

What happens in a church service?

1. When you arrive at the church, someone will welcome you. They may wear a name badge. They will give you some books and show you where to sit. You can sit at the end of the row if you like.
2. You know that the service is about to begin when the choir walks in/the person leading comes to the front. Some of the people taking part may be wearing special robes. It's OK to ask someone if you don't know what's happening.
3. During the service, you might be asked to stand up and sit down at different times. There will be prayers and probably some singing. Different people may speak, and read from the Bible. Sometimes the choir might sing on their own.
3. The children might leave the service for their own group, and come back later.
4. You might find the organ is very loud. It's OK to wear your ear defenders during the service. If you want to leave at any point, you can go to ...where it will be quieter, and come back when you are ready.

4. At some services, people will shake hands with each other part of the way through. You can wear a red/amber/green traffic light sticker to show if you want to take part in this. It's OK not to talk to anyone at church.

5. A plate or bag might be passed round for the collection. You don't have to put any money in.

5. If it is a Communion service, everyone is welcome to go to the altar rail. Someone will tell you when to go, if you want to do that. If you do not normally receive Communion, the minister will say a prayer for you. You can take your service book with you to show that this is what you would like.

6. The service will usually last about an hour and a quarter, but you can leave earlier if you want to.

7. The service finishes with a prayer of blessing. People will have a cup of tea or coffee together, and then go home.

8. We hope that you enjoy the service, and that you come again.

- *Useful photos to for the leaflet include: the church with people in it for a service; a picture from the door as you enter; the usual books or leaflets given out; someone reading/preaching from the lectern/pulpit.*
- *An electronic copy of this sample leaflet is available from jtomlinson@chelmsford.anglican.org*