

St. Peter's Church, Iver Sunday Morning Service

Dear church members,

The PCC has recently begun a review of the way that we structure Sunday morning worship in St. Peter's Church.

The proposal is to increase the number of services at St. Peter's from two to three, with service times being 8am, 9.15am and 11am. No decisions have been taken, and we are seeking to obtain the views of as many people as possible, in order that we may be 'of one mind' in this matter.

Services at St. Leonard's are not affected by this proposal and will continue in their present form.

The suggested pattern is as follows:

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| 8am | Holy Communion, using the BCP every week. |
| 9.15 am | Alternating Morning Worship/Holy Communion using a liturgically based format, based on Common Worship, using a mixture of organ and keyboard (largely determined by the availability of a musician). |
| 11.00am | A 'less structured' style of worship, with teaching, prayer and ministry, more experiential than liturgical, music led by the Worship Group. Communion to be held once a month. |

Young People's, Children's and Toddler's groups to be held alongside the 11,00am service, with an 'All-Age' slot to begin the worship time together.

Coffee to be served between all services – the social dimension of Sunday mornings being a very important aspect of our worship (but clearly dependent upon there being sufficient volunteers to form a 'rota', or several rotas).

The Bellringers have a choice. They have the option of ringing for either the 9.15, or the 11.00 service (or both!)

Different teams of sidesmen/audio desk/video operators will need to be used as appropriate at the three services.

The prayer ministry team will need to be expanded in order to have members available after all services.

We need to ensure sufficient musicians to cover two sung services on a Sunday morning.

There will inevitably be some 'special' Sundays (e.g. Remembrance Sunday, Confirmation Service) which will have to be organised differently.

The proposal includes the suggestion of holding a parish lunch on a fairly regular basis after the 11am service (perhaps monthly), depending upon sufficient volunteers to help with the organisation.

REASONS FOR THE CHANGE

By holding three Sunday morning services, each with a distinctive style of worship, we are seeking to apply our Mission Statement ('to make Jesus known to the people of Iver') within our worship. The aim is quite simply to attract more people to become regular worshippers. Whilst initially 'two becoming three' may lead to smaller congregations, the long term aim is to see growth in all services. Inevitably, people have differing worship needs, and personal tastes, for style of worship. This proposal seeks to recognise that fact by offering three distinctive styles of worship, but united around the common faith that we all profess.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

St. Peter's has recently seen an increase in the number of young families attending the 10.00am service. This encouraging trend needs to be built upon and developed. Under this new proposal, the 11.00am service is the most 'family friendly' service and would be the obvious time to hold existing youth and children's groups.

THE 11am SERVICE

This is the service which will require the most planning. I suggest a small planning group to be responsible for its organisation.

The initial proposal is that the service should aim to last for an hour, but begin with a time of worship from 10.50am, and conclude with worship, and the opportunity for prayer and ministry from 12noon. The actual hour, 11 – 12 would begin with an 'all-age slot' before young people's groups commence.

PREPARING FOR THE CHANGE

If the proposal is adopted, the obvious time to begin is September – the start of a new academic year. Much work will need to be done over the summer.

The launch needs to be well advertised, and the new pattern clearly explained:

- A letter from Tim to every member of the electoral roll.
- A personal invitation to people who have dropped off the electoral roll, or no longer attend worship.
- A wider invitation via the magazine, the local press, and poster campaign to the whole village.

If the proposal is adopted, the first six months would be a trial period, with continuous review throughout that period.

AND FINALLY.....

The PCC will be meeting on June 24th. If you have any comments or suggestions to add to the discussion, please give them to any member of the PCC.

Thank you for reading,

Revd. Tim Eady, Vicar.