

## Our ethos

We are a group of ordinary people on a journey **exploring**, **experiencing** and **expressing** the heart of God.

### **The Great Commandment:**

Jesus replied: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment and the second is like it. Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

Matthew 22:37-39

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### **The Great Commission:**

Jesus said, *“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.”*

Matthew 28:19-20

## What we believe and seek to practice

- **New life in Christ**

**Conviction + repentance + faith in our Lord Jesus Christ = conversion**

A Christian is someone who understands and accepts what Jesus did for them on the cross.

John 3:7 Acts 2:38-39

*We are born into a relationship not a religion*

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- **The Sovereignty of Christ**

We recognise the sovereignty of Christ and we acknowledge Him as our unseen leader.

*And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the Church....* Colossians 1:18

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- **Love**

We seek to obey the Great Commandment. Matthew 22:37-39

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- **The Bible**

We believe the Bible to be the divinely inspired and historically reliable Word of God and we therefore accept the Bible as our manual for living. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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- **Prayer and worship**

Prayer and worship as a way of life. Colossians 4:2 John 4:24

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- **Communion**

We regularly seek to share the bread and wine together to remember and celebrate what Christ did for us.

1 Corinthians 11:23

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- **Baptism**

We practice believers' baptism by immersion – the way Jesus was baptised and the way the Bible demonstrates.

Matthew 3:16 Matthew 28:19

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- **The Holy Spirit**

We acknowledge our complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit to transform us and to empower us for witness and works of service. Acts 1:8 Ephesians 5:18

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- **Sharing the Good News**

We seek to fulfil the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20

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## Our statement of faith

- One eternal, unchanging God; creator and sustainer of all things; supreme in power; infinite in wisdom; perfect in holiness, righteousness and justice; showing abundant love, grace, compassion and faithfulness towards mankind and yet bound by his justice to punish sin; ready to forgive all who believe in, and receive, the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and make them his sons and daughters. Although one, God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:26; Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Job 33:4; Psalm 100:3; John 1:12; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:3-5

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- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, truly divine who became man, lived a sinless life, died upon the cross for our sins, was buried, rose again on the third day, ascended to the right hand of God, and will come again in power and glory to judge the living and the dead and to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

John 1:1 and 14; Hebrews 1:3; Romans 1:3; Philippians 2: 6-7; John 19 and 20; Acts 2 :31-32; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28.

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- The Holy Spirit, our Counsellor, Guide and Teacher, given by the Father and Son to all who believe. He brings conviction of sin, produces new life in Christ, and indwells every believer as the guarantee of our eternal salvation. He enables us to live lives that are pleasing to God; producing the fruit of the Spirit, empowering for witness and distributing a variety of gifts for the good of the church.

John 14:16-17, 26; John 15:26; John 16:13-14; John 16:8-11; John 3:5-8; Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14, Galatians 5:22-23; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-13

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- The dignity of all people as created in the image of God; the fall of man and the universality of sin, death and judgement.

Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-24; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27

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- The forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life only through repentance and faith in the atoning work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 53; John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 3:19; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 2:8-9

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- Baptism and Communion as visible signs given by our Lord Jesus Christ to be observed by his people in obedience to his command.

Believers' baptism by immersion is a symbol of personal identification with our Lord Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

The bread and wine are to be taken as an expression of our covenant relationship with God and in memory of Christ's sacrificial death for us on the cross and in recognition that in him we are all members of one body.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 8:35-38; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26; I Corinthians 10:16-17

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- The obligation of every believer by God's help to live a life of faith, integrity, love, and Christian witness in accordance with the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:13-16 and 38-48; 22:37-40; 28:19-20; John 15:1-8; Romans 14:13 & 21; I Peter 3-15.

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- The divine inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written Word of God, the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Luke 24: 44-46; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

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- The Church as the Body of Christ being locally a family of believers called out from the world, supporting each other in love and called to worship God, make disciples, build one another up in faith and express God's love in our community and the wider world.

Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 12:12-27; I Peter 2:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:14; Colossians 4:5; Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 1:8.

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