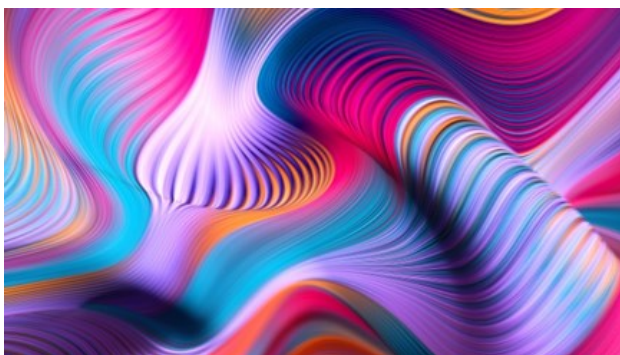


ST. ANDREW'S  
CHURCH  
*GORLESTON-ON-SEA*

**Our vision to promote**

**SPIRIT-INSPIRED  
WORSHIP**



***A guide to connecting gathered  
worship with everyday life***



# *Why do Christians meet together?*

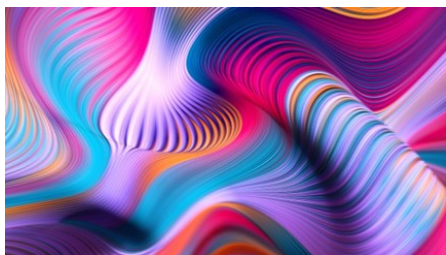
Various gatherings and meetings are a feature of the life of St. Andrew's church.

Services (often, but not exclusively, on a Sunday) give Christians the opportunity to meet for the purpose of encouraging one another and expressing worship to God.

Expressing worship to God can include words of praise, singing or actions such as kneeling, raising hands, or even falling on our faces if we are truly struck with awe.

But for worship to be "true" our words and gestures must be motivated by the right intentions. To think that worship is something that is only done when Christians gather together is not supported by the writers of the New Testament.

This leaflet is a brief five-point guide on connecting gathered worship with everyday life.



### **1. Worship engages our whole lives.**

First and foremost, worship isn't something we do, but a response to what God has done for us in Christ. Gathered worship has a role in shaping us, allowing God's perspective to become a reality within which we live out our faith in our everyday lives. Worship is offering our whole lives, even the mundane and the ordinary aspects of our lives, to God.

### **2. Worship offers fresh insight.**

There are many competing "stories" which act as a lens through which people see the world. For example, the "success story" encourages people to pursue a life of "bigger and better." Gathered worship is an opportunity to revisit "God's story" of creation and redemption. We are then able to consider the implications for our lives as we find our place in God's story.

### **3. Worship transforms our actions.**

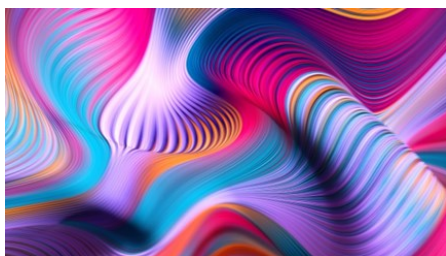
The act of gathered worship can be transformative as we gain a deeper understanding of who God is and what it means to be God's holy people. But we must resist the temptation to divide our lives into sacred and secular. We must allow the transformative experience of gathered worship to shape our everyday actions.

#### **4. Worship transforms our speech.**

Words matter and the words we use in gathered worship should shape how we speak in our everyday lives. In a world marred by suffering and pain, gathered worship helps us to learn words that are rooted in thankfulness and hope.

#### **5. Worship refocuses wavering hearts.**

It's easy to focus on the wrong things and gathered worship can easily become about preferred liturgies or musical styles. Instead it should be all about love. Gathered worship should be fuelled by an awareness of God's love for us that sends us out into our everyday lives to love our neighbours.



# *What the Bible says about...*

## **..... the foundation of Christian worship**

*God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth.*

John 4:24 (CEV)

## **..... the nature of Christian worship**

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

## **..... gathering for Christian worship**

*Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.*

Colossians 3:15-16 (CEV)

## *Our Purpose*

The church of St. Andrew exists to know Jesus better and to make him better known.

## *Our Vision*

In order to achieve the kind of future we are striving for, our vision is to promote:

- **A**dventurous Mission
- **S**pirit-inspired Worship
- **C**ommunity Engagement
- **E**xtravagant Generosity
- **S**trategic Leadership
- **I**ntentional Discipleship
- **S**upportive Administration
- **F**riendly Hospitality
- **C**aring Relationships

