

Gifted, Vibrant & Lively

"A truly excellent day: with an amazing variety of input from many communities right across our multicultural United Reformed Church! The many different contributions added up to a rich feast of enjoyment and fun."

"...a wonderful, exciting and stimulating day as we celebrated our life together as God's family. Where do I book up for the next one?"

"I really enjoyed the celebration! It seems to get better each time... It was also nice to see old friends and meet new ones and of course getting lost on the way from New Street station because all the beautification taking place there was an added excitement!!"

Past moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, John Marsh, summed up the 2013 MC Celebration with these words: *"What a vivid and vibrant Church we are! What a living and lively foretaste of the Kingdom of God we demonstrate! How totally we smother despair with unrestrained Christian hope and Gospel joy in a marvellous rainbow glory."*

Indeed! Welcome to the brave new world of the changing face of our Church. Whether we believe it or not or care to note it, we are a gifted community and there are more storylines to share other than that of despair or the one we have grown accustomed to share! For what URC wide gathering (besides General Assembly) can pull a crowd of over 425 of us in celebration of our life together? And it was a diverse crowd in a broad sense from a diverse church: culture, geographical location, theological outlook, gender, generational, ability, and church ethos

Those who were gathered at Carrs Lane URC (from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm) had a delightful time together of worship, music, singing, dancing, drama, story-telling, community singing, keynoting through conversations, hearing exciting stories from congregations, viewing the art submissions for our multicultural art award, hearing local folk music and musicians in concert, feasting around a sumptuous meal, and meeting old friends and making new ones. As one of my colleagues summed it up: *"What a wonderful day! It was entertaining, inspiring and uplifting. We have a wealth of talent in the United Reformed Church which showed itself through song, dance, art, drama and story. For me it demonstrated once again that in our church there is life, joy and abundance. We are not done yet! To God be the glory!"*



