

Welcome to Evensong! We want you to enjoy being part of our worship so please don't worry if you get a bit lost. The notes explain what usually happens each week.

Hymn numbers will be announced during the service. The **prayer book** has two versions of the words for the officiant (person leading the service) so you usually only need follow the left hand column.

We don't announce individual parts of the service. If you hear music but the words aren't what you were expecting as you thought we were onto the next hymn, it's probably because we're about to sing the psalm, *Magnificat* or *Nunc Dimittis*, not a hymn.

We stand when the choir and clergy come in and for the **welcome and the first hymn**. The officiant might say a sentence or two not in the prayer book, but will then start on p15 with **Dearly beloved brethren...** and we sit or kneel at the end of this prayer for the confession.

p16 CONFESSION - we say this together, beginning **Almighty and most merciful Father...**

p17 ABSOLUTION - one of 3 forms is said by the officiant.

p18 LORD'S PRAYER - we say this together and the responses afterwards are sung.

p18 PSALMS - singing psalms takes a bit of practice, so don't worry if you get a bit lost: chances are other people are too. The psalm can be found in the prayer book (starting from p144). It finishes with **Glory be...** back at the foot of p18

p19 FIRST LESSON – we sit for the reading from the Old Testament. Then, the following things happen without announcements:

MAGNIFICAT - we stand to sing this part together.

p20 SECOND LESSON – we sit for the reading.

p20 NUNC DIMITTIS – again, we stand to sing.

p20 APOSTLES CREED - we stand to say this together. It is followed by prayers. We sit or kneel as the officiant says ‘Let us pray.’ There is a mix of spoken and sung responses (p21).

p22 COLLECTS – the 1st Collect (prayer) of the day is said by the officiant, as is the 2nd Collect. We say the third one - **Lighten our darkness...** together.

Second hymn is followed by further **prayers** led by the officiant. We often use the **General Thanksgiving** on p93 which we say together (it will be announced if we do) and we finish with the **Grace** (p23).

Third hymn, during which the choir may move to the pews to listen to the **sermon**.

Final hymn follows. The officiant says the **blessing** and then choir and clergy leave. We stay standing until the officiant has gone past us.