

## April 2016

April (3<sup>rd</sup>) started with the Medlock Valley Circuit visit, hosted by our Roman Road church at Failsworth. It was good to meet with the vibrant community, proclaiming the Word of the Lord and to share afterwards over tea and Coffee. It has often struck me that times of fellowship after services are of great value – whether we discuss the word that has been shared, or the joy's and troubles of everyday life – it is a time when relationships are deepened and love and prayer are shared. The evening saw me preaching back at Friars Green in Warrington.

Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> saw me back at the Resource Centre for our monthly Admin meeting – going through the everyday business of the Connexion and seeking to see things run smoothly. This was followed by a meeting of the Finance Committee on Saturday morning and a meeting of the Church Support Group in the afternoon. This was well worthwhile as we met with Dennis Ryan from our Trafford Church and heard of his experience in church planting.

April 17<sup>th</sup> saw me preaching on home turf at Friars Green and the following week, was my visit to Bolton Circuit. This commenced on the Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> with me attending the Circuit meeting – it was interesting to see that much of what was discussed was akin to Circuit meetings elsewhere – this was followed by a buffet supper where I gave a short address on “Love changes everything”, a theme greatly impressed upon my heart. Sunday morning saw me back at our Chorley church leading morning worship and, suitably fed, the afternoon involved a short drive to preach at the service at Noble Street, Bolton. Harold Porter led the service for me and it was good to see a number of younger folk participating in leading worship.



*(Above, friends at our Chorley chapel)*



*(Our Chorley chapel)*



*(Friends at Noble Street chapel, Bolton)*

On the evening of Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> it was my privilege to represent you at the induction of the Rev. Bill Matthew's as Team Rector for All Saint Parish Church, Wigan. Bill is a dear friend of our churches and had a long history with our Stockton Heath chapel, before hearing God's call to Royal Naval chaplaincy. The service was a joy and a number of our folk were in attendance to mark this next step in Bill's ministry.



*(Rev. Bill Matthews, Team Rector, Wigan)*