



Becoming a member

Christ Church Endcliffe

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus' words to his disciples in John 13 give a compelling picture of what his church should be like. A place of Christ-like love that shines as a witness to the world.

It is great to be alongside others as we follow Jesus—brothers and sisters with whom we can share the joys and struggles of life, who we can encourage and who can encourage us along the way. Being part of a family brings the joy and confidence that others are caring for you. And it brings responsibilities as we are committed to them.

We hope this booklet helps you think through what it means to be part of a local church family, and in particular about being a member of Christ Church Endcliffe. Please read and pray through it, and then fill out the form if you would like to join us as we follow Christ.

We want to help new members feel at home and part of things as quickly as possible, so we'll also meet up to hear more about you, your testimony, experience, and gifts, as well as finding out how things are going at church and in general. It'll also give you a chance to ask any questions that you have about Christ Church Endcliffe.

Ed & Rob (Ministers)

What does being a member involve?

There are three aspects to becoming a member of our church. We see these as a form of commitment or covenant that we make to each other. They are a simple A, B, C:

Affirm

First we affirm the faith and vision of the church. As members we are united in the core truths of the gospel, in and our aims for how we are seeking to follow Christ together.

Belong

Second, being a member means that we belong to the church family. So we commit to making our church gatherings on Sunday a priority. We also commit to a small group where we can enjoy deeper relationships with a few people.

Contribute

Finally, we commit to joining in with the work of the church. This involves serving in an area of **ministry** according to our gifts and passions, being involved in **mission** as we seek to reach out to those who don't know Jesus, and **giving** sacrificially to support our gospel work in Sheffield, and our mission partners across the world.

The next pages explain a bit more about each of these.

Affirm

As a member, you affirm that you share the faith and vision of the church.

OUR FAITH

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Rom 10:9)

We trust and follow Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. As an evangelical church, we hold to these essentials:

- **Scripture**—The Bible alone is our highest authority
- **Faith**—we are saved through faith (trust) in Jesus Christ alone.
- **Grace**—we are saved by the grace of God, not our good works.
- **Christ**—Jesus is our saviour, Lord and King
- **God's glory**—we live for the glory of God.

OUR VISION is that we seek to:



Glorify God—living in light of who he is and what he has done for us, and helping others to do the same.



Build Up—each other in our knowledge and love of God, using the gifts and resources he has given us as individuals.



Reach Out—helping people to discover Jesus Christ for themselves, and making a positive contribution to people's lives.



Send Out—people to serve God in their workplaces and their communities, and to support the mission of the worldwide church.

These four aims govern all that we do. Whilst some of our ministries and activities do more than one of them, we want to make sure that we don't do anything which achieves none of them!

So as a member, you have others encouraging you to grow in this faith, and to work out this vision in your life.

Belong

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)

As a member, you belong to the church family—and this means spending time together. In particular, we ask everyone to make Sundays a priority, and to be part of a small group.

SUNDAYS

Our Sunday services are at 4pm each week, and are the main time when we all come together. We gather to hear God speak to us in his word, to enjoy our relationship with him through prayer and praise, and to encourage and serve one another.

Although we know that with work and other commitments it is not always possible to be at church each week, we do ask that people make it a high priority—we will miss you when you can't come!

SMALL GROUPS

Our Growth Groups are a great way to get to know a smaller number of people well. They meet on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings and are a time of Bible study, fellowship and prayer. Once a month the groups meet centrally for our Church Prayer Meeting.

For students, whilst we encourage any who want to join a Growth Group, we are aware that you may have Christian Union groups as well, and so our student meeting Training Field can act as an equivalent for Growth Group.

So as a member, you will be part of a loving Christian family, with people who know you and are committed to you.

Contribute

In fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. (1 Corinthians 12:18)

As church members, we all have different gifts to use and a role to play—and this is all part of God’s intention in bringing us together at Christ Church Endcliffe. None of us are perfect, and we are all seeking to grow, and yet God can use us today through his Spirit!

So how can we contribute to our church life? We think in terms of three “M”s: ministry, mission and money.

MINISTRY

We will want to work with you so that you can use your gifts to serve others. We’d love everyone to have a ministry area that they are passionate about and in which they can use their God-given energy and creativity. This may be joining in with one of existing ministry teams, or it may be something new.

MISSION

As church members, we are committed to reaching out to those who don’t know Jesus. So we seek opportunities to speak of Jesus and to demonstrate his love for others, and to grow in confidence as we do this more and more.

MONEY

Recognising all that God has given us, we are also committed to being generous with what we have, in particular giving financially to support our ministry as a church.

As a church, we also allocate a proportion of our budget to give towards gospel work throughout the world.

So as a member, you are part of a body, working together for the glory of God.

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR CHRIST CHURCH ENDCLIFFE

Having read through the booklet, we hope that you are keen and ready to become a member of the church family! If so, please fill in this form.

Name:

I declare that:

I **affirm** the faith and vision of the church

I want to **belong** as a part of the church family

I will **contribute** to the life and ministry of the church

I am baptised ¹

I am aged 16 years or over ²

Signed:

Date:

¹—If you have not yet been baptised, but would like to be a member, please speak to one of our ministers.

²—Because being a member comes with voting rights as part of our legal constitution, it is only open to adults. However, we naturally consider children of our church members to be part of the family of the church.

