

## **ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN**

### **OUTREACH REPORT- FOR ST MARY'S APCM 2020**

The year has seen St Mary's continue to support a wide range of charitable causes. These include:-

#### **KERRY WEST ORPHANAGE**

As mentioned at the last APCM but too late for the printing of last year's APCM report, on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 we had a fascinating talk on the work of the **Kerry West Orphanage** in Uganda. This was the result of a trekking holiday undertaken by Kerry, from Sittingbourne, in 2009 and today this charity cares for about 180 orphans and children from very poor families.

The orphanage needed various items of clothing, toys and other equipment and our Church members set about collecting together as much as possible of these over several months during the Summer. From the local primary school came good quality second-hand school uniform items. Some members also knitted several red school sweaters. A retiring collection for this charity at the end of our service raised more than £400.

#### **MAPS : MAIDSTONE AREA PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP**

In November, we had a most interesting talk by Jenny Endean, Paediatric Diabetes Specialist Support Nurse about the support of MAPS for parents of Type 1 diabetic children in the Maidstone Area. This had had to be delayed due to problems with the availability of the speaker. A generous amount was donated to a collection at the end of the 9.30am service.

#### **OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

##### **1. PORCHLIGHT**

This charity for the Kent homeless is supported by our Lent giving. This year (2020) individuals are again invited to raise funds in various ways. In 2019, a sponsored sleepover by Emma Straight in itself raised over £400 for Porchlight.

##### **2. HOSPICE IN THE WEALD**

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival raised a record sum of more than £950 to be split between ourselves and Hospice in the Weald.

##### **3. RIDE AND STRIDE**

In September 2019, some members got on their bikes or feet to visit as many Kent Churches as possible to raise money for Kent Church architecture. Only Edward (Woody), aged 8yrs, and his mother, Charlotte, took part and they visited eleven different Churches.

#### **4. LENT LUNCHES**

In association with other local churches, we again took part in this annual event which this year supported the hungry in Burundi via a Tearfund collection.

#### **5. LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD BANK**

Members of our congregation continue to donate food items on a regular basis to support the local needy.

#### **6. SAMARITANS' PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS BOX**

This charity aims to bring the love of Christ to people in parts of Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Members of our congregation, mainly young people, again filled empty shoe boxes with requested items for 2 to 14 yr olds and these were sent to a central depot for distribution to the areas mentioned.

#### **7. SKET**

As usual an annual donation was given to this charity for the education of a Kenyan child.

#### **8. HARJU-RISTI CHURCH**

We again supported this Estonian Church with a retiring collection.

#### **9. POVERTY AND HOPE**

We had a collection for this annual diocese-wide appeal to eradicate poverty in the UK and abroad. This time Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Syria and Kent (UK) will receive help in the fields of empowerment of the disadvantaged (1 charity), health (2 Charities), and education (2 charities) respectively.

#### **MISSION in DUNTON GREEN**

We are trying to involve ourselves more in this area. Daphne Harrison meets with Faithworks in Hamlyn Court, Dunton Green, for a short communion service once a month. We had a St Mary's church stall at the Dunton Green Family Fun Day in July last year, held by Sevenoaks Council. Also, a few from the choir and congregation met up with Faithworks on the Rye Lane Housing Estate before Christmas and went Carol Singing.

Rosemary McLintock and Ronnie Todd