



# For those leading worship Released: Dec 2010

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**, or at least a **week/fortnight before** if you require anything which may require preparation and a rehearsal.

## **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, however, we welcome creativity.

## **SERVICES AT 10.45**

Our main service at 10.45 enables the whole Christchurch family to worship together. Approx. 200 people of all ages (0->90 yrs) are present, with a few in wheelchairs from MHA Elmside or Hitchin Cheshire Home. There will be up to 50 children and adults from Junior Church (3-18 yrs). A crèche is always available for 0-3 years.

The children and young people leave for their own 'Junior Church' after 10-15 mins. In this time when Junior Church is present, we ask that the focus is on praise (rather than teaching), and that music is chosen that is particularly suitable for the children and young people with at least one song being familiar and simple enough for the youngest to join in (who love to be encouraged to use actions, their percussion instruments and even dance), and one song being appropriate for teenagers. We can suggest songs to suit your theme if required. During this time, the modern (ELLC © 1988) version of the Lord's Prayer should be projected if used. A prayer, or a sung blessing written especially for the children, is appreciated before Junior Church leave for their age-specific groups. For the remainder of the service, the music should reflect the ages present (20s to 90s) so that overall there is a balance between modern and traditional. Readings usually follow the Revised Common Lectionary. Those chosen will be indicated on the weekly notice sheet and displayed before the service starts. This service should finish between 11.45-12 noon.

Once a month we are 'All Age', when all children older than 5 years remain for the whole service (those children between 3-5 years meet in their own group). Once a quarter, this will include our **Uniformed Organisations** (in which case there may be visiting parents unfamiliar with a church service) who will parade with their flags. We request that this service is based on the *Roots* or *Seasons of the Spirit* theme and Lectionary reading(s) for that Sunday. A series of short teaching slots rather than one long sermon usually works best. We ask that this service finishes between 11.30 and 11:45 am.

At the end of the service the Prayer Ministry Team is available for anyone who wishes confidential prayer. Refreshments are served in the church hall once this has been cleared by Junior Church.

## **PARTICIPATION**

**WORSHIP LEADERS** – You will be informed if a Worship Leader is available to assist you in planning and leading. They can do everything except preach a sermon, so together you can decide how they can help best.

**BIBLE READING AND PRAYER** - People in the congregation usually read from the Bible and 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, should be offered usually along with our Offertory.

**MUSIC** - The congregation enjoys singing and has come to know and value hymns and worship songs from a wide variety of sources (Spring Harvest, Soul Survivor, Hillsong, Iona Community, Taizé, in addition to *Songs of Fellowship* and *Hymns and Psalms*, and including songs that have been written by Christchurch Members). A balance of traditional and modern material covering different styles is appreciated. A band plays at the morning service, together with an organist.

**CURTAINS!** – is our drama group which has a selection of material available, or can perform material provided by you. They rehearse fortnightly. Sufficient notice for rehearsal is required.

## **FACILITIES AND RESOURCES**

**AUDIO-VISUAL** - There is an excellent amplification system, operated from the sound desk. Pre-recorded music (e.g. CD) can be played. All hymn/song words are projected, but a few printed booklets, together with *Hymns & Psalms*, are provided to those who are unable to see the projection. We can also project prayers, responses, Bible readings, DVDs, video cassettes, PowerPoint presentations, video avi files, and still pictures. We can handle any Office format. Advice on the use of anything more technical than projecting hymns or readings can be offered. 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, otherwise we cannot guarantee compatibility, nor will there necessarily be time to load during the pre-service run-through.

**COPYRIGHT AND RECORDINGS** - We are licensed with Christian Music Association (CMA) and hold a Christian Copyright Licence (CCL) for hymn and song production, also a Music Reproduction Licence (MRL), Video Licence (CVL), and Performing Right Society (PRS) Church Licence. 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 (which is the normal system for appointments arranged under the Methodist preaching plan). The steward should mention this to you, but please ask if they do not.

## **CHRISTCHURCH CONTACTS**

**Worship contact** – Sara Crowley (aka Sara Mole) [s.mole@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.mole@ucl.ac.uk) 01462 436581 who can advise and will pass on any requirements.