

Worship Changes Lives



WORSHIP CHANGES LIVES

How it works, why it matters

Edited by Paul Bradshaw and Peter Moger

CHURCH HOUSE
PUBLISHING



An introduction from Praxis

So what can we do with this book?

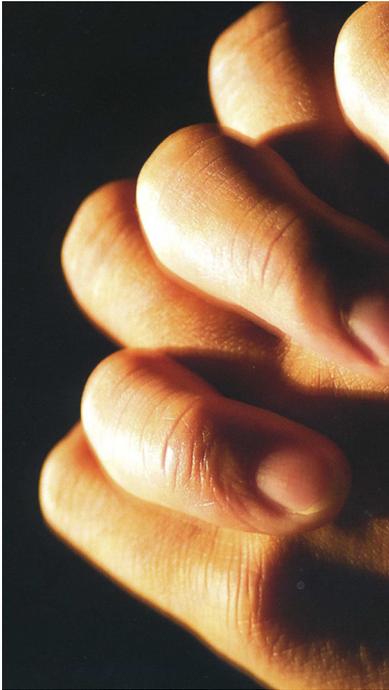
How can we use the material in the parish?

Turn over for ideas on how to use this book in your context.

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praxis
enriching worship today



Introduction

This is not primarily a book for liturgists – those who take a technical interest in the study of the subject – but for ‘the Christian in the pew’ – the worshipper who wants to explore and expand his/her understanding of worship and think further about the place worship has within the life of a missionary Church.

It is the hope of the Church of England Liturgical Commission that worship-planning groups, PCCs, Bible study groups, house groups, ministry teams, readers, intercessors, musicians; in fact anyone who takes part regularly in worship, will find the book helpful as a means of widening their horizons on worship.

“Rooted in real-life practice, and written in a non-technical style, **Worship Changes Lives** encourages all worshippers to think about how worship changes us.”

How the book is structured

Worship Changes Lives

is in four sections:

- ★ Basics
- ★ Belonging
- ★ Becoming
- ★ Believing

These headings reflect the view of some that, in coming to faith, many people start to ‘belong’ to a worshipping

community before they would claim to be ‘believers’.

The process of growth in faith and discipleship is very much one of ‘becoming’.

So this four-part structure provides a helpful route through different aspects of worship.

Supporting Material

Praxis is an organization, co-sponsored by the Liturgical Commission and other bodies, which is committed to education and training in worship. You can find out more about *Common Worship* and gain access to useful resources from the Praxis web site.

★ **Some additional texts**

(e.g. liturgical texts, hymn/song words) which relate to the theme of the chapter.

★ **An introductory paragraph**

setting out one particular 'way in' to the subject.

★ **Three sets of questions:**

Looking AT

These questions encourage reflection on the current situation in the local church.

Looking IN

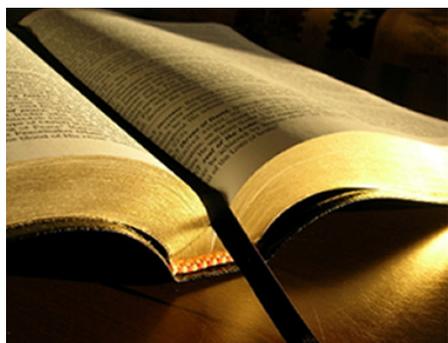
These invite the reader to reflect on the subject from personal experience.

Looking OUT

These questions link the worshipping practice of the local Church with its mission – and might lead to a discussion about changing the way we worship.

Obtaining more copies

- ★ The book is now out of print. Each person needs a photocopy of the pages you are studying.
- ★ You need to enable each person involved to have access to the text you are considering whatever approach you are using.
- ★ Copies are available free of charge from the Revd Michael Gisbourne, Chaplain to the General Synod.



Using the book

1. Individuals

It may be read by individuals, using the questions and the supporting material as a means of personal reflection on each of the chapters.

2. Parish away-day

An away day would allow church members to focus on the whole worshipping life of the parish, and to learn, share and plan together. You could start with the Basics section as a plenary, then discuss the other sections in small groups, with feed-back at the end. All set in the context of worship of course!

3. Groups

We anticipate, though, that most readers will use the book as part of a small group. This might be a study group (home group / cell group), a worship planning group, a PCC, a ministry team, a group of intercessors / lesson readers / musicians / servers.

The pattern on the next page shows how the book might be studied over 6 weeks or 6 sessions, though there is a need for flexibility. You will find that some subjects generate more discussion than others, and need to allow for this. Some groups might cover the *Basics* section easily in one week. Others may give more time to this.

4. Selective Use

Another option is to select particular sections from the book for discussion. For instance, a church wishing to think about the way in which it celebrates pastoral services as part of its mission might choose to focus in detail on:

- ★ Transforming weddings
- ★ From death to life (about funerals), and
- ★ Wash me and I shall be clean (on baptism)

5. Preaching and *Worship Changes Lives*

Whilst *Worship Changes Lives* has much to say about the place of Scripture in worship, nothing is said explicitly about the place of preaching. This is not in any way to undermine its importance! One helpful way to use the booklet might be to address the subject areas of the *Basics* section as a series of sermons – and to follow this with group study of the three remaining sections. *Common Worship* allows for deviation from the authorized lectionary provision at certain times of the year (e.g. between Trinity and Advent) precisely to enable this type of thematic preaching.

The advantage of an approach that involves preaching is that it enables some teaching on worship to be given to the whole church community, rather than only to those who are part of a particular group or groups.

6. Thematic streams

An alternative approach is to examine a number of the thematic streams running through the book, e.g.

Baptism

Holy Communion

Pastoral Services

So different chapters would be considered together – for example:

Baptism

- * Putting on Christ
- * Wash me and I shall be clean

Holy Communion

- * Feeding on Christ
- * You are what you eat
- * Foretaste of heaven?

Pastoral Services

- * Transforming weddings
- * From death to life

This would probably work best after an initial introduction (a reading of *Basics* or sermon series, as in 4 above), and perhaps some exploration of the links between worship and mission.

Possible pattern for group discussion

(refer to Contents list on page 1 in the book)

Week 1	BASICS
Week 2	BELONGING
Weeks 3 & 4	BECOMING
Weeks 5 & 6	BELIEVING



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Praxis encourages you to

- * think how you will use the resources in your setting.
- * discuss thoughts with your PCC or worship planning group.
- * think when you will use the resources (the autumn is a good time to work towards using this book, if you are planning a study group).
- * draw up an action plan.
- * report back and tell us how you are getting on.
- * ask for support and resources.

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C of E dioceses and Praxis regions

Who we are

President

The Rt. Rev'd Robert Atwell, Chair of the Liturgical Commission

Chair

The Rev'd Dr. Jo Spreadbury

Secretary

The Rev'd Richard Curtis

Treasurer / Administrator

The Rev'd Peter Furber

Editor of *Praxis News of Worship*

Gill Ambrose

Head of Ministerial Training;

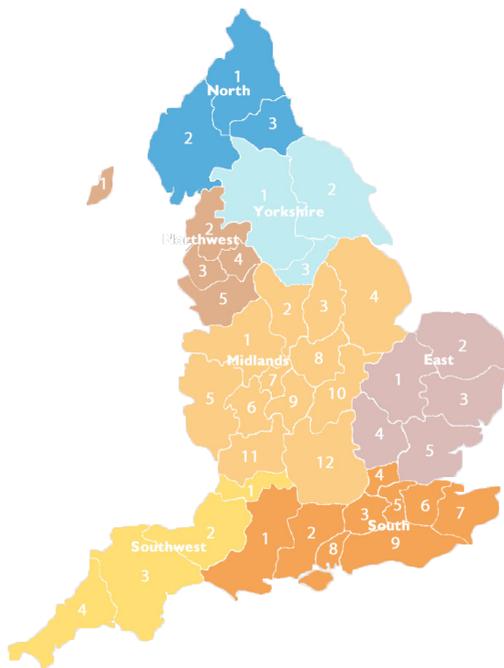
Royal School of Church Music
The Rev'd Canon Helen Bent

Member of the Executive

The Rev'd Canon Anne Horton

Member of the Executive

The Rev'd Michael Gisbourne



<http://www.praxisworship.org.uk/resources.html>

Begin making your plans here



The Church exists for the worship of God.

- * Worship is the only activity of the Church which will last into eternity.
- * Worship enriches and transforms our lives.
- * In Christ we are drawn closer to God in the here and now.
- * This shapes our beliefs, our actions and our way of life.
- * God transforms us as individuals, congregations and communities.
- * Worship provides a vital context for mission, teaching and pastoral care.
- * Good worship and liturgy inspires and attracts, informs and delights.
- * The worship of God can give hope and comfort in times of joy and of sorrow.
- * Despite this significance, we are often under-resourced for worship. Praxis seeks to address this.
- * We want to encourage and equip people, lay and ordained, to create, lead and participate in acts of worship which enable transformation to happen in individuals and communities.

What does Praxis do to offer help?



Praxis offers the following:

- * training days and events around the country (with reduced fees for members and no charge for ordinands or Readers-in-training)
- * key speakers and ideas for diocesan CME/CMD programmes, and resources for training colleges/courses/schemes
- * our quarterly newsletter *Praxis News of Worship*, included in the membership fee