

St John's Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Horwich

Terms of Reference for the Worship Group

The Worship Group is delegated by and is responsible to the Church Council for those aspects of worship at St John's Methodist Church outlined below.

The overall remit of the Worship Group is to work with the minister to maintain and improve the quality of worship such that each member of the Church family is able to feel God's presence and respond in thanksgiving, praise and mission. High quality worship is defined as that which participants find :

- a) enriches their understanding of faith
- b) helps them to grow in faith
- c) takes account of their individual personality and needs
- d) challenges them to respond to God's message
- e) helps them to live fulfilled lives in the expression of their faith.

What does this involve?

1. Creating an environment and ambiance that is conducive to worship
 - a. Appropriate lighting (intensity and colour) and comfortable temperature
 - b. Good quality audio amplification
 - c. Good quality Projection for screen
2. Arranging or commissioning special services
3. Considering ways in which worship can be challenging and daring to bring new understanding to God's word.
4. Making sure that worship is inclusive in its use of language and in the assumptions it makes about people's lives to identify with everyone whatever their age, ethnicity, or social background.
5. Encouraging and supporting people to be involved with worship
6. Supporting those already involved in leading worship to develop their skills and understanding of their role, helping to identify any resources requested.
7. Communicating with preachers and worship leaders as required to enhance mutual understanding of worship requirements.
8. Meeting regularly as a group to review worship and to develop service plans and calendars of worship relevant to the Christian year.

How will the Worship group identify the needs of the congregation?

1. Taking a personal interest in the worship at St John's and through prayer and contemplation searching for ways to express our faith through worship.
2. Recognising that worship belongs to everyone and is not just the remit of preachers and worship leaders.
3. Talking with and listening to members of the congregation about worship
4. Seeking specific feedback about special services
5. Reviewing specific topics as required to identify possible improvements
6. Ensuring that the names of those on the worship group are known to the congregation.
7. Ensuring when permanent or long term changes to worship are proposed that sufficient and appropriate soundings are taken to meet the needs of the church family and to make adjustments to proposed changes if necessary.

Adopted by Church Council 28th October 2014