

Friday Night Theology, 19th June 2009
Chris Moyles Talks Up Church

It's not that often that Radio 1 DJs extol the virtue of church, but that's precisely what Chris Moyles did on his [breakfast show](#) recently. He'd seen on TV a service at [Kingsgate Community Church, Peterborough](#), an Alliance member, and was, to put it mildly, blown away:

There was a Sunday service on the BBC. They were baptising people in a big pit, in a big kind of mini swimming pool. And it was the most fascinating thing I have seen in a long time.

It was amazing. I've never seen anything like that in this country. This band were playing, singing about Jesus moving mountains and the whole congregation were all hands in the air, whooping and clapping.

These people, everybody, everybody was taking part and it was really bright and colourful and everyone was having a good time.

But it was amazing, it was amazing. I mean, being brought up as a Roman Catholic, you go to church and it's like boom boom but this was like, woooo! I've been to gigs with less atmosphere.

People were queuing up to walk into this mini swimming pool...I've just never seen anything like it, not in this country. I mean... I know it exists but I just didn't... I mean it was amazing... I don't know. Soph and I were lying in bed watching it on telly going this is unbelievable. Very uplifting.

I want to go, let's all go and get baptised.

I just thought it was amazing, it was amazing.

To watch the service and hear Chris' comments, have a look [here](#).

But once again all of this raises questions for us: What does it say about the way people see the church? Did any of us expect this reaction – are we perhaps a bit ashamed of our churches when in fact we are hiding something amazing? How can we invite people to church so they are pleasantly surprised rather than feel press-ganged?

Either way, it might just be worth discussing it with your friends this weekend.