

**The Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust**  
(Formerly the LPMA)

**You Care - LWPT - We Care**  
*Please help us to continue to care  
for all Christian Leaders in Worship.*

**The Leeds Friends of the LWPT**  
Leeds Co-ordinator & Local Advocate  
John Witt - 0113 269 3489  
Autumn 2008

Dear Friends,

**Welcome to a New Methodist Year!**

Many of our LWPT friends have moved to new areas and congregations this autumn. We wish them well in their new situations, and pray that God will help them as they settle in. We extend a very warm welcome to the ministers who have come into the Leeds District to commence their new appointments this coming week. We are delighted that you have agreed to work amongst us, and we pray that God will richly bless your time in your local appointments and the Leeds District.

**Three Faithful LWPT supporters are called to Higher Glory**

It is with great regret that I have to report that three of our most faithful and enthusiastic supporters from the early days of the Leeds Branch of LPMA have died this summer.

1. **Peter Jeffrey**, newly accredited as a full Local Preacher after ten years of study as a Local Preacher "on Trial" died suddenly on 21<sup>st</sup> July. He had been to the Central Chapel in Town Street, Horsforth on 20<sup>th</sup> July, read the lesson, and then complained of a blinding headache. He was taken to hospital where he died the next day surrounded by his family. Peter loyally supported all our planning meetings and events for more than twenty years.
2. **Allan Dyer**, our Senior Convenor of the LPMA District, and former LPMA President, died in September, having begun to resume his duties as Homes Visitor for our "Westerley" at Grange, and attendance on the LWP Homes Board. He had bravely fought stomach cancer through the Spring and Summer, and had only just been given the go-ahead to book a holiday with Joan.
3. **Les Steele**, a Worship Leader at the Moortown Methodist Church, and life-long supporter of the Labour Party, died a week after Allan at the end of September 2008. He had been our LPMA Minutes Secretary of the Leeds Branch for 25 years, acting in this capacity as an Honorary Member. He was delighted that as part of the LWPT he was now a "Friend" by virtue of office, as well as a donating Friend in support of our work. In preparation for services, even when he was not being asked to support the worship, he would read the appointed lectionary lessons, and study his interpretation of the theme of the day. Often he would ask in the vestry as the Steward on duty, Have you thought of .....?

I was proud to be a part of each of these three people's lives. Their friendship and active support was invaluable and greatly appreciated. It was a real privilege to represent the LWPT at each of their funerals, and to be able to support their families at these times of sadness and parting. As Christians we have the joy and reassurance that one day we will be re-united with our loved ones in the presence of Jesus.

## **The National Advocate of LWPT**

A sign that the LWPT is beginning to grow up out of the best of LPMA is that we are now coming to our 4<sup>th</sup> National Advocate for LWPT. Mrs. Lois Morton was the final LPMA President, and the bridge between LPMA and LWPT. I was the first LWPT Trustee to be chosen as National Advocate, and had the privilege of speaking on behalf of LWPT to many enthusiastic friends throughout the country, as well as being the advocate also for our Westerley Residents and putting forward the point of view from local supporters to the LWPT Board. Our former LWPT Treasurer, Keith Rothery has come to the end of a very successful year in his travels in this office. Now it is the turn of Philip Nuttall, our representative on the LWPT Board of the Wesleyan Reform Union group of churches, to be our National Advocate. In preparation, Philip has been busy presenting Power Point Presentations to his own churches about how the LWPT is developing new ways of helping all Christian Leaders of Worship. He takes over also at a time when the LWPT is actively seeking how to enlarge our Ecumenical experience. We already have the Wesleyan Reform Union and the Methodist Church combined in our Constitution with influence through Local Ecumenical Partnerships to the URC, Baptist and Anglican churches.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September I was privileged to be able to attend a fantastic service at the **Wesleyan Reform Union Chapel at Youlgreave**, near Bakewell in Derbyshire. Along with my Successor as the National Advocate of the LWPT, **Keith Rothery**, the Chair of the Trustees of LWPT, **Frank Pickles**, and our retired Executive Director and Editor of Ichthus, **Ros Peedle**, we were privileged to be part of a very well supported occasion to inaugurate the Wesleyan Reform preacher on our LWPT Board, **Philip Nuttall** from Eyam, as the National Advocate for 2008-2009. In a packed church, we prayed, we read from the scriptures, we sang from the Methodist Hymn Book, and we explored the meaning of Advocacy for 90 minutes. The hand-Over Ceremony was based on the one prepared for us by Revd. Dr. Neil Richardson, when he was our Super in the Leeds NE Circuit. The same Bible which dates from the first President of LPMA in 1849 which I had signed as the first LWPT Advocate was presented, along with a shawl of office, and a NIV Study Bible for Philip's personal use as he prepares for a busy year - being the voice of the LPWT to our Friends up and down the country, representing LWPT on special occasions, telling the Board about the ideas, the inspirational activities as well as the needs he encounters amongst our LWPT Friends, and sharing with everyone the feedback from our four Residential "Westerley" homes, which all are beacons of excellence and good practice showing "Christian Care for those we love" in action. A truly memorable evening! Please pray for his year ahead.

## **Our Spring Meeting**

Our annual **Leeds Lunch at Trinity church on Tempest Road on 29<sup>th</sup> March** was a really happy occasion. Once again the catering team produced a magnificent four-course meal in a very attractive setting, and served with good-natured banter and humour. We are so grateful to them for undertaking this act of service in recognition and gratitude for all that Local Preachers and Worship Leaders do in our churches Sunday by Sunday. Our speaker was **Mrs. Morag Walder**, a founder trustee of LWPT, who teaches and works as a midwife in the Rotherham area specializing in the care of pregnant mothers and new babies. She gave us a most moving account of the way she has felt God working in her life, from the time she came to New Zealand as a refugee, through to how she moved to Britain and felt

called to her very specialised work with pregnant mothers and small children. Everyone felt inspired and challenged by her Christian commitment in a multi cultural society!

### **Leeds hosts LWPT Friends from all over the UK**

**On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May**, the Leeds District played host to the delegates from all over England for **the 2<sup>nd</sup> LWPT National Assembly**, which we had at the West Wakefield Methodist Church. We were blessed with warm sunny weather on Saturday, and an easy traveling day on the roads, which resulted in a warm and joyful atmosphere as we met together for the first time in 2 years! The whole afternoon, led by our Chair, Frank Pickles, became a very happy and stimulating occasion as we were challenged first by John Bell – recent Vice President of the Methodist Conference – to the ways in which we can be relevant to the world of work and industry as Christians. After a break, we were introduced by Ros Peedle to the Trustees of LWPT, the Directors of the LWP Homes, Jayne Tewnion, the manager of Westerley at Woodhall Spa, where we have six of our Leeds Friends in residence, Jackie Jackson and Adrian Needham of the LWPT Office at Rickmansworth. Then Peter Relf – former Secretary in the LP Office – gave us a Power Point Presentation on the way forward for the LWPT as it continues to evolve to meet the needs of **all Christian Leaders of Worship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**. After a delicious meal, produced by Alison Stott and her team, we were treated to a fantastic musical treat of sacred songs, beautifully sung, but in a joyful and exuberant manner.

**On Sunday**, our delegates occupied pulpits in every one of the 18 Circuits in our Leeds District, and also in the Wetherby and Tadcaster circuit (York & Hull) and Birstall and Spen circuit (West Yorkshire). For the first time also, we have four Worship Leaders helping in services throughout the District! Our afternoon began at West Wakefield with generous lunch, followed by a Prayer Walk, thoughtfully led by Revd. Richard Oldroyd - minister at West Wakefield. A joyful mood was created as Peter Relf led us in "Hymns Old & New", including some of his own thoughtful hymns, which then enabled us to participate fully in a Service of Celebration led by Ros Peedle, with Revd. Terry Keen – Super of Wakefield - leading us into our Annual Lord's Supper, with our preacher being Revd. Dr. Liz Smith, our new Chair of the Leeds District. After another final appetising meal, we departed for our homes having experienced physical, mental and spiritual refreshment as we renewed old friendships and made new ones in an atmosphere of deep fellowship.

### **A trip down Memory Lane to Englesey Brook & Mow Cop**

**On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June** some of the Leeds District Friends joined with the West Yorkshire friends of the LWPT for a trip to the Cheshire / Staffordshire border to explore the origins of the Primitive Methodist Movement. A warm welcome by Revd Dr. Stephen Hatcher and his volunteers was followed by a picnic lunch on the seats in the historic graveyard, where Hugh Bourne and William Clowes, the founders of the Primitive Methodist Movement, are buried. Then we were given a guided tour of the chapel and museum, which today are kept as a memorial to the work done under God by the "Prims" over a period of 125 years. The chapel is an unspoilt example of one of their simple places of worship, originally built like the local houses so that it could blend into the village, and also could be sold for habitation if the movement failed. It was fascinating to see one of the largest collections of Methodist banners in the country, as well as the first "Prim" pipe organ of

1828. We were shown a video of the 1948 celebrations at Mow Cop and a "Magic lantern show" with pictures 100 years old on glass slides which detailed the growth of the movement,

We then travelled on to Mow Cop which we found to be a place of beauty and atmosphere - dominated by the Castle on the top of the hill, it remains a mysterious and powerful place today. We explored the folly on the hill top where we could see the views for many miles all round. As we read the commemorative stone which records the first open air meeting held on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1807, we learnt how this became a decisive event which changed many lives as they received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; we recognised that at this camp meeting which was held to pray and bring the Gospel to people outside of church life, became for them a contemporary experience of what God had done. It was similar for them to the experience of the first Christian disciples on the day of Pentecost.

Now our day came to a fantastic conclusion as we came to the Mow Cop Methodist Church, where we looked at the banners which they also look after, had an impromptu hymn sing with their superb pipe organ, followed by a beautifully cooked tea in the schoolroom. As our fascinating day of discovery came to a close, we journeyed home in the evening sunshine, enjoying the views of the Cheshire countryside.

### **Two very warm invitations this Autumn**

1 The West Yorkshire Friends of the LWPT invited us to share with them in **an evening dinner at the Design House**, Dean Clough, Halifax on Monday evening of **16<sup>th</sup> September**. This is a former carpet mill in Halifax, now used as a complex for many small businesses. The speaker was Mrs. Diane Coleman of the Norwood Chapel who gave a talk about her ministry in making Norwood into a peaceful place which enhances the Retreats, Away Days and Conferences which use her facility. Both our retiring National Advocate, Keith Rothery, and the newly installed one, Philip Nuttall, were able to be present. As about 28 people attended, £6 was returned to the LWPT as a donation out of the £16 cost.

2 The Leeds Friends gave a very warm invitation for people in and around Leeds to come to **Morley Central Methodist Church from 4.30 pm to 5.00 pm for a high tea**; our speaker was Adrian Needham, the Chief Executive Officer of LWPT, whose talk is entitled, "Settling In". Adrian has a fascinating interest in Wood Turning. He has been in office now for over a year, and is rapidly bringing his expertise to bear fruit in the efficient running of our charity through a streamlined Office in Rickmansworth, and enabling our four Westerley homes to be self-funding beacons of excellence in care – a situation which we have been working towards for many years! Adrian was a tower of strength in our arrangements for the National Assembly we hosted in Wakefield, through his physical presence and untiring enthusiasm, advice and support.

In the evening, we have been offered **a Presentation by the team led by Mr. Keith Milner supporting Revd. Sam and his Sri Lankan village of Thirukovil** which was devastated by the Asian Tsunami. We have already heard how they are re-building key community buildings for the village, and this is a wonderful opportunity to see how real people are re-building their lives after they have lost everything. All donations will be split equally between the LWPT and the Thirukovil appeal. As the whole of Morley supports Revd. Sam in this venture (he lost 32 members of his extended family in that one single morning) the Mayor of Morley, Councillor Terry Grayshon and his Mayoress, Councillor Judith Elliott, are delighted to accept our invitation to attend and give their support.

Unfortunately, despite arranging this in the afternoon and in a place with easy access by public transport, so many people who wanted to come had other events or commitments that day and sent their apologies, that in the end we decided to cancel the event. This was a huge disappointment for all our Morley friends, who had put in such a lot of preparation for our visit, and also for Adrian who really enjoys his visits to Yorkshire.

### **Ideas to plan for 2009**

When the Leeds Focus Group met in October, we discussed what to do in 2009. We came to the conclusion that we should arrange events in faith which we thought would have a wide appeal, with different venues and times. Here are some proposals, for which we earnestly seek your support. Please write these dates in your diary, and try to keep them free of other events. If you feel we are trying to do too much, please say so. If you feel that you have other ideas which would be more interesting, or speakers who you think might come who would draw Leaders of Worship, please email me on [john.witt@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.witt@ntlworld.com).

1. We have decided to go ahead with **the Leeds Lunch** at Trinity Methodist Church on Tempest Road on **14<sup>th</sup> March**. Our speaker is Philip Nuttall, the new National Advocate. As he is the member on the LWPT Board representing the Wesleyan Reform Union this will be the subject of his talk.
2. We have been invited to spend a **Summer day at Gracious Street in Knaresborough on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009** – inviting their retiring Super Revd. Jackie Betts their new Probationary Minister, Revd. Gail Hunt, and her husband, Deacon David Hunt to join us. We are in the process of giving invitations to be led in some form of Study morning. Then we will have lunch together, before we explore the delights of Knaresborough at our own leisure.
3. Revd. Nigel Waterfield and Stuart Vennart have invited us to join in the Celebrations of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Pateley Bridge Chapel which will be newly refurbished in Spring 2009 on their Anniversary Weekend on **19<sup>th</sup> September 2009**. Dr. Liz Smith will preach at their 10.30 am service on 20<sup>th</sup> September. We propose to invite our LWPT Friends to come and enjoy the delights of the town of Pateley Bridge, and then assembly for our Annual Communion Service at 4 pm at the Chapel, followed by a High Tea, with an after-tea speaker. Then in the evening at 7 pm we invite all the folk in Nidderdale to join us for a Celebratory Organ Recital to inaugurate the newly restored organ, given by Dr. John Pemberton. We anticipate a departure at around 8.45 pm after a cup to tea.
4. The West Yorkshire friends have arranged a Faith Tea with Philip Nuttall at Norwood on 4th April, a trip to the Westerley Home at Grange in the summer, and another evening meal in September. We are very warmly invited to join in with all their events. They would really welcome our participation.

### **Your Donations to the LWPT**

Many people ask me about giving to the LWPT. I am told that they miss the annual reminders which were sent out each autumn by the local LPMA Branch Secretaries, telling how much was required. However, please do respond to this article, and reminders in Ichthus to give regularly. Some churches and Friends like to send me the money still, which I am happy to pass on, but the recommended way of giving now is to send a donation to the **LWPT Office, 89 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1EF. (01923 775856)** Please give an amount that you can afford. Some people have given ££0 or so from a Coffee Morning they have organized. Most supporting Friends now send in c£15 by Standing Order, which they Gift Aid if they pay Income Tax. A modern way to give is to visit [www.justgiving.com/lwpt](http://www.justgiving.com/lwpt) You can visit our Website on [www.lwpt.org.uk](http://www.lwpt.org.uk)

The LWPT is seeking to extend its influence now to become more Ecumenically minded. In the first days of LPMA, the organisation was very keen to help Methodist Local Preachers who fell on hard times through unemployment or sickness. Since the LPMA has evolved into the LWPT, we have been able to help **all Christian Leaders of Worship**. So far this has been mainly our Ministers, Deacons, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders in our Methodist Churches with Independent Methodist Congregations and the Wesleyan Reform Union. In addition we are already making a big impact when we are in Local Ecumenical Partnerships with the clergy and lay people who are Leaders of Worship from the United Reformed, Anglican and Baptist Churches. The LWPT Board is now actively thinking of how we can become more closely linked to these and other denominations such as the Salvation Army, which also has its roots in Methodism.

Thus, your continued support towards our work of Loving Care is greatly appreciated. Without your practical help, concern and prayers our events would not be so successful, our ability to tell others how we help would be hampered, and we could not give practical help for ideas in Worship to all the Leaders of Worship through our regular articles in Ichthus, and for those who seek assistance when they have particular needs and financial problems. You should then receive a confirmation from the LWPT Office.

I hope and pray that each of you will be refreshed and renewed by your summer activities. I am really looking forward to meeting many of you again in the New Year through our activities, and when visiting Circuits for L.P. Sunday.

With my kindest regards,

Yours in His Service,

John Witt,

National Advocate of LWPT in 2006-2007

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Dear Friends,

**Leslie Steele**

It is with regret that I have to inform you that our good friend, Les Steele, died peacefully at home this morning. He had been suffering from throat cancer for about 18 months, and bravely he was fighting its effects, keeping a keen interest in his local church at Moortown, and in the events of the LWPT.

For about thirty five years, Les has been a keen supporter of the LPMA as an active member of the Leeds Branch. He regularly attended all our Committee meetings, keeping the Minutes Book with great diligence and accuracy. He also supported the LPMA District meetings and events with his prayers and interest, as an Honorary Member. His enthusiasm, hard work, concern and friendship was greatly appreciated and benefited the Local Preacher Widows and LPMA Beneficiaries greatly.

When the new idea came into the Methodist Church that we should train Worship Leaders to enhance our worship, Les Steele was one of the first to undergo his training – a position which he took so seriously that as recently as four years ago, he went through another course to up-date himself. Whether or not Les had been asked to take part in the service, Les would always prepare himself for worship at Moortown by looking at the lectionary and immersing himself in the theme for the day. His contributions to worship were always prepared with great care and diligence; his prayers of intercession not only took in the current needs of the congregation, but also the latest events which were happening in the wider world.

As a Worship Leader, Les was delighted to have the privilege of taking part in circuit events and meetings in the Leeds North East Circuit and he became an enthusiastic supporter of all that the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust was seeking to achieve as an ecumenical trust for all Christian Leaders in Worship. He continued to attend, not only our events, but the planning meetings as well, and he prayerfully added his contributions even when he was becoming housebound.

We shall miss Les for his support, enthusiasm, prayers and friendship for those who enhance our Worship each Sunday in our pulpits, and his particular concern for their dependents when they were unable to continue to take an active part in our church life.

**John Witt, Leeds Co-ordinator and Local Advocate**