

Catholic Women's League, Gidea Park in lockdown

The Gidea Park CWL has continued during these difficult times. We have had two face-to-face meetings and six Zoom meetings in 2020. We also had a garden get-together, when permitted in the summer. As our motto is '*Charity, Work and Loyalty*' we have worked hard this year to live up to this.

Charity: As we could not meet directly and hold raffles and other fundraising events, we pledged to support charities from direct donations. We have sent an amazing amount of approximately £1200 in 2020. This has supported charities including: the Food Bank; Hans DeVrind's three charities; St Francis Hospice; RNIB; BCYS; and Havering MIND, among others.

Work: Some members have been volunteering to do shopping for people who are shielding and also to 'phone lonely or isolated people. We also took on collecting and delivering food to the Harold Hill Food Bank. Some members were Stewards when the Church was open.

Loyalty: We have a WhatsApp group which has been amazing, supplying news and support to our members. We have prayed for sick, troubled and deceased friends and relatives. We also wish each other peace during online Mass celebrations.

Our section is part of a nationwide and international organisation. Our area hosted a Zoom service on the second Sunday of Advent, and there are services planned for Sundays in Lent.

We would love to have more members to keep our parish community alive. If you would like to join our group please contact hilarywraight@hotmail.com for more details.