

November 2016

Tuesday 1st November had Brian Rowney (General Secretary) and I heading back over to Greatham in the North East for the funeral of Mrs Rene Wilson. Rene was 106 years old when she passed to Glory and was by far the longest serving minister of the Connexion – an amazing 87 years! I had never had the honour of meeting Rene but felt it important to represent you at this memorable and remarkable service. My prayers and condolences are with the family and my thanks to Eric Southwick for leading.

The following Sunday (6th) I was preaching at Friars Green and Friday 11th November marked our regular Admin meeting at the Resource Centre. On Sunday 13th November it was a joy to take the Anniversary Service for Bethel Chapel in Wigan – some 136 years of local witness. The day was also enhanced by the choir making their own contributions and a long service award to Kevan Booth, Organist and Choirmaster.



(Above, brothers and sisters at Bethel, Wigan on the chapel's 136th anniversary)



(Above: Bethel's Choir. Above right: Kevan Booth)



Saturday 19th November saw me return to Bethel as part of my Wigan Circuit Visit. The Circuit came together for a “Songs of Praise” and I was honoured that the theme for all the songs was “LOVE”, following my own Presidential theme. The evening was a great time of fellowship led by Norman Prescott and with contributions from the Circuit Choir. Refreshment afterwards gave an opportunity for informal fellowship, renewing old friendships and making new.



(Left: Norman Prescott leading the “Songs of Praise”. Below: Wigan Circuit gathering)



The following morning I was preaching at Lamberhead Green and I was able to see for myself the recent work that had been done on the front wall and window of the chapel. During the service I continued my theme of love and this was followed by a wonderful



fellowship lunch where we were able to talk further.

The afternoon involved a short journey across to Spring View (*left*) where we worshipped the Lord together once, and shared around His Word.

The chapel at Spring View is modern, warm and homely and it was clear from the hanging banners that they had already been listening to Christ's call for us to love one another!

My thanks to all who made my Wigan Circuit Visit so warm and welcoming. Travelling around our churches is one of the real joys of Presidency that I will remember always.

A return journey to Wigan on Saturday 26th November saw the Minister Committee and the Education Sub-Committee meet for important business. My short journey did not compare to the journey from the North East that other friends had made. Connexional business is conducted quietly, behind the scenes, at meetings such as this. They are not dry occasions - they are times to seek God's face and discuss Kingdom issues under the Holy Spirit's guidance. Please pray for the officers of the Connexion and all who sit on committees, small and large. We are your servants and we wish to seek God's will in love, peace and unity.



The last Sunday of November (26th) was spent preaching at Buckley Street in Warrington –Small in number but big in heart. It was good to encourage folk with God's Word and feel His challenge.

(Left: A selfie with friends at Buckley Street Chapel!)