baby sizes, but need some for older children. They were unable to hold the Student Lunch this year as Stuart was ill. Mary read a letter from George Eliot Hospital thanking her for all the knitting members have provided.

**Faith & Policy:** Vanessa Cooper will be taking over. We will be acknowledging the '16 Days of Activism' on 5th December in Coventry Cathedral between 10.30am – 4.30pm. Please try and attend for part of the day and wear your MU badge so you will not be charged. There will be a speaker Kudakwashe Nyakudya from 1.45-3.15pm who has witnessed and experienced trauma. Still active on the Bye Buy Childhood campaign. There are post cards available with hints and tips for Parents which can be obtained from [Brenda.molloy@mu.org](mailto:Brenda.molloy@mu.org) tel: 02072225533. If you want a lot of cards there may be a charge.

Brenda would like to step down as our Faith & Policy Rep. a position she has held for many years. Agenda item - to appoint new Rep at January meeting.

**IMPC:** Pauline reported in April there were 37 Indoor members, sadly 3 have died-Mavis Whitley, Joyce Basson and Phyllis Barnes (104), Pauline continues to contact members which they mostly appreciate. We must value these members, their prayers are our strength. We have 8 in our Deanery. We gain a few at the beginning of each year, but inevitably also lose.

**Deanery Rep:** Iris not being with us, we have no report. Cynthia to get in touch with Iris.

Rosemary thanked everyone for their reports.

**9. Deanery Prayers:** The last Deanery Prayers were held at Atherstone. It was noted that Rosemary was the instigator of Deanery Prayers. The next will be held on the 18th January – 2pm at Attleborough. Mid-day Prayers were said.

### 10/11. Men's Refuge/Chapter 1 and SARC:

Jean is now in charge at Chapter 1 it is advisable to contact her before going :-  
[JeanM@chapter1.org.uk](mailto:JeanM@chapter1.org.uk) or 07711593849 or 01926 885491. There are never more than 9 residents. Minor Adjustments as follows :-

Chapter 1	SARC
January – Fillongley	---
February ---	Attleborough
March – Stockingford	---
April - Hartshill	Exhall x 2
May – Atherstone	---
June ---	Fillongley & Stockingford
July Exhall	---
August ---	Mancetter & Atherstone
September – Mancetter	---
October ---	Hartshill
November - Attleborough	---
December - Exhall	---

12. **Correspondence:** No Correspondence.

### 13. **Future Dates:**

Monday 30th November 10am for Coffee. 11am Diocesan Advent Carol Service at St Nicholas Church, Kenilworth. **Rosemary requests that you let her have definite numbers ASAP.** The coach will leave Atherstone at 9.30am prompt. Wendy and Pauline will make sure their Fillongley (now Diocesan members) know.

It was agreed to introduce a Deanery Rep to keep Deanery Diocesan Members informed ie 'in the Loop'. Rosemary said she would be pleased to do this.

### 14. **Provisional Dates for 2016:**

Monday 18th January – 9.45 for 10am Deanery Prayers at Attleborough.

Saturday 30th January – 11.45 – St Paul's Stockingford

Monday 4th April - Lady Day. This year Deaneries will arrange their own service. Gill requested that this could be held at Holy Trinity, Attleborough, this would be their Vicar's last opportunity to hold an MU Service before retiring. Gill will also be commissioned as Deanery Chair. Gill questioned if it could be held on the 7th April?

Monday 22nd February – 9.45 for 10am Deanery Meeting - St Giles Exhall, Small Hall

15. **A.O.B:** Wendy O'Brien in process of moving. Contact Pauline if needed.

Prayer Circle new contact – Jenny Taylor 01926 854641, taken over from Molly Jones.

Felicity will be taking over Link Up from Rosemary Spencer in January. Please take your camera to all events.

15. **Chairman's Remarks:** Rosemary thanked everyone for allowing her to be Chairperson for the last 6 years. She has decided she does rather like being in control! In a nice way, so Thank you to us all. She appreciates she is not the only one who has had a difficult year, but remembers well a box of white roses being delivered in January along with cards and e mails, plus wisdom from Brenda – fellowship, friendship and encouragement. Many thanks for the Dobbies voucher and plant, she now has a much improved 'Pond' feature.

Gill requested copies of our 2016 programmes please.

**Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 22nd February 9.45 for 10am at St Giles, Exhall Small Hall

