



APPLICATION FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted that you are considering applying for membership. Please complete the first four pages of the following and return to the church office, along with a photograph of yourself. We will then arrange for an interview.

Yours warmly in Christ
John Samuel

TITLE and SURNAME Mr / Mrs / Miss / etc.

CHRISTIAN NAME(S)DATE OF BIRTH
.....

ADDRESS

POSTCODE EMAIL ADDRESS
.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Home) TELEPHONE NUMBER (Mobile)
.....

Which of the following do you wish to include in the Church Membership Directory?

Address Home Number Mobile Number Email Address

From time to time we would like to contact you with prayer points, news and information.

If you do not want to receive any emails then please tick this box

If you do not want to receive any text messages then please tick this box

It would also be helpful if you could provide the following details:

Have you been baptised as: An infant A Believer

When & where were you baptised?

Or are you enquiring about baptism now? (We usually have four classes) Yes No

Are you a member of a church at present? Yes No

If yes, please give name of church and details of contact person there.

Would you like to be linked to a Fellowship Group? Yes No

If already going to one please say which one:

How have you served the Lord Jesus previously? If you have been involved in another church, what did you do in Christian service there?

What do you find particularly helpful about the church and ministry at Duke Street?
Is there something you miss in the church here?

Please share with us a brief summary of your Christian journey:

We encourage all members to serve in the church. Below is a list of possible areas of service. Please tick those that you are interested in.

PASTORAL/CARE TEAM

- visiting sick and elderly etc.*
- spiritual parent to new Christians*
- general pastoral caring*

HOSPITALITY - using your home for

- Youth ministry*
- Hosting a home fellowship group*
- Sunday hospitality generally*
- Hospitality for older members*

EVANGELISM

- Door-to-Door Visitation*
- Help lead a Christianity Explored Group*
- Nurture Groups for new Christians*
- Open Air/Street work*
- Distribute literature in district*
- Other means? e.g.*

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE help with

- Crèche (under 2s)*
- Scramblers (2s)*
- Climbers (3-4s)*
- Rock Solid – Gems (yrs. R-1)*
- Rock Solid – Pebbles (yr. 2)*
- Rock Solid – Stepping Stones (yrs. 3-4)*
- Boulder Gang (yrs. 5-6)*
- DSY (Duke Street Youth) (yrs. 7-9)*
- Catalyst (yrs. 10-13)*

ADMINISTRATION

- General office admin – e.g. helping print the weekly newsheet*
- Computer skills*
- Desktop Publishing skills*
- Web design*
- Publicity or Graphic Design*

Experience in Finance

CATERING

- Serving tea etc. after Services etc.
- Help in preparing Church meals
- Cook at home for Church events
- Senior citizens daytime events

MUSIC

- Playing in the band during the Sunday services - Which instrument(s) do you play.....
- Interested in singing in a band?
- Interested in singing in a choir?
- Are you a soloist?

PRACTICAL

- Carpentry, plumbing etc.
 - Electrical work
 - Painting/Decorating
 - Gardening
 - Driving - offer lifts to elderly etc.
 - Producing Visual Aids etc.
 - Flower Arranging
 - Photography
 - PA/sound desk operation on Sundays
 - Projection of songs on Sundays
 - Editing & uploading of sermons to website or livestreaming
 - Any extra cleaning of church premises
 - Sewing etc.
 - Crèche
 - Baby sitting
- Any other practical skills not mentioned – please specify:

Other ministry suggestions of ways you could serve:

- Network (20s and 30s)
- Globalworks (support of church missionaries and promotion of mission in the church)
- Manna House (food and friendship for the homeless on Tuesday evenings)/Social Concern Lunches
- Women's groups: Mum's the Word/MOPS/Ladies Bible Studies
- Men's ministries: e.g. Men's Breakfasts
- Family/kids ministries:
 - Little Laughs – helping with our Wednesday outreach to young mums/dads/minders
 - Summer Holiday Bible Club (2-11s for a week in August)

Is there something we have missed?

What are your special enjoyments, hobbies etc.?

Would you be interested in training in the following?

- Teaching Children & Young People
- Small Group Leadership
- Preaching and Teaching
- Marriage and Family life
- Evangelism and Witnessing
- Any other suggestions.

Are there particular Biblical themes, books, subjects etc. you would appreciate being included in our Preaching and Teaching programme?

FORMAL MEMBERSHIP PROMISES

You must believe the Gospel:

- 1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope except through His sovereign mercy?
- 2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Saviour of sinners, and do you receive and rest on Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel?

You must seek to grow in the likeness of Christ, not through self-effort, but through constant repentance and reliance on the Holy Spirit:

- 3. Do you resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will seek to live in a manner consistent with being a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, both in private and in public?

You must agree with the doctrine of the church as expressed in our doctrinal basis:

- 4. Do you wholeheartedly agree with the Basis of Faith of Duke Street Church and Covenant of Membership, and have you considered the doctrinal distinctives and disclosed any reservations?

You must be regular in involvement in the life and ministry of the congregation:

- 5. Do you promise to support the church to the best of your ability and to serve in the church using the gifts God has given you?
- 6. Do you resolve to be faithful and regular in weekly attendance on Sundays, fortnightly prayer gatherings, and in a small group?

You hold yourself accountable to the leadership and one another to live up to the above promises as you seek to be a Biblical peacemaker in your relationships:

- 7. Do you submit to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to strive for its peace and purity? Do you accept that we only baptise believers?

I confirm my positive response to all the above promises:

SIGNATURE..... DATE.....

Please return this completed form, along with a photograph of yourself, to:
Duke Street Church, Duke Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1DH

For Office Use:

Interviewed by:

Accepted at Meeting:

Roll Number.....

Welcomed in:

THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS (DOCTRINAL BASIS)

We believe in:

Duke Street Church is committed to these truths of historic, biblical Christianity as our Doctrinal Basis.

1. God

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is perfect and unchangeable in his holiness, justice, goodness, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator; Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

2. The Bible

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

3. The Human Race

The human race is created male and female in the image of God. Thus all people have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their great purpose is to worship, love and obey God. Marriage is a creation decree, being the union of one man and one woman, intended for life. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore by nature under the just condemnation and wrath of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

4. The Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. He is the only mediator between God and mankind. On the cross he satisfied God's justice by dying in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood and defeating the devil. He rose bodily from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted and reigns as Lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

5. Salvation

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, credited with Christ's righteousness, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life; resulting in works that please God, all to the glory of God alone

6. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ despite sin's continuing presence. He builds up the Church, and renews and empowers its members in holiness, repentance, faith, love, hope, wisdom, worship, service and mission.

7. The Church

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. Its mission is to make disciples from all nations. Its mark is mutual, loving, care and concern. Its members are all priests, called to serve God with the gifts he has given them, with equal standing before God and equal access to the Father through the Son by the Spirit. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of baptised believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of baptism and the Lord's Supper; for pastoral care and discipline, for the preservation of sound teaching, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ

is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care, correction and encouragement in accordance with the Scriptures. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel of salvation by grace alone.

8. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the churches by Christ as visible signs of the gospel. Baptism is a symbol of union with Christ in his death and resurrection, of the washing away of sins and of entry into his Church, but does not impart spiritual life. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice offered once for all and involves no change in the bread and wine. All its blessings are received by faith.

9. The Future

The Lord Jesus Christ will return to this earth personally, visibly, suddenly and gloriously. He will raise the dead bodily and judge the world in perfect justice and righteousness. The unbeliever will be sent to eternal punishment and the believer will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new, creating a new heavens and a new earth, and will be glorified forever.

Doctrinal Distinctives

These are important issues, but ones that the church recognises are secondary. We do, however, require that members be respectful of the position that the church holds. If you have any reservations about any of these, please make them known.

1. Sufficiency of Scripture

The Bible contains all we need in order to know God and the way of salvation. We need no further 'inspired verbal revelation' (2 Timothy 3:15-17; Psalms 19:7-11).

So we need to listen to God speaking to us through the Scripture read, preached, prayed and sung. We are committed to systematic, consecutive, expository preaching of Scripture as our staple diet (2 Timothy 3:15 - 4:5).

2. Baptism

Baptism is for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and is both an act of personal obedience and a sign of personal identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection, and also a sign of the washing away of sins. However, we welcome into membership any believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who subscribes to the Basis of Faith but who on grounds of conscience has not been baptised as a believer, provided that they satisfy the Elders that they have given serious and prayerful consideration to the Biblical basis for believers' baptism, and are unreservedly supportive of believers' baptism as the practice of the church.

So we offer baptism, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, to all who publicly profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but only to such people. We normally baptise by immersion in water.

3. Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a rich commemoration and celebration in which Christian believers share bread and wine. The bread and wine are symbols which represent the body and blood of Christ, taken as a reminder of his death for his people and what it accomplished. The Lord Jesus Christ is spiritually present at a celebration of the Lord's Supper, as indeed he is at all gatherings of the local church.

So we will celebrate the Lord's Supper on a regular basis and offer it both to members of the church and to other believers in attendance. We expect participants to have expressed their faith in baptism (according to the conventions of this or another church).

4. Election & the Sovereignty of God –

God is sovereign in the salvation of men and women. For anyone to come to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance and faith requires God to choose them and draw them to himself. Knowing this truth leads to humility and assurance of salvation among believers. It does not imply that believers should be inactive in evangelism. Far from it – proclaiming the gospel is the means by which God's chosen ones are brought to salvation.

So while we look to God to bring new life by his Spirit, we are committed to seeking and taking every opportunity to share the gospel with others, in obedience to the commission of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Leadership in the Local Church

The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church. A local church is to be led by a group of elders. Further, although God created men and women with equal worth and richly equips both men and women for active ministry, leadership in the context of the church (as in marriage and the family) is the functional responsibility of suitably qualified men (the qualifications are listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1). Such men are to operate as under-shepherds of Christ, loving and serving the members of the church and striving for personal godliness.

So eldership in the church is male and plural. Elders are qualified by character and gifting, and undertake their role in appropriate humility and love. Members of the church agree to submit to their leadership in the church in so far as that leadership is exercised in a manner consistent with the Bible.

6. The Mission of the Church and the Kingdom of God

We believe that the mission of the church is to make disciples from all nations. The church bears witness to the Kingship of the Lord Jesus, proclaiming the forgiveness of sins available through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The primary purpose of the church is to rescue individuals from the kingdom of Satan and transfer them to the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ through the message of the gospel. Individual Christians are encouraged to serve in whatever context they think right before God, but the church as church is not concerned primarily to change the social, economic or political order of the present world, or to solve the problems of poverty, sickness, social inequality and race relationships in the world. God will do all this when his Kingdom comes in its fullness at the return of Jesus the King in power and glory.

So in our ministries we focus as a church on our mission to make disciples.

7. Marriage and Divorce

Marriage is a God-given blessing whereby a man and a woman may enjoy lifelong union, intimacy and mutual support picturing the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and His church. Divorce is a departure from God's purpose in marriage and is permitted explicitly only in the case of adultery (Matthew 19:9) or of desertion by an unbelieving partner (1 Corinthians 7:15) – and even in these cases, only as a last resort where there is no repentance and reconciliation proves impossible.

So we celebrate marriage and endeavour to assist couples as they prepare for and live out godly marriages. Where divorce or remarriage is being considered by a church partner, we will seek to understand the individual circumstances to determine if it is biblically permissible and counsel those involved accordingly.

Duke Street Church Covenant of Membership

This covenant is a summary of how we, the members of Duke Street Church, promise to live together as a church family, following the practice of Christian believers throughout the centuries who have pledged to God and one another to live out the gospel in community.

Our mission as Duke Street Church is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ from all nations in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Having been brought by God's Spirit to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give our whole lives in service to Him, and having been baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and in complete dependence upon Him, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other:

- We will make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit and the peace and purity of the church.
- We will be devoted to one another in love. With humility and gentleness we will patiently bear with each other, forgiving, encouraging and building one another up; exercising due care and watchfulness over each other; faithfully admonishing one another, remembering one another in prayer, helping one another in times of sickness and distress, being slow to take offence and quick to seek reconciliation.
- We will serve in the church according to its needs and our gifting.
- We commit to being faithful and regular in meeting together for weekly corporate worship and for the Lord's Supper, and whenever possible to be at prayer gatherings.
- We accept our responsibility for the government of the church through attendance at members' meetings; we will submit to the government and discipline of the church; and, if we leave the church, we will unite ourselves with a like-minded church.
- We will work together for the continuance of a faithful Bible-based and Christ-centred gospel ministry in the church by upholding its basis of faith and doctrinal distinctives and through supporting the preaching of the Word of God.
- We will contribute cheerfully, generously and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor within the church family, and the spread of the gospel to the nations.
- We will seek to bring up those in our care in the training and instruction of the Lord and to fulfil our family responsibilities in submission to Christ, prayerfully seeking the salvation of our family.
- We will seek to witness to the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed as part of the church's evangelisation of the world.
- We will live in private and in public in a manner consistent with the message we speak, saying yes to godliness and no to ungodliness, while we wait for the glorious return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.