

How will we maintain the sense of family at St Peter's?

Maintaining a sense of family is of paramount importance. It is something very special about St Peter's. It's a question we would have to address even if we weren't changing our service pattern. We want to grow as a Church and larger Churches have to work harder at making sure everyone feels that they belong. Here are some of the ways we can work at this: committing to sharing tea and coffee in between services; having regular whole Church celebrations as described above; joining homegroups in which we get to know one another at a deeper level; having regular social events such as barn dances, BBQs, shared lunches; by working harder at communications – making sure the whole church receives the same updates regarding events through the Weekly Sheet, emails and Facebook.

What is the timeline for the transition to two services?

The new services will start on Sunday 13th September.

Will the preaching be the same at both services?

Yes, the preacher for most Sunday mornings will be asked to speak at both services. This is another way in which we will be all learning together as a single Church family. There may be a different style of delivery.

Do I have to make a decision to attend one of the services or can I move between the two?

We are not asking you in advance to commit to any one service. You are welcome to attend whichever one you find most comfortable, or convenient, and we are happy if this changes from week to week. If you are on a rota for a particular service, we would want you to meet that commitment, but you are of course free to attend the other service on other Sundays. Some may enjoy both styles of worship and want to try both.

At which service will baptisms and thanksgivings take place?

These may take place at either, but are more likely to take place in the informal worship service. Many currently bringing children for a baptism or thanksgiving find the informality of Family Service easier to connect with than the services we have on other Sundays. It is intended that a new more informal Morning Worship service on other Sundays will make regular attendance an easier step. Of course some parents may request the baptism take place at the other more liturgical service.

How will rotas be organised and will we have enough people to fill them?

Rotas will continue to be organised as they are now, but we *do* need more volunteers to 'step up' from among our congregation, so that all the roles are filled. Please prayerfully consider in what ways God is calling you to serve the church family.

How can I help? I am asking that each one of us considers how they might serve to support the new service pattern. Please think about what skills, passions and talents that you have. We will need people to volunteer to welcome people, set up and serve tea/coffee/juice, read from the Bible, prepare intercessions, lead worship and play instruments/sing, sort out sound – to name just a few!

Will we definitely grow in numbers because of this change?

Not automatically. This change will not *make* us grow. It will, however, create the space where we *can* grow. It will create space for people who like more formality in worship to come to St Peter's. It is intended to create space for people who are unused to Church, and who connect better with informality, to join us. It is intended to create space for growth, but it is God Himself who brings growth. "I have sheep who are not yet of this fold," says Jesus in *John* 10, "I must bring them also." He calls us as His followers to share His passion that more people come to faith in Him. And as we share His passion to reach out ourselves in His name and with His love to our friends and neighbours. God Himself brings growth. He wants to use each of us to help it happen.