

Whilst it is hard to act in response to all these contrary suggestions, a common theme did emerge. Peace, reverence, awe and quietness are valued. This is what we should aim for in this service. Keeping things fresh and varied is also important. The singing of a metrical version of the Gloria, the responsive saying of a Psalm, the re-introduction from time-to-time of singers at Communion, the varied use of piano music and organ music at Communion may all be ways we can do this. Resisting 'hard and fast' rules is also important – about screens and hymn books for instance.

In General, what can we do Better?

Timing

Questions were raised about timings. Some felt that if 11:15 finishes much later than 12:20, then that feels too late. Some felt that if 09:45 overran, then coffee time became pressured. The constraints on our timing remain. Those arriving to set up for 09:45 arrive as – if not before – the 8am service finishes. An earlier start would be very difficult. The concerns expressed in the survey have been noted. It remains the challenge for those planning and leading services to create space for unhurried prayer and reflection, teaching and sung worship and communion – whilst ensuring that services draw to a good close in good time. We will not always get it right.

Coffee

Making sure that the 11:15 congregation is welcomed well to coffee and feels entirely included is vital as we seek to be 'one body'. This can be done better than at present. We will actively encourage both congregations to help this to happen and explore the re-siting of the coffee area. Challenges were identified regarding the current siting of coffee. Practical challenges remain about re-siting it (whilst enabling discreet clear up afterwards). These will be looked into and a solution sought.

Together at 10:30 Services

We will continue to seek appropriate occasions for us to celebrate all together at 10:30. We have noted the comments made. (For some, 10:30s have felt too much like The 9:45; for others, too like The 11:15. Some opt out for these reasons, and time confusions lead to others not attending). We will also explore other ways in which the Church family can gather together informally during the year.

Thank you

Thank you so much for all who responded. Every comment and suggestion was helpful. We will continue to reflect on them all in planning our worship, whilst always remembering St Paul's words:

“So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:5)

Overview of Survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to our service review. We had **110 responses** to the survey.

- 8 from 8am,
- 35 from The 9:45,
- 45 from The 11:15,
- 15 who varied between The 9:45 and The 11:15,
- 7 who regularly attended both.

The response to the new service pattern expressed in the surveys was overwhelmingly positive. The suggestions for tweaks and improvements were very welcome and will be taken on board wherever possible.

The review and survey were specifically about the new service pattern and the introduction of two new services to replace The 10:30. Most comments were about this change – rather than about services that have not changed. This summary will reflect that.

The Change in General

Views communicated through the survey tell us that the change to the new pattern has been very widely welcomed. In particular it was felt that there was now much less tension than when The 10:30 sought to appeal to such a wide variety of worshipping styles. A greater breadth is now catered for on a Sunday and this was positively commented upon. The increase in numbers attending worship on a Sunday was welcomed by many.

Typical comments about the change included:

“Having two main services on Sunday has very clearly been a positive move.”

“I think the variety and choice has solved some of the tensions that arise with trying to please everyone in one service.”

“I am so grateful for the change in pattern of services and have very much enjoyed being part of both the 9:45 and 11:15 services.”

“I love the variety; I like going to both services at different times. I like the relaxed feel to first service, the warmth and the welcome. I like the reflective time and space to think at the second service.”

“Both services seem to have settled very easily and comfortably.”

“It's lovely to hear and see the chat and buzz between services. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible!”

The change has been very widely welcomed by the vast majority of respondents but not universally. For one person “nothing” was going well with the new services.



A small number of others (4) welcomed aspects of the new pattern but preferred what went before. The concern was expressed that for the sake of numerical growth and appealing to differing tastes we were ‘splitting’ the Church family. These views are important and have been heard. We long to be a growing Church. We will need to continue to work hard at being one body across all our different congregations (8am, The 9:45, The 11:15, Evensong, Youth Worship, Thursday Morning Communion and Messy Church.)

The 9:45

The 9:45 Service has been extremely well-received by a very large majority of those who responded. A warm and welcoming atmosphere was commented on by many, as were the engaging use of images, videos and words on the screens. The style of music and its variety was frequently mentioned. Being able to participate in the service – especially with creative prayer responses – was welcomed. What was seen as a relaxed, informal and flexible style of leading was appreciated by many. The designated area for families with small children is a feature commented on very positively by those who use it. “So welcoming” said one. The breadth and variety of the congregation in terms of age and outlook was also positively commented upon. People were very encouraged to see that new people were joining and numbers were growing.

Some typical comments about The 9:45:

“St Peters has been waiting a long time for a service like The 9.45. It fills a large gap.”

“It is a service to which I can happily bring new people.”

“I love having the band-led worship, use of screens and flexibility.”

“ I really like the relaxed atmosphere and the area for children.”

“I love the really wide and mixed age groups and the opportunity for young people regularly to be involved.”

“The 9.45 service is much more varied and accessible than the previous 10.30.”

There were suggestions for improvement at The 9:45. Some requested communion more frequently, perhaps twice a month. Others suggested greater use of more recent worship songs but appreciation that older hymns continue to be part of The 9:45 diet was also expressed.

The 11:15

The 11:15 service has been positively received by those who responded. In particular, its ‘traditional’ structure and ‘gentle formality’ was frequently mentioned. The sense of peace, quiet and reverence was appreciated. The provision of booklets containing seasonal liturgy was welcomed as was the singing of well-known older hymns. It was felt

by some that the piano music sometimes provided before and during communion added to a sense of beauty and awe.

Some typical comments about The 11:15:

“ I really enjoy the structure of the service: its awe and reverence.”

“The service book for each season is a very good idea. The seasonal liturgies have been well thought out.”

“I like having a traditional Communion service. The old 10:30 wasn’t traditional.”

“ I greatly appreciate the stillness of The 11:15.”

“I love the peace and tranquillity.”

“The old 10:30 could be busy and hectic. I like the reflective time and space to think at the second service.”

There were suggestions for improvements at The 11:15. Sometimes these were in contrary directions.

Some said...	Others said...
“Please never use the screens at 11:15.” “The screen is good at the first service. But I wouldn’t want it at the second”.	“Use the screen instead of having to cope with 3 books“ “Can’t we have the projector as in the 945 service. We miss out....on feedback from the Place of Grace”
“Shorter ‘thought-for-the-day’ sermons please. More time for liturgy.”	“More in-depth bible teaching needed” “More theological depth appropriate at 11:15”
“Less use of the black hymn book!”	“Our hymns are now more ancient than modern.” “As with bank balances so with hymns - black is better than red!”
“Can we use the full creed more often?” “Please finish by 12:15”	“It would be good to have interviews and testimony like at 9:45”
“sung setting of the Gloria would add to the beauty of the service.”	“I’m pleased we have no complicated sung settings. It makes the service easier for newcomers to attend”
“Enjoy the traditional feel of the service”	“Could do with more variety” “It’s becoming staid”