

Liverpool District: Spring Synod April 12th, 2011

While 73,000 people converged on Aintree for the Grand National on April 9th, the Liverpool District Synod assembled for its own gathering – albeit in fewer numbers, but with equal enthusiasm. Our event, entitled ‘Celebration of Calling’, included the traditional business of Spring Synod alongside a programme of workshops, with Members and Visitors invited to take part in all aspects of the day.

We began together as Revd Ann Hall welcomed everyone to Linacre Mission; gave thanks together for her husband’s recent safe arrival at Everest Base Camp, and worshipped together, led musically by the Revd Anthony Clowes and prompted by the District Chair, Revd Jim Booth to consider what it means to be followers of Jesus, day by day, wherever we are.

Synod Visitors then sampled the workshops designed to help everyone explore or develop their own calling to discipleship, while the Members addressed the morning’s business. This included reports from key groups within the District, the progress of the North West District Review, an update on the preparations for Conference in Southport in July and promotion of the Youth Assembly 2011. Members also agreed to send the ‘Amendment to the Deed of Union’ to the churches and circuits for reporting at Spring Synod 2012.

Then everyone met up again in the workshops: on children and youth work, candidating for ministry, local preaching, worship leading, ministry in retirement, discipleship in the workplace, Street Pastors, and the Venture FX project. A labyrinth and quiet space was also available, as was an excellent lunch provided by the Linacre Mission team.

By mid-afternoon, the Street Pastors’ Band called us back together, to conclude the official business of the day and share local good news stories. Deacon Myrtle Poxon led the closing worship and sent us home with a message of the challenge and promise that lay in getting involved, and staying involved, as disciples of Jesus.

It was certainly Synod-with-a-difference, and many thanks go to everyone who planned and led such enjoyable event, allowing us to mix business with pleasure so profitably.

Liz Hudson
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