

Liverpool District's Autumn Synod gathered at Old Roan Methodist Church, Aintree on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Guided by the Revd Jim Booth (District Chair) and hosted by the Revd. Andrew Longshaw (Superintendent Minister of Liverpool North Circuit), the programme followed the form of Morning Prayer from the Methodist Service Book, with the worship thoughtfully led by various members of Synod and interspersed with the business of the meeting, times of quietness and reflection, and our shared thoughts and experiences during informal small-group discussion.

In addition to the traditional items of business, the agenda included a number of presentations on current initiatives, such as Bible Fresh, and *Going for Gold*, while an update on local 'Fresh Expressions' activity alerted us to the hope and promise of the Venture FX project, and the assembly of a 50-strong Christian Biker Group which has recently begun to meet in the Warrington area. We also explored ways to make best use of the skills and experience of our District Development Enabler.

We received a comprehensive impression of practical, emotional and spiritual elements of the Methodist Conference in 2010 and paused to eagerly anticipate the arrival of Conference here, in Southport, in 2011. Synod representatives elected to Conference are Mr Stephen Cooper, Mr Ian Culshaw, Revd Andrew Fox, Revd Rodney Hill, Mrs Liz Hudson, Revd Sally Ratcliffe and Miss Heather Yaxley.

It was agreed that the briefing paper on developing the Presidency of the Conference merited more time for consideration and response than was available on this occasion and so Synod voted to hold an extraordinary meeting in November, to address the issues raised in the paper, as well as to hear of progress with the Regrouping for Mission process involving the Districts of the North West, which would be available by then.

Probably the most moving contribution of the morning came from the Wirral Churches acting in support of one of their circuit ministers, (originally from Haiti), to gather funds, materials, volunteer labour and prayers to complete the rebuilding of a Methodist Primary School in the earthquake area, *before* the onset of the next rainy season in May 2011. News of the project touched the hearts and minds of us all, and in a busy, enjoyable morning served as a timely reminder of our purpose and calling as the family of Jesus.

EAH 14.9.2010 TbtG