



## The Severn Wye Ministry Area

### Worship Styles: CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP

You may or may not have heard of café style worship. Perhaps you are asking yourself what is it and what makes it so different from the type of worship that I remember from my past?

Café style worship is a very informal form of worship which uses simple everyday language in a relaxed atmosphere. The idea is to welcome people who may not feel comfortable in the traditional rather formal church setting – perhaps not knowing what to wear, when to stand up and sit down, and how to follow the service. Casual clothing is worn by everyone, including the leader.

How does it work then?

Services vary a bit depending on the church and the person leading but in essence it involves a rather laid back approach to hearing scripture, praying and hymn singing and all within the idea of being in a café with friends. Often the service will be held in a hall rather than in the church itself (that's partly because the layout and seating in our churches is usually not very conducive to this style of service).

Typically, people arrive and sit around tables in small groups. Some have activities for children and young people, some have access to a range of newspapers for people to read and from which they can draw topics that need our prayers. Refreshments are offered, tea/coffee, cakes, sandwiches - it can even extend to bacon baps which all can enjoy along with a chat to others who have come along.

After about 20 mins of this socialising the worship part starts with a hymn or song, hopefully something rather catchy. After that someone reads a Bible passage which is followed by a short talk by the leader – with the emphasis being on relevance to how we live our everyday lives. Then we pray to God in a way that is relevant to our own context and the world that we live in. The headings drawn from the newspapers can form the basis of our prayers which can be made by the leader or by those attending if they feel comfortable doing so.

After that a second Hymn or song is sung and people are then sent out to go home and hopefully carry out the things that they have heard about in the service. There is often food left over and an invitation to finish it off and spend a little time chatting afterwards is all time well spent.

At first it may seem a bit too informal and it will be for some, but for others it is a chance to experience a new form of worship in a short and informal atmosphere. You could give it a go at a church near you as we are using this form of worship in a number of our churches across the Ministry Area now and surprisingly, or maybe not, folk seem to like it.

You will find café church services:

In St Peter's Newchurch – 3rd Sunday of the month at 5.30pm

In Shirenewton – monthly on Sunday afternoons and in Mathern – see future magazines and [www.severnwyema.co.uk](http://www.severnwyema.co.uk) for details