

**Parish Conversations IV: How we will become more 'all-age'? Thinking about children, young people and the church.**

*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 11am.*

*Some questions to get you thinking. Bear in mind that just because I ask a question, doesn't mean I always think I know the right answer!! Peter.*

Are Second Sunday services working? How was making these Eucharistic every time worked out?

Our current pattern of services presents the more 'child-friendly' Second Sunday service as the exception to the normal Sung Eucharist pattern. Why do we think of it as the exception? Could there be a case for making it much more normal – say, making it fortnightly rather than monthly?

Work with children is clearly one of St. Lawrence's big priorities (or should be, anyway!). Should the same be true at Bedmond? What could change there to get children involved?

How could we involve children more thoroughly in the standard 9.30 Sung Eucharist? What are the arguments against doing so?

What if, usually, children left the service for their groups immediately after the Gloria, and returned for the Peace? How would that change the 'feel' of the church?

Can/should the Choir include children?

How important a part of St. Lawrence's mission is *Messy Church*? (Bear in mind that much of the energy behind it at present comes from Derek and Chris, the Methodist minister and his wife. They will probably leave in the next 18 months: do we want to, and can we, take up the baton?)

If work with children is a high priority for this parish, why do Seekers, crèche and Youth Choir find it difficult to get adults to help them out? What stops adults from getting involved?

*There's more...*

Would it be a good idea to work in this area with other churches? For instance, Fr. Paul at St. Saviour's has suggested a combined, monthly, contemporary worship service on a Sunday evening. We could even try for a joint youth group. What are the risks, and the possibilities?

'If you want the children, you have to get the parents': how do we encourage parents to be part of the congregation? What do we well now, and what not so well?

How much energy should this church put into forging links with local schools – and how could this be more than another job for the vicar?

If we had a choice between a curate, a youth-worker, or a childrens worker (by the way, the current state of the budget looks fairly forbidding for any of these options) – which should we choose?

According to a recent study (*Passing On Faith*, from the Theos thinktank) less than one third of parents want their children to inherit their belief in God. Why, and what can/should the church to do address this situation?