

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
MOTHERS' UNION REPORT - RIVERHEAD BRANCH**

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. There is also a new website, which gives further information about the work of Mothers' Union. A very useful resource for members and non-members.

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 also 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, Bring and Share meals. 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, more information was given about our Mothers' Union new strapline - Mothers' Union, Listening, Observing and Acting, (MULOA).

Our Annual Pilgrimage for Evensong held at Rochester Cathedral on 9 August was very well attended by members and Cathedral visitors.

I have retired from The Mothers' Union Trustees Board, having served for about twelve years. I aim to build up Mothers' Union branches within our own Church and, other Churches in Sevenoaks. 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.

Our Terms of Office are on a Triennial basis - serving two Terms in one role. Our Worldwide President Lynne Tembey retired at the end of the year, and we welcome Sheran Harper. Julia Jamieson is starting another Term of Office as the Rochester Diocesan President with a new Board of Trustees.

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 2018