' I have now  held 2 initial focus groups discussing our thoughts on a new Liberal siddur, one at synagogue and one at Deansfield.. Around 15 people participated  and there were some really interesting points made. What was striking was the range of different opinions and individual needs from a prayer book. We are such a diverse bunch!

Some key learning that is glaringly apparent from this exercise so far is that  there is absolutely no consensus and our needs differ greatly. Luckily Liberal Judaism is a large umbrella  but we need to remember that what works for us might not work for the person sitting next to us so all of us must refrain from generalisaing what our community needs from services or service leaders.  I find this exciting but in my opinion it does mean that we all need to be mindful that we are being inclusive and provide an environment that does its best to offer variety of services and service leaders.  This could mean that we only come to shul when a service suits us. Alternatively,  we could try and develop a capacity to sit more comfortably with the uncomfortable and maybe even find it within ourselves to recognise that personal growth and insight can happen at these unlikely moments!

For anyone you hasn't been able to contribute their opinion on any aspect of the new siddur, then please send me an email and I will include your points with the other discussions that have been had. All your points of view will inform the national consultation process.  My email is nickybristol@yahoo.co.uk and please use 'new siddur' in the title so it doesn't get lost in my inbox.

Thanks'