

St Paul's Frankston Mothers' Union 2020 Annual Report



What a challenging year 2020 has been to everyone with the COVID-19 Pandemic!

Prior to March, St Paul's MU met at Chris' home for afternoons of Fellowship, friendship and laughter. Then all our program plans set along the 2020 theme 'Building Hope and Confidence' disintegrated with Covid Lockdown restrictions.

Mothers' Union was given opportunities to create different ways of spreading the love of Christ and reaching out to others including the way members kept connected during isolation not only in our local MU branch but with the four million members around the world.

The worldwide headquarters of The Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner House in the U.K. spearheaded the challenge and developed ideas and initiatives in the 'virtual world'.

The Worldwide President, Sheran Harper supported and encouraged all members by regular YouTube messages, leading by example to grassroot members around the world by utilising modern technology. Virtual meetings and YouTube became the norm and we at branch level could 'meet' and share fellowship with members around the world.

Despite only two members having internet access at St Paul's, we took Mothers' Union to our members in the way of DVDs, phone calls, letters and Newsletters. We were able to share in Lady Day Services, Midday Prayers and the Mary Sumner Day via DVDs.

Mary Sumner Day on August 8th was a virtual worldwide catchup commencing with Morning Prayers from Darwin Cathedral, laying flowers on Mary Sumner's grave at Winchester Cathedral (UK), Message from Worldwide President – Sheran Harper (Guyana) and closing with Compline from Barcelona. Such a unique experience which would not have eventuated without the pandemic where our little branch could be involved in something worldwide.



Chris Hughes has utilised some of her spare time by knitting her own design '**Prayer Pocket**' in which can be placed written prayers. We will be using them as a Fundraiser in 2021.

The 'Thought for the Week' has been shared each week in the Pewsheets. These are written by the Australian Prayer & Spirituality Coordinator, Rev. Dr Lesley MacLean. These thoughts are not just for MU but the weekly theme is very relevant to all.

What a wealth of resources and opportunities we can now experience. As we move to the 'Covid-norm', as a branch our focus will be to involve those members more who do not have the ability or availability to access the new technology.

As a parish, we are privileged to have the Diocesan MU Shop located in the Hall Foyer. Please support them by purchasing 2021 diaries and Christmas cards. Please visit Helen Wright (MU Shop Manager) on a Monday or Tuesday 9.30am – 2.30pm.



So, as we move towards 2021, we embrace the worldwide MU theme of '**Re-building Hope and Confidence**'

Kaylene Vlasveld & Chris Hughes - Co-Leaders