

On Going Initiatives

Weddings

Promoting Weddings. Because of the beauty of our Churches and their grounds, many couples want to get married in them but can only do so by attending Church regularly for six months. For nine years this has been part of our 'going for growth ' policy. Engaged couples are invited to a wine and nibbles party to meet together and exchange ideas, meet the Organist to arrange Wedding Music, discuss floral arrangements etc. An estimated 20% of these couples continue to join our regular congregations and are invited to attend a Service on their first anniversary. Financially these weddings are an important part of the Parish's income.
Question: Is all of this going to stop with the retirement of Rev.Decia Smith?

Baptism Team & Children

For two years now, couples wishing to have their children Baptised are visited by members of a team to go through the significance of the Service, to have the various forms and documents explained and follow-ups visits over the next 3 years. Children are free to be present for the whole of Family worship and valued in their leadership roles.

Funeral Day

A drop in resource day on 7th November providing an opportunity to plan a funeral in the quiet and peaceful space of St Mary's. There will be talks from clergy, solicitors and funeral directors. Full programme to be published during the summer.

Parish Website

Www.toknowandtoshare.co.uk - Providing a comprehensive and up-to-date schedule of services and events in and around the parish. A recent addition is a Facebook page (TK&TS-Interactive) for those married and to be married in the parish.

Pastoral Visiting Team

There are strong monthly links with Abbots Leigh Manor for Holy Communion and pastoral care. An invitation is extended in "The Link" (parish magazine) for anyone requiring a member of the PVT to visit. This invitation has not been taken up principally because of the prevalence of the practice of being "good neighbours" in this parish.

People

Most members of our congregations are also members of a wide range of other organizations both in the parish and beyond. Such links, while perhaps less tangible than other initiatives, we consider of great significance, as wider concerns become part of the prayer of the church and the spiritual nourishment of worship is taken into the life of the week ahead.

HOLY TRINITY, ABBOTS LEIGH & ST MARY'S. LEIGH WOODS



GOING FOR GROWTH!

Priest in Charge: Revd Decia Smith
Associate Priest: Revd Ros Wilson

LLMs: **Mr Andrew Smith**
Mr Mark Tubey
Mrs Wo Hill

The Vicarage: Tel: 01275-373996
Email: revdecia@yahoo.co.uk

Think PINC !

In the Autumn of 2007, members from the Parish of Abbots and Leigh Woods were invited to attend four meetings at the vicarage under the leadership of the Rev. Ros. Wilson. These meetings had the headings :

Partnership - Influence - Numbers and Commitment based on our pledge:

**"Knowing God
and Sharing His Love with others"**

FIVE YEAR PLAN

Develop a structure of 'running' the Parish when the present incumbent retires. Possibilities:

A) 'Pruning for Growth'

Set up a new pattern of services . Not reducing variety of Services but decreasing the number of services

B) Greater collaboration with neighbouring Parish of Holy Trinity, Hotwells - with more interaction between congregations and clergy.

C) Developing lay ministries—this already happening through family worship.

D) Using our Churches as resources for other purposes.

E) Developing "Pause in the Noise" an event to celebrate the spirituality of the arts.

IDEAS

Parish Prayers

Tea Time Special

Integration

Environment & Justice

Men's Breakfast meetings.

Back to Church

The Link & Worship

ACTION

Each month, suggestions are made for our personal prayers in order to create a feeling of ' fellowship with our Church Community'. These suggestions are highlighted each week in Pew News which is handed out at every Service.

Once a month members of our community, not necessarily Churchgoers, are invited to come and have a cup of tea and a piece of cake in the Vestry at St. Mary's Church and listen to a speaker. This has proved very popular and is aimed at people who perhaps live alone and don't get out much.

Integration with our neighbouring Church, Holy Trinity, Hotwells, for special Services. E.g. Taize, Iona and shared lent Courses and Pulpit swaps.

Church Fabric fund-raising includes whole community.

Reflections on 'Green issues' . Parish L-E Light Bulb Library. Taking account of need for sustainable energy in church restoration work. Promotion of Fair Trade Products - currently on pilot scheme.

This has yet to be put into practice

Our 'Back to Church' Sunday was aimed at inviting people who had dropped out of the habit of attending Church Services to come along and try again. For this, we held a simple request Service of Favourite Hymns and 'disparate' readings This was well attended with many new faces and will be tried again this year.

"The Link", delivered to every home in the parish, includes full details of all services. All newcomers to the Parish receive a "Welcome Pack" which also includes our Church brochure "InsideOut". There is a wide variety of services including: Family Services, Parish Communion, Services with Prayer for Healing, Sung Evensong, Holy Communion BCP 1662. Also special Services: Salvation Army, Taize, Iona, Worship without Words and Prayer Labyrinth.