



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

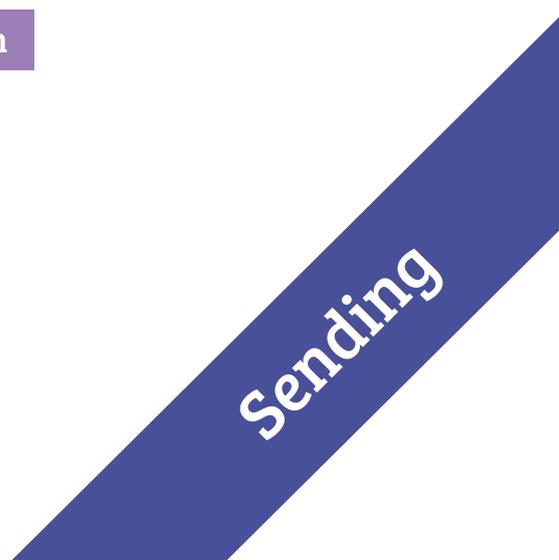
Forming worship to mould everyday faith

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.



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.



faith at
home

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.

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

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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.