



## The 10 am Sunday Worship

*This is a brief introduction to what you can expect at the worship on most Sundays at St Michael's.*

### **Eucharist, Mass, Lord's Supper or Holy Communion?**

10 am worship on Sunday is the main event of the week. You will find we refer to this mostly as 'The 10am Eucharist'. Other Church of England churches might use other titles for this central Christian service such as Holy Communion, Lord's Supper, or the Mass. Each title gives a slightly different emphasis to one aspect of the service. Eucharist is derived from the Greek word for giving thanks, so the St Michael's title could be called 'The Great Thanksgiving'.

Whatever it is called, this form of worship in which bread and wine are taken, blessed and shared according to the instructions of Jesus, forms the centre of our life together as a Christian community. The Vicar sometimes talks about 'Liturgy' a word rooted in the idea of service to one another and to God and sometimes translated as 'the work of the people of God'. Liturgies enable us to follow a sequence of words and actions which help us to participate together in an encounter with God.

Regulars at St Michael's know that every Sunday at 10am they will be able to 'make their Communion' with God and thus with one another. On arrival you are usually given 3 items: A Liturgy booklet = the order of service; a pewsheet which has the readings, hymn numbers or extra songs and items on it; a hymn book.



### **Sitting, standing, kneeling**

We really are relaxed about who does what and when. The Liturgy booklets give some guidance but they are suggestions not commands. Some of us prefer to stand to pray but others sit or kneel. Most of us seem to like to stand for the Gospel reading but if anyone sits no-one is taking notes!

### **Roles taken during the Eucharist**

All of us have our parts to fulfill in the worship. We all come ready to pray, to respond as indicated in the liturgy booklets with the words in bold or singing the hymns and songs chosen. The whole congregation are the choir as well! In fact we all enjoy singing and for us it has genuinely become an extension of praying together.

The people ordained or formally licensed for ministry take on the presiding and preaching roles. Trained musicians play the organ or piano.

Individual members of the congregation can also participate by reading a lesson, leading the intercessions, bringing up the gifts of bread and wine in the middle of the service, serving in the sanctuary or assisting as a steward (called sidespeople in some churches).

See the leaflet on "Stewardship" and "Who's Who?" for more about this.



### **Seasons of the Church Year**

The basic pattern outlined in this leaflet is the one followed every Sunday but some of the sections are presented differently depending on the time of year. For example during Christmas and Epiphany we all stand around the crib for the Gathering section, during Lent (Spring time) we all process into church together. In Advent we do not sing 'The Gloria' and on a Fifth Sunday in the month we usually hold one of our Iona inspired gatherings.

For more information about Table for All, Crafty Church, All Age worship and the Seasons of the Church Year see the leaflet on "Worship throughout the Christian Year".

## Order 1a Common Worship

We use the modern language Order for the Eucharist as agreed by the Church of England in its collection of services authorised for use in parish churches (and elsewhere) known collectively as *Common Worship* but here and there we have slightly modified this to meet specific needs for our community such as enabling children and adults to begin and end the formal part of Sunday morning all together. We do like to have experimental Eucharists now and again or a different style for some services but in fact every 10am Eucharist is carefully put together and there is an underlying pattern to them all:

### The sections of Order 1a

There are 4 component parts to the Eucharist.

Part One is called **The Gathering** and is quite short. This is the introduction to the worship.

Part Two is longer and constitutes about half of the Sunday worship and is called **The Liturgy of the Word**. You can expect this part to focus on Scripture.

Part Three also takes up about one third to a half of the total time of the 10am worship and is called **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**. This is the section in which bread and wine are consecrated and we receive Holy Communion.

Part Four is **the Dismissal**, a final short section which finishes our worship and prepares us for going into God's world to live in God's way.

Each of these 4 sections have their own role to play and consist of the following elements:



**A liturgy booklet for the season** gives you the order of service.

**Gathering:** We come together and begin to focus on our worship - the formal beginning will include singing, a procession and usually some sort of responsory. All ages sometimes begin together.

**Liturgy of the Word** (the separate pewsheet is usually the guide for this part)

There is a sequence of Bible readings and singing at this point: First Reading from the Hebrew (sometimes called "Old Testament") Scriptures followed by a 'Canticle' = a sung item. Then the Epistle - a reading from one of the Letters or Acts of the Apostles in the "New Testament" followed by the 'Gradual' which is a sung item preparing us for the reading marked out by a procession and forming the climax of this section: the Gospel Reading. Our responses and reflections to what we have heard are then expressed by the Sermon, the Creed and the Intercessions (prayers for the world led by one of the congregation).

**Liturgy of the Sacrament** (back to the Liturgy Booklet for the day) We exchange the Greeting of Peace, the Gifts (bread, wine and money) are brought to the altar and the Antidoron (blessed bread for any non-communicants) is prayed over. Then the great Eucharistic Prayer is recited by the presiding priest with our responses (usually sung) interspersing each part. During this Prayer the bread and wine are consecrated (blessed) and the Holy Spirit invoked to transform these gifts the Body & Blood of Christ. We then prepare ourselves and receive Communion

**Dismissal** A prayer is said together, a hymn sung, Sunday School feedback and then the Blessing and formal Dismissal are given before our last sung item takes us out of church and into coffee time.

