

## Mothers' Union [members relating to St James the Less and St Michael the Archangel] Teignmouth

Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide with over four million members who are actively involved in projects in eighty three countries. Locally, the majority of Mothers' Union members from both congregations, who continue to attend the monthly meetings, opted to become Diocesan members at the start of 2019. We are very grateful for the passion, enthusiasm and energy of Pat Henchie, the former combined churches Branch Leader, who has continued to organise monthly gatherings at St Michael's Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm. Right at the heart of our commitment as members here in Teignmouth is to translate into our daily lives the Mothers' Union Vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships – through praying, campaigning and enabling families and communities – both here in Britain and around the world. And over the past year Pat also took responsibility to offer an invitation and very warm welcome for others to come to join these gatherings through the Teignmouth Parish News Magazine and Weekly News Sheets.

She also suggested that a Display Board be set up in St Michael's Church. Initially it was placed there as part of the annual Flower Festival, to advertise the work of the Mothers' Union to the tourists / visitors to Teignmouth during this event. With so much interest shown, it was decided to keep the display available for the rest of the Summer and it is still there for when the church building is open for events with images / articles relating to the work of Mothers' Union and how they are encouraging the building of Hope and Confidence – at both local and global level. It would be difficult to estimate how many seeds have been sown about the work of the Mothers' Union, as this display is available to inform visitors / tourists entering the 'Church by the Sea'; but leaflets 'Changing the World' available by the display are continually being replenished.

In the past year Mothers' Union members have also been faithfully praying for the life and Christian witness of the Haldon Mission Community – with a specific congregation being prayed each week across the six parishes – using a Prayer Diary. Hard copies of the Prayer Diary were distributed to Mothers' Union members and a copy of this Prayer Diary was also available via Haldon Mission Community Web Site – for anyone else wishing to join and pray alongside Mothers' Union members.

Upon receipt of The Clewer Initiative 'Spot the Signs of Modern Slavery' Posters sent out at the beginning of October 2019 from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Office in Exeter [now on display in all six parish churches] Pat Henchie also arranged for the 'four signs' to be printed in full on the front page of the Weekly News Sheet – given out to the congregations attending services in all the parishes.

We were also very grateful to Marion Delaney, who is also a member of the editing team for Teignmouth Parish News, who ensured that the daily Bible Readings and Texts [available as a resource via the Mary Sumner House Web Site to support the 16 Days of Activism] was the front page article for the November 2019 edition – communicating these issues not only to members of the respective congregations but also out into the local community.

In response to the encouragement by the Team Rector and Team Vicar seeking to build stronger bonds amongst parishes across the Haldon Mission Community, Mothers' Union members took an active part by moving out beyond parochial boundaries [not only through the prayers being offered] but also contributing to the Advent 'Angel Festival' hosted at Bishopsteignton in December 2019.

Our gratitude is also expressed to Teignmouth West [St James the Less] PCC who very kindly agreed to donate funds at their December 2019 meeting towards the Mothers' Union Book Share, a national Prison Project including Channings Wood, Dartmoor and Exeter prisons here within the County of Devon.

Pat Henchie and Anna Venables [January 2020]