

Winchester Baptist Church  
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Pastor: Rev Ewen Huffman  
Associate Pastor (Youth): Tim Williamson  
Mission to Seniors: Liz Stacey  
Administrator: Judy Marshall  
Church Secretary: Ed Jackson (processes membership applications)



# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



'From Him (Christ) the whole body, joined & held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.'  
Ephesians 4:16

*In this leaflet you will find out about being a member of WBC; the reasons, the responsibilities and the process. It is important to God that we become members of His body; to actively commit ourselves to God and to His Church. It is important to us that we become members of His body; to be part of the family of God, to love and protect one another. It is important to the church that we become members of His body; to be an effective witness.*

# Church Membership at Winchester Baptist Church

## What is Church Membership?

To 'belong' is a fundamental need of all human beings. To be in 'fellowship' is an integral part of being a Christian. You cannot love God and not love God's people. If you learn to love God you discover a whole new family of people who love you for His sake.

The Baptist Way of being the Church involves "Church Membership".

## What it is not!

It is not the same as becoming a Christian. Being a member does not make you a Christian - only a miracle, a 'new birth' by the power of the Holy Spirit can do that when you believe the gospel and accept Jesus as your Saviour and Lord.

It is not the joining of a club where you can choose to be an occasional visitor or a committed devotee.

Membership is not a condition of you being welcome as a valued part of our church family.

## What it is...

It is open to anyone who loves the Lord Jesus Christ and wants to take a deeper step of commitment to the family of God in the church.

It is a 'covenant', or a solemn agreement, with all the other members to be personally committed to this particular part of the body of Christ which is called Winchester Baptist Church.

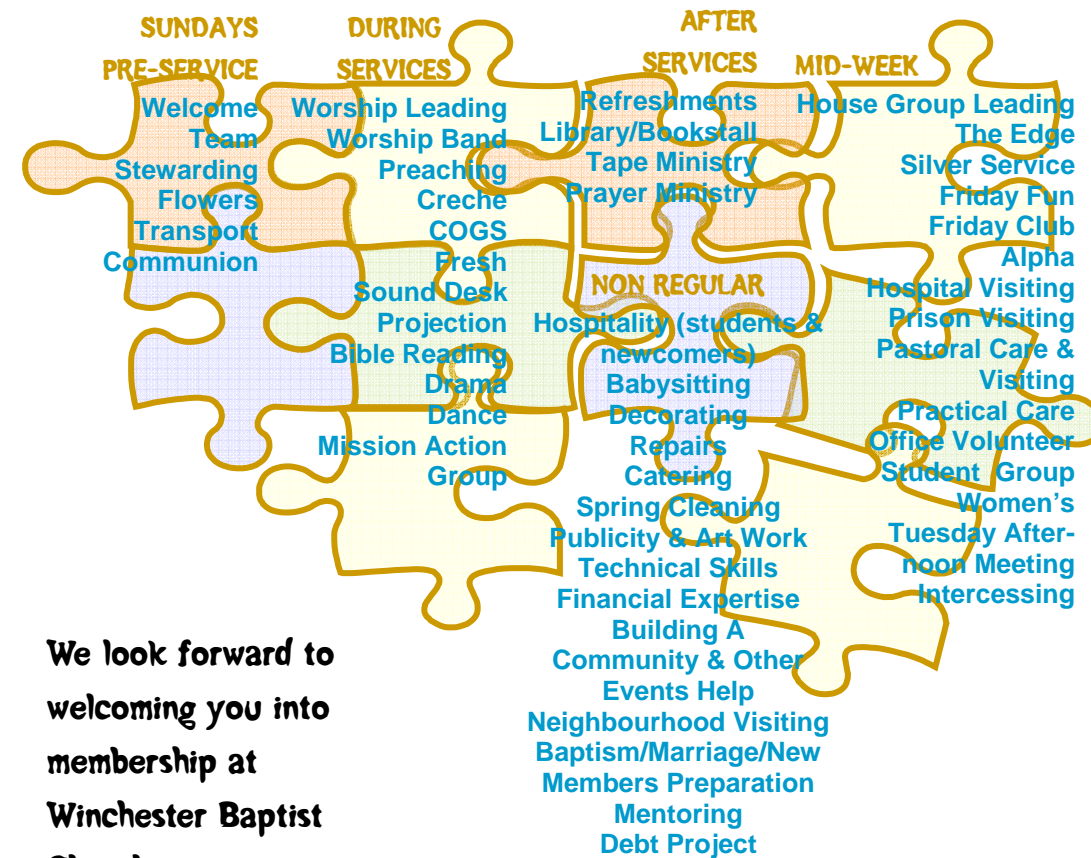
It is a commitment to participate fully and prayerfully in the life of the fellowship at several important levels:-

- Support for, attendance at and participation in services of worship each Sunday.
- If at all possible belonging to a small house group meeting mid-week for prayer, worship, discussion, Bible teaching and sharing of spiritual needs and blessings.
- Using the gifts that God has given you which involves:-
- Regular giving of your money (at a committed and realistic level, and in a tax-efficient way) to the needs of our congregation and our wider mission. (It is important that you read the leaflet "The Principles of Giving". The leadership recommend that you give 10% to the Lord's work and that this, your local church, be your first priority in giving.)
- Making yourself available for God's service according to your gifts and abilities, spiritual and practical.

- Support for the prayer life of our church by regular attendance at one of our church prayer meetings (every Wednesday morning at 7am & the first Tuesday of each month 8-9.15pm).
- Participation in the decisions taken by the membership by prayer, discussion and attendance at Church Meetings held alternate months on the third Wednesday at 8pm. (The Church Meeting is the ultimate decision-making body of our Church though we delegate anything helpful to Leadership Team, Elders etc)
- Recommitting yourself to God and the church of today each year at one of the Covenant Services in January.

As a rough guideline we ask individuals to have been in a house group some months and worshipping with us as a church for a slightly longer period, to gain a full picture of our identity as a church, before applying for membership.

If you wish to explore these issues further please contact Ewen, Tim, Liz or one of the Elders (Sheila or Cliff). If you wish to apply for membership please contact the church office or Ed Jackson, our Church Secretary, on 01962-860129 or email ed@2jays.co.uk.



**We look forward to welcoming you into membership at Winchester Baptist Church.**