

Mission Matters Report to the AV Churches - April 2020

Mission Matters Group Members are: Revd Gary, Revd Nicky (Breamore, Hale & Woodgreen), Revd Mike, Alan and Gwenda Moore (Godshill), Carol Sims (Hyde), Sue Ledger (Sandleheath), Rosemarie Price, John & Pat Bloomfield (St Mary's Fordingbridge).

We are looking forward to Heather Clark, Churchwarden of Hyde, joining the Group in May.

During this year, we have agreed our Aim:

To bring a focus in our Churches on Mission & Social Justice awareness.

We have continued to support Fairtrade, and the Fairtrade cross-churches group.

Books to Borrow pops up in St Mary's FB (1st Sundays), and occasionally at Godshill and Woodgreen Coffee Mornings. There are books for all ages, and covering a wide range of Christian interests. Borrowers have found participating in this most enriching. Any of our churches should feel free to use it - just contact Pat or Gwenda for access to it.

In the last year Speakers have visited our Churches as follows:

Feb	<u>Fairtrade</u> an excellent speaker at St G Godshill
May	<u>Open Doors UK & Ireland:</u> St M Fordingbridge and St M Breamore: we had an inspiring talk on the persecuted church, using costumes.
May	<u>Christian Aid:</u> A joyous <u>Joint Service</u> at St G Godshill , attended by Breamore, Woodgreen & Hale , with separate speaker at Holy Ascension Hyde .
June	<u>The Sailors' Society</u> spoke at Woodgreen Coffee Morning.
June	<u>Kinkiizi</u> various events with Canon Moses and Revd Eric from Uganda.
Oct	<u>CAP Christians Against Poverty</u> speakers came to St M Breamore and to St M Fordingbridge giving insight into help with debt and unemployment in the UK using our new audio visual equipment.
Nov	<u>Release International</u> led a letter-writing morning at St Boniface, Woodgreen , when we helped to write 1000 Love Letters to our persecuted brothers and sisters.
Nov	A supper was held in Godshill with a Christian visitor who works in North Korea.

Fordingbridge PCC decided to become an 'Open Doors Partner Church', and many in the Benefice took part in the Campaign "I See You" (the Handmade Petition), and with our prayers. Open Doors Prayer Leaflets and Magazines are distributed monthly to St M FB, Godshill, and St B WG.

The Future

We plan to continue to support the Lent Lunches, in the Church Hall, FB, organised by Martin and Jane Calver, who share the profits between St Mary's FB and The Children's Society. A Speaker from The Children's Society is expected (as we write this) at St M's Hale on 16 Feb 2020.

On 1 March a Benefice Fairtrade Service at Fordingbridge is planned as part of Fairtrade Fortnight and Fordingbridge's aspiration to gain Fairtrade Town status.

Christian Aid will be highlighted and supported at services at Hyde, and possibly Godshill, in May.

There have been requests from Rev Nicky and Heather Clark (Hyde) for the Open Doors speakers to come back to this Benefice, to speak at their churches. We plan to put at least one copy of the 2020 Open Doors World Watch List in all our churches.

Efforts are being made to get John Hunt, founder of the Lotus Flower Trust, based in Hyde, to talk somewhere in our Benefice on his work with the poorest of the poor in North India, an area unreached by many NGOs.

Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735) and Gwenda Moore (01425 650104), 13/2/2020