

ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

ST MARY'S RIVERHEAD MOTHERS' UNION

Our Branch members, who although do not meet regularly for fellowship and worship, continue to support the aims and objectives of the Mothers' Union - through their daily prayers and using the Families Worldwide Prayer Book.

Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union provide a yearly programme of events, for all Branch members, where they can meet with other branch members and, get involved with the activities provided. Fund-raising events have been – Tea @3 providing refreshments and, the Angel Tree, providing and wrapping up Christmas presents for prisoners to give to their families. Activities for our members which help their community have been – making Fiddle Blankets for the elderly in care homes, knitted teddies for the Emergency Services to cheer up very young children they have helped. In the wider community – resources have been sent to help refugees in Syria and Calais. The Diocese is represented in the local Women's Refuge and we remember 16 Days of Activism at the end of each year. Members pray for anyone on our Emergency Prayers list. This is for two weeks – more if requested. It is always good to know when prayers have been answered.

Members can attend courses, as part of their own learning and development skills. These have been – The Inspired Event which gives ideas, to help attract potential new members, Parenting Facilitator and, Loving for Life Facilitator.

A Spiritual Retreat was held at Penhurst Retreat Centre in September led by Rev'd Paul Prentice from the Benefice of the Crays. Five Diocesan members attended and, our Diocesan President attended on the Saturday for a Quiet Day.

Our AGM, Spring and Autumn Council meetings, are held during the year in Schools and Church Halls. Information is given out from Trustees for to keep members informed.

We celebrate Lady Day and St Luke's Day having Deanery Services, on or near their Patronal Festival Day.

Families First is a magazine, issued six times during the year, for our members to read and find out what is happening nationally. Members are sent a copy of the Faith & Policy Watch document every month, via e-mail and, members can use our Website for any further information about our Organisation.

Between 13 – 15 July we have three days 'Wave of Prayer' and, our members pray at a particular time, for our members overseas in Toliara in Madagascar, Ndokwa and Zaria in Nigeria, Mbale in Uganda, Chhattisgarh in India and Rochester in England for half an hour – this is on a rota given to them in advance.

Our Annual Pilgrimage to Rochester Cathedral for Evensong - on the 9th August - to celebrate Mary Sumner who founded Mothers' Union.

Our grateful thanks go to Martin and Parishioners for the continued support shown and given to us.

Karen Forster-Pearce Dec 2015