

Jesus is at the centre

Joanna Anderson is delighted to be part of Harbour Church, one of Portsmouth's newest and fastest-growing churches

Who are you? I'm JoJo. I live in Southsea, am married to Jamie and we have three incredible, world-changing children

Which church are you part of?
Harbour Church - the main congregation at St George's Church, Portsea

Why did you start going there?
When Harbour opened its doors just over two years ago, I jumped on board with all I had, as it was the church I'd be praying for for five years.

What do you love about your church?

I love church, but most of all, I love Jesus, the people, and the fun I have sharing life with everyone. I love that, as a congregation, we care not only about ourselves, but for the community around us. We discuss relevant topics, worship with all our hearts and build one another up in love.

I feel safe, my children are loved and adore their leaders. I am so thankful for Alex and the team for all they do upfront and behind the scenes. Without their openness, kindness and honesty, Jesus wouldn't be at the centre of Harbour.

What Harbour has taught me is that church doesn't have to be about the building. It's about your daily relationships and friendships with those who also love Jesus.

As I am the church, it's my job to



JoJo Anderson with her husband Jamie and three children

bring church to everyone I meet throughout the day. I pray all the time for every small - some would say insignificant - thing, but I want my life to be a reflection of the God I serve and the church I love.

On a Sunday morning, the doors open at 10.30am, you are greeted with warm, friendly faces offering hot drinks, pastries and big smiles. It's a good time to meet old and new friends.

The service starts at 11am with a welcome and lively songs. The stage comes alive with inflatable microphones, guitars, palm trees, and children and adults are dancing, singing and worshipping.

The children go to various groups. They follow what's being talked about in the main service, so

this is a great conversation-starter during lunch. In the main service, we worship for around 40 minutes. The worship is modern, loud and Jesus-centred. Talks are relevant and aim to be useful in our daily lives.

I've been in many different 'streams' at Harbour, including the daytime Alpha group to explore questions of faith while eating breakfast. I've helped with City Women/Spa 61, which reaches out to women from all walks of life, offering nail-painting, facials, hand massages, and a cafe. We've held these groups at the women's refuge, Red Cross, St Luke's and at St George's.

And our Connect groups meet regularly, so we can learn from the Bible and spend time in each other's company. It's just so good!