

Worship Policy

Our vision statement says the following:

"Contemporary Worship - We use contemporary teaching methods that are practical, interactive, inclusive and use modern technology. In our worship we are contemporary, flexible and led by the Holy Spirit."

It follows that those with the responsibility of leading worship at Meare will need to be fully committed to this vision and personally enjoy contemporary worship.

What do we mean by contemporary worship, and how are we going to deliver this?

Contemporary worship is defined as singing songs which are mostly written within the last 20 years or so. The instruments will be whatever we have available.

We have drawn up a list of contemporary songs (not more than forty years old) reasonably well known to the congregation and are building on these by introducing new songs at a rate of roughly one a month. Once a new song is taught, it will be sung again in the next two or three services and then returned to over the coming months. Local growing churches with good contemporary worship are being consulted in order to guide our choice of new songs.

A much-loved older song (over 40 years old) will be included roughly once a month.

The services are projected using a data projector. Bible readings, the preacher's points, visual aids and songs will be projected on the screen. Visiting preachers are invited to e-mail their subject headings ahead of time in order to be included. We will discontinue the use of song books as they are restrictive in content and quickly date.

The singing will normally be led by our worship team who will choose the songs to support the morning's theme. Songs for the coming month will normally be agreed at the monthly music practice. This will allow time for the preparation of the weekly PowerPoint.

The preaching and teaching are intended to be consistent, Biblical, inspirational and practical. The preaching will normally follow a linked teaching programme subject to the overriding leading of the Holy Spirit. The preaching would be provided by those who are suitably gifted and fully supportive of the church vision. For the sake of consistency and clarity, the NIV Bible will be used and copies provided for congregational use.

While the children are in church, what takes place must be fully accessible and appropriate to them.

Services will last for no more than one hour and, for an all age service, fifty minutes.

Communion will normally take place on the second Sunday of each month.

Inclusive. Any large Church today will include those with a variety of views, for example regarding the exercise of Charismatic Gifts or the Bible and science. We seek to accommodate a varied membership by sensitively adopting a middle road regarding such secondary issues.