

**Local Advocate & Leeds Co-ordinator : John Witt**

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**Dear LWPT Friends,**

**A very warm invitation!**

After a long and cold winter, warmth is beginning to return to the sunshine, and the spring bulbs are pushing through. My hope and prayer for you all in 2010 is that the experience of the peace we are reminded about at Christmas, which only God can give, will continue into 2010 to support and sustain you as we seek to follow our Lord and live in His way in the New Year.

**Hot off the Press!** You will see from Ichthus that **we have a new National Advocate for 2010 - Mrs. Myrtle Poxon** from Preston in Lancashire has agreed to start her Advocacy for the LWPT in February. We congratulate her in this appointment, and pray God's blessing on all she does in her travels! Her inauguration service was a real tonic – full of humour, and fun, but still with the serious commission. Her husband, Revd. Stephen Poxon, who has just stepped down as the Methodist President of Conference, delivered a very relevant message to his wife on the theme of showing and receiving love in her Year of Office. We look forward to being able to welcome Myrtle into our Leeds area when we celebrate our newly refurbished chapel and organ at **Pateley Bridge on June 12<sup>th</sup>** with an organ recital by **Dr. John Pemberton**, Director of Music for the Lincoln Diocese. **Revd. Dr. Liz Smith** will preach at the Communion Service following the Organ Recital. Myrtle will address us after our high tea. **Please book 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010 now in your diary, and support us on this very worthwhile afternoon.**

**Our Annual Leeds Lunch has been arranged for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the Trinity** Methodist church on Tempest Road, 12 noon for 12.30 pm. Our speaker is the original LWPT Chair of the Board of Trustees, Frank Pickles, with the outgoing chair of the LWP Homes, Ms. Ann Ashton. **Please do come and support us if you can** as you enjoy a beautiful meal. This is Trinity's way of saying "Thank you" to all Leaders of Worship for their faithful service Sunday by Sunday, the majority work being given in a voluntary capacity! The meal is always of the highest quality, and served in a delightful way in a bright and clean atmosphere. This occasion is always very enjoyable! Donations towards the £7 cost would be very welcome! **Please contact me (John W.) to book places a.s.a.p.**

**Arrangements for LP Sunday in 2010** have been completed in February - this year we have kept in mind possible future amalgamations of separate circuits, so in the Wakefield and Morley areas, local exchanges are with the four circuits in each part thinking of coming together. The South and West of Leeds, including Headingley have exchanged preachers, as have Leeds North East and Leeds East. We welcome the Wetherby and Tadcaster Circuit (traditionally part of the York & Hull District) into our exchange pattern, and 3 churches of the Otley & Aireborough Circuit.. Myrtle Poxon is coming to Leeds Mission in the autumn. Several trustees, incl. 2 former National Advocates and former LPMA friends also join us.

**We have had two delightful events in this autumn.** Firstly the **West Yorkshire** friends of LWPT invited us to share with them in their **Annual Dinner** at the Gimbals restaurant in Halifax in September. It was a privilege for some of the Leeds Friends to be present at this delightful evening. We had a really tasty meal in a quirky venue – unusually decorated and very friendly staff. Our own Leeds Chair of the District, Revd. Dr. Liz Smith, addressed us about her own Christian Testimony entitled "Why Me?". Her engaging talk was over far too soon and we were full of questions about how she had felt her call influenced her over the years.

We were particularly pleased to welcome our **new Area Advocate, Nick Thompson from Doncaster**, to join us at **Drighlington** Methodist Church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October where about 75 people came for an evening of fun and entertainment in the shape of a **Murder Mystery**. The air of excitement and anticipation grew as **The Lidgett Park Drama Group** began with Act 1 of their "Who-Dunnit?" play "Politics – the Soap" As the plot unfolded, we became aware of hidden secrets surfacing from the past involving most of the characters – and all associated with the politician who was thrown down the stairs! **Over a tasty meal**, prepared by the **ladies of the Morley Circuit**, we evaluated what each of the characters had been doing just before the death occurred. Who had the opportunity? Who had a motive? The puzzle was so cleverly set that there was no obvious answer, but many possibilities. Finally, as Act 2 of the play unfolded, all was revealed! Our LWPT guest, **Nick Thompson**, **gave us a very suitable epilogue**, tying in the theme of the play with our Christian experience. His thoughtful approach challenged us all to use our satisfying evening to

stimulate and re-invigorate our efforts to live in Jesus' way! So once again the Leeds Friends of the LWPT have been able to engage with a wide variety of people, both church members and visitors from the community, not only to provide them with a good time, but also raise the profile of the work which LWPT does.

**Yours sincerely,  
John Witt**