

ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH REPORT

Mothers' Union works through 4 million members in 84 Countries fighting poverty, injustice and tackling family issues.

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 new website, which gives further information about the work of Mothers' Union has become 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 organised. 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 continued to make fiddle blankets and fiddle muffs, for people living with Dementia in care homes or hospitals.

I attended the Triennial Service of new World Wide President Sheran Harper and Trustee Board at Southwark Cathedral earlier in the year and, we welcomed Sheran Harper to our AGM/Spring Council Meeting. All Mothers' Union members continue to support our new strapline - Mothers' Union, Listening, Observing and Acting, (MULOA).

Our Annual Pilgrimage for Evensong held at Rochester Cathedral on 9 August 2019 was very well attended by members and Cathedral visitors.

Since the lockdown I have attended a virtual West Kent Archdeaconry MU meeting and caught up with what other MU branches are doing ie making PPE items.

It is my hope with the new Benefice of the three Churches to keep Mothers' Union known within Sevenoaks and I hope to build up the Mothers' Union branch. There are currently only four branch members for St Mary's Church. Once I receive a lot of interest from our Parishioners, their friends and families, we will be able to meet in the Church Hall.

The Rochester Diocese is very well supported by our Diocesan President – Julia Jamieson and the Trustee Board.

Our grateful thanks go to Daphne, 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 February 2020