

## **APCM 2024**

### **MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT for 2023**

In 2023, the Mission Committee raised a total of £6,596 for Mission Societies and charities, thanks to the hard work of the Committee members and friends, and the support of St. Mary's congregations and others in the village. (Please note that we worked with the Baptist church and Epping Roman Catholic church in the village to raise money for Christian Aid.)

As usual, our main fund-raiser was the Soup Lunches, during Lent, at Harvest and in November. These raised a total of £4,122. I would like to thank Louise Whelan and her small team for organising them so well.

A further £686 was raised from the sale of holding crosses, shoebox donations, the Jesse tree, the Posada activity during Advent, and a special appeal for EmbraceME.

In addition, we took part, with the Baptist and the Roman Catholic churches, in Christian Aid Week distribution and collection of envelopes for donations. The total raised in the village was £1,788.

In addition to raising money, the Committee worked to raise awareness of our Mission societies and charities, by organising the annual Mission Sunday service on 27<sup>th</sup> September, at which the speaker was Drew Maust, who works for Wycliffe Bible Translators. In February we focussed on Fairtrade Fortnight and in June and July we gave out Bags 4 Lives and collected goods for the Manna Centre for the Homeless, the Mission to Seafarers and the Shoebox Appeal. More goods were collected during the year for these charities. Our thanks go to Linda for arranging the collection of Manna Centre donations and donations to the Teams4U Shoebox Appeal, as well as the packing and delivery of 100 boxes. She also masterminded the making of 100 Christmas cakes for sale. We also record our thanks to Nik O'Flynn and Richard Risdon for delivering the goods collected for the Mission to Seafarers to the Centre at Tilbury Docks. Thanks are also due to Lisa Debenham for her excellent displays in the Parish Centre, highlighting the Mission societies and charities we support.

During Advent Claire Perkins and Marie Cable organised another Posada, when two sets of knitted Nativity figures travelled round the village, hosted each night by families who could focus on the Nativity story with their children, and say a prayer.

Finally, we thank our clergy, Rev. Carol Newnham and Rev John Fry, for their encouragement and invaluable support.

Robyn Marsh