

FELLOWSHIP

The last Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship took place at the beginning of September with Rev. Dave in the chair, when the speaker secretary Sue gave her report of the years activities and the statement of accounts was presented. The committee did meet and it was agreed to give a further donation from excess funds of £100 to the Tantum Trust. The balance will go into Church funds. The committee also suggested that a once a month meeting for tea and chat should be tried on the third Tuesday of the month the first one will be on Tuesday the 21st October at 2.30pm in the church foyer. Presentations were made to Judith and Sue. The meeting closed with a service of Holy Communion with the theme be thankful and don't dwell on the past.

Memories of the Fellowship

When the fellowship closed the question arose when did it start. Looking back in the records compiled by Joan Hall who was a secretary for many years and kept many photographs and press cuttings, one of the most interesting is the press cutting celebrating their 70th Anniversary in 1998. The article stated that 70 members of the then Women's Fellowship gathered together to celebrate 70 years of the Women's meeting in Liphook. According to this report the first meeting was in April 1928 in the chapel in Queen's Street now known as Haslemere Road. The meeting was for the Liphook village and started by Mrs Conibear the wife of the Minister Rev. A J Conibear who got our church built in 1931. It appears when they moved into the new church building they became the Women's Bright Hour. There is a quote a quote from Joan in this press report saying how many changes of members have taken place over the last 70 years. One of our best memories is the embroidered table cloth with nearly 100 names which was started by Mrs Monica Church and we were adding names right up to the end. Included are the names of the Reverends Seymour Tonkin, Phil Thomas, David Hinchliffe, Simon Coleman, David Muskett and Dave Faulkner. Before them were the Reverends Dudley Jenkins, Andrew Elliott, Fred Blundred and George Ridge and their wives were all presidents of the Bright Hour as was Joyce Owens. Other names to remember are Winnie Dawes, Murial Goodfellow, and Philippa Holland.



Our longest serving member at the end was Barbara Whitlock who was a treasurer for many years and who ran the Christmas Club. Liz Budd and Dot Kingshott, Elizabeth Hastilow, Mary West and Lesley Bray have also had many years with the fellowship.

There is a gap from 1928 to 1970 although Miss Adele Conibear attended the meetings until she left Liphook and died in 1989. However there is a reference to Mrs Boniface being the first secretary in a press cutting celebrating the church's Golden Jubilee 1981. Also in the press cutting of 1998 mention is made of the meeting becoming affiliated with the Women's Fellowship of the Methodist Church and then that was renamed Network, but the Liphook meeting kept their name.

Joan's collection of photographs showed garden parties, Christmas parties and Anniversary parties and the meetings started to support appeals by collecting pennies for the whole year. One very early on project was a Methodist backed venture known as the Princetown Project to help families visiting the prison on Dartmoor and the local Methodist Church became a welcoming hub for the families providing facilities and toys for the children. The meetings developed a pattern of bring and buys for a different charity every year including Liphook Scouts and Guides, Torch Trust for the Blind, the Day Centre, Fishermen Mission, Bordon Food Bank, and Guide Dogs for the Blind, Karibuni Trust in Africa, the Mercy Ships, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Shelter Box, Air Ambulance (twice) and the Rosemary Foundation.

I am sure I have missed names others may remember and

charities also not mentioned and other items that should be recalled so if anything does come to mind please let me know and they can be added to another feature.

Sue Knight

