

Worship and Liturgy Network

Environmentally Aware Worship

Thursday 28th September 2023, 7 – 9 pm on Zoom

(Postponed from 14th June due to sudden bereavement)

Liturgy and worship practitioners across the eastern dioceses are invited to come together. Using a peer-led discussion on Zoom, clergy and lay ministers can share experience, ideas and expertise. Six to eight topics will be considered under a broad heading by means of short presentations (7-10 mins), each then followed by discussion as a whole group or in smaller breakout rooms.

Call for papers:

Ecology, conservation and climate change are all frequent topics in the news. As environmental concern has grown, Christians have been adding their voice too, but how is this outworked within worship? And where do we look for suitable materials?

Now we find ourselves coming towards the end of 'Creationtide', which is now recognized annually from 1 September through to the Feast of St Francis on 4 October. How much is this influencing the way we celebrate Harvest? How does the liturgy relate to environmental issues, if at all? The Church of England's '*A Time for Creation*' includes newly commissioned material to enliven our praise of God's gifts to us in creation but also to deepen our awareness of our environmental responsibilities. This is a start but there is so much more.

Hosea speaks of the earth mourning, and animals, birds and fish dying (Hosea 2. 3). Paul writes about the whole creation groaning (Romans 8. 18). There is a challenging imperative to expand our worship in vision and scope. Interwoven with our stewardship and care of creation is a heartfelt cry for justice. Environmentally aware worship will include an element of lament, vigil and prayer on behalf of poor and marginalized communities who can suffer as a result of exploitation and exposure to pollution as well as climate change.

Transforming Worship (formerly *Praxis*) members and interested parties are invited to put the date in their diaries and come along. Everyone is welcome. If you are willing to offer a short presentation on the theme, please let me know your topic (7 - 10 minute presentation followed by 10 minutes of discussion). Please contact me:

Revd Helen Bent on behalf of *Transforming Worship National* and *Transforming Worship East*

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Transforming Worship

We have a new name and a new direction, so that as an organisation we are fit for purpose for equipping the worship life of the church with creativity and imagination in the future.

Our Chair, Canon Michael Gisbourne, writes:

“In the early 1990s *Praxis - Enriching Worship Today* was established and regarded as the delivery arm of the Church of England’s Liturgical Committee. The roll out of the Common Worship suite of resources saw much activity as *Praxis* played a major part in helping Clergy, Readers and Lay Worship Leaders become familiar with the new resources and the freedoms that were now allowed by canon after the ASB.

It is fair to say that in recent years, *Praxis* has played a more minor role in worship and liturgical training linked in some ways to the change in focus across the Church. This is evidenced by the demise in Diocesan Liturgical or Worship Committees and the reduction in training through the theological colleges and courses in worship and liturgy.

The Executive of *Praxis* has recognised that there is still a major role to play in preparing worship leaders to lead effectively and has spent some time thinking of how to engage with this issue. In conversations it was acknowledged that the name *Praxis* no longer communicated accurately our mandate but the name *Transforming Worship*, known as a Liturgical Commission project some years ago, did.

From 1 Sept the new name will be used and new logos have been produced. *Praxis News of Worship* will be called *Transforming Worship News* and a new website is being developed with the name transformingworship.news Please be patient while this change is in process.

We look forward to continuing to play our part in promoting excellence in worship that enables worshippers to encounter God in word and sacrament.”

Transforming Worship East will continue as one of the regions of the national organization, *Transforming Worship*. Those who participate in *Transforming Worship East* events are warmly encouraged to become a member of *Transforming Worship*.

You can find more information and an application form at:

<https://praxisworship.org.uk/membership.html>

Whilst members of *Transforming Worship East* will be routinely invited to these gatherings, others who are interested in participating and wish to be added to the invitation list are encouraged to contact me, Helen Bent, via helenbent99@gmail.com