

Pray for us and we pray for you

We need very much to pray for each other as week to glorify God, proclaim Christ and grow in love together and in the wider world.

Use your gifts and do your bit

The church thrives on the diversity of its members. Each of us has something to contribute and part to play however great or small.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Cor 12v27)

It's important to assess, with the help of others, our abilities and use them as opportunity or need arises in the church. All members will be urged to encourage and build one another up. Likewise, there are some tasks that anyone can do. All members may be asked to serve one another by helping with regular practical responsibilities such as church cleaning, serving tea after services, etc. It's often when we serve alongside others that we get to know them best, and can demonstrate Christ's love in a practical way.

Give

The Biblical pattern is that churches be funded from within. It's therefore appropriate for members to participate in our ministry together by contributing funds regularly, according to their conscience and responding when financial needs arise.

The church is a registered charity “St Giles Christian Mission” (reg no: 208434). Gifts can be made by standing order or during the collection during the Sunday morning service. If you're a UK taxpayer, we can also reclaim tax on your giving. Please ask for a gift aid form.

Support the pastor in his leadership of the church

The pastor serves the church through the teaching of God's Word. He aims for the church to be rooted and strong in the faith and equipped to bear fruit in the world as we live for the glory of God. So members are called to prayerfully uphold and support him in this task.

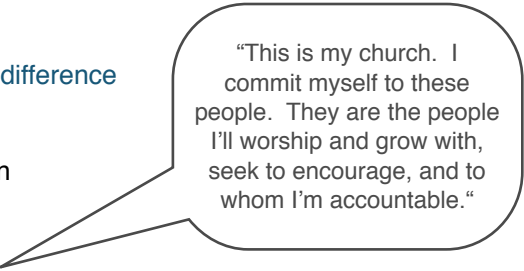
“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you” (Hebrews 13v17).



Membership FAQs

1. Why should I become a member, what difference does it make?

To become a member of St Giles Christian Mission is to identify you as belonging to and covenanting with the church. By becoming a member, you're saying:



"This is my church. I commit myself to these people. They are the people I'll worship and grow with, seek to encourage, and to whom I'm accountable."

Of course you may worship with us anyway and still feel you are one of the church family, but the biblical pattern is one of mutual accountability and care for one another. In formally covenanting with the church, you will become our responsibility and vice versa. Joining a church in membership also humbly acknowledges that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone, but under Biblical leaders alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our commitment to each other in the church depends on that fact that we are united together as God's people for His glory, sharing the same faith in the same Lord Jesus Christ.

2. What does the process of becoming a member involve?

If membership interests you, the first step is to speak to the pastor and express your interest. He will arrange a convenient time to meet you a couple of times to talk through your Christian testimony, what membership means and answer any questions you may have.

Next, you'll have an opportunity to chat with the pastor and another church leader about your testimony and any final questions you might have. You'll be asked if you believe our Statement of Faith (what we believe as a church) and if you are willing to commit yourself to our Church Covenant (what we promise to do as a church). Both of these provide the framework of our church life.

If you still wish to join with us in membership, your testimony will be shared with the church family at the next church meeting for their agreement and you'll be welcomed into membership on the next Sunday we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

3. I haven't been baptised. What shall I do?

Baptism is a command of our Lord, and is a requirement for church membership. As a church we believe the Bible teaches that baptism is by immersion after a person professes faith in Jesus. We would urge you to consider being baptised.

4. I have a different view of baptism. Can I still be a member?

If you have a different view (for example, you were baptised as an infant), the pastor will talk through your understanding of baptism and ask you to consider being baptised. But if you are convinced your baptism was Biblical, for the sake of spiritual unity, you can be considered for membership.

5. What are church meetings like?

The pastor has responsibility for the spiritual leadership of the church. The pastoral assistants and the church committee assist him, particularly in practical issues, care and benevolence. As a church, we have confidence in the pastor to get on in his work. However, he is accountable to the church family, and ultimately to the Lord. Church members are encouraged to approach the pastor at any time to discuss church life or raise issues of concern.

At church meetings (usually once a quarter), we are informed of progress in the ministries of the church, have opportunity to discuss issues, and help make decisions for the church. We are told, in Scripture, of general agreement amongst the members in the early church with the proposals of the church's leaders:

"...it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15v28).

6. What's expected of me as a member?

The Bible speaks of the church as a body, where all the parts have their own role and function, but work together as a unit for a common purpose. As members of one body, we're in a relationship with one another to support and encourage each other in our Christian walk. Likewise we partner together for the spread of the gospel and ultimately the glory of God. To do that, it's important that we take a prayerful interest in each other and the wider church and spend time learning and praying together. Our church covenant outlines what we promise to do as church members, but in summary, as a member you will be expected to:

Turn up and join in

As a member, we'd expect you to make Sunday services and midweek Bible study a priority in your life, for your own benefit and the benefit of the whole church. Of course it's understood that from time to time things will make it difficult to get to a meeting - no one will be chasing you! But it's important that we make every effort to get there when we can to encourage one another.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10v24-25).