

September 2016

Back in full harness, September held a full itinerary for me... Preaching at home (Friars Green) on the morning of the 4th September, followed in the evening by a visit to Bethel Chapel in Skelmersdale Circuit. Bethel are small in number but big in heart and it was good to share in their prayer meeting prior to the service.



(Above: Bethel Church, Skelmersdale)

Friday 9th was the regular Admin meeting, followed by a Finance Meeting on the Saturday – both held at the Resource Centre. The Sunday morning saw me at our Keble Street Chapel in Ince where God's grace was lovingly apparent.



(Above: Toast after Service at Keble Street)

The following Sunday, 18th September was spent at Nelson for their Harvest. It was a joy to have others lead the morning service and then hand over to me for the message. This was followed by a fellowship meal – no wonder I need a new belt!!! The afternoon saw me travelling a short distance from the chapel and giving message to the residents of Bannister Court Residential Home. This is a regular service led by the fellowship and is clearly much appreciated by the elderly residents... It is truly "love in action".

Wednesday the 21st had me leading Warrington Foodbank's Annual General Meeting. I chair the foodbank in Warrington and it has a primary base at Friars Green but includes many volunteers from other churches and none. It was started back in 2012 and had been envisaged to be a short term project – it has proved to be anything but! The need is immense and last year saw us provide over 59,000 meals to local people. I believe that this is rooted in deep injustices in our society and feel that it is shameful for Britain to need foodbanks in the twenty first century – however, we do need them, and it is another practical way to genuinely show the love of Christ to our society.

The 23rd saw the launch of another Christian community initiative in Warrington. This time one that I am not directly involved in – Street Pastors. The service was held at Holy Trinity, the place of my weekday work, and it was attended by local dignitaries including the Mayor and Lord Lieutenant. Many friends are involved and I will watch with interest as I prayerfully support their forays into the night time economy!

On Sunday 25th September I was able to walk to my next appointment – but didn't! I was taking the morning Harvest Service at our Grappenhall Chapel and it was a joy to meet with many old friends. We gave thanks for God's gracious provision and gifts of food were brought as tokens of our gratefulness. The proceeds were due to go to the local YMCA – another charity under pressure in these hard times.



(Above: Harvest gifts for the YMCA at Grappenhall)

The days quickly run into weeks, and the weeks into months... let us be conscious of how we use the short time we have on this planet and let us make a difference – allowing the love of Christ to flow through us to a needy world!