

Vicar's Blog

January 2016

Wish upon a star for 2016

At our Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting in November we agreed a Vision for Holy Trinity Longlevens. This marked the culmination of about 6 months of prayerful consultation, discussion and reflection. With the support of a small Vision and Strategy group (Robin Hayter, Mary Humphris, Lis Lowe and Alan Watson) we gathered input from within the church and from various groups and organisations, including the mums who attend Tea and Chat and people who come to the pre-school groups Inbetweenies. We gathered ideas on the things we value about Holy Trinity, which we should continue to cherish and also our hopes for the future. Many of you may have seen the display board in church during October and November, covered with thoughts and ideas captured on hearts and stars. There was much encouragement, and challenge, in the rich picture represented on those hearts and stars.

I am grateful for the honesty from so many people, that has helped us to identify a direction, which I believe builds on a solid foundation, yet calls us to look forward with fresh eyes, listening ears and open minds.

We have a collection of ideas which include things we should try and achieve and values that we need to hold on to and strengthen. Out of all this we have distilled a vision statement which we believe is what God is calling us to be, and therefore what we must strive to be:

A growing and vibrant church with an open door, through which we take God's love out into the community and welcome and nourish with God's love all who enter.

On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany, the time when we remember the journey of the Kings, who followed a star to find the Messiah, who brought new hope and salvation for this world.

As we journey beyond Epiphany this year, may we follow the star that leads us to our vision, with renewed hope and love in our hearts, not only for ourselves, but for the sake of others.

We are all part of realising this vision.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13.4

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Psalm 34.8

Gwyneth