

Naseby Group – Proposed Service Pattern

We're working towards a new service pattern starting in September 2025, which focuses on growth and sustainability in response to how people now connect with their local church.

Starting Point (The Crunchy Bit)

- Most of our churches are at risk of closure within 5-10 years due to declining and aging congregations. So now more than ever, we must work together. ***This - requires us to adapt urgently.***
- We need a **bold** and **adaptive** approach, shaped by research and practical experience, which focuses on reaching younger members of our communities (children, families, younger adults).

Key Principles

- Avoid duplicate services (except for major festivals)
- To see reaching younger generations as our primary mission.
- To hold all-age services which are family focused and where there are toilets.
- Keep consistent monthly service times.
- Ensure Ministry Team have time to rest and travel
- Offer services beyond just Sundays
- Try/explore new styles of worship (Mixed Ecology)
- Festivals are key times of opportunity to connect with our local communities
- ***All of this needs to be underpinned by prayer***

New Vision

It is proposed that we increasingly consider ourselves as:

- 1 Church (the body of Christ), ***with..***
- 7 Ancient Church Buildings, ***that host...***
- 5 Worship Times / Streams, ***including..***
- 9 Expressions of Worship...

This will see us launch a new 4pm congregation aimed at connecting with families but open to all ages.

1 Church – the
body of Christ,



7 Ancient Church
Buildings, that host



5 Worship Times/
Streams, including.



9 Expressions
of Worship.



Envisaged Worship Times & Styles

Time/Stream	Description	Hosted By	Notes
The Morning Stream - 10AM (Sun)	Holy Communion and Service of the Word	Four Parishes	Traditional
The Fun @ 4PM Stream - (Sun)	Family-focused service in partnership with schools, informal and ends with food	In the 3 villages with schools	Intergenerational, informal
The Evening Stream - 6:15 PM (Sun)	Rotating styles: Evensong, Communion, Taizé, Songs of Praise, seeker-friendly	Two Parishes	Varied worship
The Midweek Stream -12:00 PM (Wed)	Said Holy Communion with reflection	Four Parishes	Midweek worship
The Agricultural Stream - (dates set for the whole year)	Festival Church model focusing on 6 key agricultural services	One parish	Seasonal/festival services

Hosting Language

- “Hosting” means taking turns to welcome others—our way of travelling in grace and sharing hospitality.

The Language of Streams

- Streams meander through the countryside. They provide refreshment to those who pass by. In the same way our times of meeting together need to meander through the villages of our Benefice.
- Streams eventually flow into lakes - on 5th Sundays we will gather together as one United Church - followed by a shared meal.

Important Notes

- All services (except festivals) will be Benefice Services.
- Main festivals will still be celebrated in local villages to maintain community ties.
- There will still be Holy Communion every Sunday, just not duplicated.
- The current series of Café Church will come to an end, potentially evolving into weekday bible/home groups. Those that have become regulars will be encouraged to find their place with another stream
- Evensong, 2nd Sunday, will continue to be congregational led
- Sibbertoft Manor services will continue monthly.
- The 1st Sunday Benefice Service will now be on 5th Sundays, rotating and followed by meals/socials.
- Forest Church won't return to its old format, but outdoor worship will appear elsewhere.
- Evening service changed to 6:15 to allow time to travel after the 4pm activities.

Christenings

- A new christening strategy will be introduced, considering the proposed changes to service times.

What Adaptive Church Looks Like

- Be open to traveling to other villages for services to build critical mass and a warm and welcoming environment.
- Pick a service time/stream (e.g., 10am, 4pm, 6:15pm) and attend (at least one stream) regularly. (Drop in on other services streams as and when suits you.)
- Support the 4pm family service, even if it's not your preferred style. (Eg. Helping to set up / tidy away, join the welcome team or catering team, commit to pray).
- Embrace change and help create welcoming, seeker-friendly worship.

What Next..?

PCC's are invited to consult on this paper and to offer feedback to their representative on the benefits council.

PCC's are also asked to prayerfully consider which stream they might be able to host, of the 10am, 6:15pm, Midweek and the agricultural streams.

This will be discussed at the Benefice council on the 10th of June.

What Questions do I have...?