

Welcome to St Michael's Church, Galleywood

Ten Questions about Rolling Worship

1. What is Rolling Worship?

Rolling Worship is a service to which you *"Come when you can and leave when you like"*. It starts at 9.30am and continues all the way to 12 noon. You can arrive at any time in between and leave whenever you wish.

2. Will I interrupt people if I arrive at the wrong time?

No. If you arrive in a quiet bit, it would help if you come in quietly, of course, but we are quite used to people arriving and leaving all through the morning. And by the way, we like children being very visible (and audible) too. To make it even easier, we stop for a refreshment break every 30 minutes.

3. Which bit will I like best?

Generally speaking, if you like worship that is fairly choral, you'll like the earlier parts of the day, and if you prefer band-based worship the later part of the morning will be tailor-made for you.

4. Can I bring a friend?

Yes, please! We think Rolling Worship is ideal to bring friends, colleagues, family members and neighbours. Everyone is welcome, everyone is included – they may even wish to come and play a musical instrument!

5. Where did the Rolling Worship idea come from?

We live in an age of flexible working hours and 24/7 entertainment. There are only a few things in our lives that require us to arrive at a particular time and stay until it is finished, unless we have booked in advance. We want to make it possible for as many people as possible who want to worship God, to do so. It's like a shop - shops work on the simple principle of having an opening time and a closing time. The Orthodox Christians of Eastern Europe have been coming and going in their worship for hundreds of years.

At St Michael's, Galleywood, the idea for Rolling Worship came about when we held "40 days of discernment" at the beginning of 2010. We decided that our Sunday morning worship needed to be a "window" for the village, offering:

- the maximum possible diversity, with
- a real opportunity for the whole church family to worship or learn together, if only for 30 minutes, and
- an adaptation for those for whose Sundays a set-time 60 minute service is inappropriate.

Rolling Worship evolved as our way of meeting these criteria. Soon, we discovered that some other churches – notably St John’s Hillingdon in London – were already using this kind of scheme with great success, and we have borrowed much of our language from them.

6. How do the different “slices” fit together?

There’s a “big theme” every month, and a theme every week. So if you do come to a longer part of the morning, you’ll find that what you learn or reflect on in one “slice” will be relevant to the topics in another. Often, we provide a choice of learning styles on linked themes – so for example we might have one of the vicars preaching on Samson (an Old Testament character) while another church leader leads an interactive session on the question “*Do I have to be good to be used by God?*” (because Samson wasn’t good at being good). Come to whichever style of teaching is most helpful to you.

Rolling Worship is designed so that you will get a fairly well-balanced spiritual diet of learning, worship in song and fellowship if you stay for about one and half hours.

7. What is the vision behind Rolling Worship?

a. God is calling us to show the love of Jesus by living ordinary lives, gloriously. God turns kitchen sinks into shrines and nine-to-five workdays into spiritual adventures. He uncommons the common, and conducts holy business 24/7. So we think that every “slice” of Rolling Worship should lead Christians to glorify God in their everyday living by the power of the Holy Spirit, seven whole days, not one in seven and show others how their ordinary lives can be glorious if they trust in Jesus and “plug in” to the power of the Spirit.

b. God is calling us to share his word with everyone. Through Rolling Worship we are doing our best to spread the message of God’s love in Jesus by all means possible.

c. God is calling us to grow together as a family. God protects us, provides for us, feels our pain and makes us this kind of family. In Rolling Worship, especially in the “Core” (10.30-11) where pretty much the whole church family is present, we experience what it is to be the family of God, whether we’re part of a biological family or not.

8. Where will the services take place?

Eventually, Rolling Worship will take place at the Parish Church on the Common all the time. For the moment, we are in the process of transforming the church so that it has:

- at least four rooms that can be used for youth and children’s work
- much better heating in winter

- a visual media system

and a few other things that will make the building fit for purpose. Of course, this will all require planning permission of various kinds and a great deal of money! So in the short term, expect us to be mostly in the church building but occasionally at the Junior School on Barnard Road if a certain bit of building work is being completed. If you're not sure which building we're in on any given Sunday, you can always call one of the Vicars on 01245 353922 or 477818.

9. What else does St Michael's offer?

There's a lot more to us than Sunday mornings! We do our best to serve every age-group in the community, for example with a parent and baby/toddler group on a Wednesday morning (*Friendship Plus*), links with the Galleywood schools, holiday clubs, two midweek youth clubs in homes, morning prayers on Tuesdays and Thursdays, homegroups, a ten-week introduction to the Christian faith (*Alpha*), and groups for the over 50s (*Wednesday Fellowship* and *Food, Fun and Fellowship*). And of course there are our evening services (6.30pm in summer, 5.30pm in winter), a more reflective time for Christians to learn and grow. For more information about any of this, just ask any of the welcomers, clergy or leadership team.

10. What is the programme for Rolling Worship?

Most weeks:

- 9.30 Choral worship, either from the Book of Common Prayer or another liturgy
- 10 Breakfast
- 10.30 "The Core": learning together in a variety of styles. Our children's and young people's groups meet during 'The Core'.
- 11 Refreshment Break. During this break, there is always opportunity for prayer for healing.
- 11.30 Band-based worship.

On the second and fifth Sundays of the month:

- 9.30 Learning together.
- 10 Breakfast
- 10.30 Communion or Baptism. All agegroups are together for this slice.
- 11 Refreshment Break (prayer for healing)
- 11.30 Learning together. Children's groups take place during this slice.