

# St Andrew's & All Saints: A Future Service Pattern

## Church Consultation in preparation for the joint PCC meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Over the last 18 months we have been operating on an ever changing temporary service pattern as COVID restrictions have continually altered. Before the summer holidays, PCC agreed that we would adopt the current service pattern as a temporary measure (*this can be seen in Appendix A on p3*), and then have a joint PCC away morning on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to try and make some decisions on more permanent service patterns for the future.

This has been a season of uncertainty, of experimentation and of discernment as we have prayerfully sought to recognise what God has been doing and where God is leading us. We have particularly committed this to prayer over recent weeks – not least at All Saints on Wednesday mornings, which began as a commitment to pray for 5 weeks to discern God's leading, and 20 weeks later we are still there praying, having sensed God not only direct us towards his vision, but also align us as a community towards that vision.

I've been very clear that the right question to ask in at this time is not 'What do we want it to be' but '**What does God want to lead us into, for the future?**' and that is the question we must hold onto as we prayerfully come to make some decisions.

As we have prayed, some scripture which has particularly stood out is the following...

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that **all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe** that you have sent me.*

*(John 17:20-21)*

And as we have prayerfully reflected on this we hear

- The call to Unity – joining together '**as one**' (for the individual churches, for us as a team, and also for wider and for the whole of Malvern).
- The call to be outward looking in our worship too - '**so that the world may believe**' – our ministry is not just for us, but also for those in the Community who do not yet believe and are not yet with us...

Having discussed this with the leadership/ministry teams across both churches (and it is important to see the big picture across both churches to see how it all fits together), I would like to outline some **proposals** which we'll take directly to the joint PCC meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, and also open up some **areas for discussion** to get some feedback from you all, which I hope will help PCCs make some further decisions when they meet.

### **Proposals (i.e. we present it as a proposal, not up for discussion):**

- 1) That we move permanently to a single service at All Saints (except perhaps on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday) which is a 'blended service' of contemporary and traditional.
- 2) That we retain the current contemporary service on a Sunday at St Andrew's and an evening service (but location is up for discussion).
- 3) That we keep going with our new Early Birds service at 9am at St Andrew's now on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

### **Discussion Points (to get feedback on to take to PCCs):**

- 1) Should we explore (at some point – and not before Christmas and depending on leadership capacity then) starting an ‘All-in café church’ in the Malvern Wells Village Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month alongside the AS service (which would have more of a traditional feel that day)?
- 2) What is the right time for the All Saints Blended Service – is it 9:30am? 10am? Or another time?
- 3) What is the right location for ‘The Six’ evening service – St Andrew’s or All Saints?
- 4) Should the midweek service at St Andrew’s return to 9am on a Sunday morning (in its current style of ‘blended’ traditional and contemporary worship) once COVID cases have consistently dropped to negligible levels, or should it stay permanently as a midweek service?
- 5) Do we look to set up (at some point – and not before Christmas, and depending on leadership capacity then) a ‘fresh expressions’ monthly Sunday gathering at the Octagon (say 3pm) which we hope might connect particularly with CAP clients, folk on the estate etc.?
- 6) We probably will not have capacity for starting two new services (the monthly ‘All-In Café Chruch’ at the Malvern Wells Village Hall and the Monthly Octagon ‘Fresh expression’). Which one, if any, do we sense God most leading us to at the moment?

Whilst we hope to make some clear decisions on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, there is so much is still up in the air, especially as

- a) We don’t know about future ministerial capacity – Peter is due to be moving on from us in the next few months, so whatever we propose must be **sustainable** in the long term, and we only have limited capacity.
- b) We don’t know what will happen with COVID in the coming months, but it seems likely there will be another wave of some sort and cases will rise in the coming weeks not fall.

So we may not implement some of our decisions for several months (or until we have extra capacity ‘post-Peter’), and we continue to seek God over timing and *how* to transition, as well as the end result. What I have said, for now, is that we will not start any form of new service until at least January when we hopefully will know a bit more about Peter’s situation and COVID.

We’d love to hear any comments that you have on the following proposal and discussions areas. Please either fill them in on paper survey below (and return to the church office), or preferably use our online survey (<https://forms.gle/WmJCKmHMUL1xL3CG6>). If you would like to talk further about anything then please speak to one of the clergy, wardens or leadership team, as we really do want to hear your feedback and thoughts by **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**.

And we will be having 3 opportunities to discuss these issues in person (particularly for those most affected):

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 9:30am (after prayers) at All Saints**

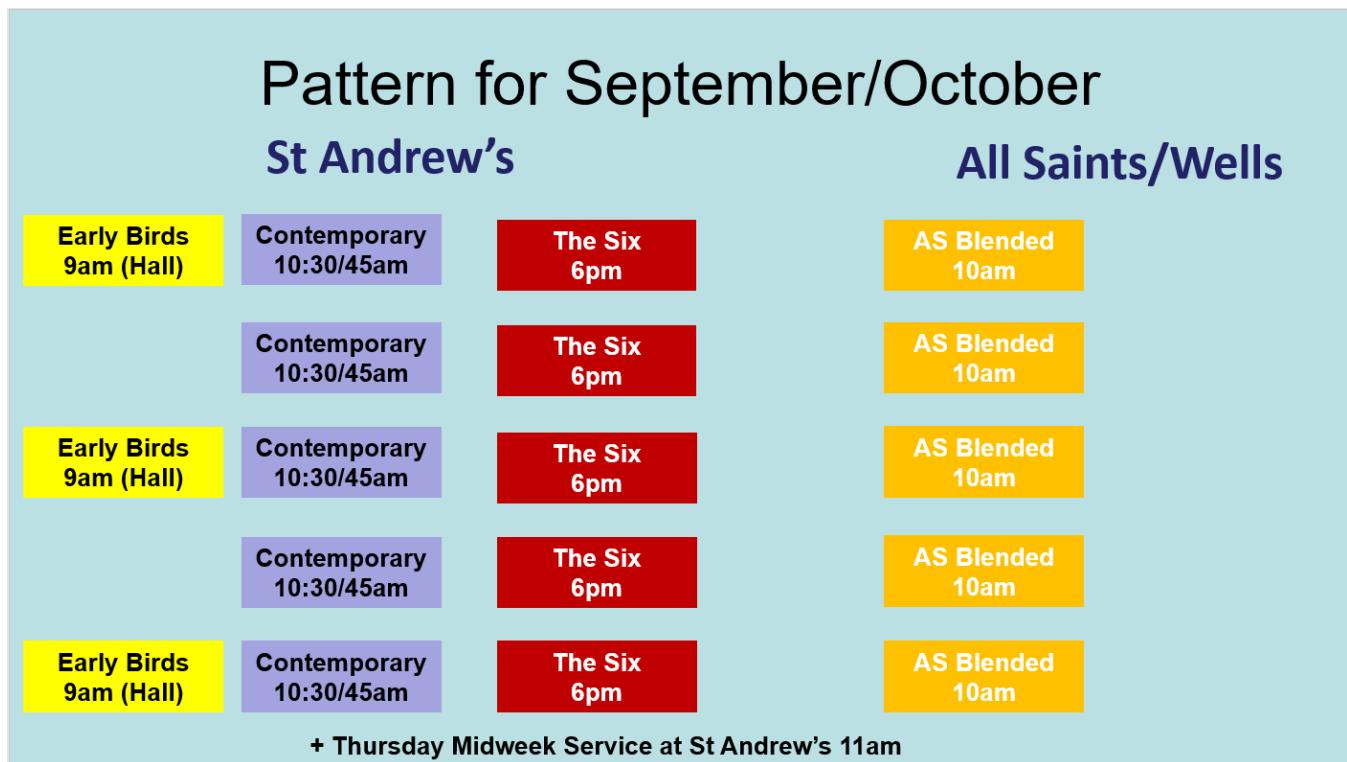
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 12noon (after midweek service) at St Andrew’s**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 11:15am (after the 10am service) at All Saints**

Thank you so much, Dave & the PCCs of St Andrew’s & All Saints.

## Appendix A: Current Service pattern across our churches (as of September 2021):

The diagram below outlines the current pattern across St Andrew's & All Saints for each of the five Sundays in a month.



To give you an idea of attendance currently:

**Early Birds** - around 25-30 with half adults and half children

**St Andrew's Contemporary** - around 60-80 adults and 15-30 children

**The Six at St Andrew's** – around 20-30 adults (and 10-15 Chaos meeting at the same time)

**10am All Saints** – about 30-35 adults and 1 or 2 children

**Midweek Service at St Andrew's** – about 20-25 adults

## **Feedback form to PCC on Service pattern proposals and discussion points**

It is easier for us, if it is completed **online** from the google survey link (<https://forms.gle/WmJCKmHMUL1xL3CG6>), but if that is not possible, please complete the paper copy below and return it to the church office or any of the clergy by **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September** so that the feedback can be processed for the PCC meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

*Please do not feel you have to answer every question. The survey will not all be relevant to you. Please only respond to the questions that affect you in some way, and please use the comments to indicate to us the bits that you have strong feelings about.*

We really appreciate your comments and they will be carefully listened to.

Please complete this survey prayerfully, asking more than anything '**What does God want to lead us into for the future?**'

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

(please do put your name so we can discuss further if needed)

### **Proposals – this is what we are intending to propose to the joint PCCs:**

- 1) That we move permanently to a single service at All Saints on Sunday mornings (except perhaps on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – see points for discussion) which is a ‘blended service’ of contemporary and traditional worship as currently.
- 2) That we retain the current contemporary service on a Sunday morning at St Andrew’s (time could change) and an evening service (but location is up for discussion).
- 3) That we keep going with Early Birds at 9am at St Andrew’s now on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (and encourage these families to join ‘big church’ on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays).

Please feel free to add any comments about the above proposals that you would like to make:

**Areas for discussion** (we will collate this feedback to take to PCC meeting on 2nd October). Please add your comments below for any of these...

- 1) That we look (at some point – and not before Christmas and depending on leadership capacity then) to start a monthly '**All-In café church' in the Malvern Wells Village Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month alongside (probably at the same time) the All Saints service. This would enable the AS service to have a more traditional feel once a month, and also give opportunity to reach new families in the community and link in with our schools better. Being on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month some Early Bird families might choose to come to this also.**

Comments:

- 2) For those who would consider attending the All Saints Sunday Service, what time would you recommend for the service – considering what you would prefer and the demands of the staff team with other services (e.g. Early Birds). Feel free to tick more than one.

9am

10:30am

9:30am

11am

10am

Any comments?

- 3) What is the right location for 'The Six' – should we keep it at St Andrew's or move it to All Saints where the space is better & CHAOS could use the Youth Room, but the set up more complex and time consuming? *Please tick the recommended option.*

Keep at St Andrew's

Move to All Saints

- 4) Should the **midweek service** at St Andrew's (which we would keep in the current 'blended' format) be moved to 9am on a Sunday morning once COVID cases have consistently dropped to negligible levels, or stay permanently as a midweek service and just keep the one service on a Sunday morning at St Andrew's?

Keep as a midweek service

Move back to 9am Sunday morning

Any comments?

- 5) We are sensing that God might be leading us to start (at some point – and not before Christmas, and depending on leadership capacity then) a new monthly(?) 'fresh expressions' Sunday gathering in the Octagon (say 3/4pm) which we hope might connect particularly with CAP clients, folk on the Brook Farm Estate, who might otherwise find it hard to access our current worship services. Have you any thoughts on this?

Any comments?

- 6) Which one of these 'new' services – the Monthly All-In café style service in the Malvern Wells Village Hall or the New Fresh Expression service at the Octagon – do you sense God most leading us to at this moment?

All –In Service at the Village Hall

Don't sense either are right for this time

Fresh Expression at the Octagon

Any comments?

Is there anything else that you would like to share? Anything else that you sense God saying to us as a church as we consider these things?

Please comment

Thank you so much for prayerfully sharing your thoughts.

Please pray for the PCC meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October that the joint PCCs will have real wisdom in discerning God's way forward and that we as St Andrew's & All Saints can move forward united into that.

With grateful thanks

Dave & the PCCs