

Branch Activities – Faith in Action

Being aware of our world: Community maps

“If we want to engage with and support families in our community, offering them Christian care, first of all we need to be part of and get to know our local community.”
(<http://inspired.mothersunion.org>)

How can we get to know our community and start to put Faith in Action? Creating and using community sketches and maps is one of the activities suggested on the ‘Inspired’ section of Mothers’ Union’s website. It is an informal way of looking at your community and bringing together the different perspectives of all those in the branch. Guidance for creating your own community map and how you can use this to discover the opportunities to put Faith in Action in your area can be found at:

(http://inspired.mothersunion.org/sites/default/files/images/Listening%20to%20our%20community_1.pdf)

Women who showed Faith in Action

There are many women who have shown their faith through their actions – and we often look to these women as role models for challenging the perceived norms of their time, or for having the courage to stand up for good, even if that caused them personal risk.

As an introduction to a meeting focussing on putting your own faith in action, print out the following names and brief pen portraits of eight well known Christian women and challenge members to match the name to the pen portrait.

Or you could invite members to think about Christians (male or female) who they think have demonstrated their faith through their actions and come to a future meeting prepared to talk (briefly) about them.

<p>Gladys Aylward (1902-1970)</p>	<p>A working class Londoner, who started life as a housemaid, she became a missionary in China, renowned for leading over a hundred Chinese orphans to safety.</p>
<p>Catherine Booth (1829-1890)</p>	<p>With her husband, she demonstrated her Christian faith by offering practical support to people in need on the streets in Britain, founding the Salvation Army in 1865.</p>
<p>Josephine Butler (1828-1906)</p>	<p>An outspoken social reformer, she established houses of rest to help prostitutes rebuild their lives and campaigned against child prostitution and human trafficking, as well as being a prominent exponent of equal education rights for women.</p>
<p>Edith Cavell (1865-1915)</p>	<p>A qualified nurse, she saved the lives of soldiers from both sides in the First World War and helped 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium, for which she was arrested, tried for treason and sentenced to death.</p>

<p>Elizabeth Fry (1780-1845)</p>	<p>This prominent Quaker was horrified by the conditions for women and children in Newgate Prison and campaigned for more humane treatment of prisoners, as well as starting a society where volunteers visited the poor to provide help and comfort.</p>
<p>Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)</p>	<p>A pioneer of modern nursing, she became famous during the Crimean War for highlighting the appalling conditions, including poor sanitation and hygiene, in which wounded soldiers were treated.</p>
<p>Mary Sumner (1828-1921)</p>	<p>She identified the need for women to be supported in their role as mothers and from small beginnings in the parish of Old Alresford, founded Mothers' Union which has grown into a worldwide Christian organisation.</p>
<p>Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983)</p>	<p>Along with members of her family, she helped many Jewish people escape the Nazi holocaust in the Netherlands during the Second World War and was imprisoned for her actions.</p>