

Look inside a United Reformed Church

Church buildings provide evidence of the beliefs of the people who use them as a focus of worship. When we come to look at buildings expressing the traditions of the United Reformed Church, there is no standard ground-plan, architectural features or objects which must be included. There is much variety. Yet there are enough common features for us to explore further.

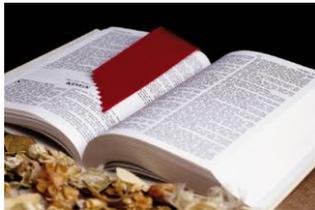
There are many different kinds of buildings used by the United Reformed Church. Some of them are only used for worship while some of them are used for other things as well, some buildings are very old and others are quite modern. However, there are some things that will probably be found in most United Reformed Churches that tell us about what is important to the people.

If you meet at a United Reformed Church or have one near you, try to arrange a visit to look inside the building. Then you could see if you can identify all the things below.



Cross

This reminds people that Jesus gave his life so that we could know about God. In some churches the cross is on the wall at the front of the church and sometimes it is a smaller one on the communion table.



Bible

In the United Reformed Church the Bible is at the centre of worship and belief. Many churches have Bibles in the pews and also have one at the front during worship



Communion Table

Communion is very important to people in the United Reformed Church so the Communion Table is at the front and in the centre. It is usually arranged so that people can sit behind it



Pulpit or Lectern

Somewhere at the front there will be a place for the leader of worship to stand. Because the Bible and telling about it are very important in the United Reformed Church some churches have a big fixed pulpit.



Baptismal Font/Baptistry

Baptism with water is a sign that a person is part of the church. The font is used to baptise babies and in some churches there is a baptistry for baptising young people and adults.

Pews or chairs



Sometimes there are fixed wooden seats facing the front called pews for people to sit on. Other churches have chairs which can be moved into different arrangements.

Organ or Piano

Most churches will have some instrument such as an organ, piano or keyboard to lead the singing and provide background music.

Hymn Books

The United Reformed Church has its own hymn book called “Rejoice and Sing” but you may find others as well. During worship we sing about our faith and hymns are an important part of worship.

Rooms

Besides the room used for worship there are usually other rooms in the church building. These may include a kitchen, small rooms for meetings and larger rooms for bigger events. If there are Scouts and Guides belonging to the Church they meet in these rooms.