



## SEVEN SHIFTS TO INSPIRE EVERYDAY FAITH

#MoreThanSunday



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## Foreword from Bishop David

Following Christ is #MoreThanSunday. We can sometimes give the impression that what church is really about is Sundays, preferably in our church buildings, as we “go to” church. Yet from the very first centuries, disciples of Jesus have known that ours is a whole life, whole week, commitment.

The true shape of church is seen in our liturgy with the rhythm of gathering together to be nourished by God through Word and Sacrament and our fellowship together, and then being sent out (or scattered) into the world to bless and nourish others. The liturgy puts it beautifully where it says, “may we who share Christ’s body live his risen life, we who drink his cup bring life to others, and we whom the spirit lights give light to the world”. The gathered church equips us to be the scattered church and the scattered church in turn shapes who we are as the gathered church.

For some people, our discipleship and ministry is mainly exercised in the gathered church as lay people who are intercessors, musicians, worship leaders, children’s leaders and more. But for the majority, our ministry and discipleship is worked out in our homes, work places, neighbourhoods, food banks, and communities as we join in with what God is already doing in the places where God has put us. This happens not just on Sundays but every day.

**#MoreThanSunday** is the Diocese of Manchester’s approach to inspiring discipleship, the living out of what it means to be baptised and to follow Jesus Christ day by day. So I commend this booklet describing seven shifts to inspire everyday faith in the hope that it will encourage the 98% of the church who are not ordained to be the Body of Christ in the world.

**Rt Revd Dr David Walker**  
*Bishop of Manchester*



## The story so far

In February 2017, the Church of England approved a set of recommendations; put forwards in a report called **Setting God's People Free**. The report was produced by a Lay Leadership Task Group and it was a wake-up call to remind all of us, lay and ordained together, that we must once again take up the great opportunity that has presented itself to the church in every decade for the last 100 years:

*“Will we determine to empower, liberate and disciple the 98% of the Church of England who are not ordained and therefore set them free for fruitful, faithful mission and ministry, influence, leadership and, most importantly, vibrant relationship with Jesus in all of life? And will we do so not only in church-based ministry on a Sunday but in work and school, in gym and shop, in field and factory, Monday to Saturday?”*

### [Setting Gods People Free Report](#) (2017)

Since 2017, the Church of England has undertaken a huge effort to respond to this opportunity. In particular, through **Everyday Faith**, an exciting set of inspirational ideas, resources and discussions. All aimed at supporting every worshipping community to journey together in making shifts that will enable the whole people of God, to confidently live out the whole Good News of Jesus, in the whole of their lives.

As a response to this, in 2021, the Diocese of Manchester began to explore with 10 pilot groups what differences some simple shifts could make to the everyday faith lives of those regularly gathering for worship in some of our schools, chaplaincies and churches. This became known as **#MoreThanSunday**.

In 2022/23, we continued to focus on 7 of the shifts that proved particularly helpful to our pilots. This time it was done with a number of our mission communities. Since then **#MoreThanSunday** has become part of every mission communities' Mission Action Plan (MAP) with the aim that everyone in the diocese will be able to engage with it at some point over the next five years.



## The goals of #MoreThanSunday

We live in a time of great challenge but also in a time of great opportunity. **#MoreThanSunday** supports our missions goals of growing, nurturing and serving as we seek together to achieve our vision:

*“To be a worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community.”*

As part of achieving this vision, the goals of **#MoreThanSunday** are to:

1. Inspire church congregations to make stronger connections between what happens at their Sunday / main worship services and how they live out their faith during the week.
2. Enhance and work alongside existing discipleship training programs as part of enabling everyone to deepen their faith together.
3. Increase the confidence of everyone in our churches by encouraging them to talk more openly about their faith with each other.
4. Equip everyone in our churches to share their faith more effectively with others in their everyday places, settings and communities.

We recognise that the shifts mentioned in this booklet aren't instant fixes. None of them will change the culture of your church community overnight, but each one could become a realistic starting point for achieving the goals above.

## Getting started with #MoreThanSunday

It takes time and prayerful persistence to create a culture that supports people to confidently and courageously live out their faith **#MoreThanSunday**.

The seven shifts in this booklet are a helpful starting point. Some of them you may already be doing. Others can be introduced in a variety of different ways. What works in one context may not work in another but as we trust God and remain open to the Holy Spirit, ideas have a way of sparking more ideas, leading to new and exciting places.

With that in mind, the best place to start is probably with conversation, firstly with your PCC/ministry team and then with the members of your church congregation.

Each shift is independent, so you may want to choose just one or two to begin with, focusing on how you can realistically embed them over an agreed period of time. It's also good to build in times to regularly review how you are getting on, such as:

- Regular reviews of #MoreThanSunday at key meetings.
- Popping reminders in diaries and calendars, so that things don't slip off the agenda.
- Giving a few key people the permission to ask how you are getting on with your shifts.
- Making sure #MoreThanSunday becomes part of your communities daily rhythms – in the Daily Offices, times of worship and in team meetings etc.

## Shift 1 This time tomorrow (TTT)

More and more we are discovering that being followers of Jesus isn't confined to church buildings or traditional church related activities. The reality is that most of us live out our faith in the everyday stuff of life in a huge variety of different contexts. However, when we gather in communal worship, we often don't get chance to share the stories and experiences of our everyday faith, or get the opportunity to make connections between our gathered and scattered lives.

A simple shift to address this could be the use of This Time Tomorrow (TTT). A practice that offers the opportunity during our gathered worship to hear from an individual, family or group about their everyday faith lives and contexts. This can be done each week through short two-to-three-minute interviews or even shared in smaller groups if people are comfortable, but it generally helps to follow three simple questions:

- 1. Where will you be at this time tomorrow?**
- 2. What challenges and opportunities do you face?**
- 3. How can we pray for you?**

TTT is a great way to build up people's confidence as we acknowledge and celebrate together how God is interested in each of our everyday lives and how he wants to use us in these contexts.

### IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS

- For TTT to become part of your culture, everyone should be invited to take part; those with jobs, those without, those who are retired as well as our children, young people and families.

- Some of the pilot communities shared with us that they found it useful to find one or two people who could help and encourage others to share and then lead these times. However, others found it equally as useful to do TTT more informally. For example, after gathered worship, during the refreshments or even as part of any general meetings or conversations people may be having during the week.

**When Karen's church started doing This Time Tomorrow, Peter, a few years retired, shared his story. Every Monday morning Peter did the shopping for an elderly neighbour and for his adult daughter who was disabled. After sharing Peter was prayed for, asking God to bless his ministry, and for the elderly lady and his daughter; that they may come to know the love of God through his love and devotion.**

**Karen says, "TTT helps us to get to know one another as we share our lives. We don't just meet on a Sunday but take each other into the coming week as we continue to support one another through prayer and sometimes in practical ways. It really makes you feel more confident knowing you have a whole church community behind you!"**

### FURTHER RESOURCES

- [LICC- This Time Tomorrow](#) (Website)
- [Church of England- Everyday Stories](#) (Website)
- [Church of England- Everyday Faith Portal](#) (Resources)
- [How to Nurture Whole-Life Discipleship](#) (Grove Booklet)
- [40 Faces, 40 Places](#) (Website)



## Shift 2 Prayers and intercessions

Prayer is the bedrock of all that we do and praying for our everyday lives is as important as praying every day. Our prayers of intercession during gathered worship are a great opportunity to pray for the church and the world. But this shift invites us to also use those patterns as opportunities to broaden the reach of our prayers to include our **#MoreThanSunday** lives and the various missional opportunities we each have in the everyday places God has placed us.

For example, missionaries, church workers and leaders may often get mentioned in our intercessions, but why not also include those we come across and meet regularly in everyday life? Taxi drivers, hairdressers, care workers, those seeking work, the local butcher, staff at the local corner shop, council workers etc. When we pray for others publicly, it raises our awareness of their presence among us. It also reminds us of our own missional opportunities too - not just to pray for people but also to minister God's grace and love as we make contact and build relationships with them. Such prayers help to root us in the communities in which we live, work and have our being.

### IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Some have found it helpful to shape their intercessions around roles, activities or vocations; perhaps beginning with successive letters of the alphabet - 'D' is for dad, driver, dentist, dancer, designer etc. Other's fed back to us they have a rota of local streets, people or places that they regularly pray for.

- Prayer walking is a great way to get out of your usual 'bubble' and to explore the mission field on your doorstep. As you walk around and pray for your local area you might also consider visiting some local businesses, introducing yourselves, and opening up conversations about everyday life and faith. You will be amazed how many people are happy to be prayed for or added to your intercessions list if asked.

- Seasonal opportunities, such as Christmas and Easter can also provide simple and effective ways to prayerfully engage with the local community. Making and delivering a small homemade gift along with a message of blessing reminds people that the church is present, active and interested in their everyday lives.

- Where appropriate, it's also great to share some of your prayers and intercessions on your website or social feeds. With permission, you can even tag in some of the local businesses and people you are praying for.



Following one of the **#MTS training sessions**, Janet Jordan, a member of St John the Baptist in Atherton, shared, “Our local community has many independent shops and businesses. We felt called to pray for them and the people who work there but wanted to do more than just offer a generalised prayer as part of our Sunday intercessions.” So, Janet took herself off around the town centre, equipped with notebook and pen, and recorded all the local business names.

“This enabled us, via our weekly news sheet, to draw attention to particular local businesses, inviting those in the church to pray for those listed each week. We then let the businesses know that we were praying for them by giving them a message on a postcard. By doing this we hope to bring prayer and God’s love to our whole community.”

#### FURTHER RESOURCES

- [Church of England – Everyday Prayers](#)
- [Church of England – Daily Prayer and Time to Pray](#) (App)
- [Diocese of Manchester – Transforming Prayer Community](#) (Facebook Group)
- [Thy Kingdom Come](#) (Website)
- [LICC- Prayer Journeys](#) (Website)
- [24-7 Prayer](#) (Website)
- [The Prayer Course 1 & 2 / Discovering Prayer](#) (Courses)

# More Than Sunday





## Shift 3 Faith at home

It's absolutely key that #MoreThanSunday includes people of all age groups and not just adults. Here in the Diocese of Manchester, we are committed to offering children, young people and the adults around them, the opportunity to explore and develop their faith in our schools, churches and also in their own households. Our vision is to see conversations about faith happening as naturally as those we have about what to have for tea, who's turn it is to clear the table or who last had the TV controller!

To achieve this, it's vital that we all seek to create safe spaces for children and young people to ask questions, explore their faith and develop their gifts. We have massive opportunities to do this in our diocese, not only through the links we have with our 190+ Church of England schools but also with our local community schools too.

### IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

- As part of your gathered worship, you could get different families or households to share a Selfie of the Week – capturing something of who they are and what goes on in their daily lives. You could also ask them to do a This Time Tomorrow (TTT) or lead the weekly intercessions. Remember that many children and young people are already involved in taking part and leading daily worship in their church schools.

- As part of shift five, we will explore how important it is to include children, young people and families in your key commissioning events and celebrations, but it is also fun to use other national days during the

year, such as Spaghetti Day, Dress Your Pet Up Day and School Librarian Day, to have some fun and to show how God is interested in every aspect of our **#MoreThanSunday** lives.

- In many cases it helps if we view 'the home' as a vital part of our ongoing daily worship and prayer. The shape of this will obviously vary from home to home but there are loads of great ideas and resources on the web. For example, the fridge is often the centre of life in most households. So, why not encourage your families to use pictures, simple lists or magnetic letters to leave prayer needs or Bible verses on the fridge that everyone can take turns updating and changing each day.

Resourcing faith at home can be a fantastic and fun way to help the whole family live out their faith **#MoreThanSunday**.

**Honor, aged 10, attends a church school in Manchester Diocese. There she has taken part in leading the Easter Experience for pupils from other schools and developing and leading daily collective worship. Honor appreciates that the teachers give pupils the opportunity to ask questions and think about their faith. At home Honor sometimes prepares daily worship for her family especially at Christian festivals. The whole family attend church together and faith is woven into every part of their life.**

### FURTHER RESOURCES

- [Church of England- Faith at Home](#) (Website)
- [Diocese of Manchester- Children and Young People](#) (Website)
- [Diocese of Manchester- Children & Families](#) (Facebook Group)
- [Diocese of Manchester- Youth Work Resources](#) (Facebook Group)

## Shift 4 Small groups

Living out our faith day by day wherever God has placed us is a natural thing to do but often it doesn't feel quite that easy and so we need strength and encouragement. Just as our bodies need food and water to grow and function well, so too we need to feed and nourish ourselves spiritually.

Most Anglicans were part of a Confirmation group when they were preparing for that important milestone, but growing in our faith should not stop at Confirmation!

One of the best ways to feed ourselves spiritually is through starting or joining a small group. In small groups we learn together as we discover more about the Bible and grow in our knowledge of God. Small groups create safe spaces to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus. They provide a group of people to pray for us and cheer us on as we take those sometimes hesitant steps in living out our faith.

### IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

- There are a variety of ways of doing small groups dependent upon your church tradition. Many churches already offer Lent groups which focus on deepening your prayer life and walk with God. Others offer small Bible study groups, say on Mark's Gospel, that run over a set number of weeks. It is great to imbed things like this so that they become part of a regular pattern in the life of the church.

- A great way to begin a small group is to focus on the basics of the

Christian faith by using a course such as a [Start, Alpha](#) or the [Being With](#) course. There are then a huge range of resources that can be used take these conversations further, such as the [Pilgrim Course](#), [Emmaus](#) and numerous others.

- Many small group courses are also available for young people and include online material such as the #MoreThanSunday [podcasts](#). Other discipleship courses help with particular issues such as sharing your faith – [Faith Pictures](#) by Church Army is a great help here.

**St Mary's, Ellenbrook found that small groups flourished during lockdown but that they are still going strong today. At first many in the groups thought that everyone else would know more than they did, but soon they began to realise that they were all on the same level. They found that their faith was growing and soon their confidence in sharing their faith became greater also. For some it was a bit of a surprise that others thought differently about the same Bible passage or were asking questions that they never dreamed of. This soon became a real strength, as well as the fellowship, love and support that they gave and received. Now they say they wouldn't want to be without their small groups.**

See the video, [#MoreThanSunday: Small Discipleship Groups](#)

### FURTHER RESOURCES

- [Making Missional Disciples Through Small Groups](#) (Booklet)
- [#MoreThanSunday- A Year of Discipleship](#) (Podcasts)
- [LICC- Small Group Resources](#)
- [Faith Pictures](#) (Course)
- [Pilgrim Course](#) / [Emmaus](#) (Course Resources)

## Shift 5

## Commissioning and collaboration

Lay people have callings and vocations, just like clergy. Yet many lay people can feel like second-class Christians who should leave the main tasks of ministry to those they see as more qualified; the ordained, licensed, authorised etc. At the same time, despite how people may view them, many clergy often don't feel particularly powerful and yearn for more lay leadership, support and involvement.

It is important to remember that baptism in Christ is our primary sacrament through which we are all equal under God. As such, the Church, as the whole people of God, clergy and laity, are a 'royal priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) called out and commissioned as disciples together to participate in God's mission in the world. All Christians are called, all have a 'vocation', and it is vital to develop practices that help to recognise, celebrate and reinforce this. Some churches commission people for ministries and certain roles in the church, but it's enormously powerful to also commission people for ministries beyond the church, in the contexts of their #MoreThanSunday lives.

### IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Baptisms, weddings and confirmations are natural times to commission people, but it's also good to make time to publicly recognise other life events. For example, those changing jobs or taking up new responsibilities in their community or family. Children and young people starting a new school or university year and those moving into new life phases, such as parenthood, grandparenthood and retirement etc.

- Commissioning can be done at particular points in the calendar year, drawing on the church traditions of plough Sunday and other key festivals. You might also hold a special service at the start of the new academic year. Be creative and look out for opportunities where you can recognise and celebrate people's #MoreThanSunday ministries.

- The commissioning of all God's people is also something that can be highlighted in our regular patterns of gathered worship. Through our songs, liturgy, prayers and intercessions, preaching and teaching, and by using different forms of dismissals and blessings.

**Each Summer in the Diocese of Manchester, we invite over 3,500 children and school staff from all of our primary schools to attend a Year 6 Leavers Service at Manchester Cathedral. As part of the service pupils exchange prayers focused on commissioning and sending each other to their new secondary schools to pass on that faith, hope and love as ambassadors for Christ. This is always a memorable, moving and enjoyable service.**

**Many of our local churches also do similar things to mark the beginning of the new term. Like encouraging young people and adults to bring in their backpacks and work bags so that they can all be brought to the front and prayed for together.**

### FURTHER RESOURCES

- [Kingdom Calling: The Vocation, Ministry & Discipleship of the Whole People of God](#) (Booklet)
- [Collaborative Ministry for Multi-Church Growth](#) (Grove Booklet)
- [LICC: Fruitfulness on the Frontline](#) (LICC Resources)
- [Church Support Hub: Life Events](#) (Resources)



## Shift 6

## Communication and information

How do people know you're a Christian? What do you tell people about who you are and what you believe? These same questions should be asked of our church communities; what are we communicating to people outside of our walls? Do they know who we are and what we are all about? Do they know our faith is **#MoreThanSunday**?

Throughout history, the church has used whatever means necessary to share the good news, and it's been most successful when using the technology of the time. From scrolls and letters to the printing press, radio and now digital communications. The ways in which we can communicate have expanded in recent years; alongside our notice boards, pew sheets, church magazines, local papers and in-person conversations. We now have social media, text messages, video calling, online meetings and websites to add to the spaces in which we can share our Christian faith.

It can be overwhelming to consider all of these things at once, but it is important that we engage with them where possible to share the Good News. Our communities need to hear about the amazing God we worship and how much he cares about every aspect of their lives.

### IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

- A great way to start when assessing how effective your worshipping communities communications are, is simply to take a step back. Imagine you are a newcomer to your area and are looking for a place to worship. Or perhaps you are interested in exploring questions of

faith, having never attended church before. If you were clicking on your church's website for the first time - or standing outside, reading the noticeboard - what messages would you be getting?

- Information about church-based activities is really important but if that's all we ever communicate, we miss out on the opportunity of showing people that our faith is **#MoreThanSunday**. People need to see that we are an every day faith church, living out our Christian faith Monday-Saturday as grandparents, shop workers, students, cleaners and volunteers etc.



When the opportunity to train as a Digital Authorised Lay Minister arose, **Carol Porter from St Margaret's, Prestwich** knew it was the course for her. She created a parish digital communications strategy that underpinned her church's mission action plan and set about trying to make small changes to improve the reach and engagement rate of their digital content. One simple but very effective action Carol took was to invite the church leadership team to go through their website and make suggestions for improvements. Meanwhile Carol sat on another laptop and immediately made the changes. Now their website is fresh, up-to-date and represents who they really are and what they are all about. Not just on Sundays but everyday of the week.

#### FURTHER RESOURCES

- [Diocese of Manchester Digital Support](#) (Facebook Group)
- [Church of England Digital Labs](#) (Resources)
- [Using the 'A Church Near You'](#) (Guide)
- [Manchester Diocese- Communications Team](#) (Contacts)
- [So Everyone Can Hear by Mark Crosby](#) (Book)
- [From Social Media to Social Ministry by Nona Jones](#) (Book)





## Shift 7 Worship, preaching and teaching

Worship, preaching and teaching are amongst the most significant ways that churches have been able to focus their attention on what's going on throughout the week. We believe in a God who is concerned about all of life, and teach from a Bible that centres on life in all its fullness. After all, if 95% of the life of a church community is scattered beyond the times we gather to worship, or put on events, how can the 5% that is spent in gathered church activities, successfully frame, inform and impact our **#MoreThanSunday** lives?

“Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.” The familiar words of a dismissal from a gathered service, highlight just this point. That what has ‘just happened’ in our worship - all that has been shared, taught, experienced and prayed about - is actually intended to be taken out well beyond our gatherings. To “go in peace” means we are to carry the presence of Christ into the world, bringing God’s transforming touch to every aspect of our lives, **#MoreThanSunday**.

### IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

- The church’s calendar is blessed with opportunities for exploring and embedding **#MoreThanSunday** themes. Our varied worship patterns provide an open platform from which to explore and teach and where all can share their stories.

- For liturgical services there are three areas in particular where Common Worship resources may be supplemented to help emphasise and reflect our everyday faith, namely gathering, offertory and dismissal.

- The impact of our preaching and teaching is one that reaches far beyond the gathered church. Jesus often used stories and imagery from every day life in his teaching and sermons. To help us better make these connections, some clergy have started visiting their church members in the workplace, whilst others have encouraged more upfront input from a wider variety of speakers, including both lay and ordained people from a variety of backgrounds.

- It is also worth thinking about the images we use on our service sheets, screens, and the banners/posters we have in our worship spaces. Do these reflect the contexts and places people are being sent out to serve and minister in? If God is to be found in our everyday lives, then why not consider using images of our local communities, work places, town centres and schools etc?





A **#MoreThanSunday** style prayer taken from the Grove booklet, **Gathered to be Sent: Worship that Connects with Everyday Faith.**

Let the redeemed of God share their story, for he has set us free.

From north and south, east and west, God calls his people to come.

From office and school, factory and field, God calls his people to come.

From site and plant, hospital and home, God calls his people to come.

Give thanks to the Lord, for ever.

Amen.

## FURTHER RESOURCES

- [Church of England – Everyday Church](#) (Resources)
- [Gathered to be Sent](#) (Grove Booklet)
- [Leading a Whole-Life Disciplemaking Church](#) (Grove Booklet)
- [Making Disciples for the Workplace](#) (Grove Booklet)
- LICC– [Whole Life Preaching](#) and [Whole Life Worship](#) (Resources)
- LICC– [Frontline Sundays](#) (Resources)



# More Than Sunday

## Further information & support

### GET IN TOUCH

For more information about **#MoreThanSunday** and how we can support you on your journey, please contact:



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You can also find more about **#MoreThanSunday** at [www.manchester.anglican.org](http://www.manchester.anglican.org) and our Facebook page, **#MoreThanSunday** Discipleship group.

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**Everyday Faith** is a Church of England discipleship campaign arising from [Setting God's People Free](#), which aims to enable the whole people of God to live out the Good News of Jesus confidently in all of life, Sunday to Saturday. In the Diocese of Manchester we call this **#MoreThanSunday**.

This booklet has been produced by the **#MoreThanSunday** Team in the Diocese of Manchester adapting material from the Setting God's People Free Project Team at Church House Westminster, with permission.