

Churches Together in Lancashire celebration in St. Mary's Church to celebrate the centenary of the Ecumenical Movement.

22nd May 2010

The Ecumenical Movement began in an official way, involving various Churches officially working together at the famous Edinburgh Conference of 1910. This conference was for Protestant Churches involved in Missionary Work, and 1,200 representatives of Churches came from all over the world. It is true there was no invitation to those of the Catholic Church or the Orthodox Church. Before the conference convened eight Commissions studied for two years on various topics, and the eighth had the title: *Co-Operation and the Promotion of Unity*. A vote was carried to establish a Continuation Committee when Commission VIII's report was presented on June 21 1910. The work of the Continuation Committee was interrupted by World War I, but formed the foundation for the establishment of the International Missionary Council in 1921. Later, in 1948, the World Council of Churches formed. During the second Vatican Council the Roman Catholic Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity was set up by Pope John 23 originally to help non Catholic observers attend the Council debates. Now the Catholic and Orthodox Churches are full participants in the Ecumenical Movement.

On Saturday 22 May in St. Mary's Church in Leyland Churches Together in Lancashire held an Ecumenical Service of Praise and thanksgiving with a choir of 130 people to commemorate this wonderful event. Here are some photos of the event; if anyone would like a CD of the event to listen to the magnificent singing and the various prayers, readings and talks, please contact St. Mary's Church via the website.



Fr. Jonathan introduces the service.



Robert Haydock founder of the One Voice Choir and Rev Debbie Peatman Ecumenical Officer for Lancashire explain about the choir.



A view of the choir



Another view of the Choir singing.



Choir and congregation in full swing.



Choir of 130 led the celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving for 100 years of Ecumenical activity officially supported by different Churches.



The congregation from the organ console.



Five members of different Churches speak.