

Discussion of results from open 'Consultation on Worship'

It was felt that the process had been very encouraging and there was a 'buzz' for the consultation on Sunday morning (27.10.19). Verbal comments recorded that there is a very positive feel about the variety of styles of worship offered at Westborough. Very positive comments about Graham's ministry.

Time was spent discussing the comments which were all valued and will be borne in mind when planning worship at Westborough. Many comments had both positives and negatives. Some comments were statements that needed no discussion. Some ideas were implemented, some are on the back burner, some experimentation will be taking place. Watch this space !

(Numeral in brackets indicates similar comments. A comma indicates change of comment. **Bold/Italics indicates actions!**)

(RLA = requested local arrangement (on preaching plan). LA = Local arrangement)

MORNING WORSHIP

- Think that the Sunday am services are good – feels comfortable, really enjoy the variety of styles (21), enjoyed worship at Flourish (3)
- Styles of worship – consider more alternative styles, a specific worship to invite those who use the building (U3A, uniformed parents, over 60's etc), more relevant worship for people from secular backgrounds. ***Trial - All Ages, family friendly, less formal service first Sunday morning in every month (except Jan) suitable for anyone to attend. (When Graham is unavailable then Worship Leaders to plan = RLA)***
- Liked singing to a familiar hymn during offering this morning.
- Keep to 10.30am but ensure finish by 11.30am (6), regular earlier services (9.30am) in the summer months (2). ***After unsuccessful trialling of earlier service times last year, morning worship will remain at 10.30am. Traditionally most of our services do conclude by 11.30am however, on the rare occasion when, for whatever reason, the service runs over, we would encourage those who have to leave, to do so***
- Improving the 'silence' before worship (2) – quiet playing of 'hymn' whilst waiting for preacher ***Trial - preacher being led in to church by the vestry steward who will then publicly welcome the preacher and introduce a time of silence during which the candle will be lit.***
- Young children should be encouraged to go out with Sunday School. We are a family church and children should be encouraged whether in church or in Sunday School (2)

EVENING WORSHIP

- Like all styles of evening worship (3), appreciate the quieter, more intimate atmosphere of evening services (5)
- More film and alternative worship downstairs please (2) ***Trial – Second Sunday in month to be RLA***
- Evening services downstairs in small chapel or coffee lounge (10), rearranging furniture. ***From January through to the clocks going forward, in an attempt to be good stewards, i.e. not wasting heat etc, the evening service will normally be held in the Chapel downstairs. Rearranging furniture to make the areas more usable. To be reviewed in Spring.***
- Keep evening service upstairs please (2), rearranging furniture
- In winter – 5.30pm start or 6.00pm. ***Keep to 6.30pm start. Arranging lifts – need someone to organise – any volunteers?***
- Do we need an evening service – numbers are few, dark nights, less viable (3). Midweek, quieter worship? ***Trial – Second Sunday in month to be RLA. 4th Sunday in month united service with Queen Street – but only when there isn't a Circuit or CTiS service already planned in that month.***

HOLY COMMUNION

- Flourish communion by Graham and Emma at Westborough please (5), more sung communion.
- Love communion as it is (6) – especially like children/newcomers welcomed (3)
- Is there still a place for early morning communion at 7.45am – originally for anyone going to work? (2), happy to change to 10.30am. Is evening communion still viable? ***Attendees at both mid week communion services to be asked to comment on frequency and timing of services.***
- Don't want communions twice on the same Sunday
- Many of the modern communion liturgies very helpful. Prefer less liturgy in communion.
- Should we publicise early and midweek communions around the circuit? (2) **Yes**
- Single cups rather than chalice. Stewards to organise people walking down centre aisle when leaving from communion rail, communion distributed by the minister please – or alternate sides. ***On Sundays, single cups are very much the norm and will continue to be so. The chalice is simply there to be used, on the very rare occasion, that the number of communicants exceeds the number of cups available. This has happened once in the last number of years. The chalice is the norm at mid-week communion services and anyone is free to retain the bread and dip it into the chalice rather than drinking directly from it. The bread and wine will be distributed by the presiding minister and one assistant.***
- I like having the weekly communions during advent and lent – time of preparation.

SPECIAL SERVICES

- Alternative styles of worship planned on a regular basis please (2)
- Can we ask preachers to be more pro-active using different and more creative styles of worship? **Will be added to the preacher's letter sent by the stewards that we welcome alternative styles.**
- Worship Leaders for Christmas morning if no other preacher available
- Can we have; songs of praise/hymns chosen by congregation, make Harvest bigger event, more healing and wholeness (2)
- Enjoy All age/parade services (6) – children rather than leaders reading please, readers need to be more rehearsed, encourage uniform/families to come to a dedicated children's service? **First Sunday morning in month to be All Age 'Family friendly' whether Parade or not (except for January)**
- This morning's service could have been classed as ECG (Graham's) think it's the title that can put people off (2), Less ECG especially Easter (4), enjoy ECG particularly Easter (3) More Pam Ward (6) and Christine Hey.

MUSIC/ARTS

- Like backing tracks, excellent for modern hymns and those we don't know. (10) Modern songs and hymns most welcome.(2)
- Like the organ as well (3)
- Are there musicians we could call on from around the town when none available for services eg St Augustines, Music Centre etc. Investigate electronic hymnals eg West Ayton - **Investigating options**
- Love to see more drama (3) and dance (2) in services. Love the music/arts aimed at younger people (Easter/Christmas service by Lesley) can we have more during the church calendar?
- Music group too loud and too often (3). Worship band on more please.
- More video clips
- Sung Lord's Prayer
- Screen helps people to look up, singing better, don't have to hold hymn book, helpful for hard of hearing (1). Helpful to have any readings on the screen. **Now implemented + Powerpoints every morning service**
- Hymn practise at end of week for unfamiliar hymns/songs? **Singing for Fun very popular elsewhere – incorporating hymn/song rehearsals. Need someone to lead.**

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Encourage the younger people – we are an ageing congregation (4)
- Be kind to those who are volunteers (3)
- Shopper's service each week – lunchtime? **Not sure we are in the right position in town but thinking caps are on – any ideas welcome.**
- Collection plate at top of stairs so can be done on arrival.
- Welcome packs for new worshippers **In process of being developed.**
- Learning disabilities included well in services
- Can we swap seats sometimes, I wish people sat closer together, I'm struggling with church member's names **You are very welcome to sit wherever you would like in any service. Church Family photo album discussed, being aware that first names only should be used (safeguarding) and only with permission.**
- Less commercials in services
- Can local arrangements be arranged on the plan – not just to fill a hole - **Discussion of RLA and preaching plan.**
- Publicity for every service – Facebook (2), webpage, outside noticeboards.
- Make slime in Sunday school

OTHER ISSUES RAISED

- Could we provide a rota system for transporting our elderly/housebound to services – bus services aren't always available. **Need volunteer to co-ordinate – any offers?**
- Communication – electronic distribution of notices/Messenger - **Notice to go in service sheet. Neil to implement. Service sheet first then Messenger.**
- Parade planning (positive and negative comments) – **Graham arranging meeting with Leaders to discuss**
- Harvest Supper/Church Anniversary meals – **Church Life**
- More social events – **Church life**
- Make name badges more professional