

Mothers' Union Notes

Our Autumn session started with a fascinating talk from Mrs Frain Bell about her family which is connected to our founder, Mary Sumner. This was a wonderful reflective ramble through the various strands of the Sumner family and brought the past to life and a feeling of nearness to Mary whose insight started this worldwide union of which we are part. At the end of September we held a Cook and Taste afternoon when our member, Getsy Ratnam together with help from her daughter and husband produced a dazzling array of dishes that we could sample. This was a fundraiser for AFIA and the holiday we are helping with next year. Many thanks go to the Ratnam family for their skill and generosity in providing a wonderful afternoon.

Our October meeting had to be changed as the speaker had to attend hospital, and so we used the afternoon for prayer and preparation. With the crisis in the Middle East unfolding, we concentrated our prayers on this and of course included the troubles in Ukraine and other parts of the world. We prepared for our Christmas tree in the Festival by making origami doves and helping hands to decorate our tree which will be dedicated to the Rise Up campaign against Domestic Violence. For such a serious matter it was lovely to hear our members having a good chuckle over the efforts to make the doves from a square of paper.

We are marking the beginning of the 16 days of Activism against Domestic and Gender Based Violence by holding a silent Vigil on Saturday 25th November. There will be 16 half hour sessions from 9.00 to 5.00 for prayer and reflection ending on the hour and half hour with the lighting of a candle for the sufferers. We hope to be joined by members of the congregation and with members of other churches.

Please come and join us at any of our meetings, at 2.00 for a service and fellowship on the 1st Thursday and a soup lunch and speaker at 12.30 on the 3rd Thursday of the month. A warm welcome awaits!

Carolynne Sorrell, branch leader