

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



We gave our 'All for Jesus' during mission weekend

Last weekend was the Diocesan Centenary Mission Weekend 'All for Jesus'.

Scrolling through the Facebook posts advertising and recording the events I thought, Wow!

As a Diocese we really have given our 'All for Jesus'.

The variety of events was impressive. From chocolate bingo, quizzes and pet blessings to Hymns and Pimms, Assembly Bangers, family fun days and afternoon teas.

Churches went all out to welcome members of their local community and show generous hospitality. I was struck by the creativity and imagination of the members of clergy and their teams.

It was clear that a great deal of thought and attention had been given to putting on an event that would really appeal to the community in that particular location. Jesus, who intentionally used illustrations and stories that were relevant to the place, time and experiences of the people he was speaking to at that moment, would have said 'well done'.

God who has bestowed upon us all many gifts and talents would have been delighted as those gifts were used to share and spread his love.

For the next three months in Blackburn Cathedral there is an exhibition celebrating the work of William Tyndale (1494-1536). He was the first person to translate the New Testament from the original Greek into the English language.

His motivation for undertaking this challenging task was the belief that everyone should be able to read God's word for themselves. He famously said that he wanted even 'a boy that driveth the plough' to know the Scriptures.

The events of the Mission Weekend and a 500 year old copy of the Bible on display in the Cathedral, remind us of Jesus' great commission to his disciples to go and share the Gospel with everyone worldwide.

As a Church we can very easily slide into routines, patterns of worship and use language that seems strange to those on the outside and keeps doors closed. The joy of the variety of events at the weekend that opened doors to everyone.

Tyndale was so sure it was right that the Bible should be accessible to all that it cost him his life.

All this should inspire us and teach us that, giving consideration to the context of the parish in which the church stands, is the way to give our 'All for Jesus' every week.

Lisa Fenton, Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Adviser to Schools