

## Family worship through the years

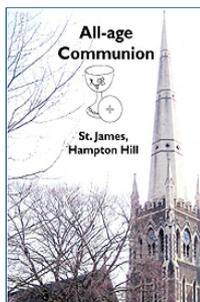


There have been designated children's services since the earliest days and maintaining children's interest has always been important to St James's. The January 1910 Hampton Hill Parish Magazine reported: *"We are commencing a new system in connection with the children's services. We are very anxious that the children should take greater interest in the Church and in their lessons, and we want the parents to help us. Stamps will be given for full attendances, and these are to be placed in small albums which will be supplied to the children at one penny each. Children who do not attend the Sunday Schools, but who attend Church, may take part in the system. I understand that it creates great interest wherever it is in use."* In 1916 a children's prayer service was held at 10.15 on Saturday mornings in the church. *"Parents who can spare their children for half-an-hour are asked to allow them to attend."* In 1920, the infants' Sunday School started their

own little service in the church room instead of going to the 11.00 service in the church.

Several young communicants asked Revd Harvey for a celebration of the Holy Communion at seven o'clock on one Sunday in the month. So in September 1925, he decided to do this on the fourth Sunday in the month. This was Church Parade Sunday for the Girl Guides and the Church Lads' Brigade, and so with *"this additional opportunity more of the members should make their Communion regularly in the future"*.

The Children's afternoon Service was dropped over the course of Revd Brunt's incumbency. However, he was keen to include the children and so in 1956 *"every fourth Sunday in the month at 11.0 a.m. we hope that all our older Sunday School children will be present at Matins, and that their parents will come with them"*. Consequently the Family and Parade Service regularly took place on the fourth Sunday in the month. The following year the Family & Parade Service moved to 09.30 on the fourth Sunday. Children not yet confirmed were welcomed at the altar rails to receive a blessing at the service of Holy Communion at 9.45 on Christmas Day, 1961. In 1964 *"Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m. becomes central but once a month, usually on the fourth Sunday, there will be the customary Family and Parade Service at 11.0 a.m., but we may adapt it in various ways to make it shorter and simpler, and not always follow the pattern of Matins as in the past. As already stated, on these days there will be no Sunday Schools, but the Parish Communion will be held as usual."*



The Family and Parade Service on the fourth Sundays underwent some changes in 1976 in an attempt to make the service more meaningful and less tedious for the youngsters. Then the following year it was moved to the first Sunday in the month. However, for some time it had been felt that this familiar Parade Service and Family Communion needed to be replaced by a shorter simpler service, more suited to the younger members of the congregation. It was changed to a new style 'Informal Service' on Sunday 3rd March 1985. The choir started to help with the singing of the hymns, the readings and prayers were read by members of the cubs and scouts and the vicar called on younger members of the congregation to assist him during his talk. By letting the children take a prominent part in the proceedings like this, their attention and interest was held to the end. The 'Songs of Fellowship' songbooks started to be used in the Informal Services.

All Age communion services were re-introduced during Revd Vannozi's incumbency and so [Illustrated service booklets](#) were made in 2008 with photographs and explanations of each part of the service, mainly for the youngsters, but were found to be very helpful for all ages. A non-eucharistic Mothering Sunday service was started in 2010, proving very popular with families and from then until Revd Winterburn started his incumbency, the services on the first Sundays in the month were sometimes All Age communions and other times non-

eucharistic services.

The uniformed groups have always joined in the All Age parade services and from 1997 the instrumental group, then called the St James's Players, provided the music rather than the organ.

The above information covers the period from when any records could be found until November 2016. This was when Revd Derek Winterburn became St James's tenth vicar and from this time onwards any new information can be found on the main site.