

The Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust

You Care - **LWPT** - We Care

Please help us to continue to care for all Christian Leaders in Worship

Local Advocate & Leeds Co-ordinator:

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Dear LWPT Friends,

A whole day with our National Advocate, Deacon Myrtle Poxon. **Hear and Meet Myrtle in Leeds on Sunday 24th October!**

We are very pleased to be able to welcome **Deacon Myrtle Poxon**, a former Vice President of the Methodist Conference, to Leeds **on Sunday 24th October**. **Myrtle will preach** at the Sunday Morning Service **at Lidgett Park in the Leeds North East Circuit at 10.30 am**, and then in the evening **she will preach at a Circuit Service at 6.00 pm at the Whingate Church** (formerly known as Upper Armley) in the newly combined **Headingley and Leeds West** Circuit. **Please book this date in your diary now and attend one of her services if at all possible.**

- **You are very warmly invited to hear Myrtle at Rothwell Methodist church at 2.30 pm.** When Myrtle talked to us at Pateley Bridge, we were challenged to think "out of the box" in our approach to leading worship, and the language we use in preaching. Her talk was so stimulating and relevant, that I have asked her to address us first this time to open the afternoon's programme.
- Then follows a wonderful afternoon's entertainment, as the highly regarded **Castleford Gilbert & Sullivan Society** treats us visually and aurally to a concert of well-known and much loved music. **This is a treat not to be missed!** The singers have a proven track record of superb performance, and they are pleased to be able to have the chance to delight the preachers and friends in the LWPT with a **Gilbert & Sullivan** experience!
- Our time is completed by the fellowship of **afternoon tea** together. In addition to good food, we are able to talk to Myrtle, and meet preachers and worship leaders from all over the Leeds District.
- This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Myrtle again, and also to have fun together – a rare opportunity. **Please** support us in prayer and also **do come to Rothwell**. Donations towards costs will be invited. Please let John Witt know how many you intend to bring with you for the catering.

LWPT Summer afternoon at Pateley Bridge

On Saturday 12th June 40 people accepted an invitation to a Summer Concert at the recently refurbished Pateley Bridge church – now 100 years old. The re-designed building is light, airy, imaginative and very conducive to thoughtful worship. The magnificent free-standing pipe organ has been given a complete overhaul, so that it looks wonderful, as well as sounding very clear with its variety of tones and sounds. Our afternoon had four distinctive parts:

We were treated to **an Organ Recital given by Dr. John Pemberton**, director of organ music for the Diocese of Lincoln. He regularly gives concerts in Lincoln Cathedral, and also York, Hull and Leeds. He is ranked about 5th for organ music in the whole of the country! He gave us a really interesting programme which made the organ sing just as if we were in York Minster! Rarely have I had such music outside a huge building such as a Cathedral, Concert or Town Hall.

This was followed by a **thoughtful Service of Holy Communion** led by the minister, Revd. Nigel Waterfield. Our excellent preacher was Revd. Dr. Liz Smith, chair of the Leeds District. We learnt that it is just 30 years this year since Liz answered her Call to Preach in the Methodist Church. She told us how important it was to mature in one's preaching and re-evaluate the way we relate to our congregations.

Now we had a really delicious high tea, prepared by the ladies of Pateley Bridge with great care and attention to detail. It was a sumptuous buffet, with a great variety which we all greatly enjoyed.

Finally, Deacon Myrtle Poxon, a Past Vice-President of Conference, and our new National Advocate for LWPT in 2010, in a refreshingly candid talk, **shared her experiences** of having just returned from celebrating the 250th anniversary of Methodism **in the Caribbean and the Americas**. On page 14 of the 24th June edition of the Methodist Recorder there is a Picture of Myrtle and Steven Poxon, with David Gamble and Richard Vautrey and his family – now all Past Presidents and Vice Presidents. Myrtle used this experience to continue Liz Smith's theme - Local Preachers as well as all Leaders of Worship, while valuing our traditions, need to adapt to the needs of our present day congregations, and also reach out with new ways of worship, where the act of worship is presented with modern ideas and with vocabulary used by people not connected to the church.

This wonderful afternoon lived up to its promise of variety, enjoyment, fun and interest, where preachers and worship leaders from all over Leeds were able to share in rich fellowship together, as well as being fed mentally and spiritually. We also were able to send a donation to the LWPT Funds.

The "Westerleys"

My wife, Barby, and I have had the privilege of visiting our Grange over Sands and our Woodhall Westerleys. We talked with Audrey Hallsworth, Deacon and Local Preacher from Armley, who is now very frail and unable to send letters to her Leeds friends now. We had a long chat in the lounge with Lily Dunn, who continues to thrive at Westerley. Connie Waite from Batley was delighted to talk to us for over half an hour! She loves her reading, and likes to maintain her privacy.

Who needs help in your Circuit?

We have been able to provide Respite Care recently at our "Westerley" at Woodhall Spa for a Local Preacher's parent recovering from hospital care. A minister and his wife in another Circuit is interested in our nominated rights with the MHA and Hanover Housing Association. He is on the waiting list now at Southcroft in Sheffield. I have contacted a Local Preacher in Leeds where life is very difficult. A Leeds Super is asking for a lump sum grant for another need. In these difficult times do you know of any Leader of Worship who could benefit from advice by the LWPT, or financial help on a one-off or regular basis?

The 4th Annual Assembly of LWPT at Budleigh Salterton.

We had a superb weekend at Budleigh Salterton, "a gem of a town set on the famous Jurassic Coast", for our National Assembly. After our welcome by our new Chair of the Board, Mrs. Angela Davis, to her part of the world, the meeting had an hour's praise and devotion led by Myrtle Poxon, our National Advocate. "We have gathered to worship God, to learn more of His will in our lives, and to celebrate all LWPT has done during the past year and to set the seal on our future strategy." The Saturday Session was ably led with a humorous time of study by Revd. Dr. Stephen Dawes – a Methodist Theologian - who helped us towards the Methodist Understanding of interpreting the Bible. This was followed by a very moving Act of Inclusive Worship, with a visual reinforcement at each stage, culminating in a very graceful dance. After a superb tea, which the Lord Mayor attended, we had the opportunity to explore the nature of our calling, and learned of the up to date developments of the LWPT.

On Sunday morning, all the delegates were invited to an act of Morning Worship at Temple Methodist Church, conducted by Revd. Peter Pillinger and Revd. Steve Wild. After lunch we had another fascinating session led by Revd. Dr. Stephen Dawes – "Best for Worship" in which we were challenged us to be thoughtful in all aspects of our leading of Worship. The climax of the weekend was the Service of Holy Communion – with a light tea. For those staying overnight, there is an invitation to Evening Worship led by Revd. Jonathan Froggatt.

The Wesleyan Reform Union Conference.

In June I had the privilege of representing the LWPT at the Wesleyan Reform Union Conference held at the High Leigh Conference Centre at Hoddesdon. We were very warmly received into their conference, and shown friendship and wonderful hospitality by the leadership and the delegates. Following my greetings, where I managed to show that their origins in 1849 were very similar to those of the LPMA in the same year, a huge amount of interest was shown to our work of caring and supporting all who lead worship. They were delighted that I had found the whole experience very enjoyable; it reminded me of the early days of LPMA! It was good to see my successor as National Advocate, Philip Nuttall, held in such high regard by so many.

Two new Avenues of Service

Although I have been retired as a Founding Member of the Board of Trustees for the LWPT now for 18 months, I have been able to advise the Board from time to time. I thought that they had enough of my enthusiastic ideas on how to improve communication to local level, but apparently that is not the case. I have been approached to help in the future in two separate areas. Firstly, I have accepted an invitation to join a **LWPT Friends Support Group**, a working party of the Trustees which seeks to improve how the LWPT becomes better known at the grass roots level in the churches and the circuits. In August, I have also been approached by the LWPT Homes Board to become co-opted as a Director to monitor and develop links between our four "Westerley's" and the Trustees and Directors of LWPT. Exactly how this is achieved will become clearer when I become more involved later in the autumn.

Donations to the LWPT

Have you remembered to make your individual or church donation yet to the LWPT this year? One church sent me £280 on 30th June. Worship Leaders and Local Preachers have given me a donation as they would have given me their "Subs". For those who want a Life-long interest, do complete a Standing Order form. I am happy to pass donations on, or you can send a cheque directly to the LWPT Central Office. Their **new** address is The LWPT, PO Box 2352, Watford, WD18 1PY. The **new telephone** number is 01923 231811. Remember we all receive the stimulating Ichthus magazine free four times a year, and that the LWPT supports us with ideas for worship each Sunday via the website www.lwpt.org.uk to enable the **Best for our Worship**. Thank you again for your prayers and active support. Yours sincerely in His Service, John