

Report to Little Melton Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Little Melton Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide organisation of both men and women attached to the Anglican Church.(Church of England) and founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner ,a clergyman's wife living in Hampshire at the time. Its aim is to promote and support relationships and family life through both practical means and prayer. Every year in August we celebrate our founder's birthday with a service of Holy Communion in the home of one of our members. We maintain links with overseas branches in Nigeria, India and Southern Africa through prayer and by hearing talks about their lives.Our meetings are held in the Village Hall 1:30 p.m.on the first Monday of the month unless that is a Bank Holiday.

In 2016 we had a very varied programme of events and speakers which included a talk from a member of the NARS (Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service) team, an account of a member's 3-day visit to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and we were able to give financial support to initiatives run by Mothers' Union in Norfolk and to other like-minded charities. We heard about a scheme set up with advice from prison chaplains to help families with a parent (usually the father) in prison by buying a gift in their name for a young child and later in the year raised funds at a Coffee Morning to enable us to take part in the scheme. This project started in Norfolk and has since spread to other counties and in November we heard about another scheme started in our county-the Salvation Army "Toys and Tins Christmas Appeal." Our speaker left the village laden with donated gifts for disadvantaged families in the area.A lovely afternoon tea with an American theme on 4th July in the beautiful garden of another member enabled to relax and at the same time support the locally-founded WULUGU project in Ghana. Still on the food theme in Oct.we had a delicious home-cooked meal of soup and apple pie provided by members who were shortly to go out to India to a Christian-run orphanage and proceeds from this event went with them.

We ended our year with a Christmas Party in the Village Hall,each member bringing a plate of goodies to share and we played not very serious games!

Annetta Evans (Hon.Treasurer- Lt Melton Mothers' Union)