

Liverpool District Spring Synod Report 2014

Synod convened on May 10th at Leyland Road Methodist Church, Southport as the District Probationers' led worship throughout the meeting on the theme: Let My People Go.

Leading his final Synod before retiring, Revd Jim Booth reflected on his period as Chair encouraging Synod members to focus on the good work taking place in our area, to be energised by it and focus resources where they will be most effective. He reminded us that the Church exists to be used by God to build His kingdom in His world, not as an end in itself.

Business items completed: recognition of a new church - New Song Cafe in Sankey Valley Circuit; prayer for the united congregation of Prescott and Whiston; welcomed Jasmine Devadason from the NWMLDN and the launch of All We Can.

Synod welcomed back the Revd Dr Mark Wakelin for a keynote address 'The Turtles are Singing and Other Stories'. Mark suggested the most learned theologians' attempts at explaining God are like a grandchild's drawn map of Latin America – no matter how accurate the rivers on the map, God is ineffable! He is so much more than can be summarised by theology. If we constantly believe a story of decline, we forget God's part of our story, ignoring God's sovereignty and His place in our lives and His world. What if we are actually in the springtime of formation? Perhaps many thousands of years must pass before humanity is formed in God's image.

Mark challenged Synod members based on a query put to him by a school student in Sierra Leone: "How can I be like you?" He asked "What part of you would you tell people about if they asked to be like you? In what part of you do people see God?".

Afternoon workshops offered a variety of studies then Synod closed by commissioning members to go and be God's people.

Sarah Blackie