

FOUNDATION WELFARE OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT 2022 for



NAME OF FOUNDATION;
Our Lady of Good Counsel UCM Hythe, Kent

UCM Welfare work undertaken this year in your foundation:

1/ Support for each other has included

- **Cards**
- **Lifts to/from meetings**
- **Regular /weekly visits to members who are housebound**
- **UCM members who are Eucharistic ministers regularly take the Sacrament to housebound members and other parishioners.**
- **UCM group pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory**
- **UCM members pilgrimage to relics of St Bernadette at Aylesford**
- **UCM member organised annual Parish pilgrimage to Clare Priory in Suffolk to the shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel**
- **Note regarding UCM pilgrimage to shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham: Every year there are several members keen to go - but the timings, distance and cost usually make it prohibitive to most.**

2/ UCM members are involved in following:

- **Eucharistic Ministers**
- **Readers for Mass**
- **Choir Members**
- **Prepare the Children's Liturgy to encourage greater participation of the children in the Children's Mass on Sundays**
- **Catechesis: Members are part of the team for the children's formation for Sacramental preparation before receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist**
- **Members are Registrars for Weddings that take place in OLoGC**
- **By leading Eucharistic Services, in the absence of a priest**
- **Leading 'The Stations of the Cross' during Lent**
- **Organising young families to light the Advent Candles on the 5 Sundays of Advent/Christmas**
- **UCM Volunteers go regularly to our local Catholic Primary School to assist with the Reading Programme (guiding young readers) of the school (St Augustine's)**
- **Church cleaning**
- **Organising and arranging flowers in church**
- **Digital donation box at Sunday Mass**
- **Editing, publishing and distribution of weekly Parish bulletin**

3/ UCM members run monthly meetings open to all parishioners

- Bereavement group
- HCPT Prayer group, praying for HCPT and the needs of people of all ages with special needs in the Parish & beyond
- UCM monthly coffee morning for Parish after Sunday Mass, often including homemade cakes.
- The work of SPUC in the Parish is driven, highlighted and actioned in the parish thanks to a strong team, who are also active UCM Members.

4/ UCM supported women Ukrainian refugees in Hythe; and facilitated a special event day: 'Colours of Ukraine', in our church hall with Ukrainian food, crafts and activities - raising funds (circa £4,000) towards providing an emergency vehicle for Ukraine.

5/ UCM members helped organise and supported the World Day of Prayer in Hythe. This is one of the many services shared and organised by 'The Churches Together in Hythe and Saltwood' 7 Christian Denominations working together.

Also, in the 'Procession of Witness through the town on Good Friday and this year for the first time a live tableau in the centre of town – to witness 'The Nativity Story of Our Lord, Jesus Christ'.

A number of members work actively with the other denominations through 'The Churches Together Ministry'.

6/ UCM members are part of the Local Hythe Pantry, managed by the Rainbow Centre Folkestone (part of the Trussle Trust) and supported by Churches Together in Hythe and local supermarkets.

Set up in November 2022, 'The Hythe Pantry' is operated from a lockable room in our Church Hall - the use of which has been given by Our Lady of Good Counsel to enable access to food (through the charity), a warm space and refreshments, provided by our members.

UCM members

- Help with serving or meeting and greeting in the Pantry
- Serve tea and coffee from our Hall kitchen to Pantry customers - friendly faces and listening ears where needed

Some of our UCM members suggested having a Clothes rail in the church hall to be run alongside the Pantry by UCM/church members. The Pantry Clothes Rail has evolved from 1 rail of coats and jumpers for women and children into a more extensive range on 4 rails and tables of clothes for women and children. Small donations may be

made for items by Pantry customers or frequently a 'bring and swap' children's clothes, by the mothers.

Excess clothes sent to the Rainbow Trust charity shop.

Some donated Vintage items have been sold (idea of a very active parishioner) and the money raised is used to buy fruit and vegetables for the Hythe Pantry.

UCM members also supporting Fr Jim's projects in December – by donating Christmas toys for children (and wrapping them at our latest meeting) and Men's trousers/clothes for Refugees, accommodated locally.

UCM Members have also established a 'Turnaround Uniform Shop' – working with St Augustine's Primary School to provide school uniforms to assist those parents and pupils who benefit from the facility; working with the 'eco-team' from the school.

7/ UCM members host a number of coffee mornings after Sunday Morning Mass which raise funds for charities ~ thereby, highlighting the presence and work of the UCM in the parish:

Charities with which many of our UCM Members are involved:

- HCPT – Hosanna House & Pilgrimage Trust
- SPUC – Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child
- Traidcraft & Transform Trade
- The Local Hythe Pantry
- JTJ Filipino Trust (set up by Fr Jim Teeling our Parish Priest with others). Objectives to assist in the relief of, and provide a place of education for marginalised children in a deprived area in the Philippines; particularly relating to their education, physical, mental and spiritual development.

[JTJ Filipino Trust Fund - About](#)

This year, as in previous years, UCM Members have hosted the Deanery Clergy Lunch, the Churches Together Lunch Meetings in July and in November with Bishop Rose, the Anglican Bishop of Dover who was visiting this part of the Diocese and earlier in the year hosted a lunch inviting The Leaders of the 7 Christian Church Denominations, the Heads of the Denominational Local Primary Schools; the local Secondary School and the Catholic Secondary School serving our area, together with our Town Mayor and Local County Councillors which proved to be the catalyst for many of the projects developed mentioned above).

20th December 2022

(Foundation Welfare Officer, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Hythe Kent)