



Christchurch United Church

Christ Led : Christ Centred : Christ's Church



Welcome to Worship



When you arrive

Our service starts at 11am and usually lasts for about 1 hour. Worship takes place in our main church space. We also have a church hall which is used for children's activities during the service and often to serve refreshments afterwards.

Our church seating is in pews although there are chairs and a specific quiet corner in the side area including noise-cancelling headphones should you need them. None of our pews are reserved so feel free to sit wherever you like.



In our porch we also have a play area for young children and 'grab bags' of toddler toys which can be taken to your seat. Sometimes the play area can be an easier place for parents with young children to listen to the service while your children can move around freely.

Toilets (including a more accessible one) and baby changing facilities are situated in a corridor leading from the side door of the church, beside the large windows. Please don't hesitate to ask for directions.

In the Service

The words to our hymns and any responses for the congregation are displayed on the screen at the front. Pictures and videos may also be shown on the screen. We have a few paper copies of the words for those who find it difficult to read from the screen – you'll find these on the table in the porch area.



Sound is played through our sound system and speakers – you can choose to sit further away from the speakers if you are more sensitive to sound. If you use hearing aids you can tune into our hearing loop.

Responses to prayers or readings are shown in 'bold' on the screen. You are welcome to join in with these if you feel comfortable. We usually say the "Lord's Prayer" together which is the prayer Jesus used to show people how to pray.

Volunteers are arranged in advance to read aloud from the Bible during the service. New volunteers are always welcome but there is no expectation to read aloud unless you wish to.

We usually sit for prayers and for the readings and stand to sing hymns and songs but you don't have to stand unless you want to; we realise that some may not be able to.



We celebrate Communion (sharing bread and wine) once a month, usually during the service on the 1st Sunday of the month. Bread is cut into individual pieces and non-alcoholic wine is served in individual glasses and these are both brought to you at your seat. We welcome everyone, old or young, to take Communion but, if you prefer not to, just let it go past you.

We don't pass round a collection plate during the service. However we do have a donation point in the porch for those who are able to give financially. Our church is managed independently and doesn't receive financial support from elsewhere, so donations help to keep it running.

At the end of the service you may be invited to say "the Grace" together. This is a collective prayer taken from the Bible and the words will be on the screen. Sometimes people will turn to look at each other when sharing the grace, a few may hold hands but this is not expected; others will simply stand and bow their heads. Please do whatever you are comfortable with.

After the Service



We serve tea, coffee, squash and biscuits in the Church Hall after most services and this is provided by volunteers. Everyone is welcome to stay and this can be a good chance to meet people from the church.



You can get to the Hall by leaving church by the main doors and turning right – or just follow everyone else!

Our flower arrangement at the front of the church is paid for and prepared by volunteers. The flowers are given out to people after the service. The team have a list of people who may be unwell, unable to come to church or who may be having a celebration and would appreciate flowers. You can ask the team to add someone to their list if you wish.



There are other activities and events that take place in the church and the stewards in church should be able to tell you more about these if you would like.

Here's an example of a morning service with us, although the format can vary:

Opening "call to worship"

A hymn

A short talk and introduction to the theme of the service

A Bible reading

A prayer

A hymn

The children and young people leave for their own activities

A Bible reading

A talk or sermon

Prayers

A hymn

The children and young people return from their activities

Notices of upcoming events

Either: Informal feedback from the children's activities

Or: Holy Communion

A hymn

A closing prayer