

## **Explore! – A NEW SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

### **THE RATIONALE**

We have noticed a decline in the number of families attending services in the morning over the past year or so. There are a number of contributory factors including the busyness of life, Sunday morning sporting commitments; changes in society... Some families have been attending Sunday Night Live in preference to a morning service and after prayerful consideration, the PCC accepted a proposal to hold an Inter-generational service, once a month at 5.00pm in All Saints'.

### **THE OUTLINE**

The service, to be called '**explore!**', would start with refreshments, leading into a starting worship song, a time of 'setting the scene' and the Bible story/ teaching (5-10 minutes). This would be followed by an opportunity to visit the 'Explore Together' zones where people can choose to explore the Bible passage further according to their preferred learning style.

This could involve participating in a discussion, engaging in a creative/craft activity, writing something, listening to something or watching an audio-visual presentation. After about 20 minutes, the Zone time would come to an end and everyone would re-group for prayer and a worship song before the service came to a close. People would be encouraged to continue discussing what they had discovered afterwards.

The idea is that people of all ages can engage with God's word together and learn in different ways. So for some quite literally a 'hands-on' experience, but equally there will be a place for quiet reflection or for others space for discussion, as we seek to discover more of what it means to follow God together.

**explore!** is aimed to draw in families with primary school age children but will be absolutely appropriate for old as well as young.

**Sheila Hopkins**

**Parish Family Worker on behalf of the PCC**

*"Teach children in a way that fits their needs,  
and even when they are old,  
they will not leave the right path." Proverbs 22:6*

## **A-LIVE – A NEW SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

This is a good church family. One of the things I love is how obviously close and how much of a family the congregation here is. You come together as a family, worship as a family, have home groups, support one another, the list goes on and on.

However it is also true that for those of us in the younger generations that isn't really something that we have in the same way. It's not that the church isn't welcoming, it's just that there are so few of us and most people in our age range aren't really so at ease with the more traditionally expressed services at All Saints.

What we need is an expression of faith which is more natural to us and to which we feel able to invite people of our age. A service where the younger generations learn to serve as the older generations do, and in which people from the younger generations would feel more comfortable and be welcomed by a warm community which includes people of their age.

This is what **A-LIVE** is about. A morning service where the majority of the team are of a similar age to those whom we desire to welcome into our church family and who are engaged in the service and who really engage with new people.

The new monthly service will be more modern in style, authentic to our cultural way of praising God, with the music led by All Saintly Youth (ASY). We will provide ways to help you access and know the songs in the service and we'll be using some of the songs the Worship Band play. The songs will be interspersed with short focused prayers from members of the congregation and congregation members will welcome people to the service and younger congregation members will run refreshments. Dominic is leading the teaching and the whole service will be no longer than an hour.

This will start on **July 16<sup>th</sup>** replacing the Church4All format. From September we will move to the **first Sunday** of the month and the current morning worship service will move to the third Sunday of each month. In this way we shall build a bridge between the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday afternoon *explore!* service and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening Sunday Night Live service and this new 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month morning worship.

There are already some older people on the team because here's the thing. You have that close family, you have that knowledge and experience, and you have wisdom. While our style is different and may not be to your taste we want and need you. We need you to help in welcoming young adults into the church. We need your help in spreading the word to people whom you think would wish to attend. We want you to pray for us and give us constructive feedback. I mean we'd even love it if you baked cake for after the service!

You've shown us what the family of God should be, and so now we're asking you to help us to form that same family of God within the younger generations of the parish.

**Craig – Youth Minister on behalf of the PCC**