

Transforming Worship

An Introduction to 'A Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship'

Welcome to this *Transforming Worship* downloadable training resource, which has been compiled by the Revd Helen Bent, a respected author and teacher with many years' experience in training lay people to plan and lead meaningful, uplifting worship in the local church.

"I found the course thought-provoking and inspiring. I hadn't really given much thought before to why I enjoy church and these sessions made me take a deeper dive into this."

Participant from Newcastle Diocese

A Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship is a 'do-it-yourself' resource in three sessions, each using a video presentation supported by handouts. Most training is geared up to (sub)urban settings, but this course has been written with small rural churches in mind.

Who is this guide for?

This training resource is for all lay people, who find themselves called upon to lead worship. They could be churchwardens, those involved with all-age services, children or youth leaders, or church musicians. In many cases these people will have been leading worship for some time, often with little or no training. The three sessions develop a broader understanding and give clear guidelines for planning and leading services, getting participants on the 'right road' for being Anglican. The videos are full of practical tips that will lead to enriching worship in the future. Key aims are developing skills, encouraging good practice and building confidence.

"Robert is a retired academic who leads Matins once a month and occasionally Evensong. Sophie and Jane both lead All-Age Worship. Robert was starting from a position of thinking worship in the Church of England was prescriptive, Sophie and Jane from thinking that 'anything goes'. That's where the discussions prompted by the questions were so valuable. All three came away having widened their perspective of worship, Robert thinking that there might be possibilities to be creative whilst still following the rules and Sophie and Jane keen to understand more about what they should include whilst not restricting their creativity."

Post-Course Reflections from a rural benefice in Exeter Diocese

How long will each session take?

Each session will comfortably fit into 90 minutes, although timing will depend a little on the amount of discussion. The sessions could be done over three weeks or spread over a longer period to allow ample time for further reflection and the opportunity to put learning into practice.

Contents

Session 1: Why Worship? – Setting the scene for leading worship

- What is worship?
- Why worship?
- Who is worship for?
- Basic structures

Session 2: Patterns of Worship – Practical guidelines for putting services together

- What is Anglican worship?
- A Service of the Word
- Crafting inspiring worship
- Seasonal difference

Session 3: Confident Leadership – Practical guidelines for leading the service

- Liturgical multi-tasking
- The worship leader in action
- Choosing words with care
- The worship leader as pastor

The resource is made up of three video PowerPoint presentations, which are divided into smaller bite-sized sections with questions for reflection and discussion. Additional handouts are provided to aid learning, including a copy of the PowerPoint slides with space for notes, the questions for reflection with space for notes, and some additional material for further reflection after each session. This course is based around Common Worship.

The content is clear and easy to follow, ideas develop well. Pictures and short bullet point style is easy to read on screen, not too much on each page. Very good...

Each section is achievable (not too long so that concentration wanders or something comes to distract you...

The voice over is great, a clear sympathetic voice without any 'teachery' style of delivery.

Participant from Exeter Diocese

If you wish to supplement it with training on leading services from The Book of Common Prayer, you can find some helpful 'How to' videos by the Revd Paul Thomas produced by *The Prayer Book Society*: see <https://www.pbs.org.uk/resources/videos/>

This resource might be a useful precursor to a diocesan Worship Leader's Course.