

Top Ten Reasons to Be An Anglican (That You Can Tell Your Friends)

1. Christ-focused Worship

This is really a big deal. In a day when most sermons have titles such as “How to Have Your Best Life Now”, “The Secret To Happiness in This Life” or “Recovering From Your Addiction”, it can be surprisingly surprisingly difficult and rare to find a Church which preaches and worships Jesus Christ on a regular basis. Thanks to our Liturgy, we worship Jesus Christ and preach his Gospel every time we open our doors for Services. Thanks to our lectionary, our preachers find it difficult to stray too far from the important message of the Good News of Christ.

2. Sacraments and the Grace of God

Sacraments (Baptism, Lord's Supper, etc) were appointed by God as the means by which we find and receive His grace. Appointed by God. Appointed by God! How many Churches ignore or even deny the validity of the Sacraments? Anglicans celebrate all the sacraments and we do so as often as we need God's grace.

3. The Book of Common Prayer

Our traditional Prayer Book has been called the greatest theological achievement of the English Language. The Book of Common Prayer created the English Language as we know it (did you know that?) The BCP is a book for life, offering us a theology and a spirituality which can sustain us from cradle to grave.

4. Hymns

No one – no one has hymns like we do! (Well, maybe the Russians but have you ever tried to sing in Slavic?) WE have in our treasury of Hymns ancient works translated into English, especially the work of the gifted John Mason Neale. We also have more contemporary selections from Philips Brooks and the Wesley brothers – all Anglican priests! The Anglican church has given the English speaking world a repertoire of hymns that simply can not be beaten by any other tradition.

5. Spirituality

Have you ever heard someone say, “I am spiritual but not religious”? Well Anglicanism is perfect for spiritual people. Anglicanism is Benedictine Spirituality for ordinary folk. Our structured prayer life, Community in Communion, Lectio Divina as a rule of life, emphasis on love for fellow man, and defining goal as personal Communion with God are all thanks to the Ancient way of Christianity formulated by St. Benedict and passed on to England through her Benedictine monasteries. This spiritual life was gifted to us, non monks, by the framers of the Book of Common Prayer. To be Anglican is to become spiritual. To be Anglican is to become Benedictine.

6. The Holy Bible

For 500 years the Bible has been translated into English by Anglicans. The so-called King James Version is actually called the Authorized Version, meaning authorized to be read in Anglican Churches. But more than excellent translations, Anglicans read large portions of Scripture in our services of worship. Through Benedictine spiritual practice of praying the Scriptures (called Lectio Divina) we commit to reading and praying all the most important passages of the Bible every year of our lives. The Anglican Church is THE Bible Church.

7. Catholic Objectivity

Catholic means universal. When applied to the faith of Christianity, it means specifically, “That which has been believed at all time, in all places, by all.” Practically speaking it means that we hold fast to the core revealed truths of Christianity which we can share with the Church of all ages. There is objective content to our faith which does not change, disappear or emerge according to the age we live through. The Faith we hold is objectively true and there are ways to verify its content. Therefore, we can be as broad as the ages, yet safely within the boundary of orthodox faith. Because of Catholic objectivity the fads of the seventies passed us by, aren't you glad? Current fads will also pass us by as we hold to the “faith once for all delivered to the Saints.” [Jude 1:3](#)

8. World Wide Communion

This is also more important than it might seem at first. As Anglican we are part of something truly epic. Our brotherhood, our Communion stretches to all points on the globe. We are part of the third largest community of Christians in the world (Only the Romans and Orthodox are larger.) Every Sunday, tens of millions of fellow Anglicans worship at Altars in places like Lagos Nigeria; Cap Hatien, Haiti; Hong Kong, China; Kampala, Uganda; and Luzon, Philippines. The first bishop of this parish (Holy Trinity Church) was located in Recife, Brazil. Anglicans have taken seriously the call to carry the Gospel to all the world.

9. Beauty

The world can be an ugly place. We all need more beauty in our lives. Its not simply an aesthetic desire. We were made to dwell in the beauty of Eden, to know the beauty of heaven. Our souls are designed for the indescribable glory of the communion with God. Beauty is as essential to us as food, water or clothing. And nobody, nobody does beauty better than Anglicans – architecture, liturgy, music, art, sciences, theology, vestments – you name it, we can get it covered because we know that beauty is for the health of the soul and for the glory of our King, Jesus.

10. Beer and Wine

You may think I added this for comic relief. Yes we do serve beer and wine at church. And Anglicans have historically produced some of the best beer ever known to mankind. Our appreciation of beauty makes us natural wine connoisseurs. But this about so much more than booze. Its about living in the liberty of grace. Anglicans know what grace is, we know where and how to get it, and we love to revel in it. Our glass of wine with dinner is a statement of our spirituality, our theology – Christ has set us free, his desire is that we remain free. [Galatians 5:1](#)