

Dear Friends,

As a result of discussions held at one of our Worship Leaders' training days, I have become concerned that we train Worship Leaders, but that we don't make the best use of their talents in our churches. Our plan has, until now, shown Worship Leaders possibly available in

certain churches but not precisely **when** they are available. Generally preachers access the help of a Worship Leader via the duty steward who will normally only contact the preacher during the week before the service (and the availability of Worship Leaders is not always mentioned). This is a somewhat cumbersome system and doesn't give enough time for the Worship Leader to be involved with the preacher and their planning anyway.

I have discussed this matter with our Local Preachers' meeting and we have come up with what we believe will be a more helpful and

productive system which we would like to trial. The names of Worship Leaders will be shown on the plan (in brackets below the preacher) for the Sundays that they are available to help. We have then asked the Worship Leaders to contact the preacher they have been linked with in the plan 2/3 weeks before that Sunday worship to offer their services to them. This offer of help may or may not then be taken up by the preacher.

We need to remember that the designated preacher has the sole responsibility for the service of worship to which they have been appointed. Some acts of worship may not lend themselves to the participation of a Worship Leader and that is the preacher's decision (so making a Worship Leader available for the plan doesn't guarantee that they will be used on that occasion). I hope overall though that this system will make better use of the talents of our Worship Leaders and also be of great assistance to our preachers.

Finally, Church Stewards will still need to contact the preacher during the week before the service to ascertain Hymn numbers, Bible

Readings, etc.. In the usual way.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. L. L.", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.