

Descriptive Guide to Churches in Oxford

Just about any flavour of ecclesiastical experience can be found in Oxford. The guide here should help you find the most appropriate or comfortable one for your needs.

Roman Catholic Churches

1. The Oratory of St Aloysius, Woodstock Road. Elaborate Latin ritual in the grandeur of a sumptuously decorated 19th century building. Approachable and majestic at the same time, the Oratory should provide a happy home for those seeking a more formal type of worship.
2. Blackfriars, St Giles. This is the Oxford Hall of the Dominican order. Austere, calm, and reflective services following the Dominican liturgy take place in the sparse chapel. Blackfriars is to be recommended for those who would take an highly intellectual approach to their religion.
3. St Benet's Hall, St Giles. This is the Oxford House of the Benedictine monastic order. Services follow the monastic breviary.
4. Catholic Chaplaincy, St Aldates. Modern informal worship in a modern institutional type atmosphere.

Orthodox Churches

1. Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity and the Annunciation, Canterbury Road. Also serves the Russian Orthodox congregation.

The Church of England

1. Christ Church Cathedral. The Mother-Church of Anglican churches in the Diocese of Oxford. Standard Anglican Prayer Book worship. Decent choir.
2. New College. Middle of the road Anglican chapel services during Oxford's term time only. Best choir in Oxford. Choral Evensong on weekdays is a wonderful treat.
3. Magdalen College. Fairly high (smells and bells) college chapel worship. Good choir. Beautiful Compline service on Sunday nights in a solemn and inspiring atmosphere. Term time only.
4. Pusey House, St Giles. The centre of Anglo-Catholicism in Oxford, Pusey House has its roots in the late-nineteenth century Oxford Movement, which sought to restore a more catholic liturgy and theology into the Church of England. Very high church, although quite friendly and accessible. World-renowned theological library.
5. St Mary Magdalen, Magdalen St. A parish church of the Anglo-Catholic persuasion, and in some respects higher even than Pusey House above. All services in traditional Book of Common Prayer language with a notable music tradition.
6. University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High St. Middle of the road, liberal Anglican church which is also the University's Official Church and as such used for all ceremonies like the weekly University sermons and the once-a-term Latin sermons. Fun to go see the Vice-Chancellor, Proctors, *etc.* decked out in all their finery! Also serves the German Lutheran congregation on the first Sunday of every month. Spanish service on second Sunday.
7. St Ebbes Church. Evangelical, bible-based low church. Quite student-y, but also anchored in the community. Guitars, free-dress, *etc.*

8. St Aldate's Church. Like St Ebbes above – low and evangelical, although more fundamentalist.

Other Protestant Churches

1. New Road Baptist Church, Bonn Square.
2. Wesley Memorial Church, New in Hall St. Methodist Church. John Wesley started the Methodist movement in Oxford.

