

Discipleship

Leadership Team member



Revd Simon Howard

Responsible for:

Supporting Discipleship and House Groups; Lent and other ad hoc courses; developing our support for faith in the workplace

Highlights from 2015:

- The leaders of the 6 Discipleship Group met 3 times in 2015. Material studied in the year included "9-a-day - becoming like Jesus", "Revelation" by R Paul Stevens, the book of Acts "building a people of faith", James, Ephesians, Hosea, John's gospel, a Spring Harvest course on parenting teenagers, Luke's gospel, a John Ortberg DVD course called "God is closer than you think", and a Malcolm Duncan DVD course called "Unbelievable".
- A new poster was produced advertising the groups in church, and a congregational questionnaire undertaken seeking the reasons why people weren't part of groups.
- In the course of the year the number of people in discipleship groups grew by 27% from 48 to 61!
- A new Benefice Discipleship group was started. Its members were all confirmed in the last 3 years. 3 members of St Mary's are part of the group.
- The Lent course on the Book of Revelation based on 'The Lamb wins' by Richard Bewes attracted more participants than last year.
- We haven't yet identified prayer materials for discipleship groups.
- After attending a 'Contemplative Ministry Course' the Vicar has identified work by Richard Ruhr that helps to understand what stops people growing closer to God. Study materials are yet to be found.
- Members of Discipleship groups took a lead role in the church response at the Donkey Derby and the Christmas Fair.
- 3 Discipleship groups led a total of 8 services at St Mary's.
- The annual enquirers course used the new 'Pilgrim' materials produced by the Church of England. 6 people took part, 3 of whom were confirmed and joined 'D' groups. Maggie Cooper and Simon Howard led it.

Plans for 2016 include

- A Benefice and LEP Lent course using the LICC course 'Life on the Frontline'
- Continue work on Identifying those things that stop people growing closer to God and addressing them in a Discipleship group course.
- Encourage a discipleship group to organise a community event.
- Identify and promote prayer material for discipleship groups.