



# 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

Teaching

## 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](https://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.



# 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](http://everydayfaith.churchofengland.org).



## 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.

Find more Faith at Home tips at [churchofengland.org/faithathome](http://churchofengland.org/faithathome).



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