



## SOUTH DISTRICT NEWS 5

### DISTRICT NEWS

- ◆ After 6 years at Cheadle Hulme Revd Peter Sharp has now moved to Penrith and Penruddock (still in our Synod, in the Cumbria District); he should find this an enjoyable ministry with the Lake District close by, and the stimulus of people like Fred Kaan, the hymn writer, in the church.
- ◆ Revd David Roberts retires from Bramhall in August.
- ◆ Revd John Piper leaves Chorlton Central, South West Manchester Group, at the end of July.
- ◆ Revd Gareth Dyer has moved away from St Peters Church and Chaplaincy, and Revd Nathan Eddy, attached to Roby, has now taken over his role of Free Church Chaplain .
- ◆ Revd Pam Butler has moved on from Whaley Bridge Uniting Partnership.
- ◆ Revd Chang Jen-Ho has been a URC Mission Partner from the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan and served as the national chaplain for Taiwanese students based at St Peter's Church and Chaplaincy. His four year appointment ends on 31 July 06.
- ◆ Stuart Radcliffe has a summer role as student pastor at Christ Church, South Manchester. He is between his third and fourth years training at Northern College.

We wish those retiring long and happy retirements, and hope that the others enjoy fruitful years in their new roles.

There are moves in the South West Manchester Group:

- ◆ The last service was held at Chorlton Road, South West Manchester Group of Churches, on Palm Sunday, 9th April. They are now in the process of selling the building.
- ◆ Chorlton Road, Hulme and the United People's Church are planning to become a single church called Trinity Community Church.

### CONTACTS

District Secretary: Mrs Angela Bogg 0161 881 3521 or [angela.bogg@btopenworld.com](mailto:angela.bogg@btopenworld.com).

Website: [www.urcmanse.co.uk](http://www.urcmanse.co.uk) - this has full details of our churches, the district, events, and news.

Copy for future issues and the website:

Peter Southern 01625 572418, or [Southern@care4free.net](mailto:Southern@care4free.net) Please send me your monthly newsletter or tell me about something special in your church.

### What factors should determine how we deploy ministers in the District?

This was the topic for discussion at the District meeting in February. The Pastoral Strategy Committee analysed the comments made and presented them to the May District meeting. The members of the Committee concluded that they should give significant weight to three factors when considering the deployment of ministers:

- ◆ Local mission opportunities, and willingness to engage with them,
- ◆ Local ecumenical opportunities, and willingness to engage with them,
- ◆ The willingness of the church to embrace change.

There is a clear message for all our churches and church members in this.

### What are the most important factors for church growth?

Revd Mike Walsh of Heald Green URC gave us a stimulating presentation at the District meeting in May - a discussion on 'what is evangelism' - it is of course the first of the five marks of mission (tell, teach, tend, transform, treasure). It was in part based on a little booklet 'Leadership, Vision and Growing Churches.' This is very readable and only 24 pages long - the result of a survey of 1,100 congregations. Amazingly, it is only 29p and can be obtained online at: [www.Christian-research.org.uk](http://www.Christian-research.org.uk).

Did you know for instance that following a lectionary reading for the sermon was found to be slightly more likely to be associated with declining than growing churches?

### Congratulations Marion!

From 2nd June at 10am to 4th June at 10.05am Revd Marion Tugwood created a new world record for the longest unscripted sermon - 48 hours 5 minutes! - the previous record was only 36 hours. An incredible achievement!

She needed a congregation of at least 12, so thank you everyone who turned up to support her at Providence, Mellor Road, New Mills. It was serious preaching, not time filling.

Donations to the project will still be gratefully received; £7,000 has been raised so far. The next phase is to refurbish Providence's halls, so that the youth project can develop further and the young people have a safe space in which to play ball games etc. The preach was really to publicise that aspect of what they are trying to do.