



The following pages contain ideas for Sunday Worship to help put into practice the training at the School for Disciples roadshows in the deaneries of Chelmsford Diocese in 2017 which is reflected in the accompanying *School for Disciples* booklet.

More resources can be found online at [www.transformingpresence.org.uk](http://www.transformingpresence.org.uk).

The Diocese is indebted to Revd Caroline Martin for her considerable assistance with bringing together contributions from many sources.

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## Ideas for Developing Disciples during Sunday Worship

Sunday is the day the Church meets. By re-imagining Sunday worship, including new things and sometimes even extending the time we spend together, Sundays can become the place we learn to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

The 20 ideas below are set out under the same headings as used in the School for Disciples booklet. Take a look at these ideas and see what you think. Then go online at [www.transformingpresence.org.uk](http://www.transformingpresence.org.uk) if you would like to drill down for more details about any of the ideas.



### Nurture and Catechesis

**Sermon Series:** Do a special sermon series on a topic or run a short course in the main service for five weeks in a row instead of the usual liturgy or woven into your liturgical celebration. This is great for churches without house groups, or those unable to attend a house group.

**Feedback and Follow-up:** People often forget most of the teaching by the time they leave church; so have a space on the notice sheet to write a 'thought for the week' – one thing they'll recall and take away with them. Over time, encourage people to share these with others and give space for the children to share what they thought/learned in their groups if they went out. Have a questions box at the back for people to ask the things that bother them and answer a couple each service. Give them the option of doing this anonymously.

**Digging Deeper:** Extend the service time by half an hour. Introduce reading(s), which people then explore in groups, with one person leading each (lectio divina or passage and discussion questions). 20 minute lectio/discussion, 10 minute recording the group's responses. Then have the service; the sermon is each group feeding back.

**Teaching Teachers:** Have at least one morning service a month when children don't go out so that those teaching the youth get some teaching themselves. Why not try recording sermons and talks for those unable to

attend, to keep them connected? These can easily be recorded on most mobile phones then uploaded to a website or shared as an audio file.

## **Biblical Reflection**

**Bible Basics:** Put the readings in context – What came before the reading? What comes after it? Which bigger story is it part of / which book of the Bible does it come from? Not everyone (in fact not many) will just know this for every reading.

## **Prayer**

**Thy Kingdom Come:** Join the global wave of prayer from 25 May – 4 June 2017. Stay updated at [www.thykingdomcome.co.uk](http://www.thykingdomcome.co.uk). The three aims are:

- To join in prayer with the whole family of God the Father.
- To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit.
- That we may be effective witnesses to God the Son, Jesus Christ.

**Imaginative Intercession:** Instead of the intercessions one week, go outside, weed the churchyard, do a street litter pick, prayer-walk the area, enjoy creation deliberately for five minutes and pray for the world, or take one positive thing from the service you think someone in your life needs to hear; write it in a card with a message and deliver it to them (have cards and stamps ready); for example, “In church today, the speaker said, ‘...’ and I thought of you and wanted to share it, because...”

**Prioritise Prayer:** Have a prayer wall or prayer tree where people can write down prayer requests for themselves or others, for others to read and pray about. Encourage them to leave their name so updates can be sought. Keep some interactive prayer resources in one area of the church – things to hold, make, do, colour, read, look at and interact with. These can be changed every three months or so to fit the season. Consider how to make creative use of silence.

**Living Liturgy:** Each week, focus on a part of the liturgy. Bring it to life. What does it mean? How does it help us worship? for example, “In the creed, we say what we believe aloud together to make it clear, to remind ourselves how great God is and to help us stand up for what we believe. Everyone doubts, but because we are one body when your voice wobbles other voices carry you. In the same way, we help steady each other in the faith we all share.”

**Podcasts:** Podcasts of sermons and thoughts on lectionary readings are available each week at [www.chelmsford.anglican.org/sermon\\_podcasts](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/sermon_podcasts).

## Stewardship

On Sunday mornings there is a collection, dedication of gifts at start of communion and plenty of opportunities for reflection on Stewardship. Watch our Stewardship video which was shown at the *School for Disciples* roadshow on our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/ChelmsfordDiocese](http://www.youtube.com/ChelmsfordDiocese).

## Evangelism

**Initial Impression:** People feel welcome or not within seconds of arriving. Welcomers on the door, a photoboard or ‘who’s who’ and up-to-date pictures of events show newcomers a living church they can be part of. Walk up to the church door from the street then go in: consider what the things you see say about who you are.

**Gift Giving:** Give newcomers a brightly coloured little paper gift bag with a leaflet about the church, map of the local area/history of the church, a details card they can fill in if they want to be contacted and maybe a bar of chocolate or other small gift. That way, it’s easy to spot and welcome newcomers.

**Culture Change:** Each week, at the start of the service (unless you are a congregation of 10 regulars) spend a couple of minutes offering newcomer information: welcome, what will happen in the service, where they will find books/kids’ resources/exits/loos/information/words for the

service, why we gather, what matters to us. This will help them feel more at ease and help members to expect new people and start to generate a culture where it can happen.

**Listen and Learn:** Get together a group to have intentional, half-hour, one-to-one conversations with people from different interest groups inside and outside the church about who they are, what they care about and what they might want to help make happen.

## **Christianity 24/7**

**Missional Messages:** Make notices missional. If they're on a sheet, people can read them, so instead of saying what is happening, say why those things are happening; for example, instead of 'Bring and share meal at Sheila's on Friday at 7.30 pm; please sign up at the back to say what you're bringing and see Tom if you can help set up,' you could have, 'As Christians, we believe that God made us all his family and part of our life together involves supporting one another and celebrating together. Shared meals are a good way to do that and get to know others better, so we'd like to welcome everyone to Sheila's on Friday – details in your notice sheets.'

**Story Sharing:** Include testimony in the main service - people sharing what God is doing in their lives and workplaces. They could stand up and talk, write it down to be read by another, be interviewed by the service leader/preacher, draw a picture and explain it, or share a favourite hymn or verse and say why it's special to them. If they are brave enough, they could stand by one of the other church leaders/ministry team afterwards and make themselves available to discuss it with others who might have similar needs/experiences.

**Word from the Workplace:** Interview people about their work during services – it's a huge part of their life, and their mission field. Get prayer points and find out how to support them.

**Talk Time:** Have time in the sermon for a 'turn to the people around you and discuss...' moment or 'introduce yourself to someone you don't know well and tell each other one good thing in your life you can thank

God for...’ Or ‘look under your seats. Some of you will find a verse/clue/ image linked to the sermon – share it with those near you.’

**People Projects:** Do a church project (maybe during coffee time after the service) that gets people sharing their stories; for example, collect people’s favourite hymns and songs and stories/verses into a little booklet with why they chose it in their own words; film people telling part of their Christian story; invite older people to share memories of church, faith and life that could be used for younger people to learn/explore, and also used in services.

**Task Try-outs:** Encourage an apprenticeship model: have deputies for all roles and encourage people to role swap and learn/explore new things – this can be done in a particular service once a month or on a continuous basis.

**Five Friends:** Have a buddy system where more mature members commit to care for other members by seeking them out over coffee or, if they’re absent for a while, giving them a call or visit to see how they are – three to five people per ‘buddy’. They can alert the minister/team if someone is in difficulties. and/or encourage people to find two others whose lifestyle and work pattern and interests etc. are similar and form a triplet to do this for each other – they might also meet together at other times, pray and study together, and be mutually accountable.

**Monthly Mission:** Once a month give a challenge to the congregation; for example, get to know/speak to your neighbours, share your testimonies with each other, pray once a day for a particular person/ issue. On the first service of the new month, have an extended service for people to feed back.

## **More Resources**

Please see the resources on pages 6 and 7 of the accompanying *School for Disciples* booklet

## **People**

### **Mission and Ministry Advice**

#### **Barking Area**

Rt Revd Peter Hill, Tel 020 8509 7377

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#### **Colchester Mission & Ministry Adviser**

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## **Children and Families**

### **Children's and Families Ministry Adviser**

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### **Children and Families Missioner - Barking Area**

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## **Youth Advisers**

### **Barking Area**

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**Colchester Area**

Vacancy – Contact the Barking or Bradwell Adviser (details above)

**Chelmsford Diocesan House of Retreat**

The Street, Pleshey, Chelmsford CM3 1HA

[www.retreathousepleshey.com](http://www.retreathousepleshey.com),

Email [retreathouse@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:retreathouse@chelmsford.anglican.org)

***Read the accompanying 'School for Disciples' booklet for information about the School for Disciples training in the deaneries of Chelmsford Diocese in 2017.***

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The Church of England  
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Diocese of Chelmsford

[www.transformingpresence.org.uk](http://www.transformingpresence.org.uk)