

ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT - APCM 2021

Mothers' Union is a global, women-led volunteer movement which works through 4 million members in 84 Countries fighting poverty, social injustices and improve family life.

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, Mother's Union is for everyone – no one is excluded.

Our Branch members continue to support, through prayer, the aims and objectives of the Mothers' Union along with MULOA – (Mothers' Union Listening, Observing and Acting) – with the use of the yearly Families Worldwide Prayer Book and, any Emergency Prayers received from members.

Our Worldwide President is Sheran Harper from lives in Guyana. Support to increase our membership, has been given our Archbishops and Clergy.

The Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union normally provide, a yearly programme of events for all Branch members to meet with other Branch members face to face but, due to the lockdown last year and, at the time of writing – (the continuing lockdown), Zoom has proved to be very beneficial to members, to continue to meet online whether this is at Trustee Board, Archdeaconry, Deanery or Branch level. Our Annual Pilgrimage for Evensong - normally held on 9 August at Rochester Cathedral was cancelled.

The Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union continues to raise monies through Tea@3, Raffles, collect loose change, Lent and Advent Blessings, Bring and Share meals Make a Mothers day appeal and, have been making PPE masks, fiddle blankets/muffs for Hospital and Care Homes/Hospices to use.

The Mothers' Union website has a lot of useful information about project work for all ages and, has become a very useful resource for members and non-members.

It is my hope with our three Churches linked together - to keep Mothers' Union known within West Sevenoaks and, hope to build up the branch with new members.

Our grateful thanks go to Daphne, Margaret Nicholas, Robert McLintock and parishioners for the continued support shown and given to us.

Karen Forster-Pearce February 2021