

## Liverpool District Spring Synod 2009

Skelmersdale's Ecumenical Church at the Centre, offered a warm cheerful welcome to Liverpool District Synod on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Celebrating 25 years since his ordination, Chair of the District, Revd Jim Booth, was presented with a gift; a limited edition communion set engraved with the cross of nails designed for Conference 2009, and a celebration cake, shared by members of Synod over lunch!

Synod commented fully on District Policies under revision and development by the District Development Enabler, Revd Rodney Hill. The members heard a presentation by Wendy Ross-Barker and Susan Murphy updating them on the current situation in Palestine, providing first hand graphic information of the devastation in the area.

Worship flowed throughout, blessings being prayed for circuits making substantial proposals, adopted by Synod, to recommend to Conference that 4 existing circuits on the Wirral peninsula join together to become one Wirral circuit and that the Orrell and Lamberhead Green circuit join with the Wigan circuit, the new circuit to be within the Bolton and Rochdale District.

A brief word from Becky Hurst, representing Christian Aid, highlighted the problems they face with climate changes and declining funds; Nicola Langton Miller reported on the district training audit reflecting training needs and provisions; Synod voted for a memorial to Conference urging a review of the Church's pension provisions for all lay and ordained ministry with a view to moving towards equality of provision.

Revs Martin Abrams and Peter Knight presented the results of a study commissioned by Southport Circuit into the Missing Generation, the 25-43 year olds. The study results led to definite plans within the Circuit to prioritise mission with that generation although the circuit remain open to how this work might evolve. Synod members saw this work as very encouraging and a priority to revisit at a future date, they were challenged to take the following question to their own churches: How/Are congregations willing to invest in mission with the missing generation?

Sarah Blackie