

Welcome!

The church began when the Revd Alexander Beane of Holy Trinity Church was forced to leave his living under the Act of Uniformity in 1662.

After meeting in private homes for a while, in 1689 Joseph Smith obtained a licence from the Warwick magistrates to hold a conventicle in the town. A meeting house was built in 1714 for the growing congregation in Rother Street behind Masons Croft.

The present building was opened in 1880.

Initially under Presbyterian influence, the church became Congregationalist; and in 1972 became a United Reformed Church with the union of the Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church in England.

THE MEMORIALS AND THE CRADLE ROLL

Around the church you will see various memorials commemorating significant people in the story of this church.

Some contributed to the life of the church here in Stratford, some were active in the community which the church seeks to serve; there are tradesmen and councillors, mayors and town clerks. And we honour and remember those who served and died in the two world wars.

Not all of us get remembered in this way, but we are all baptised into the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ, and the Cradle Roll reminds us of the children who are as much part of the church's story as the great and the good.

A Guide to the United Reformed Church Stratford-upon-Avon



The people of this church meet for family worship each Sunday at 9.30am

Please join us - become part of the story and part of the place!

4/8/08/25

“I have a good eye.... I can see a church by daylight”

- *Much Ado About Nothing*

THE LECTERN

Readings from the Bible during worship remind us of who we are and what God has done in the past. They tell the stories and experiences of the people of Israel in the past; of the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth; and of the early Church made up of his followers after his death and resurrection.

The Bible is a record of some of our past encounters with God, and we can use it to help us understand our experience of God today.

THE PULPIT

Enables the preacher to be seen and heard more clearly as he or she speaks to encourage the congregation in their faith and understanding and lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

THE COMMUNION TABLE

This is the setting for the central act of worship of the Christian faith, where we gather to break bread and share wine as Jesus told his disciples to do to remember him at the Last Supper - the Passover meal he shared with them just before his arrest, trial and crucifixion. It is something common to all Christian churches.

THE ORGAN

Accompanies our singing - an important part of our worship. Our tradition was the first to sing religious songs in English, many of which are still sung today especially on significant occasions e.g. "Our God, our help in ages past" by Isaac Watts on Remembrance Sunday.

THE PRAYER DESK

Worship is usually led from here, comprising hymns and prayers, with a sermon preached from the pulpit and Bible readings from the lectern.

Our tradition does not use prayer books or set styles of worship, but tries to be simple and straight-forward.

THE FONT

Would contain the water used to baptise someone at the ceremony when they become a Christian. Baptism symbolises the washing away of the past, the old way of living, and the new beginning that Jesus Christ makes possible through following him. People can be baptised as children or as adults.

THE PEWS

Where we sit for worship - and a reminder that the church is not just a building and its furniture, but people of all kinds and ages and races, all over the world.

People just like you, in fact.

THE CROSS

The universal symbol of the Christian faith, the way in which Jesus was put to death. This is an empty cross, with no Christ figure, reminding us of his resurrection and continuing presence with us.

