

# Worship development

## 1. Music

**Starter:** *[In pairs]* Share your thoughts and feelings about your favourite piece of music

### Reading: Psalm 150.

*Read aloud, then allow time for everyone to re-read it for themselves along with the comment and the personal focus questions – and reflect alone.*

**Comment:** The music used in worship should always be capable of serving and enhancing that worship. Its function may be to stimulate and express religious imagination and help the worshippers express themselves to God. The words and music should be integrated with the rest of the service. For example the words of an anthem could be taken up in the prayers. Music could be offered as prayers of adoration, or of confession or intercession. Leaders of worship, both lay and ordained, need training in the value of music in worship so that such integration may take place. This is possible only when there is a creative partnership between those responsible for the ordering of the worship and those responsible for the music.  
(Let the People Worship 1988 Conference report)

### Personal Focus Questions:

1. How does music help you to worship God, not necessarily in Church?
2. Verses 3-5 suggest a great sense of joy and liberation. How do you create that sense in your services?

3. In what way could you use your favourite piece of music (Starter) in worship?

*Share together in threes the results of your individual reflection.*

*Return together as a group and share any insights.*

*Now share together in these applications.*

### Applications:

1. Brainstorm ways in which music could be used in worship.
2. What practical problems need to be addressed in using a wider range of music in a service? What can you do about these?
3. Create an act of meditation around a piece of music. *(The leader could play several pieces of music of differing styles for people to work with. A large group will need to divide down into smaller groups for this.)*

### Review *(Individual thought)*

As an individual how will you use the ideas you have heard in this session?

**Follow up.** If you would like to develop these ideas further then you could organize a workshop with Ruth Hart [01472 502026] or Alan Barker [01522 543168].

The new unit 8 in the Faith and Worship course has material including a CD on the use of music. It is worth reading the whole of the 'Let the People Worship' section on music. [para39-42]

### Worship

End with a time of worship that uses music in a variety of ways.