

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

### OUTREACH REPORT- APCM 2021

Because of the Covid Pandemic and resulting frequent closure of the Church building, all charitable giving was “on-line” and no speakers were booked. The following charities were supported in this way throughout the year:-

**MEALS FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING LOCKDOWN:-** As a result of the first lockdown, our friends at St Mary Kippington started a scheme to provide & deliver home cooked meals to people in their congregation who were in particular need. The scheme was extended to our congregation, which we gratefully accepted. The PCC and individuals made donations towards the scheme.

**BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION:-** Suzanne Smith took part in “My Marathon” running 26.2 miles in May2020 and raising a total of over £700 in sponsorship.

**POVERTY and HOPE:-** In July, we supported the annual Bishop of Rochester’s appeal for helping marginalised people and the poor in Burundi, Sri Lanka, Syria, Zimbabwe and Kent.

**KENT CHURCHES:-** Tessa Fox organised “Ride and Stride” in September 2020. About five members of St Mary’s took part on foot or bike visiting various Kent Churches. A total of £465 was raised for the PCC’s.

**SKET:-** We continue to donate to the Sevenoaks Kenya Education Trust on an annual basis to support the secondary education of a Kenyan child.

**CHILDREN’S SOCIETY:-** Margaret Holman continued the annual sale of Christmas cards for the Children’s society from her home. There was also the usual collection at each of the Christingle services.

**AMAZON’S BLACK FRIDAY:-** week (November 2020) was a chance to donate to the PCC when making a purchase from this retailer.

**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 were invited to participate, although the restrictions made it difficult for collecting the filled shoe boxes from church, in the usual way. However, those who wanted to, were able to contribute online and many shoe boxes were filled in this way and sent to a central depot for distribution to the areas mentioned. We have since heard that, despite the challenges of 2020, the global shoebox packing family enabled 9,113,853 children to be blessed with a shoebox gift, which is wonderful!

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:-** went virtual for 2020 and participants were asked to send in photos of their tree. £428.50 was raised and this was split between Age UK and our Church.

**LOAVES AND FISHES APPEAL:-** During the year, members of the congregation continued to support the local needy by contributing to this food bank run by Sevenoaks Churches. Margaret Holman very kindly transports goods from her doorstep to the food bank at St John's Church, for distribution to those in need.

With regard to future outreach, we will continue to support the regular charities we have been supporting on an annual basis over the years, i.e. SKET, Poverty & Hope, Kent Churches, the Children's Society, Samaritan's Purse. Any one off collections will be supported as and when they arise. We also intend to restart the nomination and selection of three or four charities by the congregation, at the 2022 APCM, when speakers of the nominated charities are invited to come and speak to us. Due to the pandemic, this particular activity was suspended in 2020 and 2021.

Ronnie Todd and Rosemary McLintock