

St Peter's, Great Asby, Annual Meeting, 20 March 2016

## **Mother's Union Annual Report for 2015**

The branch has continued to be led by the Chair, Sheila Braithwaite with 10 members and several visitors to the group from other areas. We have strengthened our Christian fellowship with our link branch from Hesketh in the Forest participating in several shared events.

The programme of events for Mother's Union for 2015 was varied and interesting based on "Believing, Behaving and Belonging". Six of the group meetings were hosted in members' homes and the group participated in two special church services at St Peter's; a "United in Prayer" service in June with our link branch lead by Pat Bevan followed by a guided walk around Great Asby with John Smith and then the annual Mothers' Union service at St Peter's in September, this year lead by our Canon Carole Marsden.

To start the year, Jemma Alderson helped us to relax and look after ourselves, teaching members how to do a simple hand massage as well as demonstrating other treatments. The Rev. Janet Cox gave us an insight into her charitable work in support of marriage and Canon Carole Marsden gave a frequently amusing and poignant talk on her previous role as a Vicar in Manchester. Members of the group lead activities to support Mothers' Union action and outreach through the shoebox appeal and to prepare the Mothers' Union entry for this year's decorated window theme "The Magi" for the Christmas Fair in church. The year was rounded off with an evening of members' favourite Christmas readings, poetry and music at the home of Pam Cowey. Members supported fund-raising events in the church such as the Christmas Fair and also provided refreshments after several church services.

We enjoyed an evening meal out at The Inn (Castle Hotel) Brough and two visits to Hesketh to firstly participate in a shared meeting on Youth Work lead by the Church in Penrith and then to see the knitted bible exhibition organised by the link branch in their church. We also had a trip to the Conishead Priory and Buddhist Temple, Ulverston. Here at Conishead we joined a guided tour, lead by a member of the Buddhist community and learned of the history of the priory and gained an insight into the daily life of modern Buddhists.

Thank you to all those who have met the challenges of continuing with official duties including representing the branch at Deanery meetings. We thank all our hostesses and speakers and those who have helped and supported the workings of the Branch so well.