

North Suffolk Area Report for AGM 2020

At the end of June 2019 a Quiet Day was held in Reydon. This was an inspiring day led by Andrea Skevington on the theme of, 'Jesus said, "I am the vine"'. 22 members and friends attended from across the area and beyond. Three short talks were each followed by time for quiet reflection and the day ended with a Eucharist. The day was much appreciated by all who attended; space in our busy lives to think and pray is a real gift from God.

In September 38 members from the NSA met in Halesworth for a Eucharist, followed by time for fellowship, before hearing from two speakers from the Christian organisation, Selig, who run the Ipswich Night Shelter and Hope into Action. Julia Hancock was able to tell us how the Night Shelter is organised and run, and Clare Jessop told us about the new initiative aiming to provide homes for the most vulnerable in society, so that they can build positive lives in the community. After Midday prayers, Linda Ginn gave us an overview of the Annual Meeting in Portsmouth which she had attended the previous week. We concluded the morning by enjoying a Bring & Share lunch together. During the Morning we raised £213.48 (some of which was able to have Gift Aid added) through the collection and stalls. This was sent to the MU Harvest Appeal.

At the end of October we ran our third Pop-Up shop at I-Chameleon in Halesworth. Once again, six branches were involved in running the shop where we sold MUe items and a wide range of goods from books to kitchen ware and handbags. Our grateful thanks to everyone who gave items to be sold. Together with a previous bookstall and items sold on eBay we made over £1350 and sold £175 of MUe goods. We have now been able to send £1000 to support MU projects in the UK and Overseas. £137 was used to make 30 Christmas Stockings for men and women using the Night Shelter and more is to be given to support 'Open the Book' teams in our area. Please read our report in Pathways for more details on how the monies raised have been used. The shop certainly raises the profile of MU in the area and there were many opportunities to talk to customers about what we stand for and do.

The same three events will be run in 2020 with a Quiet Day on 25th June, the NSA Morning on 16th September and I-Chameleon from 1st to 7th October. We look forward to welcoming members and friends from across the diocese at all these events. Further details will be available in due course.

Anna Vessey
North Suffolk Area Representative