

Story Sharing

20 minutes max! As part of introductions
(as used at Diocesan Council, December 2017)

Introduction and Story Prompt:

- Give an overview of what we're going to do, and put people at their ease: We're going to start this meeting in a way that's different from our usual practice. People come to church for a variety of reasons, but one typical reason is because that they love Jesus and hope to encounter the Holy... maybe that's true of you, too. So let's start by sharing stories about just that.
- We're going to offer a prompt, just to get your thoughts started. Then we'll all take five minutes to think, and decide what story we want to tell and how we'll tell it. After that, we'll divide up into pairs or threes and share stories for a few minutes each. And then we'll come back together as a group to talk about what the experience was like. We won't tell each other's stories; you are only telling your story to the people listening to you, not to the whole group. But we'll talk about what it felt like to tell the stories, and what it felt like to hear them.
- So, here's the prompt: **Tell a story about a moment when you were aware of the presence of God.**
- Please use the prompt just as a way to get your thoughts started. This isn't a quiz; no one is grading how accurately your story fits the question. And it's not a competition for who can tell the most ooh-ahh story. It's just your story, about a moment—preferably a recent moment—when you were aware of the presence of God.

Silence – 5 minutes of silence to choose your story. Feel free to make notes, or just to think.

Sharing – We'll share in pairs or threes. Find a reasonably friendly stranger. You'll have about 8 minutes total to share among you. So remember to be mindful of the time. I'll let you know when there are just 3 minutes left.

Reflecting – Bring everyone back together. Remind everyone that we won't be repeating anything our partners said in their stories. Have a few people share what it felt like to hear the stories. Possible final question: Where might God be active in this experience?

(by Michael Ambler, Jane Hartwell and the Living Local Team 12/2/17)