



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

Praying

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.



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.



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.