



Suitcases for Refugees

Building communities (St Albans)

Mothers' Union members in St Albans have been supporting ladies in the Yarls' Wood Immigration Removal Centre (YWIRC) in practical ways through the Yarls' Wood Befrienders (YWBs).

Last year Pastor Lonnie Haye, Religious Affairs Manager at YWIRC, shared that when the ladies are released to go back to their country many have nothing in which to put their belongings except a plastic bag. In response to this Mothers' Union members raised funds to purchase suitcases. Pastor Lonnie was then invited to join the yearly Mothers' Union 'Sharing Day' where a total of 64 suitcases in various colours was collected, so that he could say a blessing before these were sent to Yarls' Wood.



For more information on donating a suitcase please check out the website for Yarls' Wood Befrienders www.ywbefrienders.org

Pastor Lonnie: "This is an unforgettable occasion. Having a suitcase put a smile of gratitude on the ladies' faces and it helps to give them back some of their dignity and self worth".

For general guidelines about setting up and developing outreach initiatives, go to the members' section of the Mothers' Union website www.mothersunion.org