

Asby Mothers' Union Report for 2025

The Asby branch of the Mothers' Union now comprises 12 members and regular "friends" with Sheila Braithwaite, Carole Cozens, and Denise Frisby continuing as Chair, Treasurer, and Programme Organiser respectively. Many thanks go to Wendy Fairey for her five years service as Branch Secretary. She has now gradually stepped away from those duties but remains a full member.

We are an active branch in our 66th year. The programme for 2025 included five meetings with speakers: Pat Bevan on the Wycliffe Bible Translators, Gareth Cozens with a brief history of the Thames River Police and his role in that service, Shelley Murphy on Breath Counselling who taught us how to breathe properly, Steve and Diane Blenkinsop on life as a Submariner in the Royal Navy and the impact that had on marriage and family life, and also Keith Cooper who provided a running commentary on the history and features as he guided us around the east of our village.

Our annual church service was held at St. Peter's and was lay-led. We attended Deanery services to celebrate Lady Day hosted by the Shap Branch, and Advent hosted by the Bolton Branch. Social events included a meal out at The Bay Horse, Winton, lunch at The Pot Place north of Penrith followed by a walk from the A66 to the now disused church of St. Ninnian's (Ninekirks) near Brougham, and an "at home" Christmas get-together after carols around the village Christmas tree.

For action and outreach, the Branch has continued to provide refreshments for school services and monthly "3Cs" (coffee, cake and chat) mornings in church from March to May, and July to September, and at the Open Garden event at Harlea House in June where funds were raised for Dementia Research UK. The Branch would like to extend its thanks to all our Parish Community who support us in all our activities throughout the year.