

St John's Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Horwich

Terms of Reference for the Faith and Worship Group

The Faith and Worship Group is delegated by and is responsible to the Church Council with respect to faith and worship at St John's Methodist Church. The role of the Group is to work with the minister to maintain and improve the quality of worship and to support activities designed to develop the faith of members of the church community, such that each member of the Church family is able to feel God's presence and respond in thanksgiving, praise and mission.

The Group will support worship and work to develop faith which:-

- a) enriches the understanding of faith
- b) helps people to grow in faith
- c) takes account of each individual's personality and needs
- d) challenges people to respond to God's message
- e) helps people 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. Supporting groups such as the Fellowship group to play their part in developing faith through programmes of work which are both interesting and challenging in a safe and constructive environment which values all members and opinions.

8. Communicating with preachers and worship leaders as required to enhance mutual understanding of worship requirements.
9. Communicating with members and leaders of groups such as the Fellowship Group to share ideas about both worship and the work to help people grow in faith.
10. 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 Faith and Worship group members 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 and about ways in which we might enhance our work to help people grow in faith.
4. Seeking specific feedback about special services and about the effectiveness of group work, especially Advent, Lent and Bible month
5. Reviewing specific topics as required to identify possible improvements
6. Ensuring that the names of those on the Faith and 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 CouncilDATE