

ST MARY'S, RIVERHEAD MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH

REPORT - FOR ST. MARY'S APCM 2018

We have not held our monthly meetings this year. Our members still continue to support, through prayer, the aims and objectives of the Mothers' Union. using the Families Worldwide Prayer Book and any Emergency Prayers.

The Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union, provide a yearly programme of events - for all Branch members, where they can meet with other Branch members and, be involved with the activities provided. Our Diocesan events are open to anyone – so come along and meet other members.

Mary Sumner, our Founder and Clergy wife, realised young mothers, were at home looking after the family and, brought them together to meet for fellowship, friendship and worship. This evolved to create branches attached to Churches in Great Britain. Her vision created branches overseas and now, Mothers' Union is for everyone – no one is excluded.

As the Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union, we continue to raise monies through Tea @3, Raffles, collect loose change, Lent and Advent Blessings. Members have been making fiddle blankets and fiddle muffs, for people living with Dementia in care homes or hospitals.

At our Spring Council Meeting and AGM, Julia Jamieson our Diocesan President and, Trustees updated members about projects being supported.

At our Autumn Council Meeting, Rebecca Branch and Heather Bartley were our speakers and, their topic was 'Beyond the Streets'. They spoke about their work in the East End of London looking after the welfare of women who work on the Streets.

Our Annual Pilgrimage at Rochester Cathedral, is held annually on 9 August. Evensong has a visiting Choir during August. Very well attended by members and Cathedral visitors.

Our Quiet Day was led by Revd Ren Harding, Vicar of St James, North Cray and Wilmington. This was held at The Bothy, Northcray. Again, this was very well attended and enjoyable.

I was the Branch Leader for six years and the role allows for one stint. I am a Trustee, with the responsibility of the Faith & Policy Unit for the Diocese and, currently the branch contact for St Mary's Church. Our Branch looks forward to welcoming you to join us. When our branch membership numbers increase, we will be able to meet in the Church Hall.

Looking to the future, Mothers' Union new strapline will be Listening, Observing and Acting, (MULOA).

Our grateful thanks go to Martin, Parishioners, Margaret Nicholas and Robert McLintock (for advertising our events in the Mini Mag and on the website) and for the continued support shown and given to us.

Karen Forster-Pearce December 2017