

Opening the Gates to Heaven Conference:

Notes from the groups: Flip Chart notes

Topics Discussed

Group 1	Education about worship Themed worship Relevant for contemporary life Worship needs to engage and create a response
Group 2	Not constrained Centrality of the Word – valued Faithful to the Word/scripture not bound by prepared words Freedom to use own words (e.g. prayers) or other resources – visual/pictures/art Recognising different learning styles.
Group 3	Education – acceptance Nurture Consistency of Worship Congregation level – are we questioning? Quality and the wholeness of worship Involving church family Creativity of URC worship
Group 4	The Word should be read and heard – strengthened and changed - sacramental
Group 5	Worship is too staid: people not engaging, lack of imagination, not dissenting enough, Have we lost the edge? Propping up the myth – perpetuating worship habits that are now outdated and unhealthy. Good aspects of worship: “Domestic” worship; there is flexibility; radical worship; responsive to context - that is a potential; organic worship that grows up within a community Worship is weird and this is positive.
Group 6	Transcendent and immanent Seeking – preparation – foretaste of the kingdom BME – we envy their scriptural knowledge Impact of the size of the congregation on relationships Would we pay money for professional readers? Worship is not an end in itself Learning the grammar of the Bible Be grounded and knowledgeable of the scriptures to enable creative use in prayers and worship Examine the use, practice and value of the Psalms The word is our gift to the wider church (with heavy correction)

Items that need further exploration:

Group 1	<p>Worship in domestic setting</p> <p>Learning to worship – not just chat and tea.</p> <p>Share life</p> <p>Using our public space for gathering</p> <p>Worship habits – making new ones; what we expect and learned behaviour</p> <p>Group/cell/Bible studies – 6 – 8 weeks with breaks built in</p> <p>Just being together – relationship</p> <p>“Communion” within a home setting? Distribute a reserved sacrament?</p> <p>What “we” do is normal in our setting.</p> <p>Who is leading the group? What are they doing? – not just filling the pulpit on a Sunday.</p> <p>Giving control of worship to congregation</p> <p>TLS LITE and more</p>
Group 2	<p>Look at role of church buildings in helping/hindering worship.</p> <p>How does size of congregation affect worship? What is the optimum size?</p> <p>How to make worship accessible for “unchurched” people? How to connect “Fresh Expressions” with Sunday worship</p>
Group 3	<p>Themes carried through the service</p> <p>How can we provide further biblical education?</p> <p>Theology behind the sacraments and how we communicate it – User’s notes”</p> <p>Effective use of silence and stillness</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>Does the lectionary help us to unpack the Word of God?</p>
Group 4	<p>The place of traditional hymns in worship and other forms of music.</p> <p>Enabling of technology or the dash to be with it?</p> <p>Connection with the physical space and worship</p> <p>Owning the space!!</p> <p>The Otherness of God – Cathedral worship – Anonymity? Local church</p> <p>The minister as the representative of God &/or the representative of the people?</p> <p>Faith and Culture</p>
Group 5	<p>Symbolism versus tradition</p> <p>Worship as evangelism – people worshipping as witness to others in the street??</p> <p>Do leaders of worship worship?</p>
Group 6	<p>Simplifying the language of worship</p> <p>Exploring participation and interaction in worship.</p>