

# Vicar's Blog

May 2017

Let's celebrate

As I write this piece for the May edition of Roundabout Longlevens I am at the final stage of preparation for our annual church council meeting on 23 April. Part of my preparation is to put together a presentation using photographs of events and initiatives we have been involved in over the last 12 months.

The annual report booklet we have put together for the meeting is full of words and the meeting itself will involve a lot of speaking. The photographic record of the year will, I hope, help those attending to get a better feel for the life of our church over the last twelve months. Inevitably very few people are able to engage directly with everything we do and only see a snapshot of activities. Looking back at the photographic record I feel blessed by the rich mixture of worship and activities in which we have been involved. It is uplifting to see such a rich mixture of people involved and so many smiling faces. The record speaks of church life being lived with joy and of church being accessible to a wide range of people.

Putting the presentation together I have been reminded of the wonder of occasions that I might easily have overlooked or would not be able to describe effectively with words.

Looking back, I have been reminded of how much we have moved forward over the year and have been able to understand more clearly where we are now and the direction in which we are moving.

It is all too easy to get trapped by the busyness of what is happening now and the worry of the inevitable uncertainty of the future. Looking back helps us to hold things in perspective, to identify a direction of travel and to grow confidence in the priorities for moving on together. Memories and stories shared can encourage and grow confidence. As I write this, we have just celebrated Easter. As you read this we will be planning for Pentecost. Easter, Pentecost and other church festivals are times for us to look back. As we look back we are reminded of the wonder of God's love and strength. As we experience the festivals we are reminded that God is still with us. As you read this and we look forward to Pentecost I pray we can find renewed excitement in the realisation that God is with us, enabling us through his Holy and life-giving Spirit. There is much more we can do for and with him.

*Gwyneth*