**Annual Report of Stapleford Mothers’ Union, 2020 (sent by email to members, December 2020)**

Despite the circumstances, the Branch has managed to keep in communication since March, with regular emailing about the Thursday Prayer services and the Ely Newsletter. We had to cease meeting together in mid-March.

The first three months of the year went well, with speakers such as John Bryden in January, who gave a very entertaining talk called ‘The Light-fingered Pianist’ with beautiful musical interludes. This was followed by Suzanne Watt’s thoughtful ‘Reflection’. In February we enjoyed ‘A journey to Israel’ from Frances Clifford on a dvd presentation, followed by the slides in preparation for the World Day of Prayer on 6 March, prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, on the theme of ‘Rise, take up your mat and walk’. Our last spring meeting together was the World Day of Prayer service at Cox’s Close.

However, we did manage to have an Opening Service on 17 September in St Andrew’s, ably led by our curate (and member), Clare Coates – it was a joy to be able to meet together again, if only briefly. There were one or two ‘garden meetings’ in the summer (complying with the ‘rule of six’), so at least some members had a chance of fellowship.

In October we were saddened to hear of the death of our dear friend and member, Audrey Webb, who moved a few years ago to a care home near Knebworth. Audrey was an enthusiastic MU member and had many talents (particularly handcrafts) and we all have lovely memories of her.

I’d like to thank the members of the Committee, all of whom have agreed to serve for another year, and in particular Mary, who has done so much to keep the group together. We look forward to brighter times ahead in 2021; we are hoping that we can start group meetings again by the spring, when the weather should be better and restrictions loosened.

With love and best wishes to you all

Hilary Street

December 2020