

## **Outline of suggested worship workshops**

Have a look at these ideas for workshops, and then use the [survey](#) to let us know which ones you would be most interested in attending.

### **Theology of Worship**

What are we doing when we worship? Why do we worship? Who is worship for? What does the Bible have to say about 'worship' and how does what we do in church each Sunday fit within this Biblical context?

*Anticipated Audience: Anyone who is interested*

### **History of Worship**

How has the worship of the church changed over two millennia? Should we try to worship like the early church, or like the Protestant Reformers? Why do some people use elaborate prayers, candles and incense and others use guitars and drums? Why do some people not sing hymns? Why do some people dance and shout and clap, and others meditate in silence? Can we learn anything from the way that other Christians worship?

*Anticipated Audience: Anyone who is interested*

### **Planning and Leading Worship**

What kind of principles should we be thinking about when we plan corporate worship? What do we need to include in our acts of worship? What is the role of the 'worship leader'? How should the different parts of 'worship' fit together? How do we develop and grow as worship leaders, and as worshipping communities?

*Anticipated Audience: Those who lead and plan worship; ministers, elders, musical/non-musical 'worship leaders'*

### **Music, Hymns and Songs**

For many Christians, singing and music are important parts of worship. But they can also be some of the most divisive, with everyone having a personal style! What is the role of hymns and songs in worship? How do we make sure we are singing truthful words? How do we achieve theological and musical balance? Where can we find new resources for worship? How do we teach and introduce new songs and hymns? What kind of decisions do we need to make about the musical life of our church?

*Anticipated Audience: Anyone who is interested and especially those with responsibility for choosing and delivering music and songs; worship leaders; ministers.*

## **Prayers and Meditation in Worship**

What role do prayers and silence have in corporate worship? Should we always pray without preparation? Should we use set prayers and liturgy? What are we doing when we pray together in worship? The workshop discusses principles and offers a range of resources and ideas for invigorating prayer as part of corporate worship.

*Anticipated Audience: Those with responsibility for planning and leading prayers; ministers, elders, deacons.*

## **Drama in Worship**

How can you use drama to enliven and enrich corporate worship? How to go about forming and rehearsing a drama group, and suggestions for developing and performing material.

*Anticipated Audience: People with an interest in acting or establishing a drama group; people with responsibility for planning worship who would like to incorporate drama*

## **Creating Your Own Worship Resources**

A workshop introducing you to creative worship design and to the concept of 'indigenous worship'. How to write music, prayers, drama and art that can be used in corporate worship. How to design new forms of worship. The workshop will provide times for practice and experimentation, and offer advice about how to take back what you've learnt to your own church to help others become active participants in creating your own worship resources.

*Anticipated Audience: People with creative skills that they would like to use in corporate worship; people who would like to run their own local workshops to mobilize creativity in their church.*

## **Inclusive Worship**

How do we make sure our worship is inclusive and 'hospitable', for young and old, rich and poor, women and men, for all ethnic backgrounds? From the words we say and sing, to the types of sound and song projection system we use – how do we make sure everyone is involved in heart, mind and soul?

*Anticipated Audience: Those with responsibility for planning and leading (through words or music) corporate worship.*

## **Worship and Social Justice**

What's the connection between worship and justice? How can we make sure that our corporate worship spills over into all our activities? How do we make sure that what we say and sing in church reflects God's priorities of justice for the poor and oppressed?

*Anticipated Audience: Anyone who is interested, and especially those with responsibility for planning and leading (through words or music) corporate worship.*

## **Worship and Mission**

What's the connection between worship and mission? What about 'seeker-sensitive' worship? Should our worship be evangelistic? How do we make sure worship impels us outwards to the world?

*Anticipated Audience: Anyone who is interested, and especially those with responsibility for planning and leading (through words or music) corporate worship.*

## **Instrumentalists in Worship**

Practical help for unlocking and nurturing the gifts of Christian instrumentalists; guidance about how to assemble music groups, help with arranging music and guidance for rehearsing and playing well together. Would probably run with two streams – one for musicians or would-be instrumentalists, and one for those with responsibility for leading/coordinating instrumental groups. Aimed at those using 'classical' instruments, or mixture of 'classical' and 'band' (drums, guitars, synth) ensembles. Instruments welcome!

*Anticipated Audience: Those with responsibility for leading/coordinating musical contributions; musicians (or would-be musicians)*

## **The Worship Band**

Practical help for unlocking and nurturing the gifts of Christian worship bands. Advice about how to assemble bands, guidance for rehearsing and playing well together. Aimed at those using a standard 'rock' band configuration (lead, rhythm, bass, keys, drums, vocals). Instruments welcome!

*Anticipated Audience: Band Members and Guitar/Vocal-based worship leaders*

## **Vocalists and Choirs**

Practical help for developing vocal skills for use in corporate worship. How to lead worship as a singer/choir; guidance for rehearsing and playing well together. Suggestions for how best to use vocalists in combination with other instruments. Workshop may have separate streams for 'pop' vocalists and choirs.

*Anticipated Audience: Vocalists, vocal soloists, choirs and choir leaders.*

## **Using Audio-Visual Material in Worship**

Practical skills for using song projection software; ideas and principles for using images, music, sound and video as part of worship

*Anticipated audience: Audio-Visual team, and those with responsibility for planning and implementing corporate worship.*

## **Administering Worship**

Help with the nuts and bolts of worship planning and leading. Dividing up tasks, communication between ministers, worship leaders and musicians, organising rotas, worship planning, ensuring consistency, managing conflict, dealing with compliments and complaints, what happens when it all goes wrong?!

*Anticipated Audience: Band leader, ministers, elders, deacons,, worship leaders.*

## **Managing Change and Conflict**

So you want to change/refresh/re-work/modify your church's worship? A workshop on assessing your corporate worship, devising aims and strategies for implementing and managing change, and discussion of how to deal with conflict and opposition

*Anticipated audience: Elders, deacons, ministers, those with responsibility for planning and implementing corporate worship.*