

Joining the Church

Becoming a Member of

dartford community church

...in the community...for the community



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A brief history of Dartford Community Church

Dartford Community Church began in February 1986 as Dartford Christian Fellowship when a group of just over 60 people (including children) started to meet in the Y.M.C.A. in Dartford, believing that God had called us to be a church in the town. God confirmed this to us by adding many new people to our number.

In January 1988, this growth made it necessary for us to move from the Y.M.C.A. to Dartford Grammar School for Boys, as our Sunday attendance was about 150 people. Not owning a building helped in teaching people that the church is not a building, but men, women and children held together in the love of God - committed to him and to one another.

In March 2000 we moved into the newly completed Mick Jagger Centre at Dartford Grammar School. This has proved to be an excellent venue for us at the moment.

As a church we are in relationship with The Catalyst Network (part of the New Frontiers family of churches). We recognise and respect those with clear apostolic leadership and benefit greatly from their input and encouragement.

The church in Dartford is led by four elders, Alistair Gregory, Attilio Morosini, Ian Travers and Quinton Handscomb. They are the pastors of the church and they oversee the pastoral care within the church.

Alistair was working locally as a company director until 1988 when he resigned his directorship to work full-time for the church. His role is that of Senior Pastor with particular responsibilities for the teaching programme and those working overseas. He is also involved in working with some other Catalyst churches, both in this country and overseas.

Attilio works as an IT Consultant and became an elder in May 1994. He is also involved in pastoral work and preaching. Ian and Quinton became elders in December 2014. They both work in IT as well. Ian is responsible for our worship team and Quinton for our Youth team.

The elders are assisted by a leadership team comprising of Trustees, small group leaders and some others with particular responsibilities. Pastoral needs are first looked after within the small groups, where we encourage the biblical practice of one-another-ing.

In September 2006 we changed our name to Dartford Community Church believing that the Christian Fellowship name is not clearly understood by non members and that Community Church expresses our vision and intentions far more clearly!

Values

This "Joining the Church" document is an introduction to what it means to be a member of Dartford Community Church.

Our vision as a church is to be a family of believers who pursue God whole-heartedly. We're empowered by His Spirit to live out His mission, seeing those around us come into life transforming relationship with Jesus.

We have identified five values which are important to us:

Pursuing

We love to encounter God's presence through the Bible, devoted prayer and Spirit-filled worship. We want to hear from him, be led by him and be adaptable to his exciting plans for us. We inspire and help each other chase after God with everything we've got!

Belonging

We want everyone to feel at home with us, wherever they're from, whatever their background. Having a church family that reflects the love of God through the rich diversity of our community is something we're really passionate about.

Serving

God loves the community we live in and so do we! We're seriously committed to living like Jesus by sacrificially helping those around us. Through serving, we're open to what God wants to do to meet people's needs where they're at.

Restoring

There's nothing better than seeing God save, heal and restore people. We believe it's Jesus' forgiveness, acceptance and grace that brings fresh hope into renewed lives. It's what we love and what we're here for.

Reaching

God's mission is our mission. We want everyone to know there's a Saviour that loves them. We aim to be generous with our resources as we spread that good news into Dartford, to the surrounding towns and across the world.

Expectations

Although personal faith in Jesus is essential to being a Christian, the New Testament never leaves it there. In fact the New Testament teaching is nearly always directed to the people of God corporately. Christianity is not a “Do it on your own” faith. It is centred in the church. This can seem off putting to some people, but this is often because of a misunderstanding of the what church really is.

The church is not a building you go to, but a people you belong to: people who have been born again by the Holy Spirit and are committed to Jesus and to one another. It is not a club which you opt to join, but it is God’s family to which you are added by God himself.

Pastoral Care

We believe that the first line of pastoral care comes through the body – the New Testament uses the term ‘One another’ many times in relation to how the early church cared for and helped each other. Therefore, we encourage people to become as involved as possible in the life of the church, and particularly in a group where they can receive as well as groups where they give out.

When people want to become members we ask that they fill in the ‘getting to know you’ form at the end of this document. We believe that the church is built on relationships – with God and with each other. This form helps us begin the relationship with one another.

Our expectation of Church Members is that:

- they are followers of Jesus and as such they have repented of their sins and put their faith in his sacrificial death on the cross.
- they have chosen to identify themselves with him by being baptised as believers
- they are seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily
- they understand that their salvation is by God's grace and not by good works, although, in response to God's love, they are eager and willing to love , help, serve and support one another.
- they believe that the Bible is the Word of God and we accept it as our final authority.
- they recognise that God has given us leaders to lead and guide us and freely choose to receive their leadership and follow them.
- they should seek to be as actively involved in the life of the church as possible, on Sundays, midweek, and by being supportive and caring for one another on general. We understand that it is not always possible for everyone to be at every meeting, but we do expect everyone to be in contact with others in the church in some way and to let us know if there are reasons they cannot be around. One-anothering can only be effective if people are aware of one another’s needs. We want to encourage a culture where no one is afraid to ask for prayer or practical help. We believe that membership is not about ‘names on a list’ but is about relationship and involvement – without this it has no meaning.

APPENDIX 1 BELIEVERS BAPTISM

Who?

Repentant believers.

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Why?

i) Obedience

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

John 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.

ii) Identification

Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Romans 6: 1-4 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

How?

The Greek word means to "dip", "immerse", "submerge", or "plunge into a liquid"

Matthew 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water....

Acts 8:38 ... both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him.

When?

As soon as possible.

Acts 2:38-41 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:36-39 As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptised?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 16:31-33 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-- you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptised.

Testimony

Romans 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

APPENDIX 2 GIVING

Matthew 6:19-24

Jesus spoke a lot about money because (to quote C.J. Mahaney) “there is a direct relationship between a person’s spiritual development and their attitude to money and possessions.” And, “how we allocate and use our finances is a definitive statement about what we believe and what we are committed to.”

Mark 12:41-44

How much did the poor widow give? More or less than the others? How did Jesus view her gift?

Tithing

Malachi 3:6-10

In the Old Testament there was a system by which one of the twelve tribes of Israel were the priests who looked after the temple and the other eleven tribes each brought a tenth of their produce to support the priestly tribe. These were called “tithes” and were considered as given to God. Tithing is expressing dependence, gratitude and commitment to the purposes of God and should be given to the local church.

In Luke 11:42, Jesus affirms tithing. Also the New Testament teaches the principle of “sowing and reaping”. See 2 Corinthians 9:6-10. Reaping is dependant on “sowing”, not “wishing”! !

The tithe belongs to God. God wants the first fruits – not the last fruits.

Read 2 Corinthians 8 & 9.

Do you see giving as a privilege? 8:4

Do you see it as the will of God for us? 8:5

Do you excel in giving? 8:7

Is your giving a sign of the sincerity of your love? 8:8

Do you give willingly, according to your means? 8:12

Is your giving generous or grudging? 9:5

Are you a cheerful giver? 9:7

Malachi 3:10 is one of the only times we are ever told to test God.

Look at the blessings you can look forward to in 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

1 Timothy 6:17-19 gives guidelines for the rich.

Dartford Community Church is a registered charity (Charity No. 295022) and as such you can enhance your giving through the government’s Gift Aid schemes, which they have set up to help charities. All you need to do is sign a simple form and we can reclaim from the government, the income tax you have paid on the money you give.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you wish to become a member of Dartford Community Church, please help us get to know you better by filling in the form below:

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)

.....

Address.....

.....(Post Code)

Telephone Mobile

Email Date of birth

Family situation: (living with parents / living alone / married / children / etc.)

.....

Have you been a member of a Church previously?

If so, of which Church were you a member?

Did you leave in good relationship?

When and where did you:

i) become a Christian?

ii) get baptised as a believer by immersion in water?

iii) get baptised in the Holy Spirit?

Would you like to know more about giving to the Church by Gift Aid?*

(Please download and complete the Gift Aid form and give to one of the elders or the treasurer.)

To comply with the Data Protection Act, we need to confirm that you have no objection to us storing your name and address on computer in order to maintain the Church Address List and Small Group Lists.

I have no objection to / I do not want* my name and address being stored on computer for the above purpose (* delete as appropriate) !

Signed Date

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

We believe the Bible teaches that Jesus gave us the greatest example of what it means to be a servant (John 13 v1-17) and that he wants us to follow that example. We also believe that it is in serving that we are built up and become mature (Ephesians 4 v12-13). Therefore, we want to encourage you to get involved in the life of the Church and have listed below some possible opportunities. Please tick the one(s) you are interested in and return the form to us. Ticking does not commit you to doing that particular thing; rather, it is simply an expression of interest and we will speak with you further in due course.

SUNDAY - Kids and Youth*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MIDWEEK - Kids and Youth *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
0's-4's	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kids Club (Every Wednesday (term time) 5.45 -7.45pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>
5's-10s	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth 11-18's (Friday)	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Serving in any area of our Kids and Youth Work involves understanding, agreeing and signing our Child Protection Policy which in turn will involve applying for an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring check.			
SUNDAY – Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	CATERING TEAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Set-up Team (alternate months)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Functions	<input type="checkbox"/>
PA/Sound Team (Set Up and Operation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alpha Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Projector	<input type="checkbox"/>	Men's Breakfasts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preparing Communion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Women's Breakfasts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clear up Team	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEETING HALL	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cleaning Rota (every 6-8 weeks)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospitality Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance/repairs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stewarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Service Refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Office and Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
MUSIC GROUP	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>
Musicians/instruments **	<input type="checkbox"/>	We are involved in a range of activities in the local community, most of which involve joint projects with other Dartford Churches. Examples include Street Pastors. Foodbank, Winter Weather shelter and the Debt Centre (CAP).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Singers **	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
** Serving in our music group involves a regular commitment to band practices	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>



Bankers Standing Order

Bank.....
Address.....
.....
.....

Please pay to Dartford Community Church Account No. 80317586 held at Barclays Bank PLC, 24 Lowfield Street, Dartford (Sort Code 20-25-42) the sum of

£..... (..... pounds) on the day of 20.....
and every [month] [quarter] [year] on the same day until further notice.

THIS NOTICE SUPERSEDES ANY PREVIOUS ORDER IN FAVOUR OF DARTFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Name

Date

Account No

Sort Code

Address

.....

.....

Signature

Gift Aid declaration – for past, present & future donations

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Dartford Community Church - Charity number 295022

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home Address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.