



everyday faith

8 shifts for everyday faith churches

The Eight Shifts

The eight everyday faith shifts are all designed to make the most of the principle that small changes can make a big difference. They are encouragements to do things differently – not new things. Each shift is focussed on a different aspect of ministerial practice or the shared activities in a church's life.

For each shift we offer some ideas that have proved helpful to churches of all sizes and traditions, alongside a faith at home suggestion to illustrate how these shifts also equip children, young people and families in their everyday faith.



Valuing people's places of everyday faith

Gathering diverse stories of everyday faith

Praying encouraging intercessions for everyday faith

Forming worship to mould everyday faith

Teaching insights for everyday faith

Sending commissioning everyday callings

Connecting equipping each other's everyday faith

Displaying the life of an everyday faith church

Valuing

Becoming an Everyday Church

The eight ideas here have proved helpful to churches of all sizes and traditions, and you can introduce these shifts to your church in a variety of ways. It helps to begin a conversation first with the leaders and members of your worshipping community.

What works in one context may not work in another, but ideas have a way of sparking more ideas and leading you to find something that fits your congregation perfectly. Each shift is independent, so you can try them in any order.

Choose one or two ideas to begin with, and make sure you take time to notice and discuss the difference these might be making. You should aim to keep an intentional focus on adopting this shift over a significant period – and check in on how people experience this. We hope changes in behaviour will be noticed.

As you begin these shifts, it will help to think through what you might like to see change, so you can better notice this. Here are three things to be aware of:

1 Attitudes and actions

Have you noticed any changes in people's conversations, levels of trust and openness, a more outward reflection on their faith journey?

Are people talking about a difference in confidence around faith?

2 Issues and priorities

Have you noticed any changes in the issues people consider to be important?

Are you discussing different things, or discussing things differently on your PCC?

Is there a difference in what, and who you, are praying for?

3 Groups and networks

Are people suggesting new ways of meeting or organising the life of the church?

Have people mentioned networks and groups they are interested in that support faith in the whole of life?



Throughout the Everyday Church resources, you may notice pointers, suggestions and stories on how we live out our everyday faith in our homes and workplaces from others who have tried these shifts. Keep an eye out for these across the Eight Shifts and other resources.

There are more ideas at churchsupporthub.com/everydaychurch. You may come up with other ideas that are even better. If so, visit the Church Support Hub and share your story of being an Everyday Faith church.



Valuing people's places of everyday faith

Key Question: Where is your church Sunday to Saturday?

Have you ever noticed how people in church circles often introduce themselves by a role, the church or church group they are part of – or both!

Valuing the different contexts in which people live out faith, and the various roles they undertake, is key to affirming everyday faith. We can do this in several ways. The next time someone introduces themselves by a rota title or parish role, ask them what else they do in the week or the wider interests they have.

You might also consider ways of finding out more about their context by visiting, video calling them or asking them to do a video reflection on a day in their life.

Our everyday faith is lived out in a variety of contexts. Those involved in ministry and leadership in a church will benefit substantially from finding out more about these, and thus what might need to be attended to in equipping people for a Sunday to Saturday faith.

Mark is a vicar of two rural churches. Quite a few of the people in his church commute to and from work. He spent some time taking this journey with them. Reflecting on this gave him lots of food for thought for his own ministry role:

'I want people in my church to be active and involved, to join in with the great things we have going on. What I see, though, is that people can't always do this. They have a lot going on in their lives, and this is where God is using them. So how do I as their pastor honour that? How do I find the resources to support them in their everyday faith?'



Key Practice: Visits and videos of people in their contexts

Many clergy have found that the single most helpful action they can take to encourage a culture of everyday faith is visiting a church member in their workplace. This is one of the most useful ways of affirming wider Christian vocations. It also helps clergy see where their congregation are during the week - what it is like, and the people they are with. At a time when many clergy or lay leaders will be resetting priorities for their time, this might be a chance to adjust where you could begin to visit someone in their context.

If visiting is tricky, then why not think of other ways to connect with people in their contexts. Try dropping in on a video call at an agreed break for someone at work or when the kids are asleep. Ask a young person to get permission to give you a virtual tour of their classroom, with a quick hello from their teacher (if they agree to this). Anything that will spark different kinds of conversations, build closer relationships and add to the store of illustrations for sermons!



Selfie of the Week

Sharing our Sunday to Saturday faith is also important in the home. You could get family or household members to share a Selfie of the Week – people taking selfies of themselves in their contexts – or set up a WhatsApp check-in on a specific day of the week.



Has something worked well for your worshipping community? Share your ideas, thoughts and stories at churchsupporthub.com/everydaychurch and discover what others are saying about becoming an Everyday Church.