

Five Things I Love About Our Church

 By heatherfl22 on 05/08/2026



I was thinking recently about why I go to church. Is it because I live very close, so there's no excuse not to, because it's something I've always done and been taught to do? Although those things are true, I realise those are not the primary reasons these days. Church, to me, is far more than a building, however beautiful and ancient it may be, but our church feels like home. We are a family of believers in God, or in search of God through Jesus, who meet together to encourage one another, worship God together, get to know him better, and seek to serve our community.

Each church is unique, with its own special character, and there are five things that stand out to me and continue to make me really want to go along week by week.

We have a **truly warm and welcoming** community, and there's a genuine warmth as people walk through the door. There is kindness and a smile, and a sincere desire to make people feel at home. Whether it's your first or fiftieth visit, or you've been there all your life, our church truly seeks to make people feel included and welcomed.

Whether you are a lifelong member or a first-time visitor, you are welcome. This welcome does not stop at Sunday services, but is there during a cuppa and a biscuit afterwards, and people take time to get to know one another, offer support in difficult times, encourage and celebrate life's milestones. In our world where so many feel isolated or unnoticed, a church community that really cares is a lovely gift.

Our church has a commitment to **teaching the Bible**, helping us to understand what the Bible says but why it matters. The (short!) sermons we hear challenge us to grow in our spiritual lives while remaining practical and relevant to everyday life during the rest of the week, as we relate to others, in our work, our family life, and as we make personal decisions.

This teaching strengthens our faith, seeks to help us answer difficult questions, and reminds us of God's promises during both joyful and difficult seasons. God, as shown to us in Jesus Christ, is the foundation of our faith, rather than passing trends and novel ideas. We learn from one another, pray for each other, and encourage each other through life's challenges. This sense of shared purpose creates a place where those who come feel supported as they question, and as they grow in their faith.

Worshipping God is one of the highlights of services, whether it be through the music and singing, the prayers, or quiet reflection, and we are encouraged to turn our attention away from life's distractions for an hour, and focus on God's goodness and kindness. The hymns and songs remind us of God's faithfulness, encourage us, and unite us as we praise God together. When we look at God, I find he can give us a different and better perspective on the challenges we face.

Another thing I love about our church is its **commitment to serving others**. Our faith is not limited to what happens inside the church building but we try to live it out through caring for our neighbours and those we meet in the course of the day.

Our church actively supports people in need through the foodbank based in one of our four churches and we offer pastoral care to those who'd welcome a visit or someone to pray with, and there are opportunities for those of us in the church to volunteer their time and talents. Whether helping out local families, visiting those who are unwell, or providing practical assistance to those who need it, we aim to show God's love in tangible ways.

As we work together, as we offer to help on various rotas, we are reminded that each of us has unique gifts and that everyone can make a meaningful contribution.

Finally, another aspect I love is the beautiful **stone arches and the beauty of the stained- glass windows**, each depicting a Bible event or something meaningful and related to local history. As we look at the windows beyond the altar we are reminded of Christ's sacrifice for us and his

forgiveness, and all that he offers us. The candles remind us of Jesus as the light of the world and of his desire that we be lights to those around us.

No church is perfect because it is made up of imperfect people. But I keep coming back to these five qualities: the welcoming community, Bible-centred teaching, meaningful worship, a heart for serving others, and a beautiful building whose very structure was built to encourage us to look to God and to worship Him.

Together, these qualities create a place where people can belong, believe, and become all that God has called them to be. And of course, the greatest strength of any church is not its building or programmes, but the people who faithfully live out the love of Christ every day.



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