

## **Feedback on the Conference – what the delegates thought!**

Since this was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NASACRE we decided to find a location for our conference and AGM that would be fitting for this special occasion. And it was obvious that Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City of London was indeed fitting – in the words of one delegate “Excellent, couldn't be better.” For those who weren't there, Merchant Taylors' is one of the old liveried companies of the city and has been at this site since 1327, suitably restored after both the Great Fire of London and the Blitz. Today Merchant Taylors is mainly a charitable concern.

The evaluation forms showed a unanimous approval of the venue and the food was greatly appreciated as well. The two speakers were popular - “inspiring”. And the panel was “very interesting”, only more time was needed for discussion and questions. The presence of many former chairs of NASACRE was noted and appreciated – could they not have spoken too? In fact, many people wished that different parts of the day could have gone on longer, including the tea break!

Some of the delegates were relatively new to their SACREs and felt that they learned and understood a great deal more about the role and functioning of a SACRE, only in the future could there be more aimed at new SACRE members?

But many people felt that the most valuable part of the day was the networking – the opportunity to meet people from other SACREs, to discuss different experiences and share good, practical advice. Learning about the challenges facing other SACREs and how they dealt with them, special projects undertaken by SACREs – maybe not “how to”, but “what we did” was what many people felt would benefit them and their SACREs the most.

There was also an interesting proposal for a future speaker – Bishop Michael Curry – preacher at the recent royal wedding!