

All Saints 2010

October 2010

Have you started making any New Year resolutions? That's a bit early isn't it Andrew? Well, in a worldly sense it's probably something the media doesn't start to cover until after Christmas but for the Church the New Year begins in Advent. It is a time of waiting and preparation as we journey towards the power and the drama of the Incarnation – God becoming one of us!

So I ask the question again – have you made any New Year resolutions? Rev Tony Rose set us a really healthy challenge for 2011; to read the Bible in a year to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Version being published. I was wondering if it would be worth putting up a pledge board at the back of church for people to sign up and say that they are going to read the Bible in a year?

Another resolution may be to think about how we give. We are going to be looking at the subject of giving over the next three Sundays and hopefully appreciating that it is a lot more than simply sticking our hand in our pocket or doing a bit of volunteering. We give as a response to God who gave first. We give as part of our worship to the God who cared so much for us that He poured Himself out into the form of a little babe. That sounds so sweet in our carols but was actually real live flesh and blood sent onto this spinning planet. The drama of Christmas points to the triumph of Easter, but what a journey between the two and what a glorious journey after – hallelujah! As we look at giving in the Church please think and pray through whether you have got your giving right from the amount you give, whether in time or money or of yourself? It may be that as you pray.

God wants you to step back from something to concentrate on others or let others have a go, but it may be that God asks you to plunge on deeper and in faith!

One very big step of faith that we will be taking in 2011 is to commit to running a series on the 10 Commandments as designed by the evangelist J John. The series is called 'Just 10' and will commence the Sunday after Epiphany. Our Sunday services will be broadly similar but have some different aspects and different styles of delivery. One of the blessings of the series is that it will build up the body of believers but the main aim will be to reach out to those outside the church or those who only attend irregularly. Please can you start to think and pray about one or two people you would like to invite along to the 'Just 10' Sunday services and let's see how God blesses us all!

So here comes the New Year . . . on your marks, get set, pray!

Andrew +