

Worship for All-Ages: Creating a Service

Choosing a theme

Church year or community year? Anniversaries, saints, special occasions?

Good idea to have a plan for a period of time e.g 6 months.

How are you going to link biblical material to the theme? Is it going to generate the theme or support the theme?

Structure

- † **We gather** – what are you going to do to create a sense of community and a sense of sacred space? How will this set the theme. This section should include something that is the same each time.
If it is responsive, then both the trigger and the response need to be simple.
- † [We say sorry - think about creating space for people to bring their emotions: regret, sadness, anger. Remember that people come as victims as well as perpetrators of wrong doing.]
- † **We listen** - how are you going to tell the story? It could be read and then unpacked through the talk; or it could be an event in itself. How are you going to give the talk? Keeping the theme in focus; connecting to different ages and stages of life, use of wondering and questions
- † **We respond** – key activity is prayer – for the world and for ourselves. Think about how to be multi-sensory., how to use movement, how to make things real.
- † **[We celebrate** – the Eucharist – how to involve everyone. Think about timings: action versus stillness; think about process/practicalities]
- † **We go out into the world** – how are you going to bring an ending? This is a good place for notices to shift focus towards life going on? Are you going to give people something to take away with them? Use some words that are the same every time.

Other elements:

- † The peace: a good way of interacting with people, introducing movement, building a sense of belonging
- † Music: when and where; balance between singing and listening, familiar and new
- † Involvement: of different ages with programme and helping
- † Visual: including technology, environment and space



Review:

before going ahead check balance of service; ask yourself how will x take part? Think through logistics and preparation.

Afterwards – review again and work out what was good, what less good, and why.