

GARLAND STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

~ MEMBERSHIP ~



Thank you for considering membership of God's church at Garland Street.

It is always good to see new faces in the congregation and I am always glad to meet up with you - often at home.

I do hope you will find this brochure helpful in guiding you through the steps to membership and your vital role in being part of the Body of Christ.

If you have any unanswered questions please do get in touch.

Robert Green, Minister



GARLAND STREET
BELONGS TO THE
BAPTIST UNION OF
GREAT BRITAIN

So, you are considering membership ... excellent!

Garland Street is a Baptist Church so....

We hold almost everything in common with our Christian friends from other orthodox Christian Churches. The distinctives of a Baptist Church are:

- The authority of the Bible
- The baptism of believers by immersion.
- Congregational government (the members of the church govern the church)

How does a person become a member?

Step 1:

Meet up with a church leader (minister, an elder or a deacon). This is a 'get to know you' opportunity - both ways! You can share something of your Christian life and experiences as well as asking anything about the church you need to know. What is there for children or young people? Are there mid-week activities? What about worship and prayer? How can I get involved?

Step 2:

Read the responsibilities of membership in the church Constitution and look at the church web-site (if you have Internet access) so you can build up a fuller picture of God's church here. Also www.baptist.org.uk is the website of the Baptist Union with which we are affiliated.

Step 3:

We will provide some teaching baptism as practiced in Baptist Churches. Members are usually baptised believers. If you are a Christian who has been baptised in another tradition, you will not be asked to be baptised again. If you are a Christian but have not yet been baptised, you will be offered baptism.

The church has a pattern of Home-groups and is developing discipleship training. Members are strongly encouraged to be part of these aspects of church life.

We will also ask you to consider how (according to your gifts, skills and opportunities) you might contribute to the life and witness of the church.

Step 4:

A membership interview: Two members of the church will be asked to spend some time with you (it is usually a relaxed and enjoyable time - not scary!) to explore your Christian faith and walk with God, to ensure you are aware of the responsibilities of membership and to hear about your gifts and abilities. They will bring a report to the next Church Members Meeting concerning your membership application.

If there is any reason why it might be wise for your membership to be delayed (or, exceptionally, your membership is turned down) you will be encouraged to continue in the life of the church and seek membership in due course. Doors don't slam!

Step 5:

Usually, at the first Communion service after your membership has been agreed, we will be welcome you into membership and pray for you.

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REV ROBERT GREEN
MINISTER

SUNDAYS AT GARLAND STREET

10.30am: Morning worship
6.30pm: Evening worship

All-age/Parade services usually on the 4th Sunday each month (am)

The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the 1st (am) and 3rd (pm) Sundays each month

Occasionally we join with other local churches for combined acts of worship