

Report to Methodist Recorder

DARLINGTON DISTRICT SPRING SYNOD

'Shine, from the inside out, that the world may see, you live in me', and so began the Darlington District Synod in St John's School and 6th Form College, Bishop Auckland. Reflecting on what has been happening in our District, what is happening now and things to come was began in worship and continued throughout our time together.

Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler spoke on presbyteral ministry completing a series of presentations on the various ministries within the Church and their combined use to meet our mission in the many varied areas of the District. Jonathan explored the threefold ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral responsibility relating each to their fundamental relationship to Jesus Christ. He suggested presbyters are followers of Christ who respond to his call to this lifelong ministry and offer him to others.

A discussion session followed exploring vocational opportunity, prayer support for presbyters - where, when and how does this happen, expressions of presbyteral ministry - within and without circuit and being community theologians. The presentation and discussion was well received by Synod with much food for thought.

Kerry Crellin from Christian Aid talked about the ministry of Christian Aid over the last 60 years and encouraged Synod to continue engaging with Christian Aid Week and exploring other avenues of support.

Young People from the District attending 3Generate sent a DVD to Synod reporting back on their enjoyment and faith building experiences from last year's event.

Synod saw a presentation by the participants in the ONE opportunity NE scheme which began last year. It was encouraging to see the success of the scheme, the varied roles in which the young people were engaged and the development of faith and confidence the scheme had enabled.

'Pause, Reflect, Pray: Listen to the wind words' was brought to Synod from the District vision and strategy team. Work to encourage missional opportunities and adventurous uses of buildings is being explored and will be brought to a future Synod.

Synod ended with a celebration of Holy Communion together led by Rev Ruth Gee.