



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

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.



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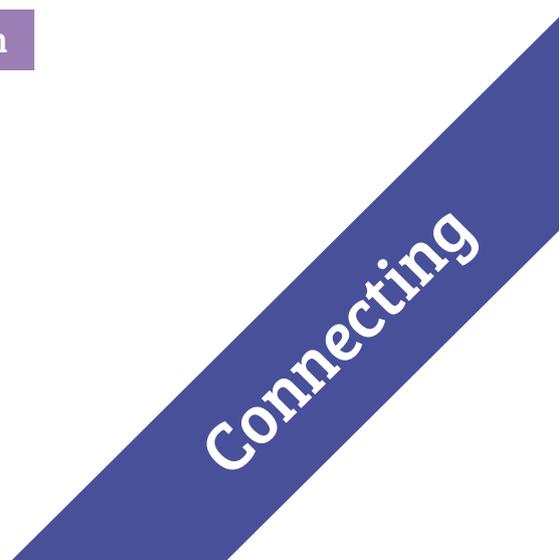
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Valuing people's places of everyday faith



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!

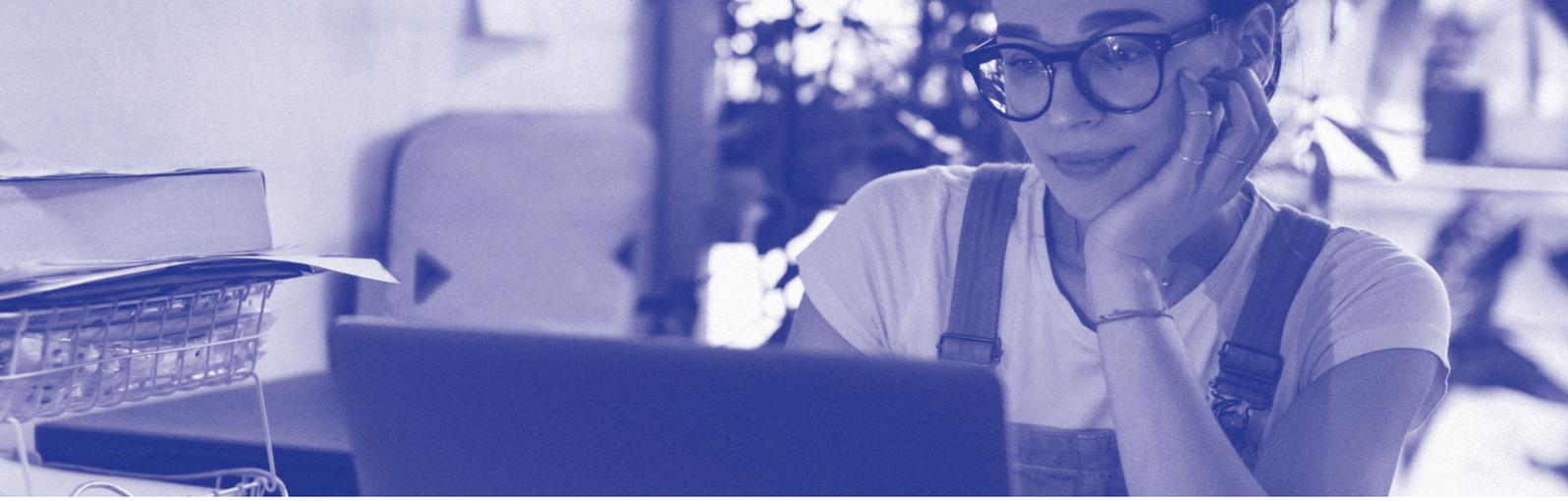
Valuing the different contexts in which people live out faith, and the various roles they undertake, is key to affirming everyday faith. We can do this in several ways. The next time someone introduces themselves by a rota title or parish role, ask them what else they do in the week or the wider interests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

faith at
home

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.

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Gathering

diverse stories of everyday faith

Key Question: What are people's experiences of faith in the whole of life?

We are all probably aware that being followers of Jesus is not confined to church activities. Most of us will pray or think about our faith at some point during the day. However, we can often miss out on hearing about people's experiences by not asking each other or by making assumptions.

When we gather in communal worship, we bring these experiences and expectations into the context of worship. Our liturgy reflects this pattern, but it isn't always made explicit for people. One way of helping to show this is by including a chance for an individual, family or group to share their experience of faith in the whole of life. Over time people will become more attuned to the experiences of the people gathering together. It doesn't only have to be about big things, but also about noticing God in the small things.

LICC developed a practice called a This Time Tomorrow slot to make sharing a feature of our worship services. You might also think about how you feature these stories of everyday faith on your website or social media.

When Anne's church started doing 'This Time Tomorrow,' Sophie, a dentist, shared her story of fixing teeth but also of caring for members of her team in times of need, telling people about her faith when they asked what she did at the weekend, and praying with colleagues and patients (with their permission).

"When Sophie shared her story during our morning service in our 'This Time Tomorrow' slot we were all encouraged, because she has been able to gently share how we can speak of our trust in Jesus with our colleagues at work in a non-threatening way."



Key Practice: This Time Tomorrow (TTT)

TTT (as most come to call it) is a two- or three-minute interview with someone in a congregation during a Sunday or midweek service about where they will be at this time tomorrow. It is helpful to follow three simple questions:

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

It doesn't have to be people in big jobs and to begin with, it probably shouldn't be. And it shouldn't just be adults. Some people have found it helpful to find a person in the congregation to lead this time – and to help find the people to interview.

Your TTT slot can also be a useful story for social media. Most people will prepare their responses in advance so these can be typed in as a story, best with a photo in the place they are discussing. Of course, for some people this might be sensitive, so do check beforehand and adapt answers for a public context.

faith at home

Best and Worst

As well as featuring a range of people of all ages in sharing stories of everyday faith, it is helpful to find ways of marking our experiences of everyday faith. A really simple way to do this is by sharing 'best bits and worst bits' over a meal or time together to pray. This gives an opportunity to reflect on where God has been in your day.

Discover more Faith at Home tips at [churchofengland.org/faithathome](https://www.churchofengland.org/faithathome).

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Praying

encouraging intercessions for everyday faith

Key Question: Are we praying for the whole people of God in the whole of life?

Our prayers are rightly for many things. In personal prayers we will no doubt be talking to God about a range of things in our lives. However, public group or family prayers can sometime default to a narrower range of topics.

Think about widening prayers for particular people's pressing needs to include their missional opportunities – not just praying for a nurse under pressure in the busier winter months, but also how s/he might draw on God's resources and find ways to minister grace and love to colleagues as well as patients; praying for someone's patience with a difficult boss and how they might change the culture of their office; praying for a young person in their football team that the way they go about things will speak of their Christian faith; not just praying for a grandparent's health, but that they might find ways to show and share their trust in Jesus with their grandchildren.

During a week exploring prayer, the Diocese of Bath and Wells set up an interactive, online prayer wall on their website using Padlet. This was a way of creating a shared prayer space in what was otherwise quite a dispersed experience due to Covid-19. Prayers ranged from personal prayers to prayers for the world, photos and images, links to videos and resources.

We were delighted by how people responded to it, made it their own and told us that they were going back to pray the prayers others had contributed. It added impetus to our week of prayer in a time when people were unable to gather together. We are delighted that one parish has created their own.



Key Practice: Keep watch on our intercessions

Prayers for everyday life are as important as praying every day. When praying changes, so do hearts. Of course, you can integrate a whole-life perspective into any element of a worship service, but the intercessions is the most obvious moment: praying for people in particular sectors, week by week, or for occupations, or school activities that people in your church are involved in, perhaps beginning with successive letters of the alphabet – ‘D’ is for dad, driver, dentist, dancer, designer, design and technology lessons...

Share these prayers on your website and social feeds. If you are able, why not tag in some of the local connections that fit with each theme?



Prayer Pots

Who's in the random prayer pot?
Why not think about the people you know and pop down on bits of paper (or wooden lollipop sticks) a prayer point for each person that links to their everyday life. Then, at a point where you might pray together, pick someone out at random.

Discover more Faith at Home tips at churchofengland.org/faithathome.



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Forming

worship to mould everyday faith



Key Question:

How do we mark our rhythm of gathering and sending?

The shape of Anglican worship is designed to celebrate God in the midst of our everyday lives, to help us to reflect on where we might have missed or messed up our calling as God's people, and to send us out to serve God as Christ's people fed by both the Eucharist and the word of God in scripture.

Whatever our tradition, and whatever our intention, we don't always help people to make the connections that might really enable our witness as the church sent to 'bring life to others' and 'give light to the world'. What might help this?

Many of the eight shifts will help to make these connections. It is also worth thinking about the images we use on service sheets and screens, or the banners or posters that people notice in worship spaces. Do people see the places and roles we are sent to serve in?

In our church in Partington we enjoy being creative in liturgy in our Sunday services, and occasionally being a little disruptive with familiar words wakes us up to them in a new light. After a season exploring themes of Everyday Faith, we now often include a variation on the Lord's Prayer that does just that, including the words:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven, in the office and in the classroom, in the home and in the café, in the leisure centre and in the shopping centre, in the garden and in the town, your will be done...

A family visiting us for a baptism one week remarked how surprised they were that the service had shown "this faith stuff is relevant to all of life", not the preserve of a few within these four walls on a Sunday.



Key Practice: Words, images and music matter

For liturgical services, there are three areas where the resources of Common Worship may be supplemented to help emphasise our calling to an everyday faith, namely gathering, offertory and dismissal.

It helps to think through this use intentionally as there is a risk that the Common Worship liturgical resources tend to assume the link between our lives in the world and our shared corporate worship, rather than making it explicit.

You can find further resources on shaping worship for everyday faith at churchsupporthub.com/everydaychurch.



faith at home

Worship at Home

The home is a vital part of a worshipping community – and is a community where worship matters. The shape of worship in a home may vary. Some people like to use liturgy, some chat and pray informally. You can use resources from the web or ask Alexa to say grace before a meal.

Marking our life at home with worship helps us connect with our everyday faith.

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Teaching

insights for everyday faith

Key Question: How relevant is our teaching to everyday life?

Preaching and teaching is one of the most significant ways that churches have been able to focus their attention on what's going on throughout the week. This is not because they have focused on certain topics: rather that preachers – ordained or lay ministers – have maintained a certain perspective. They preach from a Bible that is concerned about all of life, about a God who is concerned about all of life, to a people who are called to 'go in peace to love and serve the Lord' in all of life.

This question is also important for wider teaching in our churches: the way in which we discuss and learn the basics of the Christian faith; the topics we choose for our groups with children and young people; the questions we ask in small groups and Bible studies.

Jane is training to become a reader in her local church and is just starting to preach. She has no idea where to begin with the Bible passage for a few weeks' time so she does what she knows best. She talks about it with colleagues over lunch in the council office where she works. Suddenly people of all backgrounds are giving ideas, sharing thoughts, cheering on their colleague as she steps into something new. The Sunday sermon takes a fresh approach as she talks about the reaction of her friends, the differing opinions around the office, and how their story might begin to connect with God's story.

She then begins to do the same with her midweek group at church, carrying that same sense of curiosity. How might her preaching impact Maggie's life as a manager, Steve's caring for an elderly mother, or Dave's mornings at the school crossing?



Key Practice: Thinking about the Bible at work

Not everyone in our churches will be involved in paid or unpaid work. However, a large number will be, and we all know people who are. The Bible has an awful lot to say about work and everyday life.

To help make these links we have a series of reflections on the Sunday weekly lectionary readings that reflect on the Bible at work.

You can find this and similar resources at everydayfaith.churchofengland.org.



faith at home

Challenging Topics

Many themes that children and young people explore at school have profound resonances with faith. Some issues are more challenging or would benefit from discussion. Our Faith at Home team have a series of videos to help steer parents and carers through this.

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Sending commissioning everyday callings

Key Question: What roles are important in God's mission?

In baptism the whole church is called and commissioned to serve God in the whole of our lives.

Being sent to serve God's mission is also a pattern we include in our worship Sunday by Sunday. This too presents an opportunity to mark and affirm the everyday callings and contexts in which people are finding and following God. This can be enhanced by using different forms of dismissals and blessings which help to highlight this.

Many churches commission people for ministries in the church, but it's enormously powerful to also commission people for ministries beyond the church: for people changing jobs, or taking up new responsibilities in the community, or starting the school or university year, or moving into retirement. Some do it on an ad hoc basis; some churches have done this quarterly, praying for larger groups of people at the same time. It is a reminder to everyone that where God has placed us is important.

Hampstead Parish Church has had a 'Blessing of the Backpacks' since 2017.

On the Sunday just before the beginning of school term young people are encouraged to bring their school backpack, and adults bring any kind of work case or bag. Our prayer is that everyone will receive a 'blessing to be a blessing'. It is a profound way to mark the new beginnings which September brings. People hold up their backpacks and we pray for the fresh start, which will bring some trepidation as well as anticipation. It's a very visible sign of our being together as the Body of Christ, and a superb expression of the life of the people of God beyond the walls of the church, our mission in the 'everyday'.

We started with luggage labels which people could tie on to their backpack. Last year we found some leather key ring blanks, which we had embossed with a picture of the church and the text "A Blessing to be a Blessing". It's very encouraging seeing them on backpacks and cases!



Key Practice: Commissioning the whole people of God

We can use a variety of times in the year to focus on praying for people in our service of God. You might choose to do this at the start of a calendar year, drawing on the tradition of Plough Sunday. You might use your church's patronal festival not only give thanks for your history and presence in a community, but to bless and commission the people called to be part of that worshiping community today. You might host a service at the start of the new school or college year to pray for our young people at this important time (and of course teachers and staff too). There are any number of times in the year that mark out the importance of different professions, causes and interests that you could use.

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Checking in

As well as encouraging people of all ages to be involved in commissioning events, it is helpful to check in throughout the year. You could revisit the Bible verses given at points in the year. You might also make time on the anniversary of someone's baptism to think about the vows we make in this service and what they might mean for us today.

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Connecting equipping each other's everyday faith

Key Question: How can we support one another in our everyday faith?

It will be a great benefit for many in to have the chance to connect with others with whom we can continue to share, pray and bless each other in our everyday faith. There are a variety of ways that different churches put smaller weekly gatherings into practice. You could set up groups for different people who share similar contexts. For those familiar with small groups, it is also important that these gatherings have opportunities to share stories of everyday faith, pray for people's contexts and needs and see what wisdom from scripture can be found in these.

Chaplaincy is also an area of ministry that is often neglected in our thinking. This can animate the ministry of the whole church in their everyday networks – work, clubs, sport and school. You could encourage people to seek out a chaplaincy (or work-based fellowship) and explore with them how this might be helping to enable their everyday faith.

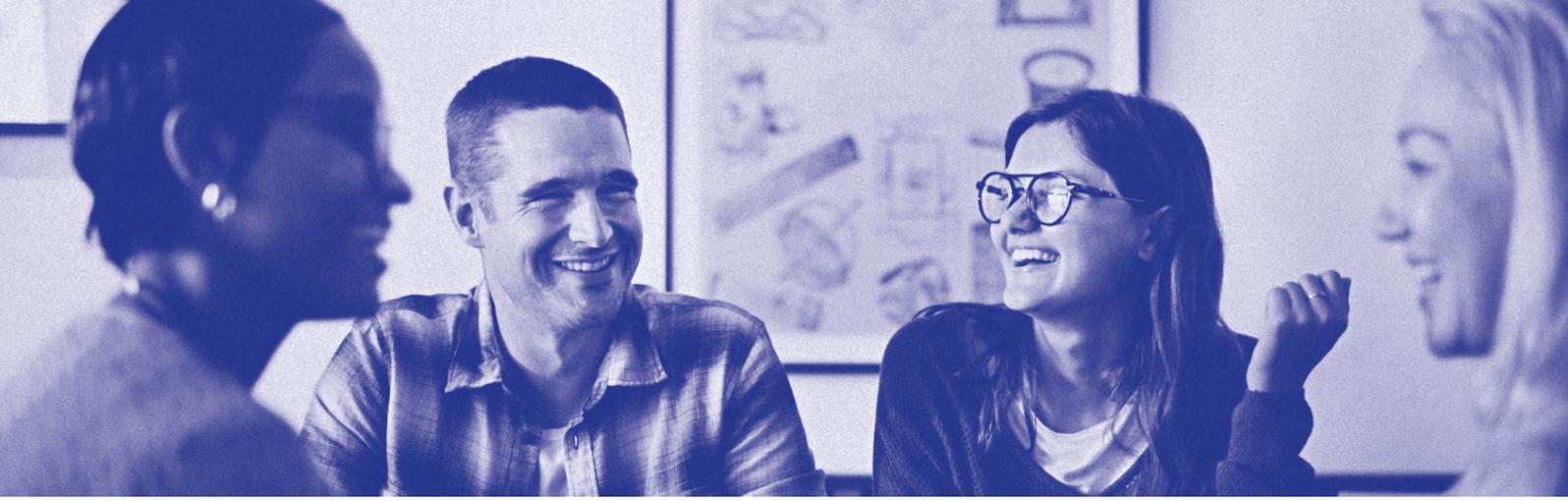
Find more resources on faith in the workplace at churchsupporthub.org/everydayfaith.

Vita Christi was launched during lockdown using Zoom as a way of connecting church members, including key workers under great pressure at work and people adjusting to trying to work from home.

The group provides time and space to learn from others, give and receive support and encouragement, and pray for one another. People take it in turn to share something about how they themselves are seeking to live out their Christian faith in daily life, with the associated joys, frustrations, obstacles, successes and disappointments.

Storytelling has the power to engage and inspire us, and this element is often included in the form of a more extended contribution from one of the members, or by using a video recording: plenty of useful material is available online, or a short video recorded by church members can be used.

Meetings are short, focused, regular and frequent (weekly or fortnightly).



Key Practice: Small groups on everyday faith

Forming small group around everyday faith is something that requires planning and care. However, it does not have to be an onerous task nor an ongoing commitment.

A good place to start would be to focus a small group on questions of everyday faith. You could use one of the Everyday Faith reflection journeys available for this, or the Lent journey your diocese provides. Start such gatherings with the Changing Lives Conversations or an everyday faith story slot to help embed that our learning about being Jesus Christ shaped is for the whole of life.

After this, you might explore if people would like to keep meeting together.

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Talking and Praying

Families and households are natural groups to support each other in everyday faith. The most important thing we can do here is to talk more and pray for each other. Our everyday faith question cards are an ideal way to get conversations about faith in the whole of life flowing – and to highlight what issues people might want to raise in prayer.

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Displaying a life of Everyday Faith



Key Question: What does your notice board (or web site) say about the life of your church?

Notice boards tell the congregation what's seen to be important. Websites tell the world!

What's there?

Information about church-based activities? Always.
Information about overseas mission? Sometimes.
This is important, but in telling this we miss out on letting people know that people in our churches are out and about Sunday to Saturday: an everyday faith church, living out the good news Jesus brings as grandparents, shop workers, geography students, cleaners and vets...



Key Practice: Show the whole life of faith your church leads

Why not include a map of where the congregation spend time during the week on your church notice board or website - places of work, schools and colleges? You don't need to include the detail, but something that represents how people are serving their communities in their daily lives as well as in organised church projects. Or display a Prayer for the Week – included in the notice sheet – that focuses on a particular group of people.

Find ways to share the everyday faith of your church at churchsupporthub.com/everydaychurch.



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Where are you?

The fridge is often the centre of life in a busy household. Why not use your fridge to capture where people are from Sunday to Saturday? You could use a series of photos, some simple lists you change each week or some magnetic letters for people to leave messages.

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