

Mike's message

Working Together

For most of the time I've been at St Andrew's I've also preached at other churches on the Methodist Circuit. It's something I greatly enjoy and it's a privilege to be part of our two churches; The Church of England and The Methodist Church.

Until this year my contribution to the Circuit was purely voluntary. However, as the two churches each needed to cut staff across the area it made sense to combine my roles. The Methodist Church agreed to pay the Diocese of Lichfield (Church of England) for half the cost of my ministry. I'm still paid the same as before, but half is financed by each church.

There have been changes to the way I work. I now have the great pleasure and privilege to have, in addition to St Andrew's, pastoral charge of Ryders Green Road Methodist Church and also a share with Revd Phil Thomas in the care of Wesley, West Bromwich. Whereas before most of my involvement on the Methodist Circuit was on Sundays I now divide my time "on a joint and equal basis between the two churches" (as the Diocese describe the arrangement).

As years go by I believe that this arrangement will have to become more common. The Church of England and the Methodist Church are united by much more than divides them. Not only will there be a need to share ministers, but also buildings as we have done at St Andrew's for over 25 years. Far too many resources that should be used on mission and service to the community, are tied up in the care of church buildings.

In the midst of all this I've been asked by the Diocese of Lichfield to take on the role of Area (Rural) Dean. This role is a link between the Diocese and the Church of England parishes in West Bromwich and also has a strategic role in planning for the future. I will be working to discern where God wants us to work together as The Methodist Church and The Church of England in future.

Please pray for my ministry as I pray for yours.



Service of Confirmation and Membership

Sunday 11th October 2015
9.30am

We will be welcoming The Rt Revd Clive Gregory (Bishop of Wolverhampton) to St Andrew's on Sunday 11th October.

This is our Service of Confirmation and Membership at which children (10 years old and over) and adults can renew the vows made for them at their Baptism, which may have been when they were a young child.

Confirmation is also, by tradition, admission to receiving the bread and wine at Holy Communion. It is also when, as part of our shared life as an Ecumenical Partnership, those confirmed become members of the Methodist Church as well as communicant members of the Church of England.

If you are interested in being Confirmed and admitted to Membership please see me for details.

Mike