

## Report of the Worship Pattern Working Group to the PCC

The Working Party were asked to look at a proposal for new worship patterns that could be sustainable when Manthorpe Parish joins the parishes of Londonthorpe and Harrowby at the end of 2008. The following are the proposals of the group, accepted by the PCC, and their reasoning for the changes.

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
<b>Early Morning Holy Communion</b>	<b>Morning Holy Communion</b>	Morning Service of the Word (Morning Prayer)	<b>Morning Holy Communion</b>
All Age Family Worship (Ideally mid morning) No Evening Worship	Evening Said Evensong (No Sermon)	Sung Evensong with Sermon	Evening Said Evensong (No Sermon)

- ❖ Rather than look at timing of services (apart from the first Sunday of the month when approximate times are suggested), which would really be within the province of any future parish priest in consultation with the Churchwardens and PCC, the working party looked at the style of worship services that could be sustainable.
- ❖ The current pattern of worship consists of two services of Holy Communion and one service of Evensong each Sunday. There is also a midweek service of Holy Communion, which the working party agreed not to include in their discussions, as there was every possibility of these being maintained, to a degree, by retired clergy – but if this was not the case, then this should be left to the new parish priest to decide.

- ❖ The working party took notice of the fact that the current practice of Holy Communion every week is a relatively new practice within the Anglican Church (certainly within the last 30 to 40 years or so). Prior to that it was not unusual for Holy Communion to be just once or twice a month.
- ❖ The current practice at the parishes of Harrowby and Londonthorpe are that there are three services of Holy Communion at each church during the month.

This would mean that the parish priest would only be required on three occasions during a normal month (similar to current arrangements in the two existing parishes). On Fifth Sundays it was suggested that a 'United Benefice' Communion Service be held in each of the three churches in rotation (possibly in the evening) and that this service be followed by a time of refreshment and fellowship in an attempt to integrate and get to know each other better. There are on average four 'Fifth Sundays' per year in which such a service could be held, leaving a fourth (and occasional fifth one) one for other events:

- ❖ In 2006 there are five - January, April, July, October and December
- ❖ In 2007 there are four – April, July, September and December
- ❖ In 2008 there are four - March, June, August and November
- ❖ In 2009 there are four - March, May, August and November

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The PCC would value your comments to the above suggestions and there is an opportunity for you to add your voice to the debate. Please do so by emailing the Vicar, his email address is elsewhere in this website – please include your name and address as well - thank you.