

Hello

St Nicolas Church – New Service Pattern in 2019

I am writing to you on behalf of St Nicolas PCC about some exciting changes to our services at St Nicolas that will be implemented in spring 2019.

A new service pattern has been devised in response to the changing nature of our church, vision and the mission of God. We recognise that to be faithful to what God calls us to in mission and to enable a wide range of people to belong and worship as part of this community, some change is necessary. Growth in some areas of church life and decline in others has also been a factor; our worship pattern needs to respond accordingly. In addition there has been a plea for consistency in our service pattern so that people know broadly what they are getting from one week to the next.

We need people to help make these changes a success. This note is to explain the changes and to ask if and how you would like to help. We know that change is not easy and it is important that we work together to achieve the best outcome for all.

What are we trying to achieve?

There are three main aims for our worship pattern that cover a whole range of goals. They are:

1) Christ-centred and Mission- focused

Keeping Christ at the centre of our worship; seeking to offer the best we can; being open to serve God and others; pursuing more depth in worship; introducing new times for teaching; remembering that we are called to be part of God's mission and as we 'come' to worship we are also 'sent' into the world.

2) Welcoming and Accessible

Welcoming a community diverse in age and preference; seeking to be accessible for people at all stages of faith; being attentive to a variety of needs and making steps to meet them; being welcoming in our attitudes and in the quality of what we offer; resourcing well our services including investing in new equipment, training volunteers and each committing to play our part.

3) Recognisable and Consistent

Creating a recognisable pattern that seeks to meet the needs of those who value traditional styles of worship and introduce a more contemporary expression for those who find that most helpful; ensuring that both approaches are available each week, creating consistency; increasing opportunities to meet together and encourage growth both numerically and spiritually.

What consultation has been done?

There has been a wide-ranging consultation process underpinned with prayer. The PCC has been on a journey of exploration for about 2 years to discern a direction of travel for the church. There have been

surveys about our worship services to gauge the opinions of congregations, most recently in July with over 40 responses. A PCC working group met weekly between July and the end of August to discuss options; a variety of representatives from our congregations have joined some of those meetings. Some people have chatted to PCC members or emailed with thoughts and ideas. There has been external input from a diocesan learning mentor and anecdotally from others including the Archdeacon! We've also looked at the worship pattern of other churches.

What are the features of the new pattern?

SUNDAY MORNINGS: A 'standard' Sunday morning will have **two** services every week.

Each week there will be a traditional **Holy Communion** service at **9.15am**, often with a full choir, other times with just a few hymns, sometimes no music at all.

Each week there will also be **Contemporary Worship** at **10.45am** for those who find a more informal approach most helpful. Holy Communion will also be a regular feature of this service but not weekly. All services will be open to all-comers. People may choose to stick with a particular service, alternate or even attend both! Between services there will be a break for refreshments, prayer ministry and mingling! An opportunity for congregations to mix and meet in way they don't currently.

THURSDAYS: On Thursday we will retain a service of **Holy Communion** at **10am**; again more formal, reflective and traditional, also catering for those unable to join in worship on Sundays.

EVENING SERVICES: There will be a new pattern of evening services that will be more seasonal in nature and will include 'festival' **evensong** to link with special times in the Church's year. Instead of monthly meetings **Messy Church** gatherings will link with special times in the Church's year and other events. Most of these will be held on the church site but a few may be based in our church school. A programme will be published at the start of the year giving dates for these services.

WORD and WORSHIP: We will be working towards new fortnightly gathering on Wednesday evenings called **Word and Worship** with a focus on contemporary sung worship, prayer and Bible teaching. On alternate weeks we aim to have small groups meeting to build on this teaching programme.

Are there any physical changes required to layout or equipment in church?

There won't be any building changes but there will be layout changes using the potential of the whole church to suit the services. To enable us to deliver our services most effectively, we plan to install a new and much-needed audio-visual (AV) system; this will enhance our worship and ensure what we do is accessible to as many people as possible.

What are the costs of the resources/equipment?

The main financial cost will be a new audio-visual (AV) system so all can access services in different layouts, e.g. traditional rows or in the round. This will be around £35,000. There are also people-resources. More people will have the opportunity to take an active part such as reading, leading and taking part in groups, welcoming, leading music, overseeing the technical needs. This extra activity is not obligatory but we hope that people will want to participate more as they grow in confidence and their faith. As with every part of church life, it takes all of us to make things work.

How will we find the money?

For our patronal festival this year we are asking people to contribute towards the cost of the new AV

system recognising that it will benefit our services, improve accessibility and impact on our work throughout the week. We have set up a fund for the new AV system and we will also use some money from our church 'savings' to invest in the system, ensuring that our facilities are fit for purpose!

What needs to be done to implement the changes and how long will it take?

We want to make the changes well and with the right resources, carrying people with us as we go. There will be roles to define, training to be done, timetables and rotas to create and new services orders to compile and print. Some of these are part of the regular preparations but it all takes time!

For now we want to ensure church members and the wider community are aware of the changes and feel as able to be involved as they would like. The plan is to implement the changes to Sunday services near to the start of Lent in 2019.

How will we measure success?

In terms of faith, ultimately we're not called to be successful but faithful. There are physical things that we can measure. We will be able to count people who attend; we hope to see an increase in our income from more people giving more regularly, but that is only part of the picture. We want people to value the experience of worship, grow more in their faith, find more inspiration in their daily lives and want to encourage others to join our community.

We must give the new pattern time to 'bed in' and we will be able to make improvements as we go, whilst being aware that there is no perfect scheme and not everything will be suited to everyone.

How can I be involved?

1. Please do pray for us all as we work towards these changes.
2. Please be an example of a gracious attitude to church life during this period of change. Change is not easy but we make it easier working together in a positive way with a 'can do' approach.
3. Please let us know if and how you would like to be involved by returning the form below. We want people we can rely on who are committed to Christ, the church and the role they take on!
If you are already on a rota we would still like you to be involved but we need to know how you'd like to serve in future and at which services. So please fill out the form being as specific as possible and return it to the church by the end of November. If you do not currently serve in any way this may be a good opportunity to start. For everyone who wants to help in some way we'll be running some training in the New Year so everyone feels confident and equipped to carry out their 'job'.

This is our community and the church to which we belong. We want to worship God in all we are and do, in services and beyond. We want our services to be part of God's mission here—accessible and welcoming to all who come, that they too may come to know the God we love, serve and worship.

Thank you and we welcome your input.

Revd Kelly Betteridge

Vicar - St Nicolas, Nuneaton

Priest in charge - St James, Weddington and Caldecote

How would you like to be involved? Serving as part of St Nicolas Church



Name: _____

Contact email: _____ Contact phone number: _____

Contact address: _____

Please tick at which service(s) and gatherings you would like to serve:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9.15am Sunday Holy Communion | <input type="checkbox"/> 10.15am Sunday Refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10.45am Morning Praise | <input type="checkbox"/> 6pm Evensong / Holy Communion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10am Thursday Holy Communion | <input type="checkbox"/> Messy Church (irregular days and times) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7pm Wednesday Word and Worship | |

(Please note that in most cases, 'serving' at a service requires being present 20-30 minutes before the service begins in order to properly prepare.)

Please tick how often you are able to be 'on duty' on a rota basis:

- weekly fortnightly monthly every 2 months or less

Please tick the areas of ministry in which you would be able to serve on a rota basis:

- WELCOME TEAM: greeting people at the door, welcoming newcomers, showing people to seats.
- BOOKS TEAM: handing out any service resources such as hymn books and service orders.
- REFRESHMENTS TEAM: with others, preparing and serving refreshments, tidying away after.
- LESSON READING: reading one of the Bible passages for the day in the service.
- INTERCESSIONS: preparing and leading prayers in the service.
- MUSIC: participating in one of the 'teams' to lead our music – please specify instrument or vocals.
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT: assisting with the technical aspects of the service such as overseeing the sound desk and/or the visual elements – training provided!
- TESTIMONY: sharing an element of your faith story to encourage others as part of a service.
- SIGNING: using BSL or Makaton to help those with particular needs to access the service.
- STORY-TELLING: telling a story in a creative way to explain a Bible passage or truth (training provided)
- ADMIN PREP: preparing service sheets, Powerpoint slides and song sheets as required.
- OTHER: please feel free (on the back) to offer other gifts that are not listed above!

We want to offer training in all areas of ministry and encourage people to explore using their interests and talents.