

BENEFICE **REVIEW OF** **WORSHIP**



‘Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him for ever.’

(The Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1646-7)

Now that we have all been part of the new grouping of the Avon Valley Churches for the past two years, it is time we had a look at our pattern of worship, and reviewed what we are doing.

The ACG (AVC Coordinating Group), representing all of the Parishes and Churches, is facilitating this process for us, and will make any proposals to the four PCCs for discussion and approval.

We hope that as many people from our congregations (and any others who are interested) will be part of the conversation as we seek, under God, the best way forward for our current congregations and those who might be encouraged to worship with us.

Do, please, read this short paper, which sets out our current situation and resources, pray about it, and answer the questions below.

If you wish to respond with your thoughts, please complete the Questionnaire on p. 5, and return it to the Churchwardens or Ministry Team or Church Office by Oct 27th.

Canon Gary Philbrick
Rector

PRINCIPLES

We have agreed some principles which will guide our final decisions:

Our Future Pattern of Worship should be:

- **Sustainable** - whether or not our Leadership Team changes.
- Allow room for **growth** - not so full a programme of catering for the needs of our current congregations that there is no room for anything new to grow.
- **Appropriate** – The right worship for each Church.
- **Lay Leadership** - Each Church should have (at least) one Lay Led Service each month, so that we are growing Lay Worship Leaders and sharing the gifts of the wider congregation.

CURRENT PATTERNS AND RESOURCES:

The Avon Valley Churches - 1 Benefice, 7 Churches, 4 Parishes

Service pattern - this is what the rota for a typical month looks like at the moment.

1st Sunday:

8.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
8.30 am	Breamore	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Fordingbridge	Allsorts
10.00 am	Hale	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
4.30 pm	Hyde	Youth Space
6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Sanctus

2nd Sunday:

8.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
9.30 am	Hyde	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am	Woodgreen	Morning Service
10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service (Methodist or CofE)
11.00 am	Breamore	Morning Prayer
4.00 pm	Hyde	The 4.00 Slot (Worship and Tea)
6.30 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong

3rd Sunday:

8.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
9.00 am	Godshill	Morning Service (<i>The Sunday varies</i>)
9.30 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
9.30 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Hale	Morning Service
10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service (Methodist or CofE)
11.00 am	Breamore	Holy Communion
11.30 am	Fordingbridge	Baptisms
4.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Baptism Meeting in Church
6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Sanctus

4th Sunday:

8.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
9.30 am	Hyde	Holy Communion (+Bible Course/Lunch)
10.00 am	Woodgreen	Morning Prayer
10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service (Methodist or CofE)
11.00 am	Breamore	Matins
12.00 noon	Breamore	Baptisms
6.30 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong

5th Sunday:

8.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
8.30 am	Breamore	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
9.30 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Hale or WG	Morning Service
10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service (Methodist or CofE)

- Current Leadership Resources:
 - Rector - Full-time (Canon Gary Philbrick).
 - Associate Priest - Part-time (Breamore) and Self-supporting (Across the Benefice) (Revd Nicky Davies).
 - Assistant Curate - Full-time, in training (Revd Mike Trotman).
 - Hon. Assistant Priests - Voluntary (Canon Michael Anderson (Shared with Ringwood Benefice)), Revd John Towler and Revd Kate Wilson - Approx. twice a month.
 - Licensed Lay Minister - Voluntary (Mark Ward).
 - Children's, Youth and Families Development Worker - Part-time (Jo Heath).
 - Lay Worship Leaders with Bishop's Commission (BCM) - Voluntary (Heather Clark, Jeremy Houghton-Brown, Peter Worthington and Julian Sims, who is also training for a BPP (Bishop's Permission to Preach)).
 - Others who lead worship in a voluntary capacity - Allsorts at FB, 4.00 Slot at Hyde, Hale and Woodgreen, etc.
 - All those who support the leadership of worship in a whole range of roles: reading, leading prayers, serving, sidespeople, musicians, etc.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We are very fortunate to have lots of voluntary help, especially ordained voluntary help, at present; but what would our pattern of worship look like if some of our current team retired or stepped back? What would be our worst-case scenario?

The only stipendiary (i.e., not voluntary) ministry resources we have at the moment are the Rector, Curate, and Part-Time Associate Priest at Breamore. Without more Lay Worship Leaders, our Sunday pattern would need to be something like this (remembering that clergy are not available all day, every Sunday – holidays, other commitments, etc.).

Clergy can reasonably do about three Services per Sunday. Allowing for holidays, etc., and including one or two Lay Led Services, a reasonable Sunday pattern could be something like this:

8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Morning Service (Methodist)
11.00 am	Morning Service (Lay Led)
11.30 am	Baptism
4.00 pm	Lay Led All-Age Service
6.30 pm	Evening Service

If that were the case, how would we organize such a pattern across our Churches?

If we want more Services than this across the Benefice, then we need to grow more Lay Leaders.

If we doubled the number of Lay Worship Leaders, and assumed they were happy to lead about twice a month, we might end up with a pattern more like this.

8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Morning Service (Lay Led)
10.45 am	Morning Service (Methodist)
11.00 am	Holy Communion
11.00 am	Morning Service (Lay Led)
11.30 am	Baptism
4.00 pm	Lay Led All-Age Service
6.30 pm	Evening Service

Which would be something closer to our current system.

Do we think we can find and train five more Lay Worship Leaders and/or Bishop's Permission to Preach as a Benefice?

These are some of the challenges which face us as we look to the years ahead. As you think about this, reflect on the principles laid out on p. 1.

Please the complete the questionnaire below, or share your thoughts with Churchwardens and Ministry Team in some other way.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS FAR.

Gary, on behalf of the ACG.

WORSHIP REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE, October 2019

Once completed, please return to Church or Church Office by **October 27th**.



Name (Optional):

Church(es) you usually attend – if any?:

Which Services do you usually attend – if any?:

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT:

- What one thing our worship most helps you to draw close to God?

- What one thing would you change in our current Services or monthly/weekly pattern of worship?

- What one thing would help us to grow our congregations, and especially help younger people to take part?

- What other advice would you give our PCCs and the Ministry Team as we consider our future pattern of worship across the Benefice?

Please continue overleaf if you wish to.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.