

All Saints' Guildford

Worship Vision Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday 10th April 2018, 7.30pm at the Vicarage

Present: Cally Burch, Noeleen Dunn, Pippa Ford, Henrietta Harding, Carolyn Nicholls, Mike Truman, Beverly Watson (chair)

Apologies: David Barclay, Lesley Graham, Richard Hemingway, Sue Hemingway, Martyn Whiteman

BW opened the meeting with welcome and worship

1. Notes agreed from last meeting, 15th January 2018

2. Review of festivals/special services since last meeting

Ash Wednesday – VG agreed that it works well to have this centralised service with people gathering together at St. Mary's from different churches. BW preached and the church had been full. C.10-12 people went from All Saints'.

Palm Sunday – A good, upbeat service at 10am with good music, although in church the songs were slow on the organ and might have been better played on the piano. The quiet and reflective "Tenebrae" service in the evening provided a clever, poignant contrast. (In previous years we have held a joint choral evensong, but as the URC had other plans, we had the "Tenebrae" service instead.)

Maundy Thursday – traditional stripping of altar and washing of feet (by BW) went well

Good Friday – v. interactive and evocative service led by PF, walking the congregation through the events from the Last Supper until Jesus' death, with scripture readings playing a central part. A few observations:

- We want to promote the Good Friday service more, as being a (the!) crucial part of Easter. Received testimony this year from at least 1 regular churchgoer that only now did Easter "start to make sense", having been properly through the Good Friday story first, in this service. MT pointed out that one effective way of seeing this period as a whole is to have no final blessing in any of the services from the Maundy Thursday service until the end of the first Easter Day service, so you get that sense of events hanging, unresolved...
- The service started at 9.15 am to accommodate the Walk of Witness, and yet nobody from All Saints' made it to the Walk of Witness this year. We had fewer children and young families than expected, probably because of the early start time. For this reason, and to save confusion (e.g. this year one family arrived in error for 10 am), it was suggested we move back to 10 am next year.

Easter Day – services well attended:

- Dawn service – Perhaps earlier than it needed to be this year. Should be dark at start and light by the end – generally good to time for one hour before sunrise (usually c. 5.30 am). Service is a great favourite with a significant proportion of its attendees (16 people attended this year).
- 8 am – PF presiding and preaching (16 people)
- 10 am – BW's Talk was innovative and inclusive, and went down well! It was a lovely service and people very much appreciated the song led by the young people at the beginning. BW said she had felt it was important to honour them and their contribution to our church in the Easter service (120 people attended)
- Occasional attendees – Discussion followed on how to encourage these people to become more involved. Job of sidespeople, but as they vary, Wardens to identify new people and instruct whichever sidesperson is on duty accordingly. Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Sunday are highlighted as particular opportunities for identifying these occasional worshippers. A question was also raised as to whether we could consider gathering a group of lay volunteers to visit new people (e.g. as they move into the parish).

3. Update on worship in Schools (QE and Onslow) and for Toddlers and Nursery

Prayer Space – led by PF. Took place in Onslow in February and went down well.

Assemblies – both PF and BW did assemblies at QE last term.

Messy Church at Onslow – led by PF. Went down very well and the intention is to build on this!

Other Services in Easter period – Onslow had their annual church visit this term (with marriage and baptism “services”) – a long-standing tradition which everyone very much enjoys! Toddlers also heard the Easter gospel message, led by ND in the Hall.

Offering a trail of progression – Good to have Toddlers, feeding into Montessori (who always request Christmas and Easter services and last year had a summer “graduation” service) and then Onslow. By the time it comes to the schools, attendance numbers become big.

4. Messy Church

Worship VG had been asked to review the situation with MC, in the light of:

- a successful first MC service at Onslow Infants’ School
- ongoing concerns that on the day it runs at All Saints’, MC has been depleting numbers of Sunday Children’s Church. The PCC had also observed that, although very successful, our All Saints’ MCC:
 - uses a lot of people for one Sunday a month who (perhaps?) might otherwise be deployed elsewhere;
 - against the norm for MC, seems to be attracting the ‘churched’ rather than the ‘non-churched’, which could be seen as a flow the wrong way! (Although there are non-Sunday Church families who are attracted in to MC and are loyal to it).

Worship VG were asked to consider the following questions/ideas:

- changing All Saints’ MC to a Saturday – Worship VG concluded this might still affect the following Sunday morning.
- cutting back to once a term at All Saints’, but also doing once a term at Onslow – the merits and drawbacks of this idea were discussed, but CB felt strongly that the MC Core Team should have a chance to have their say on this, as they are the ones running MC and primarily resourcing it.

Worship VG made the following recommendations:

- CB to email MC Core Team, soliciting their feedback, ideally by them attending the Children and Young People’s Meeting scheduled for 11am, Sat 14th April. (PF would invite them to this).
- CB would also inform MC Core Team of the following plan for upcoming MCs:

May – MC would take the form of the community royal wedding celebrations, TKC prayer activities etc. (see above) and Messy Cathedral.

June – CB away, but MC as normal, 4-6pm at All Saints’.

July – MC potentially at Onslow (discussions re date already in progress with the school) and perhaps instead of, rather than as well as, at All Saints’.

Sept onwards – 1 MC a term at Onslow and 1 MC a term (?) (for MC Core Team to discuss?) at All Saints’ – potentially on a Saturday, to try it out?

With theology training potentially starting in September, and this being a good moment for change, CB will be stepping down from leading MC in June/July.

5. Thy Kingdom Come – Archbishop’s Call to prayer between Ascension and Pentecost

PF talked through her paper, setting out the planned activities. These will start being advertised over the course of the next few weeks.

6. BCP Communion on the 4th Sunday of each month at 8am

Traditionally we have been using the small green book (with small print) (which, in fact, was never Authorised liturgy). BW experimented with using the traditional language in Common Worship, but that did not go down well in general with the congregation of this service. So, BW is planning to produce readable service sheets of the Authorised 1662 BCP.

7. Courses:

Lent Course - well attended (on average 15+ people a session) and well chosen for its breadth and challenge.

Admission to Communion – plan to admit 6 children on 1st July in an Altogether Worship communion service. Often brings on new crucifers – some of the 6 children indeed hope to become crucifer.

"Faith Confirmed?" – A course exploring stepping stones on the journey of faith. Will run on 6 consecutive Weds from 6th June. Martyn and Jeanette Whiteman will host and lead with PF. For Week 1, there will be a meal too. Aimed for young adults and upwards. Suggestions made for advertising it around Onslow, on the School websites and at Toddlers.

Potential Deanery Confirmation Course and Service? We would need 8-10 candidates to host, with other candidates making up numbers to c.15 in order for there to be a service.

8. Worship Rota for May - August 2018

Youth-led service now moved to 4th Sunday – which the Worship VG were pleased to see. (CN pointed out that Julie Shaw's band rehearsal schedule will need to be shifted on the rota in line with that – since done.)

Services of note on the rota:

Ascension – decision to go with a traditional service, to balance Pentecost events.

Choral Evensong – 3rd June

Songs of Praise (Sea Sunday) – 8th July (PF/CB)

Service for the deaf – 30th September (PF/Rosemary Woodcock)

9. AOB

Upgrading of sound system – BW and PF have collated a list of engineers (with recommendations from other churches) and a proposal will be drawn up for the PCC to consider. This is badly needed, as currently our worship is frequently undermined by sound issues. It was suggested that Andy Wells, Simon Doran and Julie Shaw should be asked for their input on this project.

Church layout for worship – discussions on seating (pews etc) are proposed for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th July, 7.30pm at the Vicarage

Notes prepared by CB, 13th April 2018