

NOTES ON 'MISSION-SHAPED WORSHIP' TRAINING EVENT given by Andrew Maries

SESSION 1 WHAT IS WORSHIP?

We live in a new spiritual age. C of E 'Mission Shaped Church' report

Demographic changes challenge our way of doing church.

Heart of mission is call to worship - but often problem of mission activity is what happens when people come into church?

2 essential elements of 'mission-shaped' worship:

- *authentic spiritual experience - encounter with God*
- *experience of relationship with others*

reflecting 2 essential needs in society today:

- *search for spiritual meaning in life*
- *desire to belong in some kind of human network or community*

Gospel has potential to answer both needs in most satisfying and profound ways.

But will Church come up with the goods?

How can Gospel re-evangelize our worship? Some fundamental values to re-assess:

- WORSHIP AS SPIRITUAL - Worship begins with the individual's encounter with God.
- WORSHIP AS EMBODIED - Christianity is an incarnational religion - all about bodies! Implies full involvement in human life.
- WORSHIP AS CREATIVE - what colour are we worshipping in?
- WORSHIP AS RELATIONAL - God is relational - Trinity. Spirit brings us into a new relationship with one another - Body of Christ, marked by love.
- WORSHIP AS HOSPITABLE - how good are we at welcoming the outsider into worship?
- WORSHIP AS OUTWARD-LOOKING - scissors of worship and mission...

SESSION 2 TOOLS FOR THE JOB:

Public worship -a crucial interface:

we need a **VISION** for worship.

How do we **PLAN AND PREPARE** for worship?

TEAMWORK IN WORSHIP

EXPERIMENTATION other times / other occasions / other themes

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE?

MUSIC in WORSHIP - creates community, brings focus, expresses praise, invokes the divine.

SACRED SPACE - Jesus and early disciples met in homes, yet we meet in institutions.

seating - atmosphere - visual impact - lighting - somewhere else??

TIME - when should we worship, bearing in mind demographic changes?

MINISTRY OF WELCOME what's it like for an outsider to enter our worship space?

LITURGY - new resources from Common Worship, Patterns, Iona, Taizé

THE WORD OF GOD? THE WORD of GOD - a love letter from God written in flesh and blood.

How can we communicate that Word in ways more in keeping with contemp. culture?

SCRIPTURE READING characterisation, dramatic interpretation...

PSALMS Many forms available - RC responsorial - Psalm Songs - visual interpretations

INTERPRETING THE WORD:

PREACHING How did Jesus preach?

STORY open-ended - layered meaning - give distance allowing people to be challenged without making it personal **DRAMA / FILM / POETRY**

THE VISUAL IMAGE

MOVEMENT - do we worship in body, mind and spirit?

PRAYER:

- INTERCESSION
- PRAYER STATIONS
- SYMBOLIC ACTION
- RESPONSE SONGS
- SILENCE / instrumental music
- SLIDES / VIDEO

WHAT COULD WE DO? Interactive Group Discussion...

THINGS TO VALUE	THINGS TO DEVELOP
THINGS TO LAY DOWN	3 YEARS TIME?

Andrew Maries works through Keynote Trust to refresh and stimulate worship across the denominations and traditions. For more details of Andrew's ministry visit www.keynotetrust.org.uk or contact: Keynote Trust, c/o Townhaven, Pound Sq., Cullompton, EX15 1DN Tel: 01884 34389