

To our COGS worshipping family



Our 9.30 and 11.15 services

Introduction:

Together responding to God's love, we are seeking to grow deeper in God and larger in mission.

What is happening?

From 15th April, as a step change, we are moving from duplicate 9.30 and 11.15 services to one mid-morning service at 9.30.

How did this change come about?

We introduced two mid-morning services from the one 10am service at Easter in 2014. Initially both services had strong attendance, but we have not seen the growth overall that we had hoped for and there has been a drift of people to the earlier service leaving few at the later service.

Our PCC has been reviewing our worship pattern and the questionnaire last autumn was part of this review. Among other things, we want to allow more space for encounters with God (growing deeper) and each other, at our mid-morning services and this has been hindered by the lack of time from one service to the next.

There are gains and losses in making any change. We are a family and want to stay together, taking everyone with us and hence, we have not rushed to decide but wanted to give everyone chance to be involved, comment and question.

Our PCC is committed to our vision of growing larger in mission. Please do talk to any PCC member or myself as we want to hear any concerns and work to find solutions with those most affected by the change. In the long-term, we will be looking at the options of a new congregational plant or extension of our building as combining the services will stretch the limits of our current building on some Sundays.

What will change?

Gains:

1. There will be more time within the one mid-morning service to encounter God.
2. There will also be much less rush after the mid-morning service giving more time for conversations.
3. The mid-morning service teams will be less thinly spread compared to the current two services.

Losses:

4. The chairs will be a little more densely packed, as they have been over the Christmas period.
5. Some mid-morning services are going to be full and we'll all need to be part of helping people find seats. We will have to add 'making space' to our already great welcome.
6. For some it will mean changing Sunday 'habits', as the service time changes.

What doesn't change?

1. We won't stop being focussed on God. Seeking to worship, teaching the Bible, sharing communion and offering ministry and care to all ages, including a quality kids and youth work.
2. 8am and 7pm continue as they are, but we are taking a fresh look at the 7pm service in the light of the morning changes and alongside the recent changed youth arrangements.
3. Those who attend the existing 9.30 will experience little change but it will be a big shift for those belonging to 11.15.
4. Our commitment to grow and approach to outreach within our community.

What does it mean to me?

1. If you have questions or comments, we want to know, please do speak to any member of PCC or myself.
2. Continue to be welcoming and extra alert to visitors
3. Keep listening and praying as we seek solutions for those most affected, and ultimately, in response to God's love, grow deeper in God and larger in mission.

Yours in Christ, Howard W, for and on behalf of our PCC.