

The Durham Diocese Hymn and Worship song choice

Thanks to all our respondents.

The results of our Diocesan wide, Waymark Conference delegate poll in which over 140 people have expressed a choice are shown in the table below. We have shown the Top 11 most chosen hymns and worship songs as the 10th and 11th most popular choices polled the same number of votes. A staggering 167 hymn and worship song choices were selected showing the breadth of wonderful music we have at our disposal.

It is our greatest desire that these 11 choices from across the Diocese along with our specifically commissioned hymn "Blessing our communities in Jesus name" penned by Ian Jagger a few years ago when the current Diocesan vision was created can be utilised on Sunday 13th October in your church service so that across the whole of our Diocese on that day we will all be singing from the same hymn sheet whether we are in Newton Aycliffe at the Waymark Conference or in our parish settings. Please pass on this message on to the person responsible for music at your service on the 13th October 2019.

Words and details of Ian Jagger's hymn are as follows;

Blessed be God, Creator, Father,
God in whom we live and move,
for you give your sons and daughters
space and time, your love to prove;
bless our homes and schools and churches,
places where our children thrive,
learning all that Jesus teaches,
as a child of God alive.

Blessed be God, the Son of glory,
Love made flesh, for us made poor,
emptied in the human story,
filling us for evermore;
bless the poor with rich provision,
bonds of poverty release,
loose our faith in our possessions,
help us trust you, Prince of peace.

Blessed be God, the Holy Spirit,
come, the Church of God indwell,
breathe on us, let us inherit
faith to follow Jesus well;
bless our loving, fill our praying,
teach us wisdom from above,
fill the Church with power for laying
on the world your hands of love.

Ian said "I set it to the tune Hyfrydol which is well-known and uplifting, but there's two others equally strong it could use. I have made it trinitarian, and drawn out some links with the 3 Priorities. The Father is linked with children and young people, the Son with poverty, and the Spirit with church growth.

The verses have three parts: - Blessed be God.... who blesses us in a particular way... so that we may live out this blessing in the world.

In the verse on children and young people, besides saying our churches are to be places where our children thrive, we remember that "the glory of God is a human being fully alive" and Jesus sets a child in the midst "whoever does not receive the kingdom as a little child receives it shall never enter it", so to learn to be not just a child but a child of God, 'a child fully alive with the life of God', is the greatest hope we can have.

In the poverty verse we learn to identify with the poor through the example of Jesus, we pray for the relief of need, we challenge structures of poverty, and we dare to touch on our attitude to possessions and faith.

The verse on growth and Spirit is invocation as well as blessing, the Spirit points us to Jesus, but the purpose of Church growth is not the glory of the Church but the joy of God and the blessing of the world. Jesus laid hands of blessing on children, but I'm also thinking of Teresa of Avila "Christ has no body but yours....yours are the hands by which he blesses all the world".

The Durham Diocesan Top 10

	Title	Hymn/song writer
1	10,000 reasons (Bless the Lord)	Matt Redman
2	I the Lord of sea and sky (Here I am Lord)	Dan Schutte
3	Be Still for the presence of the lord	David J Evans
3	In Christ Alone my hope is found	Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
5	How great thou art, O Lord my God when I in awe and wonder	Carl Boberg, Stuart K Hine
6	Great is Thy Faithfulness	William Runyan
6	This is Amazing Grace	Phil Whickham
8	Lord, the light of your love is shining, (Shine Jesus shine)	Graham Kendrick
9	Build Your Kingdom Here	Rend Collective
10	Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace	Sebastian Temple
10	And can it be that I should gain	Charles Wesley

Please note I have attempted to capture a title and attributed writer to enable you to find it and I cannot 100% confirm the accuracy of the title or attributed writer. We hope you have fun, perhaps learn a new song, perhaps sing a favourite of yours that you've stopped singing, all in the knowledge that across our whole Diocese others will be singing with you.

Regards

Ian Goulding
Mission Partner Learning Coordinator