

The London District Methodists raise the roof singing and celebrating the Lay Ministry

The London District Service of Celebration of lay leadership and the Launch of MEDAL 2012 on Aldersgate Sunday (22nd May) at Wesley's Chapel was a great success! People came from all over London, arriving to the sound of music played by Shern Hall steel band. This set the tone for a service of inspirational music and hymns with choirs and special groups from the District participating. 600 people representing churches and circuits filled the Chapel reflecting the beautiful diversity and energy of the London District. Choirs from the Chinese, Korean, Ghanaian, Zimbabwean and different youth fellowships raised the roof with their singing.

There was vitality, joy and richness in the worship, as the special talents and gifts of so many who do so much for the church were recognised. People including stewards, worship leaders, lay preachers, people in pastoral care, property and finance roles, community service, evangelism, ecumenical relations and those who help with administration and organisation at church, circuit, district and connexional levels were given medals as part of the launch the launch of MEDAL 2012 (Methodists Enabling Disciples As Leaders). The three Chairs gave out the symbolic medals to key people who serve the church.

The President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Alison Tomlin was present and the Vice President Deacon Eunice Attwood gave the address, based on Ephesians 4:1-16. She reminded people that all are blessed with different gifts from God, and that working together we could build the church and community.

The service inspired so many with wonderful feeling of fellowship and community. One person said "it was a tremendous service. I thought the stained glass was going to shatter during the singing of 'And can it be'".

In celebrating those who are giving so much, there was recognition that getting new people to take a lead in the future may not be easy. The MEDAL 2012 programme having been officially commissioned in prayer will in partnership with churches aim at meeting this challenge. Striking while the iron is hot - a call to those present was made to consider offering their gifts and skills and to recognise and encourage gifts of others so that the church can share the good news of Jesus Christ and improve the wellbeing of all people and their communities.

The service was organised by the Lay Leadership Strategy Group (LLSG)