

## Liverpool District Spring Synod report for Methodist Recorder 2010

The team who provide refreshments at Court Hey Methodist Church were entitled to feel exhausted after Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April having started their day with a car boot sale in the hall, hosted Synod in the afternoon and provided tea and a warm welcome for the Ordinand's Testimony Service in the evening, all accomplished without any obvious stress.

Synod business was conducted: reports received, conversation and voting on customary issues taking time as required, and, significantly, a vote taken to continue Mapping a Way Forward: Regrouping for Mission initiatives with circuits uniting in some locations and circuits agreeing to continue in conversations with neighbours and ecumenical partners in other areas. Above all Synod was encouraged to not lose sight of the need to encourage, enable and equip the mission to promote God's Kingdom in this District.

Refreshments over (more washing up) we had an enlightening presentation from MRDF's representative, Anna Rogers, learning more about their work in Africa, Asia and Latin America and challenging any preconceptions we may have had.

Revd Trevor Beckett and Mr Nick Tissot told Synod how the role and work of street pastors, developed in response to rising gun crime and increasing violence in our towns and cities, has been effective in community by working in partnership with local authorities and the police. Street pastors commit time, demonstrate Christian love and model community in areas where it has broken down or never existed.

While time was against us, we couldn't finish until we had heard from the Revd Marcus Torchon. Marcus, currently stationed in the Wirral circuit from the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, had been home to Haiti shortly after the earthquake. Some of the pictures he showed helped us realise just how bad things are in Haiti. On his next visit he will be taking with him goods donated from across the district.

A fine traditional hymn resounded throughout the building to close Synod and the tea cups rattled again ready for the evening.

Sarah Blackie