

We welcome anyone who would like to join us at our meetings. 18 of us had our Christmas lunch on 17th December at the Blackpool Golf Club. It was a lovely meal which we enjoyed together. Our next afternoon meeting will be on 28th January at 2pm when the talk is 'My Visit to Kenya'. We will have a collection and raffle for MU International (used to be Overseas). Our December EMU was a Jacob's Join when 11 of us gathered at Jennie Sly's on 9th December. The Evening MU will not be meeting after our meal at Bistro Italia until Tuesday April 14th. On Sunday 30th November at the 10am service the Branch was presented with a Silver Award for support of RISE UP against Abuse for Refuges in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre by Canon Martin. The certificate is now on show in Church. We have received several thank you emails from the Women's Refuge. They are very grateful for all we collected especially at Christmas.. Mothers' Union Subs are £32.50 only 50p more than last year to be collected as soon as possible.

The Theme for this month is Wonder and gratitude – looking back and looking forward

'When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, 'Where can we buy bread to feed these people?' He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do.' John 6:5-6

And the other Gospels say Jesus told the disciples to feed them!

Creator God – we thank you for this wonderful world, with enough for everyone. As we see the inequalities and need in so many places, we are sorry for the ways our greed or laziness add to these huge problems and tragedies. We pray for those who are hungry, homeless and afraid. We pray for those in authority and power – for justice and compassion to guide them. We pray for those who need to hear that you love them. Thank you that the whole world, and all people are in your loving hands. We are amazed and grateful as we look back, and full of faith and hope as we look forward. Amen

Wishing you a happy new year in this year of our 150th MU Anniversary. May we walk forward in faith, rooted in gratitude and filled with awe at all that is about to come. June Challis