



christchurch
METHODIST AND UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
hitchin

For those leading worship Released: Jan 2019

We pray that God will bless you during your preparation for and participation in worship at Christchurch. Please contact the 'Worship Contact' in the first instance if you need any help. Your choice of music, and any other requirements, should be passed on by the **preceding Wednesday evening to worship@christchurchhitchin.org.uk**.

OVERVIEW

Christchurch is a united church of all ages, with a vision to be 'led by the Spirit, 'working in the community' and 'bringing people to Christ'. We worship God with all that we are, and music is fundamental to the way that we worship. More details about Christchurch and all its services of worship can be found on our web site: <http://www.christchurchhitchin.org.uk>. Some guidelines are given below to help in your planning for this particular style of worship.

SERVICES AT 9 AM

This first service of the day is aimed at those who appreciate a short structured service to start the day, lasting no more than 30 min. It uses well known traditional or modern hymns (usually two), prayers and a short sermon. Our aim is that this service is brief, consistent and focused.

The congregation will be small (30-50), enabling a more intimate experience of community. Many, but not all, will be retired adults. There is the potential for following a theme and being a resource for house groups, and you will be informed if your service fits within a current theme. Otherwise a reading from the Revised Common Lectionary should be used. That chosen will be indicated on the weekly notice sheet and displayed before the service starts. Time allocated for reflection and response is appreciated. Once a month Holy Communion will be shared (see below).

For some, the attraction of worship at this time leaves the rest of the day free for other important activities – such as visiting family or supporting children in sporting events. For others, the simple reflective style is highly valued, as other services take a more blended approach or follow different styles. A light breakfast is served afterwards in the church hall.

COMMUNION AT 9 AM (MONTHLY)

The style of Communion followed at this service invites everyone forward to the Communion Rail in appropriate groups to enable all to kneel (should they want to), aided by a communion steward. The elements are distributed by the presiding Minister and a Communion Steward, and all partake as they receive. There is one dismissal blessing.

PARTICIPATION

BIBLE READING - People in the congregation usually read from the Bible. The preacher should lead prayers of intercession, drawing from a prayer book in which individual concerns have been noted. Each week we also pray for several members of our congregation in turn so that over a period of a year we pray for all our members. These names, which will be provided and should be offered where most appropriate.

MUSIC - The congregation enjoys singing. *Hymns and Psalms* is our current hymn book, though any words can be projected including from *Singing the Faith* and *Mission Praise*. An organist will provide the music.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

AUDIO-VISUAL - There is an excellent amplification system, operated from the sound desk. All hymn/song words are projected. We can also project prayers or responses. We can handle any Office format. It is essential that all electronic files are provided ahead of Sunday morning (i.e. usually by Wednesday evening) to allow set-up and checks to be done. Please make sure your service order clearly indicates when to project hymns/songs and especially anything additional.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDINGS - We are licensed with Christian Music Association (CMA) and hold a Christian Copyright Licence (CCL). Morning services are recorded so that those unable to attend can share in our worship in their own homes during the week. Some sermons, unless the preacher requests otherwise, are available as MP3 files on our web site - it would be appreciated if you could supply a title for your sermon.

EXPENSES

Christchurch will reimburse your expenses if you are not already expecting to reclaim these from the Methodist Circuit. The steward should mention this to you, but please ask if they do not.

CHRISTCHURCH CONTACTS

Worship contact – Senior Steward Sara Crowley sara.crowley@ntlworld.com 01462 436581 can advise.

Please send your orders of service to all the following email addresses -
worship@christchurchhitchin.org.uk
christchurch_d3fb@sendtodropbox.com