

Welcome to the
Parish Church of St Mark
Serving the people of Broomhill & Broomhall

WORSHIP AT ST MARK'S



Foundational Insights, Aspirations
& Commitments

Worship Survey:
10.00 am Actions

'The beating heart of a church'

Dear worshipper

Worship is the beating heart of a church – vital, life-giving, resourcing everything else we do. In certain respects, it is like a living organism with shape, structure and inner coherence. And it is one that needs to evolve and mature as we journey on in faith and make fresh discoveries of what it means to follow Jesus Christ in this time and place.

For this reason, our worship needs to be kept under review which explains why I recently invited you to complete a survey. The response has been hugely encouraging with over 100 questionnaires returned. Thank you for investing the time and careful consideration to participate in this way.

Jane Padgett has done a wonderful job in collating all our responses into a single document (copies are available in the library or to purchase). Please read it. Ponder its insights, breadth of opinion and wisdom. And, as you do, grow in appreciation of the miracle that is public worship – namely, of how a disparate group of persons with very different backgrounds, outlooks, preferences and needs can gather together around the story of Jesus and find a sense of community in one another's company and meaning for their lives.

The Parochial Church Council has spent two evenings considering both the principles informing our worship and the findings of the survey. This document presents where we've reached so far, including actions relating to the 10 o'clock service which will be implemented from Advent onwards.

It would be impossible to include everything that has been suggested, but we have attempted to incorporate areas garnering strong support. In the coming weeks, please be patient – evolution takes time! As a means of gathering feedback on a regular basis, a Comments Box will be placed at the back of church for your use.

With grateful thanks and good wishes.

Ian Wallis, *Vicar*

Worship: Foundational Insights, Aspirations & Commitments

- Orientates towards God, transcendence, otherness.
- Is rooted in divine hospitality (Eucharistic / Trinitarian).
- Gives expression to a Jesus-based theology and spirituality.
- Is liturgical (structured services).
- Is resonant with the Anglican Way (scripture, tradition, reason).
- Creates space for reflection and encounter.
- Ministers to heart and mind.
- Is open, honest and searching.
- Is intellectually robust and challenging.
- Is beautiful, graceful and artistic.
- Is inclusive and accessible.
- Cultivates humility, attention and vulnerability.
- Embraces different expressions and emphases.
- Nurtures faith and Christ-likeness (spirituality).
- Informs and inspires discipleship (service).
- Is reconciling and creative of community.
- Delights in humanity and is life-affirming.
- Relates to life and the challenges of human existence.
- Engages with the pain of the world.
- Responds to human suffering and injustice.
- Takes sin and evil seriously.

Worship Survey: 10.00 am Actions

- Make accessible the principles shaping our liturgy.
- Liturgy: continue to use a range of resources, incorporated into service booklets for the festivals, liturgical seasons and themed Sundays – maintaining a balance between freshness and familiarity.
- Durations: services (60-75 minutes); sermons (15 minutes max); intercessions (5 minutes max). Overly wordy services to be avoided.
- Pre-Service: include a notice on the weekly sheet, encouraging an atmosphere of quietness and preparation prior to worship.
- Prayers of Penitence: early and post-intercessions positions to be used at different times of the year.

- Bibles Readings: to experiment with distributing Bibles rather than printing out the passages (to reduce paper/photocopier usage).
- Hymns: when suitable words can be identified, to experiment with using hymn books rather than printing hymns out (as above).
- Introduce longer periods of silence after the first reading and sermon (each 1 minute) and within the intercessions.
- Prepare guidelines for readers and intercessors on how to use the sound amplification system and to maximize audibility.
- Offertory Procession: Include a broader cross-section of worshippers and incorporate the Intercessor to accompany the alms-bearer.
- Prepare an intercessions resource book for use during the daily offices and within the offertory procession on Sunday.
- Affirmations/Creeds: to be included during liturgical seasons and at other suitable times.
- Notices: announcements at the end of the service to be kept to a minimum and usually orchestrated by a member of the clergy; wherever possible, those wishing to give an announcement should make their request known to the clergy beforehand.
- Organist: To employ locum organists for the rest of the year with a view, finances permitting, to making a permanent appointment in 2011.
- Create opportunities for young people to contribute to services, including chorally or musically.
- Reintroduce 'bring & share' parish lunches.
- Sung Liturgy: to review whether Advent and Lent are the most suitable seasons or whether they should be replaced by Epiphany and Easter.
- Provision for Young People: Focus Group coordinated by Sue Hammersley to review current provision, explore developments and report back to the PCC.
- Accessibility of Worship: Focus Group coordinated by Gary Grief to review current provision, explore developments and report back to the PCC.
- All-Age Worship: In principle, to be continued, but after consultation with young people.
- To introduce a 'Comments Box' to facilitate ongoing feedback.