

## How can music in worship support Christian faith in Scotland? September 2024

A survey this autumn, led from the University of St Andrews Laidlaw Music Centre (researcher: Jane Pettegree), is gathering views from Christians in Scotland about what their hopes and apprehensions, experiences and inspirations, might be for making music together in Scottish worship.

If silence is also important to you, they are interested in that as well: making space for listening as well as for sounding is important to many.

As Jeremiah 6:16 says, using ancient, well-trodden paths to guide us keeps us on reliable ground; but, as we hear in Psalm 33:3, the scriptures also instruct us to sing new songs skillfully to sustain our living worship. How can we balance these two instructions? What kind of skills training, aptitudes, resources and mutual supports will we need to guide us along the way?

Feedback from this survey will be collated by the University of St Andrews and used to help plan their sacred music teaching. The report will be on our public research portal, and the outcomes will be shared with other organisations actively supporting church music in Scotland, including the Scottish Federation of Organists, Church Music Scotland, and the Church Service Society. The information will help those working in this area to understand better what people value and need from music in worship.

The link to the survey is here:

[https://standrews.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1Yxn4KyXT4Adhr0](https://standrews.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Yxn4KyXT4Adhr0)

