

## Liverpool District Synod Report September 2009

September 19<sup>th</sup> was a mild morning in Liverpool and the District Synod met at Linacre Methodist Mission, a welcome from Revd Ann Hall, superintendent of Linacre, opening with good news of the redevelopment of the building and its use locally as a training venue, generating income but more importantly, welcoming strangers to the property provoking conversations and interest in our faith.

Synod business was conducted through the Covenant service to mark new beginnings in ministry and within the District. Synod representatives to Conference elected were Revd Anthony Clowes, Mr Steve Cooper, Revd Rodney Hill, Mr Craig Price, Revd Sally Ratcliffe, Miss Wendy Ross-Barker, Ms Phillipa Sudlow. Conference reports were highlighted, financial reports offered, replies to memorials to Conference given, property matters updated, safeguarding training information offered and a report about the Christian Council on Ageing.

The main debate of the day was on Mapping a Way Forward: Resourcing for Mission. Work has been going on for some time, as in other Districts, to focus on how we should 're-group for Mission' to enable us to better serve our Lord in this region. Many discussions and conversations have taken place often facilitated by our District Development Enabler Revd Rodney Hill who presented a summary of the work to date and two alternative proposals outlining ways in which the Circuits of the District can be reorganised to enable and better resource our mission focus.

After a lengthy debate Synod narrowly supported the proposal to create a number of Circuit Mission Areas within which there will be an emphasis on developing local Mission Partnerships. There remains much work to be done but the outline has been agreed and detailed proposals will come to the Spring Synod in 2010.

Concluding the Covenant service we had the opportunity of sharing the Lord's Supper reminding us again of God's grace and our frailty.

Sarah Blackie