

Anglican Worship

Leadership Team member



Revd Simon Howard

Responsible for:

Developing our worship in St Mary's and St James', including identification of new preachers and worship leaders.

Highlights from 2015

- There were 195 parishioners on the Electoral Roll at the 2015 AGM ('14 - 198: '13 - 207: '12 - 205: '11 - 212: '10 - 210).
- Average church attendances were:
 - Ruscombe 9am – 37 ('14 - 37: '13 - 36: '12 - 37: '11 - 36: '10 - 37), 6pm – 14 ('14 - 15: '13 - 16: '12 - 17: '11 - 17: '10 - 16)
 - Twyford 8am monthly BCP communion service – 10 ('14 - 11: '13 - 12: '12 - 12: '11 - 14: '10 - 12)
10.30am – 95 ('14 - 84: '13 - 84: '12 - 100: '11 - 101: '10 - 95) of whom 27 were U16 ('14 - 30: '13 - 24: '12 - 27: '11 - 29: '10 - 26)
Monthly Family Service - 108 ('14 - 102: '13 - 110: '12 - 105: '11 - 120: '10 - 120) of whom 33 were U16 ('14 - 27: '13 - 34: '12 - 32: '11 - 39: '10 - 41)
- Christmas attendances were as follows:
 - Ruscombe Nine Lessons & Carols - 92
Midnight Communion – 56
Christmas Morning Communion - 42
 - Twyford Crib Service – 506 ('14 - 464) of whom 217 ('14 - 202) were under 16
Carols for All – 265 ('14 - 303) of whom 45 ('14 - 67) were under 16
Christmas Morning Communion – 127 ('14 - 115) of whom 38 ('14 - 21) were under 16
- In the course of the year, members of the ministry team were responsible for 9 weddings ('14 - 11: '13 - 8: '12 - 13: '11 - 11: '10 - 11), no wedding blessings ('14 - 1); 30 funerals ('14 - 43: '13 - 36: '12 - 38: '11 - 37: '10 - 27) plus 4 memorial services and 9 separate interments of ashes. They conducted 24 child baptisms ('14 - 28: '13 - 31: '12 - 27: '11 - 20: '10 - 33); 2 children had a service of Naming and Blessing ('14 - 0: '13 - 3: '12 - 1: '11 - 2: '10 - 1). There were 3 Confirmations ('14 - 0: '13 - 4: '12 - 0: '11 - 1: '10 - 3 young people and one adult) and no children were received into communion through CBC ('14 - 5: '13 - 2: '12 - 6: '11 - 2: '10 - 9)
- The monthly mid-week communion continued in the Church centre with an average attendance of 16 ('14 - 19: '13 - 21: '12 - 23).

- We continue to enjoy a wide variety of services and service leaders and preachers. Through the year, our 6 preachers in training delivered 27 sermons between them. Our 2 Worship leaders led 12 services at St James, Discipleship groups led 8 services at St Mary's and the youth group led 2. We had speakers from the 4 missionary organisations we support and 9 services with Prayers for Healing. St Mary's had 5 united services with the URC, 2 of which were 'cafe' style in the URC Hall. St Mary's had 2 united services with St Nicholas Hurst during August, and we all worshipped together as a Benefice and LEP twice. We enjoyed clergy from the Deanery taking 3 of our services
- As planned, all the midweek festival services this year were Benefice & LEP services. This will continue to be the pattern.
- The Preaching & Teaching series on 'Living out our faith in daily life' was postponed and will be delivered as the LICC 'Life on the Frontline' course in Lent groups in 2016.
- We held a 'Listening to God for the Family Service' session in September. Out of it came some pointers for future development. However, due to a lack of time and energy we are struggling to implement them. Growing the team of people involved in the family service is a major need. Numbers attending the Family service have held up however, and new families are coming, primarily through baptisms.
- We didn't hold a 'Back to Church Sunday'. A number of new families started coming to St Mary's during the year, a few through the new 'Bumps & Babies' group. There have also been one or two new folk at St James. The focus has been on welcoming them into the life of the church.
- Maggie Pugh, the founder and leader of 'Teddy Praise' passed away in May. We held our last Teddy Praise service in July.
- In the autumn Revd Geoff Pugh planned and led our first Taizé evening service. It was found to be helpful and there are plans to do it again in 2016.

Plans for 2016 include

- Strengthening the Family service team and developing the worship
- From January change the pattern of the ministers' rota so as to increase the continuity in worship. Revd Geoff Pugh & Paul Minton (LLM) will mainly take services at St James & Revd Simon Howard will mainly take services at St Mary's. The effects of this will be reviewed in June/July.
- Welcome the Revd's Colin Bass & Maureen Devine leading services at St James. They are SSMS from Reading Deanery who responded to Bishop Andrew's request to offer the Benefice occasional Sunday ministry.
- From the MAP - Give Discipleship groups the opportunity to lead services at St James and in the URC.
- From the MAP - Plan a sermon series on Money & Possessions
- From the MAP - Explore ways of obtaining feedback on the services and the welcome people receive without creating a huge 'process'. Then do it!