

Southwell

The Newsletter of the
Southwell & Nottingham
Diocesan Liturgical Committee

Liturgy



June 2007

Celebrate and review your worship

Some years on from the introduction of Common Worship, is it now time to look at how worship is going in your parish? At the request of Bishop George the Liturgical Committee has prepared a pack of material designed to help you look at, value and enrich your worship. The pack includes new teaching material about worship that can be used with various groups in the church. Download the material from our website www.southwell-liturgy.org.uk, or contact Rob Chapman (0115 961 5566) for a printed copy.

Get this in your diaries now!

A day devoted to various aspects of leading and participating in worship is planned for Saturday **20th September 2008** based at Southwell Minster and using a number of venues in Southwell.

The event will be led by Andrew Maries, Consultant for Music and Worship to Exeter Diocese. Andrew, a classically trained musician, has wide experience across different music styles and worship traditions, has been a regular conductor for BBC's 'Songs of Praise' and has led conferences on worship in many dioceses.

A variety of speakers will lead workshops on music in worship, prayer, preaching, and liturgy among other topics.

This promises to be an exciting occasion with the opportunity to discover new ways to enhance worship, to reach all ages and to be inviting to newcomers.

Put this 'not-to-be-missed' date in your parish diary now and watch out for further news.

Peter Price

Times and seasons

The latest offering from the *Common Worship* stable, *Times and Seasons* is for me a really good collection of prayers and liturgy, which is easy to use and very flexible.



As a Reader doing a significant number of services during the interregnum in my own church, I am using *Times and Seasons* to add flavour and challenge to our normal worship. *Times and Seasons* gives prayers, openings, blessings and also helpful advice for the many celebrations in church as well as the seasons we follow, and I've used it in traditional worship and more 'wild and wacky' worship too.

The usual caution applies however – not all the prayers may be appropriate for your church, so careful selection from the range of options is needed. The prayers and liturgy are not always familiar and therefore it is easy to trip over words and phrases, so pre-reading is helpful. Finally, it takes time to prepare for services using this as there is much from which to choose.

For children's groups and all-age worship Church House Publishing has brought out an accompanying book, *Together for a Season*, which covers the Advent and Christmas season. This provides ideas, activities and resources to enhance worship and learning. Well worth a look!

Nick Harding

Common Worship: Times and seasons (2006) London: CHP. The full text is not yet available on-line, but follow links from our site www.southwell-liturgy.org.uk for the drafts presented to Synod.

Holy Communion - Book Reviews

Stephen Lake, *Let the Children come to Communion* (2006) London: SPCK

As someone who spends too much of his stipend (according to the Finance Director of the Vicarage) on books, the sensation of having book dropping on your doormat that perhaps you can't remember ordering was not a new one. However, this time it was not caused by my trigger-happy finger on Amazon, but a freebie sent to the Chairs of DLCs (at last a perk!). Thus I felt, sort of, duty bound to read it which left me with one word on my lips: Why?

It's written and reads like somebody's Sabbatical... whoops, Study-leave project i.e. earnest and well-meaning.

The book is a good summary of the development of Children receiving Communion over the past ten years, like numerous books before. It had some nice interviews on the surrounding issues, like many books before. And there is a forward by Rowan Williams, like many, many, many books before.

All this left me thinking, as I have said, Why? What's the point of it?

I felt like I was in a time-warp, especially as our Archbishop refers to it as, 'fine, timely guide to current discussion'. So is it all bad? The truth is that it is not bad,

it's fine, but there's nothing new. I had hoped for a comprehensive discussion on the Sacrament of Confirmation, and its role in relation to this issue. Yet like so many books before it just concentrates on the old chestnut of receiving in a 'right' manner. This a real shame as there is a genuine issue around Confirmation which can actually help our understanding of life together as the body of Christ partaking of his body, but the nearest we get is Lake's interview with Bp David Stancliffe.

So if you have never considered the issue of children and communion it's a good summary and easy to read. If, however, you haven't come from the Diocese of Galilifrey why not use the money to buy your Finance Director some flowers!

Rob Chapman

Carolyn Headley, *Home Communion: A Practical Guide* (2000) Cambridge: Grove



This Grove Booklet is a useful guide for anyone involved in taking Holy Communion to the home-bound. After a brief look at the theology of Communion it covers the practical and emotional aspects of taking Communion to a church member at home. It also outlines a course of several sessions that you might use to train people in this ministry. The course seems excessively long to me, but it would be easy enough to condense the material into a few hours.

Ian Tarrant

Pray and Say

For some years I have been concerned that children are not helped by the church to get into a regular habit of prayer, and are not helped to share their faith with their friends. After much thinking, preparation and testing I have come up with PRAY AND SAY, a simple process to help and support children as they share their faith with their friends. There are three elements to the PRAY AND SAY resources:

The Leaders' Booklet. This gives some reasons why peer faith-sharing is important, and provides ideas to help children pray for their friends during your group sessions.

Bookmark for children. This is for children to use regularly as a reminder of the need to pray for their friends. There are spaces for them to write the names of three friends on them.

Booklet for children. The 'What do we believe?' booklet gives children encouragement to pray regularly for their friends, and enables them to speak to their friends through giving some thoughts and answers to common questions.

Before children can share their faith with their friends they need to get into the habit of praying for them specifically and by name – the PRAY part of this. The aim of the first part of PRAY AND SAY is that children will get into the habit of praying for their friends who do not share their Christian faith, a habit that may

last throughout their lives. This habit is encouraged by the Bookmark, and by prayer activities in the group. With prayer and determination the children can then share their faith with their friends, the SAY element, and invite them to suitable, attractive special events.

PRAY AND SAY is based on the premise that children can communicate their faith to their peers more effectively than adults can. With the underpinning of prayer this can be really effective. Here are some reasons why children can effectively reach children:

- They have an honesty, simplicity and integrity
- They have credibility
- They can be direct and have the courage to speak out
- They speak in the right language
- They share the same lifestyles
- They have the same problems
- They can be seen to not know all the answers
- They are not an authority figure (adult)
- They can invite and take friends to church events



PRAY AND SAY packs are available from the Diocese. For a sample pack with a copy of the Leaders' Booklet, Children's Booklet, and Bookmark contact Sylvia Shrive: sshrive@southwell.anglican.org

Nick Harding

Training Events

The DLC welcomes invitations from parishes and deaneries to organise training events according to your needs, in any area relating to worship and liturgy.

We also recommend this event organised by Praxis:

Pasch with Pzazz - making the most of the Easter Cycle with *Times and Seasons*

with Christopher Irvine, Principal of Mirfield Theological College. How should we celebrate Easter Day and the Easter season, the Pasch - with flair and imagination? Thursday 11 October 2007, 10.30am-3.00pm, Birmingham Cathedral. More details will be available on the DLC webpages.

Members of the Southwell Diocesan Liturgical Committee:

Rob Chapman (Chair), Joyce Atkins (Secretary), Nick Harding, Angela Heywood, Sue Hemsley-Hall, Jacqui Jones, Peter Price, Mike Skidmore, Ian Tarrant and Celia Tew.

Web-pages

Check out the DLC web pages at:
www.southwell-liturgy.org.uk

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