

## AFIA – Day out in Lee on the Solent.

Perhaps you noticed the Mothers' Union banner on the grass area beside Marine Parade West on the front of the last copy of Contact. St. Faith's branch helped host a day out for families from the Women's Refuges in Fareham and Gosport, Havant and Portsmouth as part of our local Outreach and in keeping with our aims and objectives to provide Christian care for families.

The families were picked up and brought to the Bulson Hall at St Faith's for drinks and biscuits before moving to the beach area. There they had a choice of assorted ball games, and scavenger hunt or to swim before their packed lunches arrived at 12.30pm. After lunch the Mums either went to the town or playground but many gathered on a stretch of sandy beach in front of the playground to build their 'castles'.

Everyone met back at the Bulson Hall and were seated ready for the Fish and chips etc to arrive at 4.30pm, the meal finished with Ice creams for all before the children gathered in a circle to receive prizes for the best sand castle and best Scavenger. A packet of sweets for everyone, and we helped the families back into the buses after a thoroughly good day out.

I would like to thank Liz Emery – Branch Leader, the sandwich team, the beach team and the 'high tea' team and everyone who helped in any way to make this such a happy day.

Here are some of the comments received in a letter from Southern Domestic Abuse Service, the organisation who provide the Refuges.

'The summer holidays can be a stressful time for our families, all being on top of each other and limited funds to get out and about. The day by the beach was the breath of fresh air everybody needed. The thought and care that went into it reminded our families that they are important and cared for by the community'

**'Brilliant. That doesn't happen every day, someone taking you out and feeding you. It was brilliant'**

Mum of 3

'It was a really good  
day

Mum of 2

**'I just thought it was fantastic, I loved it. It was  
one of the best days we've had out and the ladies  
were really supportive with the kids'**

Mum of 3

And from some of the children

**'It was the best day out of our  
summer'**

**'I loved  
it'**

Aged 6

'It was really, really, really, really, really  
good'

Aged 10