

## How do I become a Church Member?

What most often happens is that people talk to the Minister first. After that, the Church likes to appoint two people, who are already members, to be 'visitors'.

The role of the visitors is to have a friendly chat to get to know the person better, to find out about the person's faith and to hear from the person why they have decided to seek to become a member. The visitors will be ready to answer any questions that the person might want to ask.

The visitors then recommend the person for membership with a short report given at a Church Members' Meeting. All being well, she/he is welcomed into membership by the Minister within a Sunday morning Service.

Some people 'transfer' their membership from another Church, some come into membership after being baptised.



*If you believe and trust in Jesus and feel that you can be committed to Highams Park Baptist Church as a Church Member then do speak to Jonathan. We really want people to feel that they can belong in every way.*



**Highams Park  
Baptist Church**

# A Guide to Church Membership



## **Church Membership**

God calls us not only to be individual Christians but also to be members of His Church: (1 Corinthians 12: 27)

‘Now you are the body of Christ,  
and each one of you is a part of it’.

In different Christian Churches, membership of the local Church is expressed in different ways. Of course, everyone is more than welcome just to come and belong but becoming a Church member is a commitment that goes beyond simply enjoying being a part of the Church community. Becoming a Church member is a way to show your commitment to a particular Church.

### **Being a Member of a Baptist Church:**

One of the things that distinguishes the Baptist Church as different from, say, an Anglican Church is that each local Baptist Church is independent from all external authority. Practically, this means that our Church is entirely self-sufficient. There is no hierarchy as the Church is ‘congregationally governed’ - it is the Church Members who make the decisions relating to the life and work of the Church.

### **Becoming a Church Member:**

Membership at Highams Park Baptist Church is open to anyone who believes and trusts in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and who is ready to commit themselves to belonging to the Church in this definite way. You do not have to have been baptised by immersion to come into membership, many people come from a whole variety of different backgrounds.

## **The Responsibilities of a Church Member at Highams Park Baptist Church are as follows:**

- 1. To live a life consistent with the Gospel and worthy of our high calling in Christ.*
- 2. To spend time each day in prayer and reading the Scriptures.*
- 3. To share each Lord’s Day, unless unavoidably prevented, in the corporate worship of the Church; and to be regular and faithful in observance of the Lord’s Supper.*
- 4. To fulfil the ministry of intercession, both privately and by being present, whenever possible, at meetings for corporate prayer.*
- 5. To live in loyal love and fellowship with all the other members of the Church.*
- 6. To take some part in the work of the Church according to our calling, gifts and opportunities.*
- 7. To accept personal responsibility for the government of the local Church by being present at the Church Members’ Meetings whenever possible.*
- 8. To set aside and give a sum of money every Lord’s Day for the work of God’s kingdom at home and overseas*
- 9. To attempt by personal invitation, hospitality and visitation to introduce and bring others to the Church.*
- 10. To witness to the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.*