

Minutes of 9:15 meeting held Sun 9 Apr 2017

1. Eddie opened in prayer and outlined that as agreed in our previous meeting he had met with a small group to look at the direction for the service in the following four areas as well as a number of other smaller group meetings in each area. He then handed over to hear proposals in each area:
 - a. Worship
 - b. Fellowship (life together as a family) beyond the Sunday morning gathering
 - c. Opportunities for praying together
 - d. Pastoral care
2. Matt spoke about worship, full details in the appendix A
3. Tim spoke about fellowship and pastoral care, details in appendix B
4. Vicky spoke about prayer, details in appendix C
5. Eddie commended these ideas to the group and said that further details will be brought forward once he discusses further with the Leadership team.
6. We closed in prayer

Appendix A: Worship

The worship leaders (Matt, Joey, Josh and Mike & Sarah) met on Monday 20th March to discuss how we might evolve what we do with music led worship on Sunday mornings, following the output of both the open meeting, and subsequent discussions. During the meeting we both discussed the *values* that we want to associate with music and worship in our services, along with the *tactics* to help us get to those values.

1. Values

These are those aspects of our corporate worship that we will not compromise. They are aspirational concepts which should be served by the styles and tactics adopted. They are also therefore the measure by which we should be judged, and as a team we all agreed that we most certainly welcome all feedback. Those values are:

- **Unity** - we must come together as family every Sunday, not discounting or ignoring anyone regardless of age, tradition, gender etc. As we come together with a common purpose, God will be honoured and we will be encouraged.
- **Empowering** - we desire that all are enabled to worship, and that everyone feels uninhibited and completely free to worship without restriction. This complete sold-out-for-Jesus attitude will be a witness to everyone who walks through the door.
- **Servant hearted** - as leaders we don't want to be viewed as superior, or performance front men, but rather as servants seeking to be worshippers ourselves first as we serve the congregation in worship leading. To that end, we actively encourage all feedback, positive or negative, to help continually shape the quality of what we do.
- **Glorifying God** - first and foremost, God must be honoured above all. It is only Jesus after all who won our salvation on the cross, and our worship is a holy act of gratitude for everything He has done for us.

- **Spirit led** - throughout our preparation, rehearsal and service delivery, everything we do must be led by the Spirit, not by our own good ideas. Ultimately, whilst we seek to be servant hearted, we do not seek to please mankind rather, through the Spirit's leading, we seek to show our love for God.
- **Scripturally inspired** - We can know and worship God truly only on the basis of His self-revelation in Scripture – the initiative in our relationship with God always belongs to Him. We humbly acknowledge that we cannot worship God truly except in obedient response to His word. Thus hearing the word of God will be central to our worship, and all that we offer will be a believing response to God's gracious word.

1. Tactics / strategy

It perhaps sounds a little worldly to use terms like strategy, but that is appropriate when we consider that these are flexible activities that can be adapted, adopted or dropped at any moment. These ideas are all designed to help achieve the values we've set out.

- **Time and space** - we feel we need to allow more time in the service to worship, without the stop / start interruptions of necessary items such as offering, notices etc.
 - *Flexible Start* - we will aim to start the service flexibly, with singing from 9.05 / 9.10 as folk arrive. They can join in worshipping, or simply mill about, but we can seamlessly get the service going without a feeling of a specific start time. This has the advantage of providing a more relaxed atmosphere, and should allow the speaker up a fraction earlier.
 - *Response* - we want to allow plenty of time for response, from no later than 10.15. This can be quiet reflection, Q&A, music, singing, prayer and the like, encouraging individuals to pray for one another as they feel they need it. This would probably require the sermon time to be no more than 30 minutes.
 - *Early finish* - finishing the service at 10.25 has a number of benefits. First, it allows individuals to carry on praying and worshipping should they wish to. It also prevents the scenario where the service finishes and immediately the congregation are banished to another room.
- **Testimonies** - we'd like more testimonies in the services, these can be spontaneous or perhaps more prepared. We would encourage life group leaders to be on the lookout for stories which would bless the whole congregation, which individuals can either share themselves, or can write down and have someone read.
- **Kids songs** - we would encourage junior church to learn some kids songs, Joey has been particularly challenged to give more time to kids worship at junior church.
- **Family worship** - we recognise that family is not just kids, as such we want more feedback from our elderly folk about how they'd like to be more involved.
- **Family services** - periodically we'd like to have services where the kids stay in and there are activities, fun, sketches, silliness in the service as we worship all together. This would necessitate a short sermon, perhaps not related to any particular theme (remembering individuals can listen online to any we miss, as the 11.15 service records them all). Breakfast is great idea, perhaps changing the room layout to be more table / cafe based would also work. Matt has a framework for a treasure themed family service which could be used to try the idea out.

Appendix B: Pastoral and fellowship

Several times it has been raised that the 9:15 service has not formed a clear identity but that we'd like to grow together more and to 'do' church more as a family.

It seems clear that the attractive characteristic of family is a closeness and intimacy that comes of shared values, shared experiences and the person or people that we instinctively turn to equally whether faced with things to celebrate or grieve over. Here are some things we've identified as tactics to encourage and foster those relationships:

1. LIFE groups: after Easter there will be 2 life groups dedicated to the 9:15 congregation and potentially a third too. Sarah and Mike Blaikley's is currently full but please approach Tim or Vicky if you'd like to join us.
2. Socials: now that spring seems to be in the air we would like to propose a gentle stroll around Corsham after the service to enjoy some of God's creation and to share what the coming week holds, responses to the word or indeed other things too (Tim will take responsibility for organising around once a month)
3. Wendy and Michael would like to organise a garden party at some stage
4. Sarah has plans in hand for an away day.
5. Even if circumstances are such that you don't feel able to join a LIFE group we'd like to be able to consider each of you 'affiliated' to one so that every member of the congregation is connected.
6. We'd like to regularly pray for each other by name

To help organise and to keep a record of your permission to share your name within the congregation for the purposes above we'd like you to sign up to the website at <https://CorshamBaptists.Org/register>. If anyone is not online or has difficulties with that please see Tim for a form.

Appendix C: Prayer

Present on Sun 27 Mar meeting: Shirley, Kathy, Mark, Vicky And Tim

Currently intercessions during the service and prayer ministry offered at the front of church after the service.

Reflections

- Often no one comes forward for prayer.
- It worked really well this Sunday to offer prayer straight after sermon during last 2 songs.
- We should make the link between prayer ministry and responding to the sermon also prayers of praise and thanks giving.
- Giving people a time of quiet after the sermon to reflect before moving on is important.

- Currently there are time pressures and being at the front is very exposed.
- Intercession can be dominated by “professional” prayer no congregation involvement.

Proposals

- Offer prayer before service to link in with worship from 9.
- Possible breakfast/coffee at 8.30 followed by prayer for service
- Intercessions lead but multiple people in congregation praying out loud.
- Organising own rota.
- Moving prayer ministry to balcony or vestry.
- Praying through congregation names on card. (opt in system)
- Congregation photo to encourage recognition of others.
- 9.15 prayer chain/email/txt/box