

## Sharing the Journey

Over 250 people from across the London Methodist District came together to share in one of the highlights of the District calendar, the Ordinand's Testimony Service at Wesley's Chapel on City Road, which this year was held on Aldersgate Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> which also coincided with Pentecost Sunday. Special thanks must be expressed to the staff at Wesley's Chapel for the welcome and hospitality offered.



The service had been planned by the five probationers who are going forward to be ordained and received into full connexion in the Methodist Church at the Methodist Conference in Portsmouth in June, they are: the Revd Velma Campbell and Revd Sue Male from the Harrow and Hillingdon circuit, the Revd Inez Reid and the Revd Tim Swindell from the Enfield circuit, and the Revd Dr Steve Talbot from the Kingston upon Thames circuit. The Revd Dr Ebute Obiabo from the Croydon circuit was also part of the service as an ordained probationer who was ordained in the Methodist Church Nigeria, but has now completed the training to be accepted as a Methodist minister in the British Methodist Church.

The service was based around the account in Luke's gospel of the Emmaus Road and each of the probationers spoke of the way in which a part of the story connected with their own faith, calling and journey of discipleship. Worship was led by the Revd Jenny Impey and the Revd Dr Stuart Jordan (Co-chairs of the London District) who at one point in the service invited the probationers to come forward, bringing with them someone who had offered support and care to them along the

road towards ordination. Mr Oluwole Richards, a member of the London District Probationers Committee, which interviews probationers as part of their on-going assessment, led the congregation in prayer. The Revd Cameron Kirkwood (District Probationers Secretary) introduced the theme of the service and led the prayers of intercession. Music was provided by the Revd Ian Yates.

The London District has recently made a commitment to encourage every member of our congregations to think seriously about God's call and to enable people to explore ways in which they can exercise ministry at local church, circuit and district level and this corporate challenge was a theme explored in a time of reflection and prayer at the end.

Once again the setting of Wesley's Chapel and the inescapable reminder of our Methodist heritage and roots, created an atmosphere of thanksgiving, celebration, renewal and commitment. As the probationers go forward to the Methodist Conference, we give thanks for their ministry amongst us, and pray that through their faith and witness, the Methodist people across London will be inspired to even greater commitment, dedication and service.

A. Cameron Kirkwood