



Church on the Corner

www.churchonthecorner.org.uk

The Morning Service Proposal

The morning service at Church on the Corner has been running for around eight years. It was started at a time when a number of church couples were having families, and there was need for child friendly service. It has grown into a lovely and distinctive service, with a vision of reaching out to our local community and to local families.

But as much as we love the morning service it has been hard work over many years to sustain it. And since some of our key families have moved away Matt and Mark have been having long conversations about what comes next. This proposal comes out of a desire to do something which is more effective at reaching those outside church, something more connected to the community, something more the sort of experience of church that we want for our children as they grow up and something more representative of the diversity of the Kingdom of God.

Our intention therefore is that instead of waiting for people to come to us, that we should go to them. That we should take the excellent resources of people and gifts that we have at COTC and put them to work for the sake of others. We want to give away what little we have in the hope that God will bless our generosity and use it for the sake of his kingdom.

The plan then is that for the next two years we will join our morning service with the Morning Service at St Andrews, Thornhill Square. St Andrews is the traditional building at the heart of our parish, and those of us who are part of the Parish Council know it well, and work closely with them. Each time I visit St Andrews there are new people, many coming for weddings, or baptisms, or simply because it is the obvious church in the area, and we want to help them to better seize the opportunities for mission that are there.

Their 10.30am service is growing, but Michael agrees that it would benefit hugely from the injection of energy and gifts that we could bring. I hope for us to get stuck in to the community there, to serve, to welcome, to learn from them as they learn from us, to be involved in service leading, worship, children's ministry, hospitality, prayer ministry and so on. The intent is to share our resources and to help St Andrews to grow the sort of vibrant, engaged, family friendly service that this area of London so badly lacks.

This proposal has been welcomed both by Michael, and the St Andrews Church Council. Furthermore, Michael has asked me to start to plan the preaching programme, and to preach regularly. It promises to be hard work, but we are excited about both the potential for mission and growth, and the opportunity to use the many gifts available at COTC to serve the wider parish. We have a window of opportunity here to be part of creating something amazing that is complementary to our excellent evening service at COTC.

We are not closing down our morning service, rather we are joining with St Andrews for a time, in a building which we feel is more conducive for mission to families, and committing ourselves to our broader church family seeking to serve and to learn together.

We will review this in Spring 2010, where it may be appropriate to replant a morning service from St Andrews into COTC, or do something completely different in our building. Though I know that there is a sense of loss at no longer holding a morning service at COTC I hope we can see the potential of this project to serve the people of our parish, and to proclaim the good news of Jesus more widely.

My hope is that all of us who have been committed to the morning service will prayerfully consider being part of this move, whether as service and worship leaders, children's leaders or simply being part of our worship on a Sunday morning.

I am grateful to the DCC for their thoughtful and prayerful leadership and consultation on this project and I feel that this is a significant new stage for Church on the Corner, that it is both a practical and right response to the challenges we face. We are seeking to serve selflessly, give generously, love unconditionally and rejoice with all those who God is calling, and we are stepping out in faith that God will bless these endeavors.

We ask you to be praying for God to grow this service, and to bless our efforts. Pray for a smooth transition, and for wisdom and grace both amongst us, and for the folks at St Andrews as we cope with change, and to consider how you can be involved in this project, whether just to come along and support things, or be involved in some area of ministry.

Yours

Mark