

**St Mary's, Riverhead, Mothers' Union**  
**APCM Report 2013**

Our monthly meetings have been held once a month on a Saturday morning at the homes of two of our members. (Audrey Bernardi and Judy Borrowman). Meetings start with Worship and fellowship with updates on Mothers' Union news followed by Bible Study which is lead by Rev Martin Booth. Our members have been studying the Book of James and are now studying Ephesians.

All our members have been busy supporting the Cake Sale, Bring & Buy Sale as well as helping the Sunday School Leaders with making the posies of flowers, for Mothering Sunday and, of course, praying for the aims & objectives of The Mothers' Union each day.

We were sad when Mrs Anne Tonge passed away during the year. Although a member for a little while she gave so much time and energy to our branch and was an excellent 'Parkin' cake maker which was sold at our cake sale. We all miss her.

We are grateful to Mr Robin Tonge for advertising our meetings and events in the Church, Mini-Mag and to Margaret Nicholas for allowing our events to be held in the Church hall.

We supported the Church Christmas Tree Festival in December with a tree and hung various 'paper baubles' with the Mothers' Union aims & objectives and projects on them which are supported by our members. We supported the Church Sunday School Picnic held in the vicarage garden. This was an enjoyable event.

Although we are a small branch we are always trying to find ways to attract potential new members. We all grow older each year and energy levels are limited. Invitations to our events, Diocesan and local are advertised and allow everyone to attend. Mothers' Union Enterprise stationery continues to be sold in the Church Hall after Sunday Services. At the back of the Church we have a Mothers' Union noticeboard which gives information about various events happening in the Diocese during the year. There are also leaflets available about the work of the Mothers' Union. Our members can be approached for further information.

The Rochester Diocese of Mothers' Union have been very active with various events being held during the Year. Spring Council (with Annual General Meeting) in April and, Autumn Council in November. A Family Picnic was held with the permission of Bishop James in the grounds of The Bishops Palace in Rochester in June, The pilgrimage to Rochester Cathedral was followed by Evensong. A Quiet Day was arranged at The Bromley & Sheppards Colleges. The e-newsletter called M.U.C.H (Mothers' Union Coffee House) which is sent out to interested people, via e-mail. The people who send out the e-mail organised a few coffee mornings in Costa Coffee at Bluewater as well as at the Rochester Cathedral Tea rooms.

My thanks go to Martin our vicar, our Mothers' Union members and parishioners for their continuing support.

Karen Forster-Pearce    March 2014  
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