**REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF STAPLEFORD MOTHERS’ UNION**

Thursday 9 December, 2021 at 2 pm

The year has once again been disrupted because of the Covid situation, so we were not able to meet until August (after Freedom Day), on 9 August (Mary Sumner Day) when we invited Milton Branch to join us for a Coffee Morning in the Johnson Hall. It was good to meet up again after so long, even though we had tried to keep in touch by email.

Before we started meetings, the Committee decided that we should start with Afternoon only meetings, starting at 2 pm – perhaps returning to Evening meetings as well when the situation had settled down. We held a Zoom committee meeting in April, and another one, face to face, in September.

Our meeting In September, on the 30th, was an Opening Service, led by Clare Coates. On 28 October, we saw the power point prepared by the World Day of Prayer, and listened to many interesting facts about Vanuatu (the 2021 compilers of the service). A week later on 5 November, we held the World Day of Prayer service in Cox’s Close Lounge – it had had to be delayed from the usual date of the first Friday in March. Then in November, a representative of the Mum2Mum charity in Cambridge came to tell us about the work they do with young mothers, much of which coincides with the work of the MU. The Granta Deanery Advent Service took place on 2 December in St Andrews, led by Clare Coates, with visitors from several other Branches.

We again had a vey successful Toiletries collection for the Women’s Refuge, supporting the MU Campaign against gender-based violence, and we also ran a Cake & Preserve stall at the Nachingwea Fair in early December.

We have not been able to have our usual fund-raising events this year, but members have been generous with donations, to help us give money to the various MU projects – so thank you, members.

Joan’s death in November saddened us all – she was such a stalwart supporter of the MU, one of her many interests. She was so much part of Stapleford – we shall miss you, Joan. And we were sad also to hear of Audrey Bower’s passing in Cromer – she too had been an integral part of our Branch before she moved away.

So we look forward to another year, perhaps more ‘normal’ than the past eighteen months. Thank you to all members for their continued support in these different days, and of course thank you to the Committee for their encouragement and support.

Hilary Street

December 2021