

## **Worship team guidance**

**Updated 20th June 2021**

These are not rules written in stone: they are intended to be used as a guide of best practice. That said, all members of the worship team should endeavour to adhere to them as closely as possible for the benefit the team and to serve the church at Acorn. The guidance is a work in progress and may be updated and amended as we learn to serve together.

### **Worship practice**

- Practices are scheduled every Thursday night. Worship team members should aim to arrive about 7:15 in order to set up microphones and instruments so that we can have a prompt 7:30 start.
- Practices aim to finish by 9:00
- We will endeavour to maintain good discipline during practices to ensure we get the most out of the short time we have.
- We will pray together before and after practice.
- Those who are taking part on Sunday should make every effort to be present at the Thursday night practice. This includes those on the tech team.
- Those who are not taking part in the next Sunday service are also encouraged to attend at least twice a month. This will foster team spirit and give everyone an opportunity to learn new songs and spend time worshipping together. It will also give everyone an opportunity to acquire a basic knowledge of the sound desk, word projection software and broadcasting equipment.
- Worship songs should be circulated to the team at least three full days before the practice so that people can familiarise themselves with them.
- On months with five Thursdays we will organise training/social nights rather than a practice on that fifth night. We will need to use previously well practiced songs for the following Sunday.

### **Sunday mornings**

- The worship team should arrive no later than 9:15am to get set up and sound check

- Sunday mornings should not be a time to practice what we should have learnt on Thursday evenings: going over stuff again. It should be a time to prayer together and spend a short time in worship prior to the service beginning: preparing our own hearts for what God will surprise us with today.
- If a new song is being introduced that morning it could be used as part of our pre-service worship
- Remember you're being filmed. When we are live streaming every move and gesture will be beamed out to Acorn's YouTube channel. Please be aware of this but not intimidated.
- Worship team members who are in the congregation on Sundays are encouraged to lead by example and show support to their teammates on the platform.
- Mobile phones should be silenced in church, especially on the platform and only used as a last resort for Bible readings etc.

### Positivity

- Worship teams often find themselves under spiritual attack and we need to stand together and pray for one another. Team members are encouraged to seek prayer from the team if they feel under pressure or discouraged.
- It's important that we foster an atmosphere of positivity and encouragement.
- We need to be supportive towards each other; being instructive and nurturing but never critical.
- We need to build each other up in love.
- Everyone should leave practices having enjoyed the time together and feeling uplifted.

### A commitment to improve

- In order to give our best it's important that we commit to improving our playing and singing with regular practice: fanning into flame the gift that God has given us.
- Finding time to practice and improve should become part of our regular routine.
- We can learn from each other and use the internet and any other available resources to ensure we give our very best to God.
- Sharing of new songs and practice resources could be directed to team members via the WhatsApp group.

- A basic knowledge for the whole team on the tech is encouraged - Organised training to be provided.

### **All singing from the same hymn book**

- It is really helpful for everyone if we are using the same music
- The person leading worship has a responsibility to ensure that everyone is provided with song lyrics and chord sheets. These should be circulated by email to the team at least three full days before the practice.
- Whilst it is fine for people to use different apps and sources for personal practice, we need to establish a system where we all have the same songs with the same chords in the same key. Clearly this will be a work in progress.
- Meanwhile, we need to use the music that the worship leader sends out each week to enable practices run more smoothly as we won't have to compare each other's music and will never ask the question, "have I got the same chords as you?" or "what chords have you got?"

### **The Worship Rota**

- The rota will normally cover a period of two months.
- Team members will receive an email asking for availability; please reply promptly by giving dates that you are NOT available and specify how many times a month you would like to serve. This gives far more flexibility to the person creating the rota.
- Only one reminder will be sent out after the first email asking for availability: no one likes to feel they are being pestered.
- If you became available after the rota is issued please get in touch and we will try and fit you in.

### **Maintaining freedom and fostering Gods presence**

- Our aim is to lead people into God's presence, to allow the Holy Spirit to minister and for Spiritual gifts to flow: creating space for God to move and giving people time to receive.
- We should encourage a response from others by being responsive ourselves.
- We need to remember that we are worshiping the Lord, not just singing songs.

### **Staying connected**

- A WhatsApp group has been established with clear goals and rules to foster an atmosphere of support, encouragement and information specifically related to the worship teams aims.