

At Your Service

We have a wide variety of services at St Peter's, Henfield - something to suit just about everybody. However, though variety may be the spice of life, sometimes all those choices can lead to confusion. Several times in recent months I have been at the door as an individual, a couple or a family arrive - and as they look at the congregation gathering say: '*oh, we've come to the wrong service*' - and then leave. This has been particularly so for families; '*we thought it was Xplore*' or something.

After careful consideration by the PCC, and a unanimous decision, we are going to try **2 main services each Sunday** for consistency - one primarily for an *adult congregation* generally without children present, and the other '*family friendly*' every week. We will try the new pattern for six months, **starting after Harvest in October.**

We hope in some ways it won't be so much "*all change!*", but rather "*can we all move up a bit, please?*". So how will it look?

Some from the 10am who enjoy quieter services will join those from the 8 o'clock for a new service with a traditional feel, at **9 o'clock**. As that draws to a close shortly after 10, coffee (and croissants/doughnuts?!) will be available as the congregation for the families-oriented service arrive, and their service will start from about **10:30am**, allowing a time for both congregations to overlap and chat over coffee.

The new 9 o'clock will alternate between *BCP Holy Communion* and *Common Worship*, as our 8 currently does (meaning we will then have a *BCP communion* for a main service again); and the families feel service will maintain the pattern of our current 10am service, with *All Age* and *Xplore* as well as communion services. There will also be one additional 8 o'clock service each month. (Evening services follow current patterns.)

We hope this arrangement will give us regular, predictable, patterns for adults and families every week. We will get a chance to review the pattern and receive people's measured comments around Easter 2012. Please give the new patterns prayerfully consideration.

The Rev'd Alastair Cutting · Vicar