

NEW LIFE CHURCH

Canterbury

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'A House of Prayer for all Nations'

Registered Charity Name: The Pentecostal Church
Charity Number: 1054365

Brief History

New Life Church is part of the world wide fellowship of Assemblies of God, which is the world's largest Pentecostal Christian denomination with over 300,000 churches in over 110 countries. It has approximately 57 to 60 million members and it is the fourth largest Christian body in the world. It has over 600 churches in the UK, its own bank and a Bible School based at Mattersey.

New Life began shortly after the 1928 Stephen Jeffrey's crusade, which was followed in 1946 by the Eddie Durham crusade. The Church has met in various locations including a shop, a mission hut, and an old Methodist building, and is now based on the University of Kent campus in Canterbury.

In 1997, the church adopted the cell group model and has since grown from a congregation of about 20 to 300 people.

Some prophetic words spoken over the Church

- Intercontinental oasis – a place of refreshing between places.
- A house of prayer for all nations – a place of welcome for all nations (**Mark 11:17**).
- A green house – where people grow very quickly, and are then planted out.
- A call to Receive, Equip and Release God's people for ministry.
- A lighthouse on the hill.

Our Purpose/Vision

This church exists to **glorify God** and to bring the **love** and **power** of Jesus to our community and to the people of every nation.

With the Word of God as our foundation and with the enabling of the Holy Spirit, we seek to do this by **nurturing, equipping and empowering** God's people to serve others and to develop a **passionate love for Jesus** in each other.

We have three main values which are unpacked through what we desire to be as Church. We seek to:

1. Worship Jesus;
2. Disciple people
3. Be a blessing to our community and the world.

We aim to achieve the above objectives by:

- **Keeping JESUS AT THE CENTRE... in everything. (Colossians 1:17-18)**

Jesus is the foundation on which we base our faith and through whom we are united as one body.

- **Being a place where people LOVE ONE ANOTHER. (John 13:34)**

God is Love. Jesus has commanded us to love one another as he loves us. By doing this, we show the world that we are his disciples.

- **EVERYONE GROWING... to be more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)**

Jesus came, not only to save the world, but also to be an example of how our lives should be lived. The aim of every Christian is to be Christ-like; for our lives to be conformed to that of Jesus Christ.

- **EVERYONE TAKING PART... to build the whole. (1 Corinthians 12:27)**

We are each part of the body of Christ, empowered by one Spirit as co-workers with Christ to bless, edify and serve one another. We expect every member to serve by volunteering at once a month in ministry.

- **REACHING OUT... as a blessing to others. (Matthew 28:19-20)**

Our aim is to have an outward focus, each person reaching others by developing friendships and serving those around them, sharing their life and the gospel. All this occurs in the context of growth and multiplication of CONNECTgroups: disciples making disciples. We also seek to serve our community through social action, prayer and regular outreach events.

In order for us to attain our Vision and values we depend on the Holy Spirit and we appropriate His gifts and anointing. We seek to be Spirit-led as we believe that a Spirit-led Church is dynamic and impacts its community and generation (Acts 2:42-47).

We believe that good leadership and diversity of gifting are essential for the health and growth of the Church (Ephesians 4:11-13). We seek as a Church to honour our leaders and to equip and raise Spirit filled believers so that God's people have an opportunity to use their gifts to serve others. We believe that God has called us to receive, equip and release His people for effective ministry.

These form the core values of our life as church and are paramount in every activity we host. For more information about cell groups contact the office at office@newlifecanterbury.org

Some of the local ministries we support both financially and also with our time include:

Kidz Club
Canterbury Christian Schools Work Trust
Friends International
Healing On The Streets
Higher education chaplaincy work
Time Out (Breakfast Club)

Some of the missionaries we support in various parts of the world include:

- **Tom Miyashiro** – Serving as an Evangelist in The Unites States working to reach mainly the youth and young adults with the Gospel.
- **Pastor David Rowlands** – Serving as a Pastor in Papenburg Germany, where he lives with his family.

Leadership

We believe that Christ alone is the head of the Church; however, He has appointed some to serve as overseers of local churches. These overseers or leaders serve the body of Christ by leading the people and overseeing the spiritual growth of the Church
(1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Hebrews 13:7).

What should you expect New Life leaders to be like?

- Live by and preach the Word of God to you.
- People of faith – faith which is worth imitating and which attracts you to trust and follow us as we follow Christ **(1 Corinthians 11:1)**.
- Keep watch over you and regard ourselves as answerable to God for your spiritual welfare and progress.
- Set good examples in all things that pertain to godliness.

As Leaders WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT OF YOU?

- Receive the Word of God readily from us and make every effort to search the scriptures to confirm that word. (Acts 17:11).
- Make our responsibility over you a joy and not a burden, by humbly accepting authority – you will receive a blessing **(Hebrews 13:17, Ephesians 6:1, Matthew 10:41)**. Elders are accountable to God for you! Submission is an attitude of heart and to submit is to voluntarily place yourself under the care, protection and guidance of your leaders. Willing submission to spiritual authority brings great blessing because those ‘under authority’ find they have authority: **Matthew 8:9**. Remember submission is confirmed through obedience.
- Follow our example and the leadership we give.
- Pray for us and our families.

Leadership Structure

Trustees

As a registered charity, the legal affairs of the church are overseen by a board of trustees. The following people serve as Trustees of the Church

Aaron Berko - Chairman
Will White
Jonathan White
Shadreck Chikomba
Andrew Parfitt (Appointment in progress)

Elders

The elders are mainly responsible for long term vision and spiritual oversight of the church. They deal with all difficult pastoral issues and address all matters relating to direction (vision), doctrine and discipline

- **Aaron Berko: Senior Minister**

Aaron is the lead elder and his main responsibility is to lead the Church with the help of the Elders. He oversees preaching, training, Children's ministry, Prayer ministry and Outreach.

- **William White: Associate Minister**

Will oversees the Multi-media department, leads the worship team and is involved with preaching and teaching

- **Shadreck Chikomba: Associate Minister**

Shadreck heads up the Men's ministry and is involved with preaching and teaching.

- **Andrew Parfitt: Pastoral Support to the leadership**

Andrew is the external Pastoral supporter to the elders and leaders. His role is to support and advise the eldership. He brings over 30 years of ministry experience and is a committed and gifted preacher and teacher of God's word.

The Equipping Team

The Equipping team are responsible for the day to day running of the church including ministry oversight, training, discipleship, current practices and envisioning.

Akua Berko

Violet Chikomba

Joanna Addison

Nicholas Stepehnson

Judith Stephenson

Caroline Agoi

The INSPIRE Team

The inspire team consists of all ministry heads and their deputies, connect group leaders and assistants, lay leaders and people who the leadership from time to time may invite to be a part of the team. Their role is to lead their teams, inspire their members to participate in church life and take the lead in supporting the elders in realising the vision in the church.

Membership

We believe that there is one Church, the body of Christ. This body however has local representations and for Christians to grow and flourish as members of the body, they need to be members of a local church. The local church will provide them with a place where they can grow in their love and knowledge of God, be nurtured and equipped to use their gifting to serve God and others in His household.

Local church membership is implied in the Bible; whenever Paul wrote an epistle he wrote it to a local church and often addressed and greeted members of those churches (**Galatians 1:2**).

In one instance, he states that a sinning brother who refuses correction should be cast out of the church, which is a clear Biblical example of local churches or smaller representations of the Body of Christ and membership of such representations. Church membership is a clear indication of one's commitment to be a part of a local church, submit willingly to the leadership and support it in fulfilling its God given mandate.

Your Next Step

How can I become a member of New Life Church?

We seek as a church to be inclusive, which is in keeping with the nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. We therefore seek to make everyone feel loved and welcome when they attend our services – but when we talk about membership we refer to those who have moved from casual attendance to a place of commitment to the Church. This commitment is expressed in the giving of your time, prayers, offering and tithes to help the church fulfil its God-given mission. It refers to those who have moved from being **receivers** – merely feeling accepted and blessed by the body – to becoming **givers**: those who are actively a part of the congregation, and are consistently involved in the building up of the body through involvement in ministry and the life of the church.

You will not be joining a building but a people, a family of God who are working together to fulfil His plan and purpose. Before you make such a decision you must be clear that God is leading you to be a part of this representation of His Body and that this is His plan and purpose for you in this season of your life.

Criteria for joining

1. You must be a born-again believer.
2. Baptised: you must be willing to be water baptised in our next baptism service if you haven't already been baptised.
3. Be baptised or be seeking to be baptised in the Holy Spirit: you need to be in pursuit of an ever-increasing fullness of the Spirit in your life.
4. Be submitted to the leadership, sound doctrine and be devoted to the people of the Church.
5. Be committed to helping the Church in realizing its God-given vision by supporting the leadership in this pursuit.
6. Membership class and Envision Gatherings: you must attend a membership class and at least one of our once a term envision gathering that shares the vision and mission of the Church.
7. As this an important decision, we recommend that you attended our services for at least three months before committing to membership. However if you are sure, you can join before the three month period is up.

We believe that each believer possess a spiritual gift administered by the Holy Spirit which is to be used in building up the body so in addition to the above criteria, the leadership will have the following **expectations of every member**:

1. Regular attendance of Sunday Meetings (and be a part of a Sunday Serving Team that serves about once per month). Your membership will lapse if you fail to attend services for a continuous period of more than four months (unless you are away on mission or for a similar reason)*.
2. Be a committed member of a connect group (where work and family demands prevent you from attending connect groups we would expect you to attend main church event on a regular basis. Some of these are: Family Brunch, Family Fete, Church summer away day, Christmas Ball, Prayer meetings etc.
3. Be deliberate in community and friendship-making.
4. Be financially committed to the Church through the giving of monthly tithes and offerings to the church.
5. Support the leadership in realising the vision of the Church
6. Attend annual general meetings and membership meetings

Frequently asked Questions

1. Is it OK to be in two churches?

Common sense says 'no'. You will have a split vision and all the tensions of trying to realise two visions at the same time, the will lead to 'di'-vision and confusion. Possible exceptions might include if you are a student who is temporarily living away from your hometown. In that case we ask that whilst you are in Canterbury you commit to no more than one church in Canterbury.

2. My church doesn't have Connect groups. Can I be in one of your Connect groups but go to my church on Sunday?

Not for long as we believe you would feel torn

3. Do I have to attend an Envision Gathering and membership class before I join?

Yes, as it is important that everyone wishing to be a member of the church be well versed with our history, what our mission and vision is and what role the individual can play to help the church achieve our local and global mandate as Christians.

4. How will I know if God is calling me to join this church?

You will have an inner peace with regard to joining. You will feel excited by the vision and people of the church. You will sense the presence of God in the church. You will feel challenged and stretched. And you will understand that it is not a perfect church but you will feel at home in the midst of it nevertheless.

5. What if I join the church but after a few weeks realize that I have made a mistake?

No problem. We will willingly release you from membership.

6. Will I have to meet one of the leaders before becoming a member? Yes, one of the senior leaders will help answer any questions you may have prior to joining.

7. I don't feel membership is for me right now. Can I continue to attend service?

Yes, you can. New Life is a house of prayer for all nations and we endeavour to be welcoming to everyone. Everyone who attends is placed on a fellowship list and is encouraged to participate in church life as much and he/she can.

As a member of the Church, the leadership promises to:

- Lead you with all diligence through sound teaching and Christian counsel.
- Support you through difficult times.
- Conduct your wedding ceremony, baptisms, and funerals should you require us to do so free of charge. We will support you in any way we can in holding your wedding ceremony and making it a memorable one.
- We will also correct you when needed without fear and we will create a loving environment in which you can grow to be all that God had created you to be.
- Allow you to freely download teaching resources from our web site for your personal use.

* Honorary membership can also be given to people at the discretion of the Church Council. These people will have to satisfy strict criteria laid down by the council as they see fit.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Address

Telephone number _____

Email _____

Date of Baptism _____

Date you first attended service at New Life _____

Are you a gift aid giver? _____

If no, would you like to be a gift aid giver? _____

Would you like your contact details to be made available to other members? _____

For Official Use only

Assigned CONNECT/ Pastoral supporter _____

Log in details _____

Gift Aid Number _____