



emmanuelchurch

... thinking about membership

It's wonderful that you are thinking about becoming a member of Emmanuel Church. It is such an encouragement to all of us when someone gets to this stage of active partnership with us in the work of the gospel, and we're delighted that Emmanuel is beginning to feel like your spiritual home.



Becoming a church member is a significant step. It serves to remind us of, and encourage us in, our responsibilities to the Lord, to one another and to the work of the gospel. This leaflet is written to help you think about what is involved.

There are two ways to look at what membership means.

The first is laid out in the more formal requirements of our Church Rules. It says there that members are required to affirm:

- their dependence on Christ alone for salvation;
- their submission to him as Lord;
- their desire to be ruled by the Bible's teaching in their personal life and in their fellowship in the Church.

Members are asked to indicate their wholehearted agreement with the Basis of Faith by signing a copy as they become a member (- it's written out on the back page of this leaflet).

Anyone wishing to become a member should speak to one of the Leadership Team.

The other way to look at what membership means is to think about some practical implications of partnership in the work of the gospel here at Emmanuel.

So here are six areas of commitment. Of course, sometimes there are good reasons why someone cannot fulfil one or other of these (eg if illness prevents that person from coming, or being out of work means that money is short, etc). But this list can be a helpful check-up for all of us at any time ... it's good to keep on thinking about the ways in which we're expressing our commitment to the Lord, and how that is working out in our commitment to others.

- **coming on Sundays**

Someone committed to Emmanuel will regularly be at church on a Sunday. Being there matters. We need each other, and we need to learn and grow together. Others are looking forward to meeting you there, and miss you when you're not. 1 Corinthians 14:26 explains that each of us comes to church with our own contribution, to strengthen one another.

- **praying**

Someone committed to Emmanuel will pray regularly for all that goes on here. We try to provide regular information for prayer, and the monthly Central Prayer Meeting is our First Priority, above all our other meetings and jobs at church. Psalm 127:1a is a good theme verse here: we pray to the Lord because we depend on him to build the work here.

- **growing**

Someone committed to Emmanuel will meet regularly with other Christians for teaching and fellowship. It's helpful for us to be part of a group (probably a Connect Group for most of us) where the focus is not just social, a common interest or a shared task, but ongoing discipleship and learning, in the context of love and care for one another. Hebrews 10:24-25 stresses how much we need each other to keep going as Christians.

- **serving**

Someone committed to Emmanuel will want to serve others, and in particular will take on a job that helps to maintain our ongoing ministry. We always need more workers, so whatever your skills, experience or interest, there will be somewhere for you. Read Romans 16 to see how many of these Christians are 'workers', even though we may know little more about them.

- **giving**

Someone committed to Emmanuel will give money to help pay for the ministry here. There's a lot more we'd love to do ... but because all of our income comes from our pockets, we can only do what together we commit ourselves to financially. 2 Corinthians 8:9 gives the reason for generosity - a good verse to think about deeply as you consider your response.

- **reaching out**

Someone committed to Emmanuel will seek to present the good news of Jesus Christ to family and friends, through our own networks and especially in Bramcote. Friendship evangelism is our basic model, and any events we do together as a church are means to supporting (not replacing) what we're all doing personally to 'make the most of every opportunity' (Colossians 4:2-6).

what we believe

BASIS OF FAITH

Emmanuel Church identifies with the doctrine of the Church of England:

The doctrine of the Church of England is grounded in the Holy Scriptures, and in such teachings of the ancient Fathers and Councils of the Church as are agreeable to the said Scriptures. In particular such doctrine is to be found in the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer, and the Ordinal (Canon A5).

We summarise that Anglican doctrine below as the basis of our work and fellowship at Emmanuel Church:

- There is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
- The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour.
- Since the fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.
- Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.
- Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy, received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.
- The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christ-like in character and behaviour and gives them power for their witness in the world.
- The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong.
- The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone, to execute God's just condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.