

Worship comes in all shapes and sizes – some is very traditional, some is modern, some is very adult-centred, some is very much geared towards children and families, some is quiet, and some is noisy!

There is a separate leaflet that tells you about the services here at

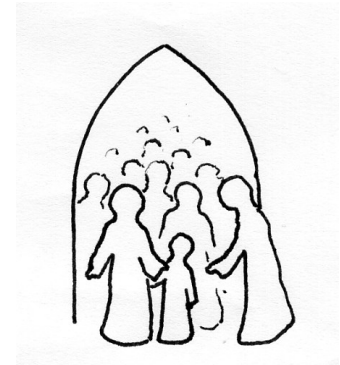
You are also welcome to contact us at any time:

[insert all your church's contact details here]

Services at

[insert details of your regular services]

Coming to church: What do we do, & why do we do it



Coming to church is about gathering ourselves as God's family, in God's presence, to praise him, to get to know him better, and to receive his grace and blessing in our lives. So it's about:

- **Meeting God** – getting to know God more, and receiving his grace and blessing.
- **Being with each other** – growing together as God's family in the local community, and supporting each other in our faith and in our lives.

When we come to church we come into the presence of God.



We bring with us in our minds and hearts all that has happened to us in the days and weeks that have just passed – our hopes and dreams, our fears, our

regrets, the situations and decisions about which we need guidance, the burdens we carry for ourselves and for others. All these things are what we bring before God for his blessing when we come to church.

Of course, God is not just in church – he is everywhere, and Jesus said that what really matters is that we worship God ‘in spirit and in truth’. But church is helpful because:

- When we meet with other Christians we can support each other in our faith and in our lives.
- The bible readings, the sermon, and the words and actions in the service help us come to know God better.
- Our encounter with God in church which will help us to find the strength to live as God’s children in the world.

During a church service:

- We gather in God’s presence – often singing a hymn, saying an opening greeting, praying a prayer together
- We set ourselves right with God – saying together a prayer of confession, during which we recall the things that we have done (or failed to do!) that have damaged our relationship with God, with each other, and with the world, and we ask God’s forgiveness. The minister ‘gives the absolution’ - he or she assures us that when we are sorry, God forgives us.
- We hear God’s word, from the bible, and usually there is a talk or sermon to help us to reflect on what we have heard, and relate it to our own life, and the life of the world.
- We say the ‘creed’ – we affirm what we believe, that God is the only God, and that we can relate to God as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit. We share this faith with Christians all over the world.

- We pray – usually prayers are led by a member of the congregation, and include prayers for the world, the church, the local community, those who are ill, and those who have died.
- We usually share the peace – that is, we set ourselves right with each other by saying ‘peace be with you’ and sharing a handshake or a kiss. This can be an opportunity to make peace with someone when there has been a disagreement or upset.
- If the service includes Holy Communion, then we bring forward some bread and wine, bless them with a special prayer, and receive them, as a special way of receiving God’s grace.
- The minister prays for God’s blessing on us, and we are sent out, renewed in our faith and strengthened for whatever challenges we will face in the coming days.
- After the main service, people usually stay and have tea or coffee and a biscuit and a chat.