

If you haven't been to church for a long time or at all, here's what to expect at our main Sunday morning service.

### **All services except Café Church**

Most people arrive in the 10 minutes or so before the service starts. Walk through the door (and we do appreciate that this can be the hardest part) and you'll be greeted by one of our stewards who will give you a notice sheet and any books you'll need.

Once seated, many people like to pray quietly as a way of preparing for the service.

Services usually begin with a welcome by the leader – the person taking the service - followed by singing a hymn. After that the format varies depending on the particular service, but there will generally be more singing, prayers, readings from the Bible and a talk.

You'll see that some parts in the service book are printed in bold type – we say these bits all together, while the words in light type are said by the leader.

The leader usually tells us when to sit or stand, but if you aren't sure, just follow the people around you.

Most services include an offertory or collection, which is taken during one of the hymns. If you'd like to make a contribution, place your money into the bag as the steward passes it around.

At services of Holy Communion (also known as the Eucharist or the Lord's Supper) we are invited to go to the altar to receive bread and wine or for a blessing – the stewards co-ordinate this part. Once at the altar rail, you can show that you would like a blessing by keeping your head bowed. If you would like to take Communion but are unable to get to the altar and, please let the steward know, and the bread and wine will be brought to you.

Many services include a part called The Peace, where we shake hands with those in the seats around us and greet them with the words, "Peace be with you".

At the end of the service, we often stay back for refreshments and so we hope you'll join us for a chat and a coffee.

### **Café Church**

Café Church is an informal style of service which has grown out of café culture. We sit at tables rather than in pews and in place of a formal sermon we discuss the theme of the service over coffee and something to eat.

Our Café Church services starts at 11am on the 4th Sunday of the month and people generally start to arrive about 10 minutes beforehand. As you arrive there will be music playing and tables at the back of church. There are no reserved seats, sit where you feel most comfortable.

Our Café Church services involve singing, reading the Bible together, a group discussion, and sharing Holy Communion. The songs are deliberately chosen to be the best of well-known traditional hymns, and more modern songs. In place of hymn and service books, everything is projected onto a screen.

The group discussion is based on the Bible reading set for that day, and takes place around the tables, with a time for each table to share what they have been discussing. We try to make our discussions centre on the practicalities of being people of faith in everyday life. We are lucky to have a few people who are willing to lead the discussion, who each have their own take on things. Consequently, our discussions have ranged from, “How can I be someone who brings healing to others?” to “How we can show God’s love and welcome in our daily lives?” as well as everything in between.

If you normally receive Holy Communion you are welcome to share it here with us. The bread and wine are shared around the tables with each person giving it to their neighbour saying, “The body of Christ”, or “The blood of Christ”. If you prefer, the priest will be more than willing to give a blessing.

As we have tea/coffee and something to eat during the service there is none after. If you would like to stay and chat after the service, please feel free.

**If you would like to know more about any of our services**, please contact us [here](#) and we will answer your question as quickly as we can.