

## DURHAM CONFERENCE

24th to 28th AUGUST 2018

### DAY TWO

It's Saturday and the majority of our group was in chapel at 7.30am for Morning Worship led by Pastor Bill Sappenfield from Austin, Texas. It included some hearty singing for such an early hour.

After breakfast we enjoyed a Bible Study facilitated by Judi Hattaway. She had entitled it, '**Christ is Alive! Really? Where do we find Him? In gentle Jesus, meek and mild? Maybe not!**' She made it clear that she was not proposing to 'lead' the study, but to introduce a number of questions for reflection and discussion.

To set the scene a number of brief New Testament passages were read out which illustrate how Jesus did not adopt a one-size-fits-all approach to conflict resolution, but reacted in different ways according to the context.

Judi then set us all to work, sometimes reflecting on our own, and sometimes working in groups of two or three, sharing our responses to the issues she raised. During these brief discussions there was such a healthy buzz of discussion that it was difficult to call people to order. But Judi managed it very well.

You can find the Bible passages and the issues and questions she raised by clicking the link on the Home Page.

After coffee Mark Engdahl addressed the question, '**Christ is Alive! Really? Where do we find him? In Conflict**'. Mark's presentation was very lively. Just as on the previous evening Prof Wilkinson had begun his lecture with Dara O'Briain, so Mark began with some Sven and Ole stories. You'll be able to enjoy them for yourselves when his presentation is posted on the website when the conference is over.

He gradually led us through his experiences as a Naval Chaplain to the nitty-gritty of ministering as pastor to serving naval personnel in times of peace and in situations of extreme conflict, ending with a moving testimony to one of his colleagues who gave his life during the Vietnam War.

His presentation was followed by questions and comments, and by a good deal of silence, a reminder that there are some questions to which there are no easy answers, and that Christ is often found in the silence.

You can find the outline to Mark's presentation and his testimony to his friend by clicking the link on the Home Page.

Everyone was free to explore the city. The weather was kind, with plenty of sunshine taking the edge off a cool wind. Then after tea we reassembled for our next session at 4.45pm.

Bishop Munib Younan took our thinking a step further. His theme was, '**Christ is Alive! Where do we find him? In Conflict Resolution**.' The Bishop began by considering 'Doubting' Thomas. It is essential that the Church abandon its triumphalist understanding of the resurrection and begin to address the Thomas's that are found in the pews and those in society who wonder and doubt.

He then examined four areas in which Christ is alive. First, he is in the lives of the persecuted and oppressed; second, he is in the prophetic Church; third he is in the ecumenical movement; lastly, he is alive in our love for others.

It was a very impassioned and challenging presentation which led to a number of questions and comments. You can read the Bishop's entire speech by clicking the link on the Index Page.



After supper the conference split into two groups. The first went into the cathedral where they enjoyed a pilgrimage led by Canon David Kennedy. Here they are at the high altar.

The second group had the joy of having John Arnold share with them his passion about some of the Northumbrian Saints. Much of the information we have about them comes from Bede, whose bones are buried in the cathedral. But we didn't

remain back in history because John brought us up to present as he commemorated more modern 'saints' like Grace Darling.

John's presentation can be read by clicking the link on the Home Page.

It's been a very full day. In our company, it was estimated, we had at least 3,500 years of experience to share and our speakers opened up to us an incredible range of insights for us to mull over.