

May 2016

A local start to May saw me preaching at our Risley and Friar's Green fellowships on Sunday May 1st. The following weekend was somewhat busier as I chaired our Ministers' and Leaders' Conference at the Windermere Centre in the beautiful Lake District. The speaker for the weekend was David Robertson, minister at St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, and his theme was "Persuasive Church Based Evangelism". It was an excellent weekend of teaching and very thought provoking. In his opening session David suggested to us that the world we now live in, 21st Century Britain, is far more akin to the first century world than it is to the world that many of us grew up in. He encouraged us to a deeper walk with Christ, saying that no number of new initiatives would change our world, but Christ can, as He is seen in our lives. It seems that David enjoyed his time with us too... in his blog he says *"I loved them. I thought their praise was lively and heart felt and distinctively Northern English (what in missiological circles is called 'contextual and authentic'!), and their warmth and love for the Lord and his people palpable. As I shared with them I felt so privileged to be part of them, and that we are all part of the same church."* – Sometimes it's nice to see other people's view of us! Many thanks to Shaun Newton for arranging the weekend and to all that attended – it was the best attended that I can remember! (David's blog can be found at <https://theweeflea.com/2016/05/08/creflo-dollar-the-independent-methodists-the-gospel-of-power-health-and-wealth-and-revival-of-the-church-in-britain-today/>)

The next weekend was of a different character again with our Admin Meeting on the Friday night, Friars Green Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th and preaching at my local Baptist Church on the Sunday. The following Saturday, 21st May, saw our Connexional Committee come together at Lamberhead Green Church. Much business was conducted in preparation for Annual Meeting and, in the absence of a President Elect being nominated from the churches, the meeting recommended David McDonald from our Risley Church... please pray for David as he prepares for this important role. This was to be confirmed by Annual Meeting. A final note to all at Lamberhead Green who catered for us generously - my grateful thanks go to them for ensuring we were comfortable and didn't go hungry!

On Saturday 28th May it was a joy to see many of the Connexion come together for a Family Fun Day, celebrating 350 years of the cottage that we now call the Northwood Centre. Praise God that the weather was just right and, with help from many friends, the day was a success... Particular thanks to Gill Jacks, Rebecca Fogon and David Okell.



The next day saw me preaching at Bryn on the morning and West Street, Thatto Heath, in the evening – my message, as always, “Love”!



(Above, our Church at Bryn, below is their “Thanksgiving Door” – what a great idea!)

