

---

## Why become a member?

"If a church is a building, then we must be bricks in it; if the church is a body, then we are its members; if the church is the household of faith, then we are part of that household. Sheep are in a flock, and branches on a vine. Biblically, if we are Christians we must be members of a church. This membership is not simply the record of a statement we once made or of affection toward a familiar place. It must be a reflection of a living commitment or it is worthless." (Mark Dever)

We believe that these are some of the reasons for being a member of a local Church:

1. **To strengthen us in our Christian life** – it is not easy to be a lone Christian. We need to be encouraged by others, and to encourage them.
2. **To evangelise the world**, by what we do and say, and by helping others to do that.
3. **To build up the church**, as we share what we have with other members. That may include our time, our care and love and as we pray and study God's word together.
4. **To glorify God** as we live our lives to His praise and honour. Our light should shine so that, as Jesus taught us, others may see it and praise our Father in heaven.

---

## The privileges of membership

As a member of Christ's Church God gives me opportunity of belonging to a local Church, which in turn gives me the privilege of:

1. **Worshipping regularly with other Christians** – sharing in the highest activity of which my human nature is capable.
2. **Praying continually** – praying with others, sharing my problems, helping and being helped.
3. **Hearing my witness** – overcoming my "nerves" I am ready to speak up for my Lord in whatever company I am in and that word must be matched by an honest, pure and unselfish, dependable life. I must watch how I speak and take a smile with me. This is the life!
4. **Empowering my Church** – A church strong in prayer is a strong church. It can be hard praying together with other Christians but such a help and a joy to grow and glow in a regular prayer group meeting.
5. **Governing my Church**. Under God I am privileged to help in deciding and discovering what God would have his Church be and do.
6. **Being part of a large family**. As a member of a Church family I can be encouraged in my Christian walk and witness by the other members just as I can encourage them. I need to recognize that what I do and say, and the part I play in the life of the Church, will have an effect for better or worse on others.
7. **Serving** – as a Christian I have been given a spiritual 'gift-mixture' to discover, develop and use in Jesus' ministry of care for the church and for those outside the church. I am saved to serve.
8. **Trusting Him** – and NOT my feelings. My job is 'NOT' to do what I feel like doing but what I know I 'OUGHT' to do. Everyone goes through depressing times, so will I. I will also go through doubt and sorrow and get my feelings hurt and be offended but I do NOT trust my FEELINGS. I trust the LORD JESUS CHRIST and his promises. I will also find help from having fellowship with His people.

It is because I am not a good enough Christian that I need these privileges of belonging to Jesus Christ and His Church.

---

---

## The responsibilities of membership

Along with privileges go responsibilities. Accepting these demonstrates that I am serious about my commitment to the Church, and is my proper response to God's calling of me. These responsibilities include:

1. **Attending services regularly.** We are taught not to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb.10.25). We should attend often. The word service implies helping each other, including any visitors.
2. **Attending communion** or the breaking of bread. Doing so demonstrates obedience to the command of Jesus to remember Him as He taught.
3. **Always attending church business meetings,** to so be able to take part in the decisions made by the church
4. **Praying regularly,** alone, in a small prayer group, or at the regular church prayer meetings. Members of a Church need to pray for each other.
5. **Reading my bible daily** – this is my daily food and I need it. If I find some of it hard to understand I can get help from bible notes and bible studies. I cannot grow without this; it is the bread of life.
6. **Giving regularly,** as scripture teaches, in support of the church, the Lord's work and those working for Him at home and on the wider mission field.

---

## Whose Church is it?

We believe that it is important for Christians to be a member of a local Church. We believe that as Christians God has chosen to make us part of His great family.

Jesus Christ came to earth and died for us, and now lives in heaven, one day to come again and take us to be with Him forever. Having accepted Him as Saviour and Lord we each belong to God's family – the Church of Jesus Christ.

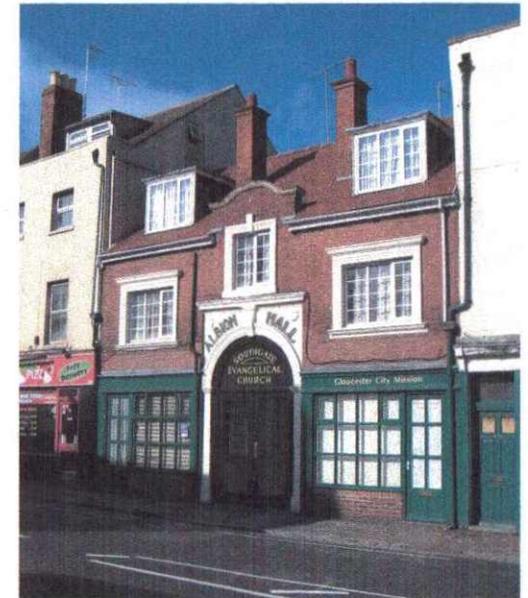
As members of that church we are not alone – there are millions like us worldwide. It is through people like us that Christ continues his work by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A local Church is simply a part of Christ's Church at work in the local community.



---

## Southgate Evangelical Church



Church membership

---