



WORSHIP

When we're used to a particular style of worship it's very easy to become a little complacent about it, and we can fail to notice how it is perceived by a newcomer, visitor or enquirer. Ministry areas give us an even greater opportunity to reflect on the variety of worship we offer, recognizing that there isn't a 'one size fits all' style. Different people will be drawn closer to God in worship through different styles. Different churches have different gifts of worship that can be offered. Some churches will offer a wide range of different styles of worship themselves.

Worship should be a top priority for every church and it is good practice, from time to time, to carry out a review of worship. Below are some top tips for doing hospitality well – think about these things and reflect on which churches in your ministry area do this really well and how improvements can be made in other churches

TOP TIPS FOR WORSHIP

- Make the welcome good at the church door. Smile!
Be friendly and show you're pleased to see the person coming in!
Offer help if needed (with an explanation of books/news sheets/help with any mobility issues). Make sure large print options are available.
- Look out for newcomers/occasional visitors and make sure they're welcomed.
Give them a leaflet with more details about the life of the church.
Make the leaflet attractive and invitational.
- Be welcoming, but don't overdo the welcome! Some people need to slip in quietly – be sensitive to the messages they're giving.

- Encourage members of the congregation to chat to visitors, but again not to overdo the questions! Welcome is the role of the whole church.
- Make it easy for latecomers to slip in without being embarrassed. Ensure there is someone to greet them quietly, help them get books and find somewhere to sit.
- Prepare for the service well and start on time.
- Lead worship confidently. Use a microphone if possible. Don't rely on 'I speak loudly enough'. Think of the loop system too if there is one.
- Is there provision for children?
Are children and young people included in the worship?
- Make space for some quiet in the service
- Is there guidance on page numbers and which book to use (if more than one)?
If you're using books, consider designing an attractive bookmark printed with some simple information and page numbers to help visitors find their way around a service. The back of the bookmark could be used to give them something interesting to take away, or as a contact card for them to leave
- Choose hymns/ music that enhance the sense of worship.
- Make sure readings are clearly read and that intercessions are offered sensitively (and understandably – don't be unnecessarily wordy!)
- It should be clear that prayer is an important part of the service
- Use some Welsh words/phrases in the service where possible. We are the Church in Wales!
- Invite people to stay for tea/coffee after the service (if there are refreshments!)
- Say good-bye as warmly as you said hello

