



CENTRAL CHURCH WARRINGTON MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Central Church Warrington is a group of believers committed to Jesus, to each other, and to Warrington. Our heart beat is the good news that Jesus is King and Saviour.

What is membership?

As a church, we are part of the Church of England (as a mission initiative) and operate as a registered charity. Membership serves two important purposes within the life of our church: it helps us spiritually and legally.

Spiritually, membership is **a key way we express our commitment to each other as a group of believers**. You don't need to be a Christian to come to our church. But if you are a Christian, we believe we are called to be united and "strive together as one for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27). Membership is our agreement together on what it means to be a part of this church – so we are all on the same page.

Legally, membership is **a key way we structure ourselves** so that we obey the law as a charity and so that all our activities are conducted in a godly and right way. Members have an important voice (and vote) within our church's life.

How do I become a member?

There are three things we agree to in becoming a member: our statement of faith, the aims of the church, and our member's commitment.

The statement of faith expresses what we believe as a church and you should have access to it alongside this information page. It's also on our website.

The aims of the church express what we understand to be the Christian life in a nutshell:

- *Listening to Jesus, as the Bible is carefully taught*
- *Responding in lives of repentance and faith*
- *Sharing the good news about him*

The commitment of members is the commitment we make to each other as members of this church. It's not intended as a set of rules but as an expression of how we want to work together as brothers and sisters:

We commit to:

- *Strive for unity and peace in the church* (Ephesians 4:3).
- *Serve in the body* (Romans 12:4-8).
- *Submit to one another within the context of wise, restrained and cross-shaped leadership* (1 Peter 5:1-5)

These general commitments lead us to make *three practical commitments* which we believe are helpful to highlight:

- *Prioritise the Monthly Prayer Meeting and Sunday gatherings* (Acts 2:42)
- *Be part of a midweek Team* (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- *Give financially towards our work together* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

If you would like to explore membership, please speak to Mark our Pastor who will arrange a conversation about it. As much as anything, that conversation is a chance to get to know you. Then there is a form to sign, which goes to the Trustees to discuss at their next meeting.

The rights of members

Our church is developing a **leadership team (eldership)** which directly oversees the direction and activities of the church. This team will be supported and advised by a **body of Trustees**. The Trustees have the legal obligation to ensure we are acting properly when it comes to money, safeguarding, and charity law (it operates similarly to a Parochial Church Council within other Church of England churches).

Members can:

Stand for election as a Trustee. Trustees tend to serve for a period of three years.

Vote in an *Annual or General meeting*. This includes voting for Trustees and on other decisions put forward for the church to discuss.

Propose issues or resolutions for the church to discuss. We suggest this is done initially by talking to the leadership or Trustees.

The legal structure of our church is set out in our *Constitution* which is available for everyone to read.

If you have any questions about this or want to become a member, please don't hesitate to speak to Mark or one of the Trustees.