

# Transforming Worship

## A Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship

### Session 3 Confident Leadership: Top tips for Worship Leaders

Worship can be dynamic, vibrant, uplifting, life-changing, but...

...good worship takes time, effort and careful preparation

#### Context

- What sort of service is this?
- Who will be there?
- What is the age range of the congregation?
- Who else will be involved in the service – readings, prayers, music, welcoming?

#### Common Worship is wordy because...

- We think we have to use **all** the words suggested.
  - Follow *A Service of the Word* structure
  - Choose fewer words with greater care
- Take to heart the rubrics
  - *These or other words may be used* - i.e. we don't have to use them all
  - *Silence may be kept* – pauses are helpful for private prayer and reflection
  - Silences seem longer to the leader, so don't be tempted to rush on

#### Timing is important

- Start on time and end on time
- You don't have to do everything in one service
- Use your best ideas sparingly - less is often more
- Aim to finish the service before the congregation becomes restless

#### Be sensitive and inclusive

- Give permission to participate in different ways
- You may have a loud voice, but for the sake of the deaf use a microphone
- Remember a microphone will make you louder but not necessarily clearer

#### Most of all, keep asking yourself...

- How might these people meet with God in this act of worship?
- Where have I left space for God?
- How will I avoid getting in the way?