

## June 2016

On Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, I attended the centenary service of the Independent Methodist Women's Auxiliary. Held at our Atherton Church, the event was well attended and an excellent time of fellowship was enjoyed. Brenda Dykes spoke of the long history and it was noted, with some sadness, that this meeting also marked the closing of a Connexional wide W.A. Afterwards, food and refreshments were shared as people browsed an excellent multimedia exhibition put together by the team at the I.M. Archive.

The second Friday's Admin Meeting was followed by a meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of the Vision Group. Friars Green Anniversary was marked the following day – it was nice to be able to lead that special service to celebrate 220 years of faithful witness. It was also good to receive two new folk into membership.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June had me heading to Swanwick for the Wesleyan Reform Union Conference. Lasting three days, it proved to be an excellent time of fellowship with brothers and sisters very similar to ourselves. It was good to witness the induction of David Rooksby as President of the Union and the ordination of the Reverend Sharon Hollamby – the first woman inducted into ministry in the history of the WRU. I shared with her afterwards that this was a normal thing for us as women had always been accepted to recognised ministry over the last 200 years! An excellent address was given in the Tuesday session by Gavin Calver from Evangelical Alliance.



*(Above: Past Present WRU Presidents: David Rooksby (Left) and Pastor Andy Wilcock, (Right))*

The following Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> of June, was the start of another busy weekend. The morning was spent at the Resource Centre attending Ministry and Education Committee meetings followed by a journey to the North East for their Circuit Visit. The evening consisted of a Rally held at Bolden Chapel – the place was packed and the singing was, I believe, a sweet offering to the Lord. The Heron's kindly accommodated Sue and I and the Sunday saw me preaching at Brandon Murray Chapel – Jack kindly led, followed by leading and preaching at Bolden in the evening before travelling home. This was, without a doubt, a tiring weekend, but it was also truly blessed and I thank the Lord and my brothers and sisters in the North East, for making it so.



(Above: North East Circuit Rally hosted by Bolden Chapel)



(Above: Jack, Sue and I at Murray Chapel)

Much work was also put in during June in preparation for Annual Meeting.