

# Transition to Two Services - Frequently Asked Questions

By Rev Stephen Webster – 26 April 2015

## **Why are we moving to a new morning service pattern?**

At St Peter's we want to be a church that grows both in numbers and in faith and makes a difference in Oundle and the world beyond. It is recognised that if a church intends to grow it will need to increase the number and variety of worship services on offer. Purely from a space point of view, when a church service grows to 80% of its capacity, it will not grow any further. Many churches have found that by multiplying their morning services, they are better able to serve and reach out to a community comprising of a variety of generations. As we have thought and prayed this through we have contacted a number of other churches which have taken this step and they have reported that it has led to growth, often considerable. Introducing an additional service on a Sunday morning will provide the physical space as well as two different worship styles. This will give us the opportunity to invite our community to two different kinds of services thus enabling us to grow. For this reason, in November 2014, the PCC established a New Services Working Group, with the task of exploring the opportunities, challenges and possibilities surrounding our move to two services. We also asked the church family to email or write to us with their views.

## **What will the flavours of the two new services be?**

The two services will be distinctly different in their format and flavour. One of the services will be a Common Worship Service of **Holy Communion**. A mixture of traditional hymns and worship songs will be accompanied by the organ. It will have similarities with our current Communion Service, but with more liturgical content than at present ( for instance - the collect for purity, the Gloria, the creed and the prayer of humble access).

The other service will be called **Morning Worship**. It will be more informal in nature. Sung worship – a mixture of worship songs and hymns – will generally be led by a worship band. The service will have provision for those aged 0-14, with Junior Church and crèche facilities. One service a month will be the Family Service as it is at the moment; another in the month will include a celebration of Holy Communion. The remaining services in the month will have space for, amongst other things, interviews, testimonies and Baptisms.

## **What will the timings of the new services be?**

What was evident from people's contributions during the consultation process is that, whilst there are good arguments for having either new service first, one way of arranging it met people's needs better than another. Based on the vast majority of views expressed through the feedback we received, the first service will be Morning Worship and the second Holy Communion. Currently the proposal is 09:45 for the first service and 11:15 for the second. Coffee and refreshments will be served between the services. As we work this model through with musicians, coffee servers, welcomers and all who are involved in making services happen, we may refine these timings.

## **What will happen to the 8am service?**

The 8am service will continue as at present, but may move to the Lady Chapel to make it easier for those setting up for the next service.

## **When will we all join together for worship?**

We will ensure that we create a number of opportunities for special Sunday celebrations so that we can worship together as a whole church family. When a month has a fifth Sunday this will give us the opportunity to do this: for example in November 2015, and January, May and October 2016. Christmas and Easter would also give us obvious opportunities to join together.