**Stepwise - Faith-Filled Worship**



To you worshipful people of the South West Synod – a message.

I am planning to run Stepwise’s Worship Stream (or ‘course’ in other language) on Zoom for any who are interested.

This will be for anyone in the Synod considering playing a part in worship leading. This does not of course have to be preaching a sermon (though it can be) but any aspect of worship. If you lead prayers or read lessons or having anything to do with hymn singing - indeed even if you just want to help your appreciation of worship as someone who takes part as the congregation - then this worship stream will help. It will enhance your participation, whether it be active or ‘passive!!

It will also be for lay preachers and other worship leaders who want to refresh their thinking and capabilities.

And those of us who have related responsibility in churches like Local Leaders or Elders, not to mention pulpit supply secretaries, might particularly be interested! Worship is central to our Christian life, it touches us all and, in these days, when there are fewer ministers and worship leaders in relation to the number of churches, the more of us that can be engaged intentionally in thinking about worship provision the better!!

The different ‘chapters’ of the worship stream amongst other things, help us:

* in our engagement with scripture,
* reflect on encountering and communicating with God,
* consider how we break open ‘The Word’ and
* the role of the Spirit in worship,
* encourages us to ‘dare to be different’ and
* explores resources available to help us in our worship leading and appreciation.

This is what the United Reformed Church Learning Hub says about Faith Filled Worship

*Faith-filled Worship is a Stepwise stream that gives participants the opportunity to explore the breadth and depth of Christian worship and lays some foundations for anyone who is beginning to participate in the leading of worship in their church or community.  It is designed for anyone who is interested in learning more about worship as part of their journey of discipleship and for those who feel called to lead worship locally.  As well as exploring the building blocks of worship participants will engage in some practical tasks and a group project to prepare and deliver an act of contextual and creative worship.*

This stream will run over the winter, probably starting in January and comprise 12 ‘chapters’. The engagement with the material happens in your own home by connecting to the United Reformed Church’s Learning Hub. The group sessions are done online using Zoom. You will be helped to use these facilities.

There will be a presentation about this at the Synod meeting on the 18th of October and if it’s helpful a taster session later in the autumn.

If you’d like to register interest or would like to find out more or book yourself a place, please be in touch with me and I’ll be happy to talk further.

Roy Lowes

Synod Stepwise Advocate

Roy.avril@btinternet.com

(07712) 654968