

Chair's Report - January 2015 Cricklade PCC Meeting

St Sampson's has had an exciting start to 2015. 13 guests attended the first night of the Alpha Course in the White Hart Hotel on 13th Jan, and there were over 60 adults/children at the first Informal Worship Service on 11th Jan. Both of these require a lot of work to sustain them and evolve over the coming weeks, so prayers would be greatly valued for these.

I have a vision for growing the choir at both the 10am and also one 6:30pm service per month, with the hope of encouraging more younger members to join as well as more mature members. This will be supported by Tim Eyles who will be replacing Sarah Townsend as Director of Music (I assume this will be on the Choir Report too). We are delighted that Sarah will continue to play the organ on the 1st and 3rd Sundays still.

I would like to say a big thank you to all who were involved in the Christmas Services in any way, whether in preparation, participation or clearing up afterwards. Christmas at St Sampson's was a wonderful occasion which would have positively impacted the many visitors we had.

I would also like to say thank you to those who took part in the "Vestry Clean Up" before Christmas which has made a large difference. There is still more to be done to tidy the church as a whole, but this was a great first step.

2015 has many possibilities ahead, but I urge caution for starting too many new ventures at the start of the year. My vision for the Upper Thames Group is "To make disciples of Jesus Christ both within and outside of our church community".

This will be partially achieved by:

1. Setting up a Youth Group
2. Expanding both our children's and family work
3. Employing a Youth and/or family worker
4. Providing better care for the sick, the elderly and the lonely
5. Expanding our worship to cater for people's needs, and different stages in their discipleship
6. Running Christian Initiation courses such as Alpha
7. Expanding our Home Groups
8. Reaching our into all areas of our community

These cannot be done all at once, and God's timing is different to ours. But if we have something to aim at, then it will help focus us together as a community with a common cause.

There will be more of this at the Annual Meeting in April, but for the time being, please pray for God's direction in 2015 so that our endeavours would be 'fruit-bearing' for Jesus.

Phil Bradley