

How do I become a member?

The first step is to speak with one of the Pastors who will explain more and answer any questions. If you then want to proceed, the next church meeting will appoint two people to meet with you as welcomers on behalf of the membership. They will commend you to the following church meeting. After that when your application is accepted the Pastors will welcome you into membership during a Sunday service.

On that occasion we ask you to respond to the following question:

'Do you believe God has called you to serve Christ as part of Hertford Baptist Church and do you commit yourself to love and serve the Lord within this fellowship and in the world?'

The membership will then respond to this challenge:

'Do you welcome into the family of God in this place and do you promise to love, encourage, strengthen, guide, pray for and care for them as partners in the body of Christ.'

In this way we express the real meaning of church membership. It is not about joining a club or enrolling on a list but about making a **covenant** together to serve the Lord and be His church in this place.

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Pastors: David Ronco, Steve Fenton &
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What is church membership?

Our Fellowship List provides a general record of all those who are linked to the church. Membership provides a more public and specific commitment to our fellowship. It is a way of showing that you belong to our church and a way of sharing commitment with others for its work and witness.

Who can be a church member?

Anyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and sees this church as their spiritual home. Our church rules also require that members be baptised as believers.

We encourage all new Christians to be baptised and are also glad to baptise established Christians who want to take this important step. However, we respect that some Christians, having been members in other church traditions, may not feel that believers' baptism is for them but would like to be identified with us as members. We are pleased to welcome such folk as Associate Members.

We have to make this technical distinction because our original Trust Deed cannot be altered. However in practice, apart from the few occasions where there has to be a formal ballot, we make no distinction between members and associate members. We want everyone to feel equally welcome and involved in our fellowship.

What does church membership involve?

It includes the following privileges and responsibilities

- to **LIVE** consistently as a follower of Christ
- to **WORSHIP** regularly with others on Sunday
- to **PRAY** for others and where possible with others
- to **LEARN** from Scripture through the preaching, home groups and personal reading
- to **LOVE** and care for others within the fellowship
- to **SERVE** according to the gifts and opportunities God provides
- to **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY** with others in the decision making at church meetings
- to **GIVE** regularly and generously to God's work here and elsewhere
- to **WITNESS** for Christ through word and deed
- to **SEEK** spiritual growth personally and within the fellowship