

## PRAYING TOGETHER

- ◆ Use sensitive intercessions which are not too long.
- ◆ Consider using visual images on an OHP or data-projector, or newspaper cuttings e.g headlines and photos. Young people may have the IT skills needed.
- ◆ Children love candles. Have the older children (or young ones with parents) place votive candles in a bed of sand in pottery as each prayer is read.

See the resources already mentioned for ideas.

## MUSIC

1. Use a variety of music styles. In the clergy mail each month is a list of suggested hymns and songs from different sources. This list is not definitive but gives good suggestions.
2. If you normally have organ accompaniment, vary that for one song and have a tape or CD accompaniment. Invite a young person to look after the CD player.
3. Invite the youth of the parish to choose appropriate music for all or part of the service.
  - Band music to send you out
  - Quiet reflective music for during communion and post-communion
  - Modern song with lyrics reflecting the theme
4. Young children can be encouraged to give a percussion accompaniment to some bright songs. – shakers and rhythm stick. You can make “shakers” from plastic bottles with dry beans inside. Also consider using bells, ribbons and balloons. See God’s People at Worship Together for ideas
5. Learn new songs together before the service begins. Balance traditional hymns with modern songs and choruses.
6. Form a music group consisting of people of all ages; but they will need to practise, and you need an enthusiastic leader.
7. Learn some songs which have accompanying actions.



# PLANNING for ALL-AGE WORSHIP

*Dorothy Thorpe  
Ministry Development Officer  
Diocese of Willochra  
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## ALL-AGE WORSHIP IS...

**INCLUSIVE:** An all-age service is worship for God's people together; not a children's service; not a family service; but worship for everyone at every stage of life.

**ACCESSIBLE:** Avoid being too wordy, rather plan to involve the emotions as well as reason. Use visual and audio media, and movement.

**INVOLVING:** Encourage participation as much as possible so that there are opportunities for doing, saying, singing, looking and not just sitting and hearing.

**UNITING:** The common experience of worship helps to build community. Plan to include segments where people of different ages communicate with one another.

**FLEXIBLE:** *A Prayer Book for Australia* is a resource book. It does not need to be followed rigidly but used flexibly and imaginatively with other resources.

**WELL-PLANNED:** Careful planning brings glory to God and satisfaction to all.

### Sermons and activities instead of the sermon

- ◆ **Children's sermons** can be used before the adult sermon as long as you provide young children with a worksheet or activity to do during the adult sermon.
- ◆ **All-age talks** or activities are more satisfactory things to do because they involve people of all ages, the children don't necessarily have to "come out to the front" (which many do not like to do and which is certainly unsuitable for youngsters over the age of 10), and the congregation is united in its focus and learning.
- ◆ **Faith-sharing activities in small groups.** The simplicity and wisdom of youth can provide helpful insights for adults, and the experience and wisdom of adults can be imparted to young people through sharing of stories, ideas and discussion questions. You might need to have several weeks of such activities until people loosen up in small groups. Keep questions simple and short.

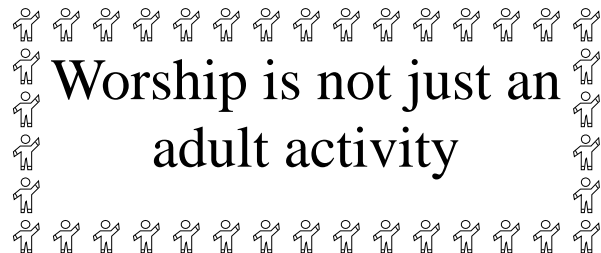
Very useful resources are

Forbid Them Not Involving Children in Sunday Worship Year A, Year B and Year C by Carolyn C. Brown,

Abingdon Press \$29.95 from Openbook and Mediacom

Living Stones - The all-age resource for the Common Worship Lectionary – Years A, B and C by Susan Sayers, Kevin Mayhew Limited \$59.95 each.

Living the Christ Life Rediscovering the Seasons of the Christian Year by Mangan et al., Wood Lake Books \$39.95 from Clare Valley Christian Outreach Centre ph (08) 8842 1411. This has useful all-age activities, prayer exercises and discussion starters.



## **Plays**

Drama is often best done by adults or by a combination of adults and children. Practice is essential. There are various books on the market with suitable plays.

50 sketches about Jesus by David Burt, Kingsway Communications Ltd, England \$18.95 from Koorong.

The Big Book of Bible Skits by Tom Boal published by Gospel Light USA Available from Koorong at \$29.95

Mega Drama by Verena Johnson, Openbook Publishers 2001 Available from Openbook  
Ph. 1300 36 75 75  
Email : service@openbook.com.au

Seasons of the Spirit material from Mediacom.  
Ph (08) 8371 1399 Email: www.mediacom.org.au

## **Interviews**

Interview one or more of the characters from the gospel narrative. Choose people who are capable of doing this without practice so that there is spontaneity in their answers. Ask them beforehand and do not “spring” it on people.

## **Video or OHP**

If your church architecture allows it, you can present Bible stories visually. Videos can be borrowed from the Anglican Resource Centre, 34 Lipsett Tce, Brooklyn Park  
ph (08) 8416 8440

## **WHAT SERVICE WILL WE HAVE?**

From *A Prayer Book for Australia*, you may choose

- ◆ Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer Second Order p.18
- ◆ A Service of Praise, Prayer and Proclamation p. 34
- ◆ The Holy Communion Second Order p. 119 . Thanksgiving 5 on p. 139 requires more involvement from the congregation than the other options.
- ◆ The Outline Order of Holy Communion p. 813

You may choose to have some other form of non-eucharistic worship from other resource books.

Generally all services follow a common pattern and care needs to be taken in preparation to ensure participation and accessibility for everyone in each section.

## **Gathering**

### **Breaking Open God’s Word**

### **Praying**

### **(Doing – The Sacrament)**

### **Sending**

## **GATHERING**

- ◆ A warm welcome
- ◆ A clear statement of the theme of the day
- ◆ A joyous “gathering “ hymn which gives praise to God
- ◆ Clear instructions about page numbers and books.

### **Ways to involve young people**

- ◆ Each service, one young member of the congregation can assist the worship leader with very specific leadership tasks, carefully thought out and written down. For example, the young leader can announce all the hymns and the page numbers. It should be collaborative leadership and needs careful preparation, using informal language. Choose someone who has a clear voice, can read well and will not be shy. Never force a reluctant child or teenager.
- ◆ Young people can act as welcomers at the door.
- ◆ If you have a procession, involve several young people.
  - One can be crucifer.
  - Consider using balloons and streamers waved in time to the music.
  - Consider processing with the flowers in vases to decorate the church or items to make a visual focus.

There are lots of useful suggestions in [God’s People at Worship Together](#) Accessible worship for the whole church community by Susan Sayers, Kevin Mayhew Ltd 2003 \$30.95. Available from Koorong  
Ph (08) 8239 6777  
Email: orders@koorong.com.au

## **BREAKING OPEN GOD’S WORD**

### **Scripture reading**

The Scriptures should be read well. The readers should prepare, pronounce names correctly and speak clearly and with meaning. Do not involve young people in reading unless they can do it well. It is not useful for the adult congregation to listen to poor readers even if it does mean involvement of young people.

### **Dramatic reading**

Using several voices where the reading involves a dialogue and narration. This could involve one or more young people with adults. It is important to practise beforehand and choose the appropriate characters for the young people involved. The dramatic reading is not about entertainment or performance or even involvement. The group, should strive for excellence. It is not excellent if a young reader cannot cope with the text.

### **Reading and/or creative presentation**

In addition to reading, or instead of reading, , use creative ways of presenting the readings. Adults can present drama for youngsters to watch. A useful book is [Just Imagine](#) Creative ways of Presenting Scripture by Rina Wintour published by Mountjoy Enterprises .Year A, Year B and Year C are available at \$29.95 Each or a copy may be borrowed from the Diocesan Resources for a short time.

Available from Pauline Book and Media Centre, Twin Street, Adelaide

Ph. (08) 8223 2735

Fax (08) 8232 2850

Email orders.adelaide@paulinebooks.com.au