

4<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 Ryedale Christian Council. Annual Report of the year - Sept 2018 to Aug 2019

I am always aware that Reports like these should be informative but fairly brief. It is important to let people know what the churches in this area are doing together. I know a lot goes on in Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside churches working together but the Ryedale Christian Council embraces a wider area and does different events. We try to work towards the Unity that Christ wanted.

Last September we enjoyed 'Quite a Quiet Day' open to anyone, on 'Prayer' with warm thanks to Rosemary Roberts and Shirley Ann Collier for the spiritual content.

A Planning day in October considers what we can do and fixes dates if possible. We look and learn about all the ecumenical activity in the area.

A big event is the annual 'Songs of Praise' in January during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Rev Catherine Reid was our speaker on 'Only Justice'. Many thanks to Clare Haynes and her choir for uplifting music to lead our singing. We have heard the comment that we should have more well known hymns which I know we will incorporate next year.

A big thank you to Shirley Ann for advertising the Lent Groups in the area. They are open to everyone. Many different topics and talks were enjoyed.

We joined in with Evensong at Rosedale Abbey Church in mid May – an uplifting service in a beautiful place.

A thoroughly enjoyable place of peace, relaxation and a chair to sit on, happens at our Refreshment Tent at the Ryedale Show (this year on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July) – all the churches working together. Shirley Ann is organising the rota and we are exceedingly grateful to everyone who provides cakes, scones and quiches. Please contribute this year if you can.

We also give 'Its Your Move' books to every Primary School young person moving to secondary school in the area. Published by the Scripture Union it has a gentle Christian thread going through the helpful advice that it offers. We have brought 104 books this year and they will be given out by different people, often at a Leavers' Assembly.

At our Annual Open Meeting last year, 2018, the Rev. Ken Gowland, from Helmsley Methodist Church, talked about his interesting life and how he came to faith. On that evening we celebrated 55 years of the churches working together in Ryedale with a lively party after the talk. I would like to thank everyone for being with us, and the contributions to the excellent food and drink.

I also want to thank all our members and friends of the Ryedale Christian Council for their helpful support, inspirational ideas, and a willingness to work together harmoniously. A special mention to Rosemary Roberts for her artistic work on our posters and fliers, and a

particular appreciation of the team who organise the Refreshment Tent at the Ryedale Show. This is our Christian presence at the Show and is an arduous day for all.

Ann Gray is stepping down from the R.C.C. having served on the Council for many years particularly as both Chairperson and Secretary. We are also sad to lose Fr. Kentigern as he is leaving his parishes and going to work in the Monastery at Ampleforth.

However we welcome new people – Liz Ashley from Helmsley, John Castle from Farndale and Julie Watson from Kirkbymoorside and are confident that they will make a great contribution towards our churches growing closer together in this area of Ryedale. Thank you.

Helen Goodman, Chairperson of the Ryedale Christian Council.