

What to expect

Going anywhere for the first time can be a bit daunting. So here's a quick summary of the kind of things you can expect at St Andrew's.

First of all, you'll receive a warm, friendly welcome, and be given a service sheet and hymnbook. The numbers of the hymns are up on a board at the front of church.

Please sit where you like – there are no reserved seats.

What is a Holy Communion service?

On the night before he died Jesus celebrated a meal with his followers. Together they shared bread and wine. He told them that when they joined together in the future they should share this special meal together in remembrance of him.

Through the centuries since his resurrection Christian people have been faithful to this teaching of Jesus, remembering him being sent by God to break the power of sin and offer us new life.

We give the service many different names – the Eucharist, Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, Mass – but in all Christian churches what we are doing is essentially the same: after singing hymns and listening to Bible readings and thinking about them (sermon), saying a 'creed' (we believe) and praying, we take, bless and share bread and wine to remember Jesus and come to know his presence as Spirit. When we hold out our hands to receive the bread and wine we believe that we receive the risen life of Jesus who loves us and gave himself for us.

If you prefer, you are welcome either to remain in your seat during communion or to come up holding your hymn book in front of you, and you will receive a blessing instead of bread and wine.

Can I receive Holy Communion?

If you haven't been to a communion service before, we suggest you go up to receive a blessing this time, and talk to the vicar afterwards if you would like to receive communion in the future.

What is the collection?

During the third hymn we have the opportunity to give something towards the church's work in the world. Feel free to just pass the plate on if you are not wanting or able to contribute.

After the service:

we hope you will stay and join us in a cup of tea or coffee, and if you are new in Sandford it will be a chance to meet some of your neighbours.

If you would like to give your address and/or email we could add you to the parish list to receive information about what else is going on in the church and village. You may find the website, www.sandfordchurch.org.uk, helpful.

The vicar is Rev. Bob Morgan, phone number: 01865 748848, email: robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk

For disabled people

There is parking in Church Road.

Because our church building is over 900 years old, it's not easy to make it entirely wheelchair accessible, but we have a ramp which is easily put up if we know you are coming, so please ring the vicar on 01865 748848 and we will be ready to welcome you.

The toilets next to the church are wheelchair accessible.