



LWPT Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust in the Leeds Area

The Leeds Area Friends of the LWPT held their Annual lunch on Saturday 11th March 2017.

Our friends at the Hunslet Methodist Church cooked us a superb 4-course meal – the meal was really delicious and beautifully presented, and was served in a friendly and professional manner. We welcomed 25 people who enjoyed the tasty meal in really good company. There were over 60 others who wrote to me giving their apologies and good wishes for a really blessed time. We followed our usual custom of making no charge for the meal – instead we invited our guests to make a donation towards the costs of the meal, and also to the LWPT. The result was that we are able to send on £110 to the LWPT Office so that our support of all Leaders of Worship can continue.

We had three special guests who addressed us after lunch. Our first speaker was Revd. Anne Brown, BSc, our new Leeds District Chair. As she had arrived in September 2016, the occasion was a good opportunity to meet her. She is in Leeds for a year to help with the transition from 4 Yorkshire Districts into 3. So she was able to tell us of the current situation of how the plans are evolving. In South Yorkshire, the area of the Sheffield District will largely be the same in the future. The Leeds District will cease to be in existence. The two circuits in North Yorkshire will join York and Hull to become the new Yorkshire North and East District, whilst the rest of the circuits in the present Leeds District will join with the current West Yorkshire District to become the Yorkshire West District.

Now we had a real treat. The Revd. Norma Davey, a retired minister in the Leeds North East Circuit is a hymn / song writer and musician who has published some of her work. She will performed 5 of her own songs / hymns, and explained the origin of how they came to be written. Her voice is truly outstanding, and is a real pleasure to listen to.

Finally, our LWPT Chair of Trustees, Philip Nuttall, an old and valued friend and colleague of our Leeds LWPT Friends, gave us a really interesting Powerpoint Presentation about the latest developments in the LWPT. Of particular interest is our tentative new venture into some Sheltered Housing flats, and also to hear more about our Vocational Training Grants. It shows how all our Leaders of Worship are being supported, at what ever stage of life they have reached.

Our LWPT Weekend continued as our National Advocate, Revd. John Bolton, came up to Leeds with his wife, Judy, in the evening from Tiverton in Devon. He led worship on 12th March at Lidgett Park Methodist Church at 10.30 am and also at Hunslet Methodist Church at 6.00 pm. John used the new LWPT service for Local Preachers' Sunday - a paper version in the morning, and Power Point in the evening. Both services were greatly appreciated for the quality of thought in the materials, and the freshness of John's service.

So once again, our Leeds Friends provided an opportunity for Preachers and Worship Leaders from circuits all over Leeds, and including Morley and Ossett in the West Yorkshire District. to meet together in a warm, inviting atmosphere - a good opportunity to make new friends and have a pleasant time together and with our special guests. As our Leeds District evolves in September into a new administrative area, it has provided a very fitting and encouraging conclusion to these Annual Lunches.

John Witt, 30th March 2017