

Liverpool Methodist District Spring Synod 2012

Liverpool District Synod met on the afternoon of Saturday 28th April at the newly built Penketh Methodist Church within the Olive Tree Community Centre, Sankey Valley Circuit. With the District Chair on sabbatical leave, Synod was skilfully chaired by the Revd Martin Abrams who ensured routine business items were completed swiftly, allowing time for presentations from visitors and members and debate on a memorial to Conference on the Venture Fx funding issue.

Helen Noble from Action for Children prompted us to think in particular of the issues for young people leaving care – a shocking 80% of young people living on the street have come through the care system . Action for Children has a campaign to offer support and help to those young people as well as other campaigns and, locally, a mentoring project.

Members of the CASAI (Church Action on Sexual Abuse Issues) group spoke movingly using testimony, poem, music and dance. They showed immense courage in sharing frankly, openly and movingly on such personal painful subjects, giving Synod members much to ponder and challenge their own thoughts.

Revd Peter Knight spoke of the Imagine project, a project encouraging churches to engage and equip their members to disciple on their own “frontline”. Imagine recognises that most church members spend most of their time in places with people who don’t know Jesus – but the right support and resourcing from our churches mean God can use us in all areas of our lives.

Two chairs of District visited Synod, (the Revd Paul Martin (Bolton and Rochdale) offering support to the District in Jim Booth’s absence, and the Revd Loraine Mellor (Nottingham and Derby) to preach at the evening service. Revd Abrams was delighted to be able to finish the business Synod at the published time and Synod moved on to tea, followed by an inspiring testimony service for Deacon Flip den Uil, going for ordination this year.

Sarah Blackie