

Fellowship over July Seder meal

FELLOWSHIP was the recurring theme when more than 100 Conference representatives attended a "Seder in July" meal hosted by the Board of Deputies at the Southport Hebrew Congregation Synagogue. The representatives were joined by four members of the Merseyside Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ). Also attending was CCJ programmes director Michael Wakelin.

Following the low point of relations between Methodism and the Jewish community in 2010, because of

the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Following the meal, the Chairman of the Liverpool District, the Rev Jim Booth, illustrated the value of a family sitting down around a table to discuss matters. This linked with the evening's title of "Neighbours becoming friends: Inter-Faith Encounters in Practice".

Jonathan Arkush responded on behalf of the Board of Deputies, expressing his delight in the warm fellowship of the evening and the frank conversations taking place



More than 100 people sat down to a traditional meal with Merseyside Council of Christians and Jews. Photograph: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

CCJ at local and national level.

After the meal, a former president of the Board of Deputies and a Southport

resident, Eric Moonman, invited the guests to visit the synagogue and to take the opportunity to make friends and chat.

Savouring the smell of baking bread

PREACHING at the Conference service of Holy Communion, the Vice-President, Ruth Pickles, took as her text some words of Jesus, recorded in Luke 13. 20-21, "To what should I com-



A prayerful start each day

MUCH of the business of Conference was set in the context of prayer but, as has been the tradition, each morning the session began with an act of worship.

On the Monday, prayers were led by the retiring chair of the Stationing committee, Ken Jackson, assisted by Kate Woolley and Andrew Owen. The theme was "Speaking and Listening" and, after a moment of silence, Conference shared in responsive readings and prayers. This was followed by the song, "Spirit of truth and grace".

The Bible readings were from 1 Kings 9, in which God speaks to Elijah but not in an earthquake, wind or fire, and