

# North Bedfordshire Circuit Review

## Analysis of PREACH QNS & LDR WSHIP QNS

### Worship (Worship Leading)

			all-age	contemplative	contemp song	hymns	image based	interactive	modern	participative	quiet	reflective	traditional	visual	relevant prayers	formal	drama	
LP1 WL1	... style of worship you feel most comfortable, and enjoy, leading	LPs	14	4	11	13	5	13	11	17	4	9	14	5	2	1		
		WLs	3	1	2	5	1	3	3	2			1					1
		<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
LP2 WL2	... style of worship you find yourself predominantly leading	LPs	7		2	11	1	4	7	7	1	3	16	2				
		WLs	2		1	3		1		2			5					
		<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

			1 Very poor	2	3	4	5	6 Very good
LP3 WL3	How much do you enjoy worship led by more than one person?	LPs		1	1	5	10	8
		WLs					5	2
		<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>
LP4 WL4	How good is your experience of leading worship with others?	LPs			2	8	9	5
		WLs				2	3	2
		<b>Total</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>
LP5 WL5	How well do you work with other people when leading worship?	LPs		1	1	7	9	5
		WLs					3	4
		<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
LP6	How well do you know the congregations you lead in worship?	LPs	2	1	11	6	2	3
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

*Identify the main themes that are raised rather than each individual comment made*

<p>LP7/WL6. What pastoral role do you think Preachers/Worship Leaders have for the congregations they lead in worship?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preachers represent the whole circuit and are the connection to other churches/congregations.</li> <li>• A significant role in encouraging members of the congregation to use their gifts and support their Christian journey beyond Sunday worship.</li> <li>• Say things that others may not be able to say.</li> <li>• Talking to people before and after the service, being friendly and approachable, asking about their concerns and praying for them and leading worship that is sensitive to those needs.</li> <li>• Leading the congregation into prayers which take into account their needs.</li> <li>• Prayers which encompass a variety of situations if individual needs are not always known.</li> <li>• Knowledge of congregations can lead to encouraging them in worship services through all aspects of it.</li> <li>• It is difficult when you see a congregation only once or twice a year.</li> <li>• More regular contact with a smaller number of churches to allow for great pastoral awareness</li> <li>• Could have greater role in coordinating / input to LAs, to develop closer links with pastoral needs.</li> <li>• To speak God's words into their situation.</li> <li>• LPs provide most of the worship and regular teaching / inspiration / challenge / assurance that congregations receive on Sundays, which is a great responsibility.</li> <li>• WLs are in advantageous position as aware of concerns and spiritual state of congregation, enabling them to choose hymns/worship songs and elements of prayer with this in mind.</li> </ul>
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Worship (**Preaching**)

			challenging	conversational	evangelistic	exegesis	humorous	interactive	linked daily life	narrative	p'nal anecdotes	stories	themed	visual
LP8	... style of sermon you feel most comfortable, and enjoy, leading	LPs	19	7	7	7	10	8	23	4	14	9	12	6
LP9	... style of sermon you find yourself predominantly leading	LPs	15	6	3	13	7	3	20	2	10	6	12	2

			1 Very poor	2	3	4	5	6 Very good
LP10	How much do you think the sermon is still a central part of worship?	LPs			2	6	12	4
LP11	How good do you feel you are at preaching?	LPs		1	3	11	7	1
LP12	How good are you at preaching/talking to children and young people?	LPs	1		8	5	8	1
LP13	How well do you bring personal examples into your preaching?	LPs		1	4	11	8	1

*Identify the main themes that are raised rather than each individual comment made*

<p>LP14. What role do you think Local Preachers have in encouraging people to talk about God?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lay people with ordinary jobs and lives should be, and are, a great example of the difference that can be made by non-ordained people speaking positively and honestly about their faith</li> <li>• It is very limiting in the time allocated on a Sunday, but it can be encouraged through the sermon of personal testimony and using personal illustrations speaking of their experiences of God and how God has worked in their lives. There is an important role relating to experiences that resonate with them.</li> <li>• Using a type of worship which encourage conversation, questions and discussion, e.g. café worship.</li> <li>• We need to engage with the congregation effectively</li> <li>• Not to be afraid of saying that some Biblical things are difficult and not easily understood.</li> <li>• We need to make God more accessible so that people don't feel awkward talking about him in their daily lives.</li> <li>• Preacher can light a candle, but only the Holy Spirit can set them on fire.</li> <li>• Give people food for mind and souls. When people are fed then they are able to talk about God.</li> <li>• Preaching should encourage people to think about their faith, and hopefully gain confidence in speaking about it.</li> <li>• We face the same challenges about talking to people that they do.</li> <li>• LPs are a third voice, a companion; they can show by example that talking about God is a great thing.</li> <li>• We do not always appreciate just how much even simple questions are still worrying many Christians, even after years of church.</li> </ul>
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LP15/WL7. What opportunities do you think worship that doesn't take place on a Sunday offers to local churches and/or the circuit?

- Midweek worship can offer to those who prefer a quieter, more contemplative, style of worship to do so in an environment in which they feel more comfortable.
- Midweek worship offers those who work at weekends, or who cannot worship on a Sunday due to other pressures, an opportunity to share with others it gives people choice. It shows that the church in the community is moving forward.
- Vital in our modern society.
- Opportunity explore different types of worship.
- More freedom is required – open prayer times; everyone to use God's gifts e.g. prophecy, to tongues, words, wisdom, laying on of hands etc. Very powerful – would change the face of the circuit.
- Opportunities to reach wider age range, bringing more people from the community.
- Regular monthly Holy Communion on a weekday provides opportunities for own church members and members from other churches to attend.
- Can also be helpful for people who take a lot of services or teach in Sunday School / Junior Church each week.
- Fellowship that includes a meal - a pizza and movie night and just general hanging around.
- Offers opportunities for other folk / families to worship in a way that is helpful for them, e.g. Messy Church, care homes etc
- All are needed – Sundays and weekdays.
- The church is seen as being part of our whole lives, not just Sundays.
- Messy Church offers sustained contact with families at time which is convenient for them.
- After school and Saturday worship is good at being accessible for children and their parents/carers

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LP16/WL8. Are there any traditional ministerial roles that Local Preachers/Worship leaders could undertake? Please give examples.

- Some might have a gift to lead study groups or new Disciple courses.
- Could conduct baptisms (See [Standing Order 010A](#))
- Could conduct funerals – some Circuits have offered specific training in this area.
- Chairing meetings instead of a minister.
- Can help with mentoring Worship Leaders, planning Local Arrangements and pastoral visiting.
- Local Preachers often already have others roles within their churches.
- Helping with pastoral work, school assemblies, visiting Mother and Toddler groups, you and children's work, depending on the skills/gifts of the preacher.
- They could take on the leading of house groups and prayer meetings.
- Representing the church – e.g. on Churches Together and other ecumenical committees and groups.
- The ministry of the laying on of hands, ministering to the sick, prophecies, visions etc.
- Taking extended Communion to housebounds.
- The suggestion of Local Preachers leading Holy Communion was mentioned by several people – whilst this is possible under certain conditions and with special dispensation it is not the practice of the Methodist Church in Britain at this time:
  - *A Circuit which considers that any of its churches or a significant number of church members or other Christians in the local community is deprived of reasonably frequent and regular celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper through lack of presbyters may apply for the authorisation of persons other than presbyters to preside at that sacrament when appointed to do so on the circuit plan, or on other occasions when authorised by the Superintendent. ([Standing Order 011](#))*

*Identify the main themes that are raised rather than each individual comment made*

LP17/WL9. When there are no longer enough Ministers and Local Preachers to fill the 'Plan', what would your solution be?

- Churches should be encouraged to join with each other to share services.
- There would have to be more LAs (Songs of Praise, meditative services) or more Worship Leaders leading the entire service in different ways, encouraging reflection and discussion groups. Give local churches freedom to organise their own worship.
- Joint services with other churches in village/town or circuit, more ecumenical cooperation where this is possible and appropriate.
- Start to provide different styles of worship in various key centres/churches around the circuit. Plan fewer services in individual churches, but share those available to lead worship as the need arises.
- Merge the churches together; there are some churches that have a regular attendance of under 12 people, and although the fellowship is often wonderful, unfortunately they are not financially or logistically viable.
- WLs may be able to take on more responsibilities, as they already are in many churches, and the new training course should equip them better to do more.
- Encourage our people to recognise and understand what it means to be a priesthood of all believers within church groups.
- Encouraging more to hear the call to be preachers and presbyters.
- Circuit workshops on leading worship (e.g. LA training for Stewards - this could result in callings to ministry)
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## Learning

			1 Very poor	2	3	4	5	6 Very good
1	How good are you at responding to feedback about services you lead	LPs		1	2	8	12	1
		WLs				4	1	2
		<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>
2	How good are you at undertaking CLPD/further training?	LPs	1	3	3	6	5	5
		WLs	1			2	2	1
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>

*Identify the main themes that are raised rather than each individual comment made*

3. I have been helped to develop and grow ... when ...	4. I would develop and grow better ... if ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have received constructive and specific feedback from other LPs and members of the congregation.</li> <li>• I have undertaken study / training sessions with others.</li> <li>• I have been recommended books to read / courses to attend, e.g. Cliff College summer school BELIEF course etc.</li> <li>• Attending a small group for CLPD and taking part in a prayer group, opportunities to discuss with others.</li> <li>• Attending Circuit/District and national CLPD activities.</li> <li>• Remembered my calling.</li> <li>• I keep centred on Jesus.</li> <li>• When I have been affirmed by local congregations, also when people have suggested where I might improve (very rarely happens).</li> <li>• I read and study to prepare for services.</li> <li>• I listen to audio tapes and DVDs.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we had more opportunities to listen to each other and share thoughts.</li> <li>• We could have more study/training at LP meetings, exchanging of ideas about what has / hasn't worked in services, issues raised in the pulpit etc.</li> <li>• I could attend a Bible study group or pastoral group.</li> <li>• I prayed and read my Bible more often.</li> <li>• Have a Spiritual Director to share with.</li> <li>• There was a regular forum for sharing ideas and resources.</li> <li>• Have a circuit prayer meeting, where we seek God and ask for his direction and infilling.</li> <li>• Opportunities to share concerns and problems confidentially.</li> <li>• There was encouraging feedback.</li> <li>• More small group CLPD.</li> <li>• All LPs attended meetings and undertook CLPD.</li> <li>• It were possible for us to observe each other's service, and feedback more often (we are so often our preaching ourselves).</li> <li>• It were possible to video/record some of the more progressive/different kinds of worship in the circuit/elsewhere, so that we could view and discuss in small groups and CLPD groups.</li> </ul>

## Caring

			1 Very poor	2	3	4	5	6 Very good
1	How good is the circuit/church at caring for you as a preacher/worship leader?	LPs			4	9	8	2
		WLs	2			4		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
2	How good is the circuit at caring for others involved in worship?	LPs		1	3	9	9	1
		WLs		1		3		
		<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>

*Identify the main themes that are raised rather than each individual comment made*

3. The circuit has cared for me ... when ...	4. The circuit's caring would be better if ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaking the Faith &amp; Worship course, encouraged and give guidance and prayers.</li> <li>• Receiving cards of condolence or support</li> <li>• During difficult periods of my life whether that be illness, loss, or other difficulties.</li> <li>• LP Fellowship meetings have been organised.</li> <li>• Individuals within the Circuit rather than the 'Circuit'</li> <li>• The LP meeting has always been supportive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have developed closer relationships with each other since the enlargement of the circuit.</li> <li>• There were teams of people responsible for others, like pastoral leaders but specifically for LPs and WLs. LPs and WLs had a regular contact to check and see how they are from time to time.</li> <li>• There was more time to talk and share in an informal situation.</li> <li>• Local Church Stewards were more aware of the needs of preachers.</li> <li>• We could have more services and worshipful get-togethers, such as Agape meals, just for LPs and WLs and their spouses.</li> <li>• Those in need had their need reported to someone with a pastoral oversight, and if there were lay members in each congregation who took on the role of caring.</li> <li>• The circuit is too rigid, needs gentle exercises in the Spirit.</li> <li>• Good communication from meetings, within the Circuit, between churches, between LPs and WLs.</li> <li>• More CLPD groups</li> <li>• More prayer groups</li> </ul>

## Service

			1 Very poor	2	3	4	5	6 Very good
1	How good is our worship at enabling people to respond to those in need?	LPs		1	5	12	5	1
		WLs			4	3		1
		<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
2	How good is our worship at supporting what its own people do to help others?	LPs			7	13	4	1
		WLs		1	2	1	1	1
		<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

*Identify the main themes that are raised rather than each individual comment made*

3. ... has enabled us to respond to those in need when ...	4. ... would be more supportive if ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have services on special Sundays and the worship is centred on a particular theme, i.e. Prisons Sunday, Homeless Sunday, Action for Children, Christian Aid, Shoebox Appeal.</li> <li>There has been a relaxed enough atmosphere from both the preacher, those who lead worship and the congregation.</li> <li>We have invited an advocate to talk about the need.</li> <li>Leading prayers, using services prepared by different societies/charities.</li> <li>I have made connections with individuals or group, often outside the church, which has given us opportunities.</li> <li>Given practical examples of how we can help to illustrate a sermon point.</li> <li>It fits with the Bible passage being preached about.</li> <li>I have been able to link my services with the needs of the world.</li> <li>We have prayed individually for those in need.</li> <li>We shared the needs of others, e.g. TV footage of war situations.</li> <li>Prayer is vital.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We got to know our congregations better.</li> <li>If preachers were able to more regularly visit the same churches.</li> <li>LPs were given more information about individual churches and the causes they support.</li> <li>We could have more visits from people working in areas that need our help. People always respond better to first-hand accounts.</li> <li>We made better use of resources from other organisations and charities.</li> <li>We always had good access to materials for the specific causes.</li> <li>We knew more about what different churches did.</li> <li>We shared the needs of others, e.g. TV footage of war situations.</li> <li>There was access to broadband/internet for use during worship.</li> </ul>

## Evangelism

			1 Very poor	2	3	4	5	6 Very good
1	How good is our worship at enabling people to talk about their faith?	LPs	3	2	7	9	2	
		WLs			1	2	1	2
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
2	How good is our worship at meeting the needs of new people	LPs	3	4	11	5		
		WLs	1	1		1	2	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	

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3. ... has helped people to share the Good News when ...	4. ... would be more helpful if ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a visible passion from the preacher, those who lead worship and the congregations in their willingness to share the good news of Jesus and their own experience.</li> <li>• the Easter story to demonstrate the opportunities others have used to share the good news.</li> <li>• Services are more lively, with a message more relevant to everyday life.</li> <li>• It is interactive and the congregation have been given discussion points and they are sitting cafe style.</li> <li>• We have had more informal services and tried to include families who do not attend on a regular basis.</li> <li>• They empathise with the Scripture readings or with a personal story.</li> <li>• There is a challenge and examples given, then let the Holy Spirit do the rest,</li> <li>• I least expect it.</li> <li>• Working with others, e.g. WLs, local congregations, special services.</li> <li>• Considering the mission whilst preparing to lead worship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was more challenging more often.</li> <li>• Our services were made modern in format, i.e. hymns / readings / sermons not so structured and more relaxed atmosphere.</li> <li>• There was more diversity in preaching and worship styles, which was actively encouraged by the circuit</li> <li>• I focused on having Jesus central to my life at all times and let God work through me.</li> <li>• All churches had flexible worship areas which made discussion/interaction easier.</li> <li>• We could preach a bit more often in the churches where we are known.</li> <li>• It relates the gospel more clearly to our contemporary world and daily lives; we explore clearly both the positive and the challenging aspects of faith, not watering it down.</li> <li>• Worship was held outside of church buildings.</li> <li>• We thought more about the people on the church fringes as well as the central congregation.</li> <li>• We were trained to evangelise.</li> </ul>