

**New Life Church Canterbury**  
**Registered Charity Name: The Pentecostal Church**  
**Charity Number: 1054365**

'A House of Prayer for all Nations'

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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, old Methodist building and is now based on the University of Kent campus in Canterbury.

In 1997 cell groups began and the church has since grown from about 20 to 250 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 – were people grow very quickly then planted out.
- A call to Receive, equip and release.
- 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.

1. Worship Jesus
2. Love and equip people
3. Be a blessing to our community

As a Church we desire to be like this:

- Keep 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.

- 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 through developing friendships and serving those around them, sharing their life and the gospel. All this is in the context of growth and multiplication of cell groups; disciples making disciples. We also seek to serve our community through social action, prayer and regular outreach events. Our desire is to make Jesus famous in Canterbury and to impact our community with His love and power.

These form the Core Values of Our life as a Cell church and are paramount in every activity we host as a church. [For more information about cell groups contact the office on [office@newlifecanterbury.org](mailto:office@newlifecanterbury.org)]

Below are some of the local ministries we support financially and also with people

Kidz Club

Canterbury Schools Trust

Link (Global Cafe)

Canter Care

Higher Education Chaplaincy work

We also host and organise Canterbury Global Day of Prayer

We also support missionaries all over the world. Below are some of the missionaries we support:

Alison Mary – Bible translation in Cameroon

Gillian Harris – Mission work in Pemba, Mozambique

Tom Miyashiro – Evangelist in the United States working to reach mainly young adults with the Gospel

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 new leaders wherever and whenever we can so that God's people have an opportunity to use their gifts to serve His people. We believe that God has called us to **receive, equip and release** His people for effective ministry.

## **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 their spiritual growth of the Church. (1 Timothy 3 v1-7, Titus 1 v5-9, 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 – a 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 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 scripture to confirm that word
- 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. 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 lead we give.
- Pray for us and our families

## **Leadership Structure**

### **Senior Leadership Team (Elders)**

The senior leadership team serves as overseers of the Church and is responsible for the spiritual health and growth of the church.

#### **Aaron Berko: Senior Minister**

Aaron's main responsibility is to lead the senior leadership team (Elders). He also oversees training and outreach

#### **William White**

Will oversees finance and communications

#### **Hilary Wyatt**

Hilary responsibility is Prayer ministry and she also oversees Sunday school and youth.

#### **Carolline Agoi**

Carolline's main responsibility is worship. She also oversees women's ministry and she is the office manager.

#### **Shadreck Chikomba**

Shadreck oversees the men's ministry and assists in training

### **Wider Leadership Team**

The senior leadership team is supported by ministry heads along with their coordinators/deputies in realising our God given vision.

We encourage greater participation by all members and we expect every member to serve by volunteering at least once a month as a welcome host and/or set up aide.

## **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, this clearly shows Biblical example of local churches or smaller representations of The Body of Christ and membership of such representations.

### **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 and financial support 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 actually a part of the body, and involved in the building up of the body.

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 (if you are not already)
2. Baptised: You need to 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. Submitted to the leadership, sound doctrine and be devoted to the people of the Church.
5. Be committed to helping the Church in realising its God given vision by supporting the leadership in this pursuit.
6. Attend Envision Gathering – attend our once a term 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 3 months before committing to membership, however if you are sure, you can join before the 3 months period.

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 5 months.
2. Attend cell meetings
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.

### **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, this 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 whiles you are in Canterbury you commit to no more than one Church in Canterbury\*.

2. My church doesn't have cell Groups. Can I be in one of your cell Groups but go to my church on Sunday? Not for long as we believe you would feel torn

3. Do I have to attend envision gathering before I join? Yes as it is important that everyone hear the full story before making such an important step.

4. How will I know if God is calling me to join this church? You will have an inner peace with regards 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 all of that.

5. What if I join the church but after a few weeks realise 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 primary 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 work hard to welcome everyone.

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 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 make 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 for your personal use.

If you feel ready to become a member having read this document please complete the form below and return it to the office as soon as you can.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date you first attended service at with 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 Cell/Pastoral Supporter: \_\_\_\_\_

Log in details: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Aid Number: \_\_\_\_\_