

Welcome to St. John's Church, Carrington

We are a Church of England church, worshipping in the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

Some of what we do may be unfamiliar: please don't be worried about 'getting it right.' Just let yourself be carried by the worship and join in as you feel comfortable. It is simply wonderful that you are here.

To try and put you at ease, this sheet will give a brief overview of the service and why do we some of the things we do. If the Vicar or any member of the team can be of help, do please ask.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Toilets are found in the café area of church.

Kids' church meets during term time, moving to their activities just after the start of the service.

We have **gluten free wafers** and **alcohol free wine** available during communion. Just ask when you come up to receive.

We will gladly **bring communion** to you if moving is difficult.

TODAY'S SERVICE

Today's service is a **Eucharist** (also called the **Mass** or **Holy Communion**). This is a service where we remember the Last Supper, the that Jesus had with his disciples the night before his death, where he shared bread and wine with them and asked them to continue in that practice.

The Service is made up of **four parts**. This guide will break these down in order. Some general points:

Hymns

We sing hymns of praise to God throughout. Please don't worry if the tunes are unfamiliar – just join in as you feel comfortable.

Standing/sitting

At various points the priest will invite you to stand. We do this to be united in our worship and as a sign of respect at important moments in the service. **Above all:** we stand as we are able to – neither God (nor we!) mind if it is difficult.

Sign of the Cross

You will see this made a lot during the service, either by the priest or by your fellow worshippers. It reminds us of Jesus' actions on the cross and is a physical reminder that we can only do anything by His strength.

1. THE GATHERING

The Welcome

The Priest will welcome us with some words of scripture. This reminds us we meet not as a social group or simply as friends (though that's important), but are here in God's strength and because of His grace.

Confession

None of us are perfect: we all make mistakes and all do things we regret. We have a time or repentance, where we bring before God those things for which need to ask forgiveness. This is followed by an act of **absolution** (forgiveness) - a reminder that God *always* forgives.

The Gloria

In response to being forgiven we sing this ancient song of praise to God.

2. THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Bible readings

We have two or three readings from the Bible. The last one is always from one of the four Gospels: the stories of Jesus' life and teaching. The **Gospel** is read from the centre of the church as a sign of Jesus' presence with us. We stand to greet it as a sign of respect and as a means of showing its importance.

The Sermon

A talk follows where the Bible readings are explained and connected to our daily lives.

The Affirmation of faith

Let's be honest: our minds often wander during the sermon. This statement brings us back together to share what it is we believe in. We join with millions of others saying the same words in different languages, sharing a common faith together.

The Intercessions

These are the prayers of the people and are the sum of all our individual thoughts and prayers. Here we bring before God the concerns of the Church, the world, the community and the sick.

The Peace

Jesus has brought God's peace to the world. Before we receive Communion we share that peace with one another, normally with a handshake and the words 'the Peace of the Lord be with you.'

3. THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Offertory

As God has blessed us, it is right that we bless Him and His continuing work. The gifts of the people are presented and the wine and bread that will be used in the Mass are brought forward and offered up for consecration (which means blessed and set apart).

The Eucharistic Prayer

This prayer tells us of God's work in creation and moves onto the story of Jesus sharing bread and wine with his disciples at the Last Supper.

This is the crescendo of our worship and as an Anglo-Catholic church we believe Jesus is really present in the bread and wine. As we consume them in a few moments time we are welcome by God and strengthened and renewed to go out and do His will in the world.

You will see the Vicar genuflect (kneel) at various points; this is a moment of adoration and a sign of the importance of communion.

Receiving Communion

At St. John's we receive in a circle around the altar – a powerful reminder that we are the Body of Christ.

4. THE DISMISSAL

We sing a final hymn and then the priest will bless us. We who have encountered Jesus in the Eucharist and have been strengthened and renewed in Him are now sent out, blessed by the Lord, to be lights in the world, and to feed all with the Good News of Christ.

We hope this sheet has been helpful.

Do ask the Vicar or any of the lay ministers if you have any questions.

