

ALL AGE SERVICE CHANGES

Thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to complete the recent All Age Service questionnaire.

You may have already seen the report which was compiled from the questionnaires. This was put on the notice board and on the St Faiths web site. As promised the All Age Service Steering Group met recently to discuss the suggestions and comments received.

The group felt, that having had time to reflect on the helpful suggestions and comments, there was a considerable volume of support for a 'Said Communion Service' at 8.30 am to be introduced on the second Sunday of each month. The format for the All Age Service from September will now be as follows:-

- 8.30 Said Communion
- 9.30 Breakfast
- 9.50 Welcome and move to activities
- 10.30 Act of Worship
- 11.00 End of Service and coffee in side rooms available
- 11.30 Communion service

One issue that was common to many of the questionnaires was an incomplete understanding of exactly what the new service was trying to do. It may be helpful therefore to reiterate them:-

- To encourage and nurture new disciples and members to our worshipping community.
- To support our existing congregational members in the journey of discipleship.
- To help congregational members to become more involved in church life by letting them organise and run elements of the teaching and reflective components of the service.

Overall the new Style All Age Service is seen by many as being very successful in many aspects. One important fact is that a number of new people have started attending church. To many outside the church a standard Sunday Service can appear quite daunting and this more relaxed service is a good way to reach out to new people and help put them at ease.

The informal nature of the service also means people are free to attend all the morning or come and go as they wish.

Another important aspect is that many of our congregation have participated in planning, organising and leading sessions, as well as the planning and organising the breakfasts and general 'running' of the morning.

The new service has been favourably commented on by the Bishop as being a bold and innovative step and in his farewell speech Philip Turner made a special mention that it would be one of the lasting memories he would take away with him.

I would also like to praise the work of the those who have been involved at all levels, in planning and running this exciting new style of service. It has been greatly appreciated and we should all remember that as we sow seeds in the community, we are responding to Gods call to proclaim the good news of the Bible

Charmaine