

# uf GRAPEVINE



*Our fellowship is with Christ and one with another*

**Summer 2023**

**No. 208**



Alison and Rev. Van Den Burgh



Central Chairman’s Letter . . . . . 2

Executive Committee . . . . . 4

New Members of Executive . . . . . 6

Editor’s Message . . . . . 7

Diary of Events . . . . . 8

Treasurer’s Report . . . . . 10

Financial Statement . . . . . 11

St Christopher’s Report . . . . . 13

Retreat Report . . . . . 14

AGM Report . . . . . 16

Annual Day Report . . . . . 18

Branch reports . . . . . 19

Scattered Branch report . . . . . 38

In Memoriam . . . . . 39

Obituaries . . . . . 40

Prayer Sheet . . . . . 42

Thank You . . . . . 44

The Yew Tree . . . . . 45

Publications . . . . . 46



Newbury tea party



Stour Valley II

### Dear Members,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the AGM in Rugby when we were able to express our gratitude to those retiring from Executive. Emily, Rosarii and Jackie led and steered the Fellowship through the dark days of the lockdowns and their aftermath. No one was prepared for that time and thanks to all the Executive, WF has emerged stronger and is a much-cherished part of all our lives.

Rosarii has maintained tight control of the finances and we are in a good position to manage rising costs without putting pressure on branch finances. Indeed, the quota is reduced for 2024 and unlikely to increase for the foreseeable future.

Jackie has successfully used regular Zoom meetings to keep in touch with scattered members. With increasing numbers due to several branch closures, she has also produced a useful map of their location all over the world.

In 2020 Emily certainly faced enormous challenges with communication, especially in the early days. She has been an inspirational leader. Never wavering from her commitment to widen the membership and to reach out to others in our wider network. New members are joining and taking part in branch and national activities. Emily has also visited many branches and has encouraged flexibility in managing the running of branches. I will endeavour to continue Emily's work and pray for peaceful times ahead.

I was fortunate to visit Westminster Abbey recently and to visit the Queen's Jubilee Galleries to experience the view had by Richard Dimbleby for the Queen's coronation in 1953 and to reflect on her amazing life. As I write preparations are

well underway for the King's Coronation when he too will commit to a life of service and duty.

On 11<sup>th</sup> May Frances Farrer-Brown and I will be visiting St Christopher's Hospice when they host a virtual global conference showcasing some of the projects WF has funded. Even with fewer in-person meetings last year WF raised more than £74,000 for this charity whose work reaches not only hospices in this country but all over the world too.

Almost 30 years ago I was introduced to Wimbledon WF and being new to the area with 3 small children it seemed a very good way to meet people with a shared Christian fellowship. I was invited to join the Junior Wives and to join the committee which was a great way to get involved, to meet new people and make friends. Nowadays new members tend to be the newly retired. Why not invite them onto branch committees? Many are keen to contribute and to be part of the organisation. When I was last on Executive in 2017 we discussed the gentle decline of a much loved organisation but one which modern younger women either do not have the time for or maybe do not need. However, the pandemic did highlight the importance of having a supportive and for many a spiritual friendship group and I sense that there is a revival of enthusiasm for WF and particularly in meeting in person. If we can all translate this into attracting new members to join and share this fellowship, then we can all continue to enjoy the benefits of WF.

With love and in fellowship,

*Alison*



Looking to the future of the National Executive Committee, Patricia Eveson will be stepping down as Central Secretary in 2024, having completed a three year term. If you are interested in applying for the position please contact Patricia at [secretary@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:secretary@womeninfellowship.org.uk) and she will be happy to provide a job description. Information will soon be on the website.

## **Wear your badge with pride!**

Badges available from the Literature Secretary for only £2.00



**Central Chairman**  
(2023)



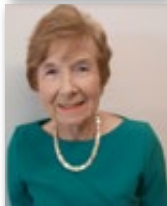
Alison Osborne (Wimbledon)  
Tel: 07736 716471  
chairman@womeninfellowship.org.uk

**Central Treasurer**  
(2023)



Alison Neilson (Wimbledon)  
Tel: 07963 652408  
treasurer@womeninfellowship.org.uk

**Central Secretary**  
(2021)



Patricia Eveson (Solihull)  
Tel: 01564 774712  
secretary@womeninfellowship.org.uk

**St Christopher's Charity  
Representative**  
(2021)



Frances Farrer-Brown (West Sussex)  
Tel: 01903 724129  
charity@womeninfellowship.org.uk

**Scattered Branch Secretary**  
(2023)



Judy Little (Scattered Branch)  
Tel: 07989 978601  
scattered@womeninfellowship.org.uk

**Communications Officer**  
(2022)



Amanda Roberts (Nottingham)  
Tel: 01159 269996  
communications@womeninfellowship.org.uk

**Joint Editor**  
(2022)



Dinah Taylor (Eastbourne)  
Tel: 01323 370292  
[editor@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:editor@womeninfellowship.org.uk)

**Joint Editor and  
Minutes Secretary**  
(2022)



Jane Powl (Eastbourne)  
Tel: 07500 658195  
[editor@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:editor@womeninfellowship.org.uk)

**National Events Secretary**  
(2022)  
**Vice-Chairman**  
(2023)



Pamila Soult (Cambridge)  
Tel: 01480 861836  
[nationalevents@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:nationalevents@womeninfellowship.org.uk)

**Our Website Manager can be contacted via: [website@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:website@womeninfellowship.org.uk)**

**W.F. Literature can be ordered from Caroline Oldroyd,  
tel: 01932-858153 or [literature@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:literature@womeninfellowship.org.uk)  
Caroline will be at National meetings where possible, but  
please order anything needed well in advance.**

**Please note that any amendments to the membership list for  
receipt of Grapevine should be sent by email to:  
[membership@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:membership@womeninfellowship.org.uk)**



## New Members of Executive

### **Alison Osborne** (*Wimbledon*) Chairman 2023

I have been a member of Wimbledon WF since 1995 and have served on the branch committee several times. I was Treasurer on the Executive Committee from 2017-20. Since 2019 I have also been an Associate member of Central London WF branch.

As a chartered accountant I worked in the City and for the last 17 years, before retirement, taught at City University. Currently I am a governor of Kingston University and chair of their Academic Governance Committee. I am also Treasurer of the Royal Burnham Yacht Club.

My spare time is spent with family and friends enjoying the arts and relaxing on and around the River Crouch.

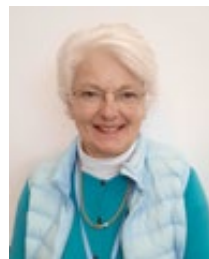


### **Judy Little** (*Scattered*) Scattered Branch Secretary (2023)

I have been a member of Women in Fellowship for about 6 years. Shortly after joining the Cotswold branch, I became the secretary under the wonderful guidance of Sally Davidson who was our Chair. When we closed our branch two years ago, I decided to join Scattered rather than another local branch.

I am a former Registered Nurse having worked in general practice for a great many years. I have four children and eight grandchildren who live locally, in Scotland and the USA. My main hobby is gardening. We have a fairly large garden for a village property, and I also work on two allotments in the village. My husband, Andrew, and I also enjoy Scottish Dancing and exploring the wilder areas of Scotland in our camper van. We have lived in Gloucestershire for the past ten years and moved into a village to make life easier in our old age!

I am hoping over the next three years to bring together the Scattered members from time to time in various parts of the country. As I live between the M4 and the M5 I can travel to most areas of England fairly quickly and easily.



### **Alison Neilson** (*Wimbledon*) Treasurer (2023)

I have been a member of the Wimbledon branch for over 25 years, serving regularly as treasurer. My husband, John, works at Westminster Abbey, and we have a son and daughter who live nearby.

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant and worked for KPMG in the City for a decade advising on international tax. More recently, I was bursar at St. Stephen's Church in Westminster. I am a trustee of the Westminster Almshouses and act as Clerk to a small charity connected to a Church of England primary school.

Now retired, I am enjoying meeting up with family and friends and singing with the church choir in Wimbledon. I love getting out into the countryside and looking after the garden.



## Editor's Message

**Welcome to the Summer 2023 edition of Grapevine. It has been a busy few months, made more so by the need to find a new publisher. However, we feel fortunate to have located a company that is nearby and with whom we can have actual face to face meetings! They are rare in this digital era.**

The theme of this edition is 'Trees', in part a recognition of the new King's love of the environment but also a reminder to us all, of new life. As Spring turns to Summer, the wonder of nature as she awakens, acts as a reminder of God's message. Research shows that trees communicate with one another, and 'Mother' trees encourage and nurture their saplings. Like our Fellowship they are a community of strength. Many varieties, like the Yew and Redwood, live for thousands of years. Think of the history it has witnessed when you next come across an ancient Oak.

It was wonderful to see so many members at the AGM and to be able to put a face to a name. Your branch reports are always a pleasure to read, and we are astonished at the variety of activities and the quality of the speakers. Each branch is unique yet united in its purpose and fellowship, that's what makes WF such a strong organisation. We are separated geographically but united in our values and belief.

One change you will note is the lack of the list of Scattered Members. It was decided by the Executive that, to publish it, was a breach of data security. We are aware that not all members use technology but would encourage those who do to look at the website regularly. Some interesting features have been added, such as highlighting a branch. There are lots of photographs, reports, and information about future events. It is easy to access: Username is **wif** and password **192016**

We welcome your comments and any ideas for articles. If we have made any errors, please bring them to our attention for correction in the next edition. You can contact us at **editor@womeninfellowship.org.uk** or by phone on **01323370292 or 07500658195**

Branch secretaries are reminded to send any change in membership or addresses to the Membership Secretary, Sally Davies, at **membership@womeninfellowship.org.uk**

*Dinah Taylor and Jane Powl*  
Editors

"In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."

**Psalm 95:4-5**





*The East Anglian Branches  
of Women in Fellowship invite you to join them  
for*



**Autumn Conference 2023**

***'This Curious Life'***

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th October 2023

at

St Edmundsbury Cathedral & Culford School  
Bury St Edmunds



Invitation and Application form to be found on the WF website  
[www.womeninfellowship.org.uk](http://www.womeninfellowship.org.uk)

## Women in Fellowship Diary – subject to alteration

## 2023

21 June	<b>National Prayer Hour</b>	Zoom – 10.30am
5 September	<b>West Sussex Regional Day</b>	
25-26 October	<b>Autumn Conference</b>	Bury St. Edmunds

## 2024

12-14 March	<b>Retreat at Launde Abbey</b>	
17 April	<b>South Trent Fellowship Day</b>	
25 April	<b>AGM – Benn Hall Rugby</b>	
2-8 September	<b>Pilgrimage to Iona</b>	Details will be on the website soon
TBC	<b>Autumn Conference</b>	High Leigh

**Information about future events can be found on the website and it should be checked regularly for updates or changes. Branch secretaries also have this information.**

**At the AGM a member raised the importance of the National Prayer Hour and reminded us of the place of prayer in our life. We encourage all, who are able, to attend the Zoom on 21 June.**

Prayer is giving our attention to God in a two-way spiritual relationship where we talk to God and listen to him. Anyone can pray, at any time and in any place. Prayer is like a child's conversation with their father: it is natural for a child to ask his father for the things they need, or to ask for advice or guidance.

We don't pray on our own, but alongside Christians around the world. Prayer brings us in touch with God and others. Christians believe that God created everyone to be in a relationship with him, and that he loves to hear from each of us as often as possible and in all circumstances. You don't even need to be a Christian; God has made himself known to many who have reached out to him with an open heart.

There are several reasons for praying and these include thanking God for what he has provided, praising God for who he is, asking him for help, turning to Him in sorrow or simply telling God what is on our heart.

"Call to me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." **Jeremiah 33:3**

***The Diocese of London and Christian Enquiry Agency***

### General fund

The 2022 **deficit** on General Fund was £21,232 (2021 surplus £929).

The change on the previous year has arisen due to:

- The non-payment of the quota charge for 2022

Our income was from profit on events and some bank interest.

I should perhaps comment on the net income from the Autumn Conference as this is larger than would be expected. There are several reasons for this:

- Gloucester Cathedral charged £500 less in their final invoice than was expected.
- The cost of the day was based on 100 attendees, calculated on previous year's attendance.
- The actual number at the Conference was 126. As the venue was able to accommodate the excess applicants nobody was refused a place. This meant the excess numbers created a much larger income than was expected. It was not possible to adjust the cost of the day by the time the actual numbers were known.

Our expenses for 2022 are in line with what would be expected for an almost normal year. It has been very difficult to compare the years and set a realistic budget for the past two years. I should perhaps point to a few increases in expenditure.

- Postage & stationery – we held more events including the AGM which increased the cost in line with previous normal years.
- Website & hosting – the company we use has taken on more work to support the website with online applications. The cost of email provision has increased considerably by the provider of the service.
- Online streaming – Due to the pandemic the Executive committee agreed to set aside funds to stream Annual Day Service so that a greater number of members could participate.

There has been a large decrease in funds for the year, but we do still hold a substantial amount of money in the general account and Executive recommend reducing the quota charge for 2024 to £5/member.

*Rosarii Sabido*

Central Treasurer, April 2023

## Income and expenditure

	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>General Fund</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Quotas		-		19,850
Magazine sales for honorary members		-		-
Autumn Conference 2021 (net)		-		(1,680)
Autumn Conference 2022 (net)		1,855		-
Founders' Meeting 2021 (net)		-		(555)
Founders' Meeting 2022 (net)		581		-
Retreat 2021 (net)		-		125
Retreat 2022 (net)		131		-
St. Christopher's (net)		-		-
Bank interest		667		474
		<u>3,234</u>		<u>18,214</u>
<b>Less: Expenditure</b>				
AGM expenses (net)	2,689		-	
AGM travel expenses delegates	-		-	
Event expenses – Executive Committee	3,434		2,018	
Travel expenses - Executive Committee	2,545		1,104	
Sundry expenses - Executive Committee	<u>299</u>		<u>733</u>	
		8,967		3,855
Postage and stationery		630		181
Website and hosting fees		1,843		966
Online streaming		1,860		-
Magazine costs		9,335		9,582
Independent examiner's fee		1,224		1,386
Insurance		587		561
Sundry expenses		20		156
Donation to St Christopher's		-		598
		<u>24,466</u>		<u>17,285</u>
<b>(Deficit)/surplus on General Fund</b>		<u>(21,232)</u>		<u>929</u>
<b>Total (deficit)/surplus</b>		<u><u>(21,232)</u></u>		<u><u>929</u></u>

## Balance Sheet

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	3	255		587	
Debtors and prepayments	4	3,015		9,215	
Cash at bank and in hand	5	82,465		92,888	
			<u>85,735</u>	<u>102,690</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Accruals	6	4,140		1,116	
Creditors	6	2,360		1,107	
			<u>6,500</u>	<u>2,223</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u><b>79,235</b></u>		<u>100,467</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><b>79,235</b></u>		<u>100,467</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
General fund	7		<b>79,235</b>		71,849
Branch officers' conference fund	7		-		28,618
			<u>-</u>		<u>28,618</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<u><b>79,235</b></u>		<u>100,467</u>

## St. Christopher's Report

They say that every cloud has a silver lining. St Christopher's soon realised that Zoom meetings meant that a great many more people could be involved in discussions, forums, training and distance learning than ever before. They rose to every challenge, even delivering as a matter of urgency at the start of the pandemic, a module training community nurses to be able to issue death certificates as GP's were run ragged and trying to avoid catching Covid. The pandemic is still comparatively old news, but the delivery of training and discussions continue online.

As you know, Women in Fellowship supports national and international events at St. Christopher's. A new thing this year has been the funding of a translator. Most participants in worldwide conferences understand and speak English well enough, but South American health professionals were struggling and the hiring of a Spanish translator was able to solve this problem.

We continue to provide bursaries for some medical professionals to attend the Multi-Professional Academy. The 2020 intake was online but now things are calmer participants are attending in person. The last four WF supported came from South Africa, India, Nigeria and Bhutan. So, you can see that Women in Fellowship can make a difference worldwide. A short list of future candidates is being drawn up and we should be able to meet them on our annual visit in the autumn. Watch this space for the date. We also continue to provide ongoing funding for the Carers Project – this has been running for a year or two and will soon be available nationwide. It provides valuable support for family members at the sharp end of caring for people at home.

A new project is the setting up of a training scheme for nurse consultants. This will be available nationwide. The training will take place at St.

Christopher's but funds from a separate charity are available to help with travel and accommodation costs. We are helping to pay the salary of the person researching, setting up and generally getting the scheme into shape.

The funding of projects to help the homeless and vulnerable with palliative and end of life care has finished but the St Christopher's app and the oral history project are still going strong. If you haven't downloaded the St. Christopher's app, do it now – you will learn a lot.

St Christopher's values our contributions enormously. Barely a quarter of their funding is from the NHS. Those of you who have attended one of their annual days know that they treat us like Royalty. Last autumn Emily and I found out exactly how Royalty is treated when we were invited to afternoon tea – along with about 50 other supporters – to meet St. Christopher's patron, HRH Princess Alexandra. Although well into her eighties, she sat and talked with every single person there and appeared to be interested in us all. She told us that her husband had received palliative care and that he was such a thoughtful man that he managed to hang on and not die on her birthday, but the day after. What a star.

I've not been idle either. By the end of my 3 years, I will have visited branches from Canterbury to Lancaster, and Zoomed with Truro. In 12 months, I will come to the end of my time as the St. Christopher's representative. If you would like to find out what the job entails, please contact me, it's a wonderful job. Expenses are paid and you don't have to have any special qualifications – just enthusiasm and a desire to work with the wonderful team that makes up the WF Executive.

*Frances Farrer-Brown*

*St. Christopher's Charity Representative*



## Retreat Report – Laude Abbey 22nd - 24th March 2023

A group retreat seems both a luxury and an essential part of nurturing one's spiritual life. After the multiple challenges of living through the pandemic, our lovely gathering at Launde Abbey brought this home to me afresh.



42 of us from 15 branches and Scattered members were nourished spiritually, physically and socially, from the moment we arrived on Wednesday afternoon, to our departure after a large and delicious breakfast on Friday morning. For some it was a happy reunion, for others, their first time attending

a National event. It was good to welcome some husbands and our speaker's wife, Sally Rawlinson. We were led by the Revd. Dr John Rawlinson, a medical doctor, priest, and poet. In the first of four participatory sessions, he invited us to reflect on the stories Jesus told and share our favourite parables.



During the second session, considering faith, religion, and poetry, we shared our favourite poems after listening to some of John's own poetry. His *Pandemic Triduum* was a highlight for many. The eclectic range of poems, new and old, humorous and profound, made for an enjoyable and thought-provoking session. The third session followed a similar format, with hymns and songs of praise. There was a wonderful sense of unity as each favourite hymn was read, with a ripple of agreement or happy



recognition greeting so many of the choices. There is indeed a hymn for every occasion! Our last session 'Rescue the Perishing, Care for the Dying' reflected on the practice of applied Christianity. John was an engaging, thought-provoking, and entertaining leader.

As with all WF events, there was plenty of time to socialise and enjoy good food. We moved from

loud and cheerful conversations at meals, to quiet contemplation in the chapel and as the day ended, some of us talked late into the night on a wide range of topics. Joining the community for a Holy Communion service before breakfast was a special way to start the day and the officiating priest was impressed to see the chapel full!

The free session on Thursday afternoon was spent by some of us dodging, or failing to avoid, heavy showers as we explored the beautiful grounds of the Abbey, with the large walled garden, stations of the cross and the labyrinth which was bright with yellow daffodils. There were plenty of comfortable seating areas and a well-stocked library and bar for those who did not want to venture outside.

Thank you to the Revd. Pamela Soult, for organising this retreat so brilliantly and giving us a chance to press 'pause' on our busy lives, re-set and be refreshed. **Fiona Rowett**

### **Pandemic Triduum – At Dawn and Dusk with the Mistle Thrush**

Printed with kind permission of the author, Revd. Dr John Rawlinson

#### **Good Friday Dawn on the ITU**

Listen.  
High perched,  
The dawn Mistle Thrush  
Stirs an unrisen Sun  
To shine on us,  
The ventilated sleepers.  
He bids us 'Good Day'  
And if today will be our last,  
His falling cadence cries  
'Godspeed; may your soul  
Find its quiet treetop  
Soon'.

#### **Holy Saturday Waiting**

I know  
That when  
Dusk deepens  
The Thrush folds  
Its music away  
Tucks it up  
Safe and sound  
Still its tiny breast  
As night falls.  
  
And yet I know,  
Listening in the dark silence,  
The small warm heart beats on  
And awaits the Dawn's  
Release of Joy.  
Yes, that I know.

#### **Easter Sunday Erupting**

Listen,  
Just listen  
To the Easter Thrush  
The eruption of goodness  
A song-shot of hope  
Sweeping with quavers  
The darkness from  
The path of the Sun's  
New Day.

## AGM 2023 – April 26

The atmosphere was electric as 90 women from 41 branches met at Benn Hall, Rugby. Many old friends were eager to catch up, while others, new to WF, found a warm welcome. Emily reported that the Executive had taken on board the suggestions from the 2022 AGM and had tried to address them. She introduced the new chairman, Alison Osborne, who promised to lead us with respect for the values of WF. Retiring treasurer Rosarii and Scattered Secretary Jackie introduced their replacements, Alison Neilson and Judy Little. The enthusiasm in the hall was palpable, especially during the game 'Last Woman Standing' when we discovered who had attended the most AGMs and which group had travelled the furthest to attend.

At the end of the day, we left with a positive feeling and the conviction that WF is a very special group composed of strong, caring Christian women.





Previous page: Left to right. Emily & Pauline Mant, Dinah and Frances greet delegates. Last woman standing

Above: Amanda & Frances





## ANNUAL DAY REPORT, National Arboretum, 16 May, 2023

The National Arboretum is a site of remembrance to honour the fallen, and those who served in the Armed Forces. It has over 400 memorials of all shapes and sizes including one commemorating the work of Land girls during WWII. It was a fitting place to hold this event organised by Pamela Soult. South Trent and Trent Branches was very much in evidence: checking people in, reading and doing the intercessions in the service and providing beautiful flower arrangements in our traditional colours.

A service was held in the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness, presided over by Revd Vic Van Den Burgh (Padre Vic) with a theme of remembering. Following the service, we had a chance to look around the chapel, including carvings on the 12 columns of Douglas Fir that hold up the roof and represent the 12 apostles.

The talk, after a delicious lunch, was ably given by a volunteer, John Arthur, who stood in at the last minute for the scheduled speaker. He told us about the many memorials and statues in amongst the 1000 trees.

As we explored the arboretum on our own, we realised that a dignitary had arrived to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of conscription. Princess Anne laid a wreath and that was followed by a Spitfire fly past. This is an Annual Day we will all remember.



Delegates



Revd Van Den Burgh



Princess Anne and her party

**BIRMINGHAM** – 60 Members, 6 Honorary and 1 Associate Member

The most remarkable thing about 2022 was that we were able to put on a full programme – hurrah!

We began our year with a lovely coffee morning and then a successful AGM; the committee agreed to stay on in their roles for an additional year (or two!) to smooth out the transition to normality after the lockdowns.

Our delayed Christmas Drinks Party was reconstituted as a St George's Day celebration, which was much enjoyed by all who attended. For once the Garden Visit enjoyed good weather (see photo). The garden was one that one of our members, Anne Kenrick, was instrumental in establishing and we visited in her memory.

So far, so good and then the Commonwealth Games took place in Birmingham. We thought we had scheduled the afternoon tea party far enough away, but we were wrong, so we found a new date. On that date the temperature was due to be 40°C, so we found another date. It was third time lucky, and the tea party went ahead, but we all had our thick

jumpers on and a few blankets were around our knees, as the temperature fell to the other extreme!

We enjoyed a meeting to recommend different books, a Ploughman's Lunch and a very interesting talk about a local figure from history, Thomas Hall, and we finished the year with our annual Carol Service.

Our membership continues to be buoyant. Sadly, we noted the death of three members, Heather Pearce, Thelma Justham and Susan Craven. Other members moved away, often to be nearer to their family, but some new members joined us, so the branch continues in its purpose of spreading fellowship in Birmingham.



*Tea Party*

**BRISTOL III** – 36 members and 1 Honorary Member.

There is a wealth of talent amongst our members from which we were able to benefit this year. There were in-house meetings to make both Christmas and Easter crafts, shared readings and prayers on Zoom, and a further Zoom meeting when 3 of our members were able to give short presentations of their interests and achievements. Zoom meetings proved popular as they enabled members who live some distance away to share in the Fellowship, and especially over a cup of tea on a winter afternoon.

In the summer we visited a garden centre to learn the art of making hanging baskets and went to Henleaze Lake, a private swimming lake. Later in the year we enjoyed a guided tour of the vaults of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, a visit to the

Palestinian Museum, and to the Grayson Perry exhibition.

We joined with Bristol II for a Lent lecture at which the Reverend Mike Peat, University Free Church Chaplain, spoke of the values of Benedictine Monks, stability, humility, and prayer, and how these could help us lead more contented lives. Both Bristol branches also joined for a service at Clifton Cathedral.

Meetings involving hospitality are always popular. We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a lunch party for our own branch and a Jubilee tea with Bristol II. We also enjoyed a summer party, and at another meeting learnt from Sally Tompson, Director of



Wildlife Films, of her experiences working with David Attenborough, and the difficulties associated with wildlife photography. The most popular meeting of the year was the Christmas Carols and readings held in a member's house.

Whilst there is a lot of support for this meeting, in common with many branches there is a general reluctance to serve on the committee and especially

to assume the role of an officer. Two meetings in the Autumn term were held to address this issue, and adjustments have been made as to how the branch is run. We are aspiring for all the members to be involved in planning and organising meetings.

Book group continues to be very successful, and the Walking group continues with short walks being popular, and longer outings enjoyed by stalwarts.

### CHELTENHAM III – 41 Members

2022 began with our AGM and a new Chairwoman who bravely took on the organisational responsibilities of our branch. Our programme chairpersons did an outstanding job as usual with interesting talks about old coins and their history, how to keep us safe from internet fraud, foraging, and the history of Woodchester Mansion. We enjoyed a Cotswold walk in May led by one of our members, which was followed by champagne and strawberries in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. Our last meeting

#### *Christmas*



before the summer holidays was a delicious poolside lunch at the home of our Chairwoman.

We started the autumn with a cake and coffee afternoon where we shared stories of our summer holiday activities. We learned how the Great Western Helicopter Charity serves our community, we met a support dog and its owner and heard about their charity. Then in October, we were treated to a tour of Beards, one of the oldest family-run jewellers in Britain located on the promenade in Cheltenham. After an in-depth tour of their workshop and watch repair studio, we were dazzled by the gorgeous jewellery in their showroom. A delicious Christmas lunch was held at Cowley Manor, a lovely boutique hotel outside of Cheltenham in December.



## HAYWARDS HEATH – 35 Members and 7 Honorary Members

Zoom has been a useful technical development, otherwise we might have had less contact with each other. It has been adopted for our committee meetings and currently for our AGM, but nothing can replace conventional face to face monthly meetings and welcoming a speaker.



*Winchester Visit*

A talk on Volunteering at Knepp Rewilding Estate captured our attention and encouraged us to explore for ourselves later in the summer. Our 'Covid postponed' summer lunch was typically animated and fun and thankfully protected beneath a marquee in our chairman's garden as the 'heavens opened'. Guy Cordery, whose mother Elizabeth, a former Cheshire Wife, who established JG Theatre Club, and organised decades of Wives' holidays, arranged a day coach trip to Winchester. Between us we enjoyed several of the local eateries before being joined by an excellent Blue Badge Guide taking us along the river to historic

sites and reminders of Jane Austen before Choral Evensong in the cathedral. The CEO of Family Support Work, a diocesan charity that for many decades has been dedicated to supporting needy families, invited us to donate new books suitable for primary school children. These were collected at our Christmas lunch in time for World Book Day 2023.



*Christmas lunch*

Small 'flock' coffee mornings are always popular as are our local walks and in-house meetings when we discover hidden careers and talents of some of our more modest members! Our autumn church service is always well attended and we visit a different parish church each year, the preacher enjoying our sumptuous tea afterwards. Last September promised a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but days before our service the theme was amended to reflect the death of Queen Elizabeth and the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Charles III.

## LANCASTER – 48 Members and 1 Honorary Member

We are pleased to report that our members are meeting regularly, to hear speakers, hold services, discussion groups and small group gatherings. Our December party in the Chairman's home involved Christmas themed quizzes, carol singing, mulled wine and mince pies. We had a small prayer tree where members could write a prayer or Christmas message.

"Hidden in Plain Sight" was the title of an illustrated talk by an art conservator. He explained the restoration and conservation of textiles and paintings, so bringing them back to life, and provided a fascinating look at paintings which had hidden artwork below them. It was a joy to return to Hynning Monastery, after its closure for refurbishment, for our Lenten Quiet Hour this year. The Reverend Canon



*Prayer Tree*

Linda MacLuskie led our service in the beautiful chapel, with a theme of “Dust That Dreams of Glory”. Our annual coffee morning takes place at the end of April, when we hope to add to our donations for St Christopher’s Hospice. Four members and two husbands were thankful to have been to the wonderful retreat at Launde Abbey recently.

The Rt. Reverend Cyril Ashton, retired Bishop of Doncaster spoke at our popular guest luncheon in Morecambe Golf Club on “Hidden Treasure” based on 2 Corinthians 4: “We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” Bishop Cyril likened each one of us to hidden treasure and, afterwards, a member wrote, “We had a table of very interesting clay jars – not one of them cracked or chipped and all possessed hidden treasure.”

At our AGM we read words so aptly written by a Central Chairman 70 years ago: “What a lovely thing it is which we have in W.F. – that heart-warming, lifting spiritual bond which unites us. We are aware of it in our branches, at our Conferences and, not least, when we meet one another individually. We do not have to cross a barrier but experience a mutual giving and receiving which sends us on our way with a lighter step.”

### LEAMINGTON SPA & WARWICK – 56 Members, 4 Honorary and 1 Associate Member

Our branch continues to enjoy well supported meetings, which we now hold in a village hall, with easy parking. Advent, Lent and Autumn services have been shared with the WF 2 branch, and we started the year with a talk about a dried flower business from a member’s daughter. The Dance-Circus theatrical adventure “Nobody” was much enjoyed, and our summer lunch, held in our former secretary’s beautiful garden was blessed with sunshine. “Here come the Girls” was a fascinating illustrated talk about the American heiresses who came to the UK in

search of titled husbands at the turn of the previous century. A discussion entitled “What are YOU doing to help prevent the destruction of the planet” was very lively. “My Ordination”, a talk given by Reverend Sue Fairhurst, was extremely enlightening. We run two book clubs and enjoy an occasional informal gathering for coffee and chat at a local garden centre. A small group meets about every five weeks to enjoy a not too strenuous walk in the lovely Warwickshire countryside.

### MEDWAY TOWNS – 32 Members and 2 Honorary Members

We are delighted to welcome 5 new members to our branch after some years of diminishing numbers. It could be due to our varied and interesting programme over the last twelve months, beginning with a very interesting talk on Mud Larking in the Thames. So many historic finds give glimpses of everyday objects lying in the mud just waiting to



be found. Then we were expecting the landscape manager of Kent Life to talk on re-wilding, and he came with the exciting news of the first Bison to be introduced into the woodland. This will be a long-time trial to see how their hoof prints help in woodland conservation and regeneration.

For our outing we visited The Diamond Setters, who have a studio at Salomon's Estate near Tunbridge Wells. Not just diamonds, but lots of different gemstones were there for us to see in detail. After a visit to the workshop we had a lovely cream tea. What more could you ask for?

## NEWBURY – 31 Members and 1 Honorary Member

In April, the Covid-19 virus was still casting its shadow so unfortunately there was a very late cancellation from our speaker. Some quick thinking from Diana Ash, and a plea from the heart, bought us the pleasure of hearing Nick Battle telling us exactly what publishing a book entails. Mr Battle has spoken to us before and after his thoroughly enjoyable and informative talk, he left us having received not only very long applause but with a gift we knew he could enjoy later. May brought us the pleasure of Walking the Canal, with our speaker activating our imaginations through her memories and words. She then gave us a fun quiz to do, set with lots of laughter before a welcome cup of tea.

A very different outdoor treat was a visit to West Green House, for a guided walk of their fabulous gardens. This naturalistic beautifully maintained setting has very popular operatic and dramatic events staged on the lake during summer evenings. People can bring picnic suppers to enjoy before the event. On a beautiful day in June, we were invited to tea under the apple trees in the delightful setting of a cottage garden belonging to Inga. An array of delicious cake and scones, provided by our hostess with the Committee's help, made for a very memorable afternoon, with lots of chat. Our Husband and Wives Summer Lunch at Essingbourne Manor was very different in August. It was the type of day remembered from childhood, and for once we had our pre-lunch canapés on the terrace. We picked our place at a table at random, and an excellent meal was enjoyed before returning to the terrace for coffee and to catch up with anyone we had missed earlier in the day. In September the drive through the countryside to Fawley, with the leaves turning and the flowers in the village church glowing Autumnal colours and looking spectacular. Our Harvest time Service of Thanksgiving had a special meaning following our drive to the village. Gathering in St. Francis de Sales Hall in November three of our members gave an illustrated talk on their just completed Pilgrimage to Austria and the Passion Play at Oberammergau. Of course, the play was the central purpose of the journey, a profound experience to be remembered forever. It was a first WF Pilgrimage Holiday for two of us, making new friends, enjoying time together exploring and relaxing on such a happy holiday, a gold star event. Our late November speaker was Sue



*Essebourne Manor*

Bradbrook a friend from Bath WF. She was trained by the National Health to help people who have a perceived or real birth defect, or who find later in life that due to an accident or for a medical reason need her advice. Her talk 'Memoirs of a Maverick makeup Artist' made us wish we could clone her, as need is great for more understanding and treatment by similarly trained experts.

The Great Christmas Bring and Buy began December, our yearly fundraising event. Our secretary Lucy treated us to lots of warm mince pies and flowing coffee as we started to empty the groaning tables of donated gifts. We achieved a record amount of £192.82 to be added into our Service Collections

throughout the year, for St Christophers Hospice. Almost at the end of our year and feeling like pincushions, we're so thankful for the vaccinations together with the support of our Fellowship through the dark times. At the beginning of Christmas, we held our traditional and magical Advent Tea given by Inga in her cottage, beautifully decorated with sparkling lights, candles and festive scents, not forgetting many delicious treats for tea at elegantly laid tables. So much effort and love go into Ingas' preparation of Advent Tea for us all. It is the true start of our Christmas, with the warmth of our Wives sharing our Fellowship together.

### **NORTHUMBRIA** – 21 Members and 1 Honorary Member

As we usually have snow and ice in January, we started the year in February with an illustrated talk by two of our members about their trip to the Shetland Isles. Our outside speakers gave us talks on The Big Cat Sanctuary, and an illustrated one on Walking the North Tyne, which had us all itching to be years younger and able to put on our walking boots again! Our Guest Summer Lunch was in the village hall of the lovely old village of Wall, close by our famous Hadrian's Wall, which was a very happy occasion. We also had several meetings in members' homes, including an informal tea party, (replacing the cancelled outing to a village north of the Tyne

where both church and café had been closed since Covid), a meeting tasting Favourite Savouries, and one recalling childhood memories of Autumn and Bonfire Night. Our Lenten Quiet Day Retreat was held in the beautiful old Anglican Retreat House Shepherds Dene, in the Tyne Valley, while our Annual Service was in St. George's Church in Newcastle. We hold a monthly lively discussion group, and have been studying "Sensible Shoes", by American author, Sharon Garlough Brown, a story recounting the spiritual journey of 4 very different women who, surprisingly, find real support from each other along the way.

### **NOTTINGHAM** – 41 Members and 8 Honorary Member

It has been lovely to return to normality with meetings once again being held in either members' homes or in a village hall. After the excitement of (finally) being able to celebrate our Centenary last April, we are enjoying monthly meetings once again.

In the summer we met for lunch in one member's beautiful garden and had the opportunity not only to look round it but also to admire the rare breed sheep in the field next to the garden. In September we

gathered for an inspiring talk given by Dean Nicola Sullivan of Southwell Minster. She told us about her life and calling, first as a nurse and then to the priesthood, which has led to her becoming the Dean of this beautiful Cathedral. We then met for a talk by Age Concern on Scams, and how to avoid them. In these days, when scams are taking place more and more frequently, it was a salutary experience for all of us. On 11 November we listened to a speaker talking about the experiences of his great



grandfather in World War 1. We met earlier than usual, enabling us to observe the Two Minutes Silence together. A light-hearted demonstration of present wrapping at the end of November was followed by our Carol Service in early December. It was very well attended, with a choir organised by one of our members and was rounded off with everyone enjoying coffee, mince pies and sherry.

National events attended by members of the branch included Founder's Day, the trip to Oberammergau to see the Passion Play and Autumn Conference.

Sadly, we have lost several long-standing members over the past year. They had been members of our branch for many decades and had contributed so much to it. Dennie Yandell was our oldest ever member when she died at the age of 103. We miss them all.

## OXFORD - 37 Members

The Womens' Fellowship in Oxford has met over many decades – first with 3 Senior Wives and Young Wives – but in the last few years these branches have all joined together to form the Oxford Women in Fellowship. The branches have always met weekly but now, as we have grown older, the job of running the organisation has become more onerous and we have taken the decision to meet fortnightly. We are trying out this arrangement and will also decrease the number of vacation tea parties as this is getting more difficult for our ageing members to host.

Each term begins with a church service in a local church and each term we have a quiet half hour held in a member's home. Talks have covered such subjects as John Betjeman's love of England, Senior Tutor Land, British Satellite Broadcasting, Stories from Oxford, and a Canal Journey from Oxford to Cambridge. We have kept fit participating in seated exercises!

We enjoy the Fellowship and wish to continue it as long as we can.

## SHEFFIELD - 24 Members and 5 Honorary Members

We continue to thrive, meeting mostly in a local community hall. The committee is smaller than it used to be, but members are supportive in helping with chores at each meeting, and we have an excellent list of people willing to provide cakes, (cake, as Charlie Mackesy's mole knows very well, being vital to happiness). Zoom meetings also continue on a fortnightly basis, enabling those members living further afield to stay in touch regularly, as well as providing members with varied recommendations for books to read. The Queen's Jubilee was celebrated with fizz and reminiscences, including newspaper editions from the Coronation date. Some of us enjoyed a visit to Renishaw Hall Gardens, with its magnificent borders. We continue to hold an Annual Service, plus a Christmas gathering in a local church. Our own members

contribute some topics, including a fascinating insight into life in The Falklands and thoughtful Quiet Half Hours. Trying out Origami was challenging, and a local vicar led us through an Advent Reflection. We were encouraged to think more about how everything





we do affects the environment by a local business that focuses on ecological products for cleaning – be it our homes or our teeth. Before the summer break, we will, among other meetings, have taken a carload to the National Arboretum, learned about women workers in industry in Sheffield in the World Wars, shared a lunch celebrating the Coronation, enjoyed afternoon tea in a member's garden and visited a local farm charity enabling children from disadvantaged areas of the city to learn about animals at first hand. Our branch was represented at National Events: a superb Founders' Meeting at Shrewsbury, Autumn Conference at Gloucester, the Retreat at Launde Abbey and the AGM. We continue to try to achieve the traditional balance between spiritual,

social and intellectual meetings, to look out for each other as we inevitably get older and look forward to times of fellowship in the future.



### SOLIHULL – 40 Members, 5 Honorary and 5 Associate Members

Another year passed but where has it gone? Meetings and chat are what we've dwelled on. With Covid behind us, and meetings this year We have been together with much to cheer.



*Jubilee Cake*

Meetings were planned for the year ahead, not held in our homes, but a hall instead. Speakers joined us and shared their talents Alongside church services to have a life balance.

A Jubilee lunch in June for our Queen In Linda's garden we honoured her reign. With a glass of pink fizz we toasted her Majesty Coronation Chicken was our dish of the day.

Our Honorary Ladies cut the platinum cake Before the rain poured and we rushed in for a break!

With "In House" meetings on the agenda Our WF history and favourite books were remembered. What to do when a speaker cancels? A visit to Packwood is never a hassle. We frequently thank the National Trust An explore of their properties always a must.

In the autumn we listened to Sally Playing her double bass for her finale. We learned of the years of practice it took her To join and play in our Birmingham Orchestra.

In November a husband gave us insight Into North Korea where he had taken a flight. Life under Kim and his frightening dictatorship Made us appreciate our democratic leadership.

A Christmas lunch at a Golf Club we know Saw our year almost brought to a close. One thing was clear – 2022 had been a good year Our Fellowship thriving is such a cheer.

2023 began with coffee at the local Farm Shop When our ladies came to chat non stop! Our AGM and the business done With a new programme which is ready to run.

So we in Solihull trust in our Fellowship Enjoying gatherings and all our friendships.



*Afternoon tea*

## **SOUTH TRENT** – 45 Members and 1 Honorary Member

South Trent members continue to be wonderfully generous and supportive of our programme as we learn and laugh together, share our experiences and support one other between monthly meetings. The reassuring rhythm of the seasons and church year underpins our programme and this report covers activities over the past year at the time of writing (April 2023). The 'Plants, Preserves and Lunch' is a perennial favourite and last year was enjoyed in a member's glorious garden whilst watching swallows flying to feed their young. The high temperatures put paid to the summer evening supper party, but it was amazing how quickly a little rain revived our gardens and more than twenty members met for the September tea party. External visits over the past year included Melbourne Hall and Gardens, only open to the public in August. Fourteen members visited and enjoyed the guided tour which introduced the Hall's illustrious previous inhabitants and their historical significance. A visit to Sarsfield's Chocolaterie, Kinoulton, was a delight in the dark days of February and is highly recommended.

We are so grateful to our members with homes large enough to accommodate twenty or so comfortably and recognise the major effort that goes into re-arranging the furniture for such large groups. The Reports meeting in October was alive with good humour and we enjoyed a fascinating account of the

WF pilgrimage to Oberammergau organised by South Trent member Julia Pirie. We learnt about a member's family connections with Caister Castle, its fascinating history including the unique correspondence of the 'Paston Letters' during the War of the Roses right up to the creation of the Caister Castle Motor Museum in the 1960s. A recently retired female police officer from the Met Mounted Division gave an insight into the challenges and rewards of a career in the police force and we have also learnt about the work of the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall. We were bowled over by the creativity of Trent Branch's queen of quilting Fiona Burrows.

We are delighted to continue sharing the organisation of our services for Lent, Harvest and Christmas with Trent Branch. This year it was our turn to host the Christmas service at the parish church in Widmerpool attended by fifty members from across the two branches. This was followed by a 'St Niklaus' celebration in the beautifully adorned festive home of a South Trent member. For the second year we held our AGM at Stanton on the Wolds Golf Club which was attended by 28 members. Bringing new members into the Fellowship is a concern for us and we are glad to report three prospective members currently.

## STOUR VALLEY I - 31 Members and 3 Honorary Members

We have been so pleased to be able to meet again in person during 2022, although it was another very difficult year for our branch, losing three much-loved members. During the year, branch members were able to attend regional and national events and we have been very pleased to welcome to our own meetings, Emily, our Central Chairman, members of local branches and, on occasion, husbands and friends of our members.

We had eleven gatherings last year and one Zoom meeting about Mother Julian of Norwich. Since Covid, our formal meetings are now being held in village halls and last year included our AGM in January, our Quiet Morning in February and presentations on hats, anatomy, Leprosy and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. We also had one informal coffee morning and two 'Teas in the Garden' which were fortunately blessed by beautiful weather. In addition to all of this we had our annual church visit with Roy Tricker after which we all



*Church Visit*

adjourned to a local nursery for lunch. That day will linger long in the memory as during lunch the word spread that the Queen was gravely ill, and by evening we learned that she had died.

Sadly, there is no denying that, as a branch, we are getting older. We have an increasing number of members who are unable to drive to meetings on their own and we are such a wide-spread area that there is often no member nearby who can offer a lift. Last year's Central AGM was very helpful in hearing how other branches are responding to these sorts of challenges and we have introduced some significant changes to our programme for the coming year to try and make sure that no member feels excluded. These include continuing with regular Zoom gatherings and arranging informal get-togethers in garden centres close to those who have difficulty in travelling. So far, both initiatives have been very successful. Looking ahead, we are very pleased to be helping to arrange the Autumn Conference this October and we look forward to welcoming many of you to beautiful Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk.



*Rick Tricker*

## STOUR VALLEY II - 25 Members

How lovely to have restrictions lifted in 2022 and the freedom to roam again. We covered history, gardens, beautiful walks, and excellent talks, whilst enjoying friendship and harmony.

The sun shone in March last year as we, honoured to live in Constable Country, visited the *Creating Constable* exhibition at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, discovering some rarely seen small paintings of his, and enjoying a picnic in the park under the blossom.

In April we had fun foraging for wild garlic in Arger Fen before returning to a member's home to make pesto and pasta – which of course we then tasted! May brought the sunshine again and a visit to Green Island Gardens, Ardeleigh, with an inspiring talk by Fiona Edmund, who, following a bout of ill health, set about developing 40 acres of land surrounding her home to create a beautiful garden. This is a true testament to the restorative nature of working outdoors and with plants. We've also toured the Tudor Ingatestone Hall with its mullioned windows, high chimneys and oak panelled rooms and its glorious gardens, had a strawberry tea with a bring and buy in aid of St Christopher's, and enjoyed our first Husbands and Wives evening for several years.

Members from neighbouring Branches joined us to hear local author, Liz Trenow talking about her novel,



*Arger Fen*

*The Silk Weaver*, drawn from her family's history as silk weavers in Sudbury, owners of the last surviving silk mill there. She has written other books all based on some aspect of her family history and we highly recommend them.

Walks in Wormingford and by the River Stour were well attended and much enjoyed, the latter taking us past Griff Rhys Jones' house and garden. Our Advent Carol service was held in St. Peter's Church, Levington looking out to the river Orwell, and followed by a hot lunch with our friends from Stour Valley I Branch, giving us some special time together.

We recommend a meeting such as the one we held in February with supper followed by members sharing either their favourite reading or showing us something they had made. It is a great way to learn more about each other's interests and talents. We've also enjoyed hearing about members' trips, most recently 'Off the Beaten Track in Jordan'.

Our Reflection and Quiet morning for Lent had been planned to be held in a member's woodland but had to be moved indoors because of the weather. However, we kept the theme of 'wood' which we touched and drew and attempted bark rubbing. We did this quietly whilst reflecting on the wooden cross that Jesus carried to his crucifixion and all that it meant to each of us.



*Christchurch Mansion*



### TRURO – 25 Members and 1 Honorary Member

Relieved to be returning to some form of normality and with sincere thanks to our dedicated chairman and her hardworking and supportive committee, we were once again treated to a varied and enjoyable programme of events featuring something for everyone. During the year we welcomed one new member to our fold.

We began the season with a visit from a university lecturer and, unexpectedly, were taken back to the great storm of 1987 when we learned about the 'high table' chairs created for the graduation ceremony at Plymouth University, carved from an 800-year-old oak tree felled during this storm and designed by world renowned furniture designer, John Makepeace.

Two of our members contributed interesting and informative talks on the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Aromatherapy. Other topics included Hospital Chaplaincy from which we gained a valuable insight into the spiritual, pastoral and practical support provided by this team on a 24-hour basis, and the Flora and Fauna of Madeira. Our annual book discussion continues to be very popular, evoking lively discussion and producing an extensive,

recommended reading list. In June we were blessed with glorious sunshine when we met with husbands and friends for our summer party and welcomed the Central Chair, Emily Hutchins.

The Grade 1 listed Church of St Hilary, and its Heritage Centre at Penzance, was the venue for our summer outing. It has a rich and celebrated history from prehistoric times to the present and has links with St Michael's Mount. Its unique scheme of decoration has led to its Grade 1 listing.

We concluded our programme with a very enjoyable Christmas lunch, and we look forward to what this year has to offer.



*Summer lunch*

### TUNBRIDGE WELLS – 50 Members and 5 Honorary Members

The programme started as always with the Chairman's coffee morning and Bring and Buy for St. Christopher's and took place in a member's garden with lovely views, sunshine and the chance to chat. Socializing seems more important than ever.



*Christmas Lunch*

Our treasurer has continued her setting of quizzes and our programme secretaries have given us a wide variety of talks, from "Street Furniture" and how unobservant we can be, to "The Downton Era", with an elegant lady dressed in 1920's style, talking and singing along with the garden birds. Contrastingly, we heard about the violence of the "Brinks Matt Gold Bullion Robbery" and life of "The Belgium Royal Family" from the 1830's onwards.

The service in the pretty church in Bidborough was conducted by the inspirational vicar, who lately amazed us by appearing on the Repair Shop with his canoe. An outing to the less well-known garden at Great Comp, which has a large collection of Salvias

and wonderful trees and vistas, was definitely damp, but the enthusiastic group enjoyed it, especially with the addition of tea and cake.

Both the summer lunch in a hotel and the Christmas lunch were very successful and popular with the members and guests and although snow could have spoiled the Christmas one, the golf course looked magical. Even the AGM was a challenge with ice and road closures!

Chat meetings are taking place in garden centres, as the number of large houses has decreased, and we use a large hall when we invite local branches for lunch and a speaker. This year we had to find another speaker quickly and the chef and creator of Banoffi pie stepped in with tales of his life and the science of cooking. Food and friendship together have united us and so we were lucky to be joined by Emily Hutchings and four other groups.

The Lent meeting, with a retired Irish Canon was amusing and thought provoking. His personal knowledge of the Royal family and their various traits enabled him to speak perceptively about the Queen Mother and the late Queen and their obvious commitment and deep Christian beliefs. He feels that King Charles is taking after them, but in his own inimitable way.

The long running book club will hopefully continue, but Ros who has led us for many years is moving away and will be a great loss. Sadly, we have lost two people, Mavis Townsend a long-standing member who will always be remembered for her elegance and for growing amazing Sweet Peas, and Janet Condon, an ex-member, such a kind and gentle person. They both brought so much to our fellowship, which continues through highs and lows, but offers us joy, friendship and spiritual support. Many thanks to you all.

## WELLS – 31 Members, 1 Honorary and 1 Associate Member

It has been a year of Fellowship with the introduction of our monthly informal coffee morning at a Wells hotel, providing members with the opportunity to meet for an informal coffee and chat. This has proved to be a good time to get to know recent members and to introduce potential members to WF.

We had a good attendance at our Lent and Advent Services, held in two different, beautiful rural

churches. Pause for Thought and the Advent service were conducted by one of our members. Both occasions were very thought provoking and we enjoyed a congenial lunch afterwards on both occasions.

Our programme secretaries have intrigued us with two very interesting talks on Ethiopia Aid and Boyhood Memories of a Japanese Prisoner of War. We look forward to Garden and Chocolate Makers visits later in the year.

We look forward to welcoming husbands and visitors from Bath branch to a talk on West Somerset Railways in April and several of our members will attend a meeting in Sherborne in May.

Our chairman and several committee members attended the WF National AGM and the Autumn Conference in Gloucester. They all found these events very enjoyable and informative, and we were inspired by their reports at our AGM.



*Advent service*



We look forward to a full summer and thank our programme secretaries for all their hard work and

our chairman and committee for their continuing enthusiasm and dedication on behalf of our branch.

### WEST SUSSEX – 28 Members and 1 Honorary Member

I sit writing this near the end of a chilly April, whilst the sun blazes down after a morning frost: a pretty harsh winter and a chilly Spring but West Sussex branch has been bustling about and enjoying our programme of events.

During the latter half of last year, we enjoyed interesting meetings on a variety of topics, plus a walk in Petworth Park on a very hot day, a Summer Garden Party in soothing sunshine, a reflective morning at Boxgrove Priory and a visit from Emily, our Central Chair, at a packed meeting in Pulborough. It was good to review the Fellowship and to look at ways to make our future together as secure as possible. It was an interesting discussion and gave



Chichester Cathedral

us much food for thought. We have subsequently recruited three new members to swell our ranks, so her visit was obviously a success.

We finished 2022 with our usual Advent Service, this time at West Chiltington church, and started 2023 with an absorbing talk from the representative of a charity working with the homeless (rough sleepers), providing opportunities to help them recalibrate their lives. An inspirational start to the year. Since then, we have had a home Communion Service to start the Lenten period, and a guided visit to Chichester Cathedral (see picture) to examine its many treasures. Next up will be a talk on the Wey & Arun Canal, which I, as a boater, am greatly looking forward to.

In September our branch is organising a Regional Day for ourselves and our neighbouring branches, centred at the tiny hamlet of Sullington, in the midst of the Sussex Downs, with the theme: *I Will Lift Mine Eyes to the Hills*. This will be an exciting moment for us, and with a church service, a sustaining lunch, and an excellent speaker booked, we look forward to a day of good fellowship.

### WEYBRIDGE – 37 Members and 2 Honorary Members

Since 2022 we have managed to hold our fortnightly meetings mainly in the Old School Room adjacent to St Nicholas Church, Pyrford which, despite being small, has excellent catering facilities and a good car park. It has proved to be very popular.

We have had talks on Impressionism, Poetry, The National Theatre Chaplaincy, The Dictionary, Venice, British Seaside Piers, Ghosts of Hampton Court, Gardens of Women Writers, Whiteley Homes Trust and The Banqueting House. Our two outings were

to Leonardslee Gardens and Gatton Park, both most enjoyable. The Strawberry Tea was held in a member's garden, a summer picnic lunch was held in the Chairman's garden, and a Christmas tea party together with a quiz hosted in another member's home. We joined Walton-on-Thames WF for church services in St Nicholas Pyrford for Lent, Harvest, and Carols at Christmas, when our husbands also came.

Our annual fund raiser for St Christopher's is always a Bridge Tea and we are delighted to fill the hall at

St Andrews Cobham for this as we have so much support from our branch as well as from friends.

Both our Chairman and Treasurer attended the AGM in Rugby and our Pastoral Committee Member went to the Launde Abbey Retreat. We were delighted to welcome our National Chairman, Emily Hutchings,

to our November meeting, when we had a very interesting afternoon of Recommended Reading, and we were able to discuss branch matters with her.

We now look forward to another season of branch activities.

## WINCHESTER I – 50 Members and 5 Honorary Members

Following our amalgamation with Winchester Women in Fellowship II at the start of 2022, the committee members organised a number of small tea parties in their homes and often (thanks to the long hot summer) in their gardens. This provided an excellent opportunity for members of the former two groups to integrate and get to know one another. These gatherings proved very successful and were much enjoyed.

Other events during the summer included visits to the Hilliers Arboretum at Ampfield, and to the beautiful garden of Bramdean House which has an extensive area devoted solely to the propagation of Sweet Peas. Talks on Zoom proved successful. In September Hendrika Foster gave a talk on Dresden and its art, and in October Dr Patrick Martin, the husband of one of our members, gave an in depth talk about the imagery and symbolism of the magnificent 12<sup>th</sup> century mosaic depicting the Last Judgement on the west wall of the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta, in Torcello. Our final talk of the year was by Andy Thomas on the mysterious subject of Crop Circles, which was both intriguing and thought provoking. We have continued to combine with WWF 3 for our Lent Service, our Annual Service, and our Advent Service, all of which were well attended.

We were much indebted to our vice-chairman for allowing us to hold our Christmas lunch in her delightful cottage, seasonally decked out for Christmas, where we enjoyed an excellent spread prepared by the committee and sang carols accompanied at the piano by a long standing member and professional pianist and organist, who has been called on and appreciated on many occasions.

A new committee was installed at our AGM in January. Since then, we have enjoyed, with some husbands present, a tea party at the Victoria Hall in Sutton Scotney, a talk on St Christopher's Hospice by Frances Farrer-Brown, the joint Lent service at Twyford Church led so warmly and sympathetically by licensed Lay Reader Barbara Crabbe, and an afternoon of tea tasting at the home of one of our members. A highlight has been our recent Spring Lunch, held at the Royal Winchester Golf Club, where members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal and were able to celebrate the 80th birthday of a long-standing member of WF who has contributed much to the Fellowship in many ways over the years and who spoke warmly of her long association with the Fellowship and all it has meant to her. We continue to be enormously grateful to our committees for all they do and particularly to our hard working and imaginative programme secretaries.

We have lost some long-standing members, and in particular were deeply saddened by the recent death of Mary Morris who has been a much loved and very active member of the Fellowship for many years. They will all be much missed.



*Spring lunch*

**A report from our Scattered Branch Secretary**

This is my last report as Scattered Secretary as, at the AGM, I handed over to my successor.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve on the Central Executive for the past three years. My time in office was not as I expected due to the Covid Pandemic, but as we all did, I adapted the role to suit the circumstances. It was sad not to be able to meet many of the members in person, but we started a regular Zoom meeting which has turned out to be a good format for a branch such as ours, where very few members live near enough to other members to meet up physically. The Zoom meetings have been small in number but everyone who has participated has enjoyed them.

I have enjoyed meeting a few members at the national events, there were several of us at the Annual Day and four of us went to the fabulous retreat at Launde Abbey and there were three at the AGM. The membership has fluctuated quite a bit this year and membership is down from this time last year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know some of the Scattered members through events, Zoom meetings and correspondence. I am glad that I am a Scattered branch member myself and look forward to continuing seeing other Scattered members on Zoom meetings.

**For information about Scattered Members please contact Judy Little**  
**[www.scattered@womeninfellowship.org](mailto:www.scattered@womeninfellowship.org)**

**Branch reports for Winter Grapevine**

**Copy date: 30 October 2023**

**The following branches are invited to submit an annual report for the winter edition.**

Abergavenny, Bristol II, Bury St. Edmonds, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Cheltenham II, Eastbourne, East Cheshire, Epsom, Guildford, Harrogate, Herts., Leamington Spa & Warwick II, London, Middle Thames, North Cheshire, North London, Northampton, Rugby I & II, Salisbury Plain, Sherborne, Shrewsbury, Trent, Twickenham, Walton on Thames, Wimbledon, Winchester III, Woldingham, Worcester, Woodbridge

**Please include the number of members at the top of the report and their category, Members, Honorary or Associate. All copy should be sent in Word (Doc X) format.**

Photographs must be sent as a separate attachment with titles please.

Please send to:  
[editor@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:editor@womeninfellowship.org.uk)  
 Copy can be sent at any time but will not be accepted after 30 October 2023.

Please note that any amendments to the membership list, change of address etc. should be sent to:  
[membership@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:membership@womeninfellowship.org.uk)

Thank you.

## In Memoriam

Birmingham	Susan Craven Thelma Justham Pru Wilcox	18 January 2023
Blackheath	Coral Rayner	September 2021
Bristol	Rosemary Gunnell	
Canterbury	Diana George	
East Anglian Scattered	Ellen Clark (Epsom)	21 January 2023
Guildford	Toni Alford	18 March 2023
Harrogate & Winchester	Judith Dawson Radcliffe	10 February 2023
Leamington Spa & Warwick I	Brenda Patterson Jennifer Shaw Anne Starkie	18 May 2022 August 2022 28 September 2022
North London	Pat Morgan	29 November 2022
Nottingham	Kathleen Hamblin Elaine Campbell Jean Fish Julie Payne Jackie Jenkin-Jones Beryl Stringfellow Denise Yendall	12 September 2022 31 October 2022 26 August 2022 21 December 2022 30 December 2021 Spring 2022 2022
Scattered (Northumbria)	Jean Gibb	24 April 2023
South Trent	Jenny Nocton Stella Cross Valerie Powell	July 2021 2022 September 2022
Tunbridge Wells	Mavis Townsend Janet Condon	4 July 2022 January 2023
Twickenham	Brenda Patterson Jennifer Shaw Anne Starkie	18 May 2022 August 2022 28 Sept. 2022
West Sussex	Gillian (Jill) Tweedie-Smith	July 2022
Worcester	Gwyneth Edwards Pat Taylor	March 2023 March 2023

## **Mary Mack Smith**, Worcester, *National Committee Secretary 1975-78*

Mary was a loyal member of the Worcester Branch for many years and could always be relied on to know the answer to any problem. Mary, and her husband Robin, were very generous hosts at their lovely home in Wichenford where they lived with their four children. They were a musical couple and involved in many ways at Worcester Cathedral where Mary's well-planned funeral took place in March 2022. It was attended by her many friends and members of W.F. She is greatly missed by the branch.

---

## **Patricia Gammell**, Guildford Branch, *(Central Chairman 1975-78)*

Tricia was Central Chairman of "Wives" from 1975-78. This was a time of economic problems, constant strikes and rising inflation – what's new! It was at this time, the word "working wife" was first mentioned, Tricia was one herself. Under her leadership and vision, the pattern of national events was revised, St Christopher's Hospice was adopted as our new charity and the "Age" question was confronted.

Tricia read modern languages at Oxford University, where she met her husband Guy. They started married life in Aden where Guy worked for BP, later they moved to the US. These postings taught her to be resilient, whilst coping with a young family, life abroad and a husband with a very demanding job. Later they returned to the UK and settled in Guildford; in the meantime, Tricia had been introduced to Wives' Fellowship. The death of her young son David whilst on holiday, a horrific road accident which included her daughter and a near-miss air accident affected her deeply, but she took these experiences and channelled them to help others. She took a social work degree, worked for disabled children and their families and became a bereavement counsellor. A deep thinker, committed Christian and church worker, Tricia saw the importance of each individual WF member and that everyone and every branch mattered. She was also great fun, generous and good company. You can imagine how funny it was when she fell asleep on the podium at the national AGM. She was mortified! A much-loved and respected Guildford Wife, Tricia is greatly missed. We could do well to adopt her mantra, "Take each day and go on". Tricia counted it a real privilege to be Central Chairman and fulfilled this role with love, empathy and enthusiasm. Thank you, Tricia.

---

## **Prudence Willcox**, Birmingham, *13-03. 1928 – 18-01. 2023 (National Committee Secretary, 1967)*

Prudence, always known as Pru, grew up in Thrup, North Oxford. She was born into a farming family and enjoyed an outdoor childhood, a great love of the outdoors stayed with her all her life. Pru was a sports enthusiast and played lacrosse to a high standard but injured her back in a skiing accident, this injury was something she had to manage throughout her life, but she never let it hold her back.

She left school and worked in Blackwell's bookshop in Oxford, and it was here that she met her husband, Roger. They were married in 1953 and shared 67 happy years together. After a career at Clarendon Press, Pru and Roger moved to Birmingham and brought up three children, Bridget, Harriet and Neil, as well as several King Charles' spaniels. Later in life she was a proud and encouraging grandmother of nine.

Pru took an active role in Birmingham life, the theatre and opera were favourites, and she also maintained her interest in a sporting life. She volunteered with many organisations and was a magistrate for 26 years. Pru and Roger regularly attended Edgbaston Old Church in Birmingham and were very supportive of church life.

Pru had a strong social conscience and was a long-standing and loyal member of Wives' Fellowship (Women in Fellowship) for many years. Members remember her organisation and forthright views and she used her skills to the benefit of the Executive Committee in 1967. If you didn't know Pru she could appear formidable, but she was a kind and generous person and will be fondly remembered by WF Birmingham.

# St Christopher's

## More than just a hospice

Women in Fellowship continue to have significant impact on the work of St Christopher's and the wider hospice and palliative care sector (nationally and globally) through their support of our work

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

The best way to make branch donations is as follows:

### 1) Via a dedicated link on our website:

[www.stchristophers.org.uk/womeninfellowship](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/womeninfellowship)

Here you can make a card payment either as a branch or as an individual (Gift Aid can be ticked if you pay as an individual and this is applicable)

### 2) You can send a cheque to:

Tracy Blackmore  
Fundraising Department  
St Christopher's Hospice  
51-59 Lawrie Park Road  
Sydenham  
London  
SE26 6DZ

**Please ensure you include details of your branch** (including the address for any acknowledgement to be sent to – this can be email or post) as well as details of any donations where we can claim Gift Aid, please include the completed Gift Aid form if this applies.

### 3) By BACS to:

- St Christopher's Hospice Ltd
- Sort code 40-02-07
- Account no 30724556

**IMPORTANT** – *any BACS payment must have reference WF followed by your branch and must be followed up by an email to [t.blackmore@stchristophers.org.uk](mailto:t.blackmore@stchristophers.org.uk) confirming date and amount of transfer as well as attaching any Gift Aid forms that apply to that payment. This is the only way we can make sure the funds get allocated correctly and we will then confirm by email.*

## ***Prayers and Reflections***

Heavenly Father,  
You have taught us, through your servant St. Francis,  
That all creation is your handiwork.  
Grant us your grace that we may  
Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth;  
Tread lightly upon it;  
And cherish its resources;  
That our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all  
generations,  
And your name be glorified through all that you have  
made.  
Amen

*Rt. Revd David Walker , Bishop of Manchester*

---

## ***Prayer for Trees***

### ***A prayer of commitment from the U.N. Environmental Sabbath Programme***

We join with the Earth and with each other.  
To bring new life to the land  
To restore the waters  
To refresh the air

We join with the Earth and with each other.  
To renew the forests  
To care for the plants  
To protect the creatures

We join with the Earth and with each other.  
To recreate the human community  
To promote justice and peace  
To remember our children

We join with the Earth and each other.  
We join together as many and diverse  
Expressions of one loving mystery,  
For the healing of the Earth  
And the renewal of all life.

## ***The Prayer of St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)***

Christ has no body now on earth but yours:  
Yours are the only hands with which he can do his  
work,  
Yours are the only feet with which he can go about  
the world,  
Yours are the only eyes through which compassion  
can shine forth upon a troubled world.  
Christ has no body on earth but yours.

---

## ***Hymn – James Quinn (based on words of St. Patrick)***

This day God gives me  
Strength of high heaven,  
Sun and Moon shining,  
Flame in my hearth;  
Flashing of lightning,  
Wind in its swiftness,  
Deeps of the ocean,  
Firmness of earth.

Rising, I thank you,  
Mighty and strong one,  
King of creation, Giver of rest,  
Firmly confessing  
Threeness of persons,  
Oneness of Godhead,  
Trinity blest.



## ***The Light***

Outside my bedroom window  
A cedar tree grows  
facing east. The early morning sun  
steals through the branches,  
and slowly lights my room.  
At noon the sky is filled  
with thin high cloud, but light is there.  
It shines on the snowdrops  
and new daisies that sprinkle the grass.

As dusk comes  
the sun sinks slowly,  
filling the dying sky  
with jewels of ruby light.  
Inside I switch on the light.  
I know that the one who is Light,  
has been with me all day,  
is with me now  
and will be, throughout  
the coming dark night,  
and all the days and nights to come.

*Barbara Inge, Rugby*

## ***Today the sun shone, I had no doubts***

Today the sun shone,  
And the sky was blue,  
The grass – glowed  
An intense shade of green,  
House martins,  
And swallows swooped.  
The world,  
Your world,

Was breathtakingly  
Beautiful.  
On such a day,  
Your Glory  
Abounds, surrounds!  
Uplifts...  
How could I doubt?

*Pamela Halford (Bristol I)*

---

## ***Families***

We pray for all families:

For those who are growing up, that they may increase  
in wisdom and love.

For those facing changes that they may meet them  
with courage and hope.

For those with heavy burdens that you will help them  
carry them lightly.

For those in the winter of their lives that they may  
always have your peace.

*Irene Whiting, Bristol II*

## THANK YOU!

On behalf of all our members, we would like to thank those retiring from the Executive Committee, Emily, Rosarii and Jackie for their contributions to Women in Fellowship.

All have worked tirelessly on behalf of our organisation, looking to the future and helping WF to change and develop to meet and address new challenges, become forward and outward looking and to embrace change.

We wish the outgoing Executive well and welcome their replacements ...thank you to all!



Some of you, as you travel through Britain, will have noticed that many older churchyards have at least one Yew tree. The Yew is an evergreen that grows in most soils, does not need much tending and is extremely sturdy and resilient to wind. All good attributes.

Britain is home to more ancient yews than any other European country. The Ancient Yew Group has identified 978 trees over 500 years old in England alone.

The yew tree has been associated with death and the journey of the soul from this life to the next for thousands of years. Celtic druids saw yew as sacred and planted it close to their places of worship to use in death rituals. Being a symbol of death, but very much alive, the yew came to represent eternity and is sometimes linked with The Tree of Life which features in many religious beliefs.

Many churches were built on old pagan sites and often Christianity and pagan beliefs and images mixed. In 601 Pope Gregory suggested that places of pagan worship could simply be converted into Christian Churches. As a hardy evergreen, able to survive in infertile soil, the yew also suggested rebirth and resurrection. Early Christians viewed the tree as Holy; the heart is red, while its sap is white, colours that symbolize the blood and body of Christ.

There were practical reasons for planting a yew in a church yard. The seeds, needles and bark carry an alkaloid poison called taxine that will kill any livestock that graze on them. That's a good reason to keep cattle away from graveyards. Some people even believed that the yew produced these poisons from the vapours escaping from graves. Shakespeare refers to yew in the poisonous concoction made by the witches in Macbeth. Poison in yews is not all bad news, yew cuttings are used to produce a chemotherapy drug to tackle ovarian, lung and breast cancer.

Yews can live for more than 2000 years, the one in my local churchyard was probably planted in 1100, or earlier if this was a site of pagan worship. Churchyards offer excellent light and space as compared to woodland. Yews send out shoots for fresh growth, which become new plants. A branch reaching the ground can embed itself and give birth to a sapling or sometimes two trunks intertwine to form a larger tree. They provide cover for birds and winter shelter for moths, bark flies and spiders. The National Churches Trust has a section on yews, it is possible that your church yard may be featured so have a look.

*Reference to Sean  
Callery, Blue Badge Guide  
and The Guardian*



## All items available from the Literature Secretary

New Anthology of Prayer	£3.00	Notelets ( <i>Sold in packs of 5 of one design</i> )	£1.50
Spirit of Wives ( <i>free to new members</i> )	£5.00	Passionflower ( <i>by Susan Walker, Sherborne WF</i> )	
New Members' Pack	£6.00	( <i>see illustration right</i> )	
( <i>Information for New Members, brief history</i>		Fuchsia ( <i>ditto</i> ) ( <i>see illustration right</i> )	
<i>and St Christopher's leaflets, Service Book,</i>		Hellebore ( <i>ditto</i> ) ( <i>see illustration right</i> )	
<i>revised History of WF, Anthology of Prayer</i>		Wives at Tea ( <i>by Liz Taylor-Webb, East Cheshire WF</i> )	
<i>and WF Information card</i> )		( <i>see illustration right</i> )	
Service Book	£1.50	Wives at Church ( <i>ditto</i> ) ( <i>see illustration right</i> )	
History of WF	£2.50	Garden of Delight ( <i>by Ros Plumley, Tunbridge Wells</i>	
( <i>Revised March 2019</i> )		<i>WF</i> ) ( <i>see illustration below</i> )	
Grapevine Magazine	£1.50	Mixed pack of 6 notelets ( <i>one of each design</i> )	£2.00
WF Information Card	20p	Pack for Visiting Priests	£2.40
Prayer Card	20p	( <i>Brief History, Service Book and Information Card</i> )	
Alternative Prayer Card	20p	WF Pin Badges	£2.00

Recruitment Leaflets are available free of charge

The WF prayer can be found on the website, in service books and in Grapevine.



### **Branches are asked not to send money when ordering literature**

The Secretary will send a bill with the order which covers the cost of the literatures as well as P&P and instructions for payment. The Literature Secretary has a stand at Founders' Meeting, Autumn Conference and the AGM where literature can be bought or orders placed. Please pre-order by email at least 3 days before an event and the literature will be ready for collection and payment at Founders' Meeting, Autumn Conference or the AGM. You can email the Literature Secretary with your order: [literature@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:literature@womeninfellowship.org.uk).

*Garden of Delight*



## Notelet Designs

**Stop Press:** All Women in Fellowship notelets have been reduced to half price – what a bargain!



The six designs are now £1.50 for a pack of 5 notelets of one design or £2 for a mixed pack of six, one of each design.

They would make an excellent Christmas gift.

*To purchase please email your order to Caroline at [literature@womeninfellowship.org.uk](mailto:literature@womeninfellowship.org.uk). There are plenty of each design but do purchase now to avoid disappointment.*



*Wives at Church*



*Wives at Tea*





- *We are an organisation for Christian Women linked in our belief in marriage and family life*
- *Our activities are spiritual, intellectual and social*
- *We meet in local branches, regions and nationally*
- *We become friends with shared interests and common values, supporting and encouraging one another*
- *We are ecumenical, and span all ages*
- *Every member matters*

### **Alternative Fellowship Prayer**

Lord we ask you to watch over our Fellowship  
and to direct its purposes,

To be at the centre of all of its activities  
and to fulfil its prayers.

Make it outward looking, compassionate and caring,  
and enable its members to be united in its aims.

May the Holy Spirit's power guide and sustain us  
and His energy renew and inspire us.

For Christ's sake. Amen

**Women  
in Fellowship  
welcome you**

[www.womeninfellowship.org.uk](http://www.womeninfellowship.org.uk)



uf