

## **Report of the Ryedale Christian Council's Year: 2015 to 2016**

Without a doubt it was the Conference that was the highlight of our year. We spent nearly 2 years in planning it and thanks to Tim Robinson the Bishop of Carlisle agreed to be our guest speaker. He is the person in charge of 'health' in the Church of England and infused a delightful, almost lighthearted approach, to very serious issues of Mental Health, Dementia, End of Life Care and Stress. We were extremely fortunate to have Dr. Susi Strang with us at the last minute when one of our Workshop leaders was unable to come.

We were comfortably overbooked and those attending felt a real feeling of enjoyment and learning. On the feedback sheets with the question 'Has the day fulfilled your expectations?' there was an overwhelming 'Yes, and more'. There are some copies of a brief summary for anyone who is interested.

We held a 'Quite a Quiet Day' which was well attended in the autumn, and our usual Planning day in October which is always helpful in reviewing the past year and organising the following year's activities. The annual 'Songs of Praise' in January during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity came from Latvia, and we were enriched greatly by Claire Haynes bringing her choir, and a lively talk by Andy Boxall from the Elim Pentecostal Church: the theme being 'God chose you to be his people'.

All the Lent Groups in the area were collated by Rosemary and Shirley Ann (who also arrange the Quiet Day) both of which are much appreciated. Our Spring service moved to September and we had a wonderful service at St. Nicholas's Church in Bransdale. This coming year it is on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 2.15 pm September in Hartoft Chapel near Wreton. Scripture Union books are distributed to every young person in our area who move up to secondary school.

We have had a fresh look at our Refreshment Tent at the Ryedale Show (this year on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July) and are simplifying the way we do things. Helpers and cakes are always needed.

I do need to warmly thank all the members of the RCC for their faith filled enthusiasm and hard work. Especially to Ann Gray who has given many years as secretary; we congratulate Sue Binks on being ordained priest and much value her contribution to the Council. I am continuing as Chairperson, Les Helm as deputy, and we are very pleased to welcome Virginia Collinson as secretary. Mike fortunately is continuing in charge of our finances and Judith works valiantly and efficiently as Publicity and Rosemary as designer of all our publicity. We are always looking for new members and would welcome any thoughts about this.

We strive as separate churches to do everything we can together. Our goal is unity and full visible unity, and we work towards this together as much as we can and on this council it is with great harmony.