

**The Family Services Working Group: a sub group of the Windmill United Benefice Ministry Team, set up in November 2025.**

The Working Group comprises: Helen Longhurst, Liz Copeland, Ginette Nye, Rachel Bayes, Andrew Goudie

Set up to consider development and ideas for the Family Service at Horne, and report back to the Ministry Team.

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The Family service is intended to be different from the other Sunday morning services.

Recent services Family Services at Horne have been good, including active and interactive talks in place of the recorded sermon.

There are three stages for possible development:

**1. Look at what we could do**

NB: Further ideas and feedback are welcome. This is our list so far:

- New ideas to engage the congregation, in a way that we would not normally do in the more formal setting on the other Sundays
- Involvement of lay leaders (not necessarily Wardens)
- using published resources from the Internet
- adjusting the readings, where the Lectionary ones do not fit
- Drama works well and is equivalent to the talk
- More dramatised bible readings (as done on Palm Sunday)
- Dance could be included too
- Involving children in more ways, so long as safeguarding has been considered e.g:
  - o Handing out the hymn books;

- o Involving children in placing the poppies at Remembrance.
- At Horne, on 1 February, colouring materials were put at the ends of the Pews for use by everyone.

## **2. Develop the Horne Family Service**

A key consideration is whether to rename the Family Service. It needs consensus and the decision lies with Horne's PCC; Finding the right name, should it be changed, is important and difficult.

Some people have found the word "Family" to be exclusive, other possibilities for a name include:

- All Age Worship
- Worship for Everyone
- Worship Together

Meantime we are looking at other churches' service names and see what they are doing.

We are also attending Fresh Expressions meetings to explore what other churches are finding helpful and works well for them in a broader sense for these services, not just the name.

In terms of practicalities in use of space, careful consideration is needed in planning due to limited space available and being mindful of health and safety.

Facilitating equipment - The overhead screen as used by Steve Bishop for his February Sermon at the Family Service will be part of some future services.

We now have a pool of keen volunteers who were initially involved in the Play about St David during the 1 March Family Service. The group

remains in touch re involvement in future events, either as a one off or more regularly. If you like to read, do drama, sing, dance, play Handbells, or have any other talents you can offer and would like to join this group of volunteers, we would love to hear from you! Please do speak to any of the Working Group Members about this and find out more!

### **3. Ideas for broader outreach**

A priority for our church is to reach out to the community and we have been looking at how to achieve a broader outreach:

- The recent updates to the church website form part of this. As well as providing access to information for those who already attend; it is thought that people looking for a church and/or are new to the area may firstly look on the internet and so this is an important tool for outreach.
- Café Church and the Family Service support each other through chatting to attendees, and through notices.
- A Toddler Group, considered to be a good form of outreach, may be started in the future.
- The use of flyers and posters giving details of the Family Services and Café Church was started at the end of last year.
- The Scouts and local schools are made aware of church events such as the Family Service and Café Church.
- Advertising is being enhanced through the church website and also via Facebook.
- A large sign is planned; to be placed on the roadside border of the church so passers by will see a notice about the Family Service.

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Helen Longhurst  
Coordinator  
12 April 2026