

UPPER WYLYE VALLEY TEAM

Bishop Nicholas' presentation Let's Talk (extracted from the minutes of the Team Council 7th February 2013)

P.C.Cs. have been asked to comment and report back but the Team has an opportunity to discuss it in relation to the Team and see what we can do about it.

The Rector wanted to concentrate on slide 17:

The meeting broke up into smaller groups and discussed "What is the Personality and Character of your Church?"

We came together to share thoughts.

- We are not always as welcoming as we think. Are we a friendly church or a church of friends?
- Many people support the church although they do not attend.
- Sometimes we struggle as a team. Team Services are considered by some as a day off.
- There is a feeling that the majority of regular worshippers are incomers. Those born and raised do not attend but they are there as proved by attendance at funerals.

There followed a wide ranging discussion on the following questions

- What are the priorities of your local church?
- Is there one thing you would like to take on or develop in the coming year (recognising that may mean you may need to stop doing something else)?
- Are there ways in which we can work together with neighbouring churches to achieve more?
- How can we best measure the quality and impact of church life?

The Revd Adrian Pollard had started a youth group in Codford

For many the priorities were fabric and finance

A thing we could take on would be to discuss something other than fabric and finance at the P.C.C.

John Tomlinson pointed out that was the intention of the first half of all P.C.Cs.

We need to be more organised about agenda items at P.C.Cs. and produce papers to be read before the meeting

John Stidolph had noticed a decline in attendance at Easter.

Over all the congregations in the Team had not gone down that much in the past fifty years although we could not afford to be complacent. There was no cause for despondency

A more telling measure of the quality and impact of church life might be the support for extracurricular activities like "Birthday cakes for Jesus" and "Holidays at Home".

It is good to worship with a large congregation. The buzz is greater as experienced at the confirmation service on Sunday 3rd February.