

St Mary's Church, Riverhead, Mothers' Union Branch

Our Branch members have been quietly active during the year with, praying for the aims and objectives of the Mothers' Union in their daily prayers and, some of our members have attended the Saturday morning - once a month Bible study. This was led by Rev Martin Booth and held at members' homes. The book of James and Ephesians were studied and many questions were answered. We were able to continue our enjoyment of fellowship and Worship together. Thank you to Rev Martin Booth for helping our members gain further knowledge of our faith.

The Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union events held during the year were open to members and non-members. They were the Autumn and Spring/AGM Council meetings, our Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey spoke at our Autumn meeting and the next day preached at St Peter's Church, Pembury at the Sunday Service too. Pilgrimage and Evensong at Rochester Cathedral on Mary Sumner Day – 9 August. Inspired Day held at Istead Rise with the Provincial President Felicity Hawke leading it. This gave us resources to use, to help raise the profile of the Mothers' Union. A Quiet Day at The Bromley and Sheppards' Colleges in October led by Rev Alan Keeler, vicar of St Mary's, Bromley. The Lady Day Service (25 March) was a Eucharist Service held at St Mary's, Riverhead led by Rev Martin Booth, followed by refreshments. The Deanery Overseas Evening was organised by St Peter's, Pembury. All these events bring members together for fellowship, worship and supporting everyone with ideas they can use at their branch meetings. Our thanks go to Margaret Nicholas and Robert McLintock for advertising these events in the Church Mini-Mag and on the Website.

Our 'Wave of Prayer' between 1 – 5 July 2014 involved our members spending half an hour in prayer either, in their home or workplace on a date and time given to them by the Diocesan Faith & Policy Co-Ordinator. This would be the last year, our members would be praying for the six overseas Mothers' Union links, which have been prayed for, for many years. New overseas links will be known next year.

From our Branch fundraising efforts from the previous year, (cake sale and donations of copper coins) we were able to contribute monies to purchase bunches of daffodils for the Mothering Sunday posies. Thank you to David Holmes, leader of the Sunday School who bought them, to Jean Morgan for the foliage and everyone from the Sunday School and our members who helped make up the posies.

Our Mothers' Union Enterprise stall (sale of Christmas, Easter, Birthday and other cards) on sale most Sundays in the Hall after the Service is supported by both members and parishioners. Thank you to everyone who uses it.

We were sad to hear Pamela Wetherley and Barbara Bassett both passed away during the year. Our thanks go to their families for everything they did to support the aims and objectives of The Mothers' Union during the years. They contributed so much of their time and energy to not just our Branch but to The Mothers' Union Organisation in their own way too. We will miss them.

We are always looking for new members to join Mothers' Union.

Karen Forster-Pearce 2014-15