

Living Streams

Ezekiel 47:12 NIV

Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.

The aim of *Living Streams* is to encourage and nurture Christian discipleship and to promote and facilitate Christian healing. Through this past year *Living Streams* services were held on the first Sunday evening of each month, except for the first Sunday in January.

Praise services are held at All Saints' Madeley. Praise with Prayer for Healing services are held at St. Margaret's Betley and offer a quieter style of worship with opportunity for prayer for healing.

There has been a slight decline in the numbers attending from All Saints' Church and a considerable decline in numbers attending from St. Margaret's but overall the size of the congregation has remained stable and recently shown an increase. This is due to newcomers from other churches which has offset the decline from our local congregations. We now have at least five churches represented in most services with a growing interest as we progress into 2016.

The services have been led throughout this year, mainly by our own team of worship leaders but with Revd. Jane Tillier being our guest speaker at the August Praise service. We hope to invite other guest speakers this year.

The theme for our 2015 meetings was "What is he on about?" where we looked at some of the challenging statements made by the Apostle Paul in his letters. In August, we also spent an afternoon at Shallowford House where, with relaxing free time, we held a Taizé style communion service which was very much appreciated by all those attending with a request that we repeat the event.

Through 2016 we have brought in two themes for our monthly services; the Praise services will look at 'Praise songs in the Bible' and the Praise with Prayer for Healing services will look at 'Healing miracles in the Bible'

A warm invitation is again extended to all. Details of services and events are in the Parish Magazine and Church notice sheets with plans to include details on the All Saints' Facebook page.

Alan Bailey, March 2016