

ON MESSAGE FOR JANUARY 2016.

Every Sunday at St Martin's as in many churches we recite the Creed together, but what do we understand by it and does it remain useful at the beginning of the twenty-first century? This was the question the On Message group tackled on the 10th January.

We all agreed that it was a complex subject that demanded a lot of thought, but in our discussion we found a number of ways that we could approach it. Is the creed a focus of unity for Christians? As one of our group reminded us the early church had a simple creed expressed in the statement 'Jesus is Lord.' Is that enough to unite us? And we agreed that assent to a group of statements or adherence to a law cannot be a substitute for a commitment in practice to love and care for our sisters and brothers. Faith is proclaimed and made real in the things we do, something, which is clear in the teachings of Jesus. "God is love", and it is in loving that we make real the presence of God in our world.

Our other question raised the issue of the authority of bishops especially for lay people who had not made any vows of obedience. The Anglican idea that we base our faith on scripture, tradition but also on our own consciences and ability to reason was felt to be important here. We are called to be adults in faith as well as in fact.

Maybe this raises questions for you, so why not pop them in the box at the back of the church and come along to the next meeting.

Rob Pearson.