

New Service Brainstorming Discussion: 10 September 2016

Present: Murray Wills, Teresa Housel, Peter Benge, Chris Casey, Angus Capie, Liz Friend, Mark Stone, Margaret Miller, Mark Walker, Derek Lightbourne, Maria Deligiannis, Lois Holmes, Pamela Newsome, Paulene Gibbons, Beth Perry, Meredith Hunt, Pamela Cook, Colin White, Tim Housel, Patricia Hulston, John Hulston, John Warren, Helen Benge, Anne Quartley, Dulce Johnston, Bloss Perry, Pam Honey, Amanda Wills, Jude Gibbard, Isobel Barbery, Helen Willberg, Dan Reeves, Jean Malcolm.

Apologies: Fiona Strachan, Heather Easting, David Dobson,

1. What possibilities excite us as we look towards a new shape and time of mid-morning service at St James?

(ideas and suggestions from people)

- We're looking for freshness for Sunday mornings. New way of communicating and getting youth involvement. Sermons to get more spirit filled and more relevant to today (some not as relevant to today)
- Would be exciting to see the band singing together with the choir and vice versa. That brings in new music/recreated music so that both groups and us can enjoy the music. Also the organ involved.
- Looking forward to getting a youth band involved. Bring the altar down to front and the congregation around, and incorporate choir in the space. Want choir still part of the whole.
- We like some of the cathedral like things, like choir processing out
- We're excited about youth and young families.
- Would like the music to be one group. A new band. Would like more numbers here. And vibrant speakers.
- Get the parents involved. St. Peter's and Pauls: choir sit with the congregation behind them. St. Peter's had a large playpen once where children played.
- Children should be able to hear some sermons and accommodate what they listen to. New families: help them learn as much as they can in an accessible language.
- Recognised at Eucharist: balance of informal and formal ways.
- People could bring something to display at front each week. For example, a symbol from their family, something that tells a story. Put the story in the Newlink or invite person to share story in worship.
- Have extension of artwork around outside.
- Can we have things that aren't just church-based to draw in more people? Garden club, drama group, etc.? Used to be a time out club if you wanted to see a movie. Could also incorporate a fundraising element. What are things that will benefit us to do in the building and in the community? All these things help us build/create this space.

2. What things could help make this a new space?

(ideas and suggestions from people)

- Person giving the sermon could come down from pulpit and come down to congregation so congregation be more involved
- Brighter music. Some of us would like to join in with singing more
- Less as a cathedral atmosphere. More relaxed and not as stereotyped.
- How many in congregation can sing the psalms? Some feel left out.
- Some who come here want to be quiet before the service. Where in the big space can we provide that for such people? And some want to share with someone they'll see here. Where can that happen?
- Facing one another: if someone could rearrange the chairs in front. Would affect how Gospel being processed and also goes back to where the preacher stands.
- The space to eat afterward: we're very confined in foyer. Perhaps we could have another go with expanding it. Going to hall discussed, but too easy for people to escape.
- Looking for flexibility with space. Anything that puts a barrier between people and fellowship can go.
- Bring altar down here, but a smaller one. Congregation all the way around.
- Perhaps a standard communion.
- If we couldn't move all the pews, could we move altar to the back, and more chairs around.
- We're already doing a lot of things (displays on walls). Encourage more people to move up front, hospitality lunches have been a good addition.
- Either roping off pews to make people sit in front, or just using chairs. Do things to make it more intimate, so that we feel more together.
- Open door so people can come in. Especially with all the glass. People feel welcomed if the door is open. Want people to feel invited in.
- Move the chairs forward.

3. What have we seen work here that we'd like to keep?

(ideas and suggestions from people)

- One person said they liked the contemplative service; the warmth and intimacy with the small space
- Coming to the altar for Holy Communion
- 9am service has wonderful synthesis between musicians and people being together
- And having Communion together.
- 9am service: By time teaching with children happens, adults have spiritual needs met.
- When we have services with the children. Sundays when we bring in marae
- Combined choirs. Any kind of addition to what is happening.
- Open Day
- Dance, drama (adds excitement), pageant, contemplative service, organ concerts, bring poetry into service
- Think of the special times when we feel uplifted.

- When we go off script, and have informality and relationship building. Planned informality when we do it deliberately.
- I like to come to church and have it not be the same week in and week out. Want to be surprised.
- Have people share their story, testimony. We don't actually celebrate how the Holy Spirit has been working in the family during the week.
- How about have tables and chairs set up here?
- Using the screen for presenting the teaching in the service
- Music: contemporary and traditional. Some like organ, others like contemporary
- Love the FROG innovation
- Easter Services working well
- St. James Day and perhaps turning it more into a public out-facing event
- 9 Lesson and Carols service
- Christmas Eve Children's Service (why don't we do it at Easter? A service like the 5.30pm we could have at other times of the year)
- Open Air service
- Quiet space used for 10.30am service presents a problem because of its publicness. Maybe have a more private space, like Jean's office. Could help take away some of obviousness.
- Having structure
- Love how people use skills and arts in service
- Singing the Grace and holding of hands
- The correlation between the readings and songs
- The place of ritual – eg. Procession – has deep value

4. What have we seen work elsewhere that might work here?

(ideas and suggestions from people)

- Remove some pews at back of church, and have tables and chairs for hospitality afterward (for a meal)
- Why don't we make all the pews face inwards and move the altar. Make it more personal and involving.
- Got Talent nights, teas, Saturday night times to have tea and share
- Grandchildren's Day (also can bring in children who don't normally come)
- Extended families da
- People having lunch after service together. Coffee and a meal. Through that time you can get to know people better. Can help bring back clubs that we used to have.
- Expand the foyer that offers facilities where you don't have to go to a hall. Need a sizeable donation.
- Derek thought the responsorial Psalm done last week for the first time worked well
- Use coloured stained glass for the lower windows
- Connecting of grandparents or having proxy grandparents in the congregation
- Have a solo club for people who don't have partners (single, separated, widowed etc.)
- The foyer: idea of having lunch and using that more; more informal lunches

- Blending worship styles
- Sing songs regularly so everyone knows the song
- Celebrating new people when they turn up
- Having children's ministry in the centre of church, so families could sit behind them
- Promote things 'out there'
- Having something in the foyer before the service. Put a table there and people would gather around. Would help people to get to know others in congregation.
- When we were in Canada, we went to a church: huge church and we were greeted as soon as we walked in. They took our names. In the service, they welcomed us by name. During the week, I was rung by a woman and she invited me to a group. She offered to pick me up and bring to the meeting. Vicar came to our house. This welcoming helped us. Do people just slip through the door here? AAW do this a bit, but have someone follow up.

5. What do we need to put into place by the 27th of November? /what do we need to take into account?

(ideas and suggestions from people)

- Peter announced Saturday, 24 September for first prayer time for the transition. 8.30-9am.
- Still have issues with sound system, and have to get that sorted.
- How about making some changes to the tables, chairs (like we talked about in meeting today?)
- Have people look at physical arrangement of the space, and have people look at the music.
- Make an inventory of people's talents. Young people normally won't come forward without encouragement
- The group discussed a workshop day of eating and working together.
- Moving the altar is a huge task. Have to prepare people for it. And need permission for it.
- If you have one group looking at layout of the church, the altar task might fit into it. Peter mentioned having a member of Vestry on that group. Have a sign up sheet so people can sign up for it.
- Sorting out liturgy group, a group to pray, a hospitality group (?) making sure things are done well
- Chris said to consult with other people who have done these tasks before. Talk to people who've had experience with it, like moving altar, café tables. What works and doesn't work.
- Physical space has to carefully consider setting up of band, where the organ will be
- Communication group
- Someone at service on 11 September to talk about what's happened today,
- Praying group, space group, liturgy group, music group, hospitality, communication, a meta-group (a steering group?), role of Jean and Peter
- If a group has an idea, who do they talk to? Need communication avenues across the groups.

- 15th of October meeting (Jean said early enough before the 27th to come back together, and time to do creative thinking and come up with things)
- Jean said one group's decisions will affect another.
- Lois said have people put their phone number up on sign-up sheet
- Peter said each group have a convener

We discussed having this information available both as a hard copy and on the web site. We also wanted to make it clear that this was the discussion that was covered on "this day" and that there is further to go with our discussions.

At the end Bloss Perry asked to read out a letter from Richard Perry. As the meeting had already overrun its time, the meeting was closed and the letter was made available to those who wanted to read it after the meeting. People took the copies made available.

(add particular things to the timeline)