



Explore Membership

From part of the crowd to part
of the family

Exploring Membership

We're so glad that you're exploring membership of King's. God calls every Christian to be a committed member of a local church and we'd love for you to work that out with us. In this handbook you'll get a bit more of a flavour of what church membership at King's means.

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Where you see the magnifying glass, there is space for you to write down your thoughts and questions. There is time to chat about these during the course or when you meet with one of the elders to discuss membership.



Why Membership?

What do you think about church?

When we think about what God has done for us, how many of us focus on the things that have happened to us personally?

- God has adopted me as His child.
- Jesus has rescued me through His life, death, and resurrection.
- The Holy Spirit has been given to me.
- I am a new creation.
- I am a follower of Jesus.
- I have been given gifts and a calling.

All these things are gloriously true but our tendency to think mostly about ourselves can cause us to miss what the Bible tells us about our relationship to the rest of God's people. This can make our commitment to the church less strong than it should be.

The Bible is emphatic that when God saves someone, He brings them into a shared identity, a community. This isn't a pragmatic way to impact as many people as possible, it is a reflection of who God is: Father, Son, Spirit, who has existed forever in perfect unity (1). We see this all the way through the Bible...

Old Testament

When God began His story of salvation, He called a family to be His chosen possession, and they became a nation (2).

Jesus

Jesus spoke and ministered to individuals and to crowds but we see in the gospels that He focused His teaching and training on a group of disciples. There were His closest twelve (3) and a company of committed followers that numbered about 120 when He died (4).

The early church

The first apostles obeyed Jesus's command to make more disciples by starting communities all over the world (5). There are frequent references to how many people had joined them and descriptions of their commitment to each other (6).

The word used for a community of believers in the New Testament is "ekklesia". This means an assembly or gathering of people called out to be together. The images used in the New Testament increase our understanding of this:

- Christians are children in God's family, relating closely to each other as well as to Him (7).
- We are stones built together to form God's temple, the place on earth where He dwells (8).
- We are parts in Christ's body, needing one another to function well for us all to be healthy (9).

Forever

At the fulfilment of all things, those whom God has saved are described as "a great multitude" and "a holy city" (10). They are unified in Christ.

All of this means that truly belonging to other believers cannot be considered optional for a follower of Jesus. It may be challenging to those of us who are used to an individualistic culture, or if we've been hurt by bad experiences of church life. Nevertheless, God has clearly called us to live as His people in a local church.

What local church membership means at King's

At King's, we work out these principle by having a defined church membership. These are people who have agreed that they are:

- Committed to the other people in King's with Christian love. We gather together at Sunday services and in midweek groups, as well as other times and in other ways. We help each other grow as disciples and walk through life together, using the various ways God gives us to do this.
- Welcoming the spiritual authority of the elders to lead the church and speak into their life, directly or through delegated leadership such as a small group leader.
- On-board with what is happening at King's: our beliefs and values, our priorities and plans.

This is expressed practically through you having been baptised as a believer, attending Sunday services and a small group, serving and giving according to your ability and opportunity.

A people who do these things will demonstrate who God is and what He is doing, help each other, and bless the world.

Scripture references

- 1** Ephesians 1:9-10
- 2** Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19:6
- 3** Matthew 10:1-4
- 4** Acts 1:15
- 5** e.g. Acts 14:23
- 6** Acts 2:41-47, 4:32-35, 5:12-15, 6:1-7, 15:30
- 7** John 1:12, 1 Timothy 3:15, 5:1-2
- 8** 1 Corinthians 3:16, note that when Paul says "you" it's plural, not individual
- 9** Romans 12:5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14
- 10** Revelation 7:9, 21:2-3



Your Story

At the first session of the Explore Membership course, we invite everyone to tell the story of how they gave their life to Jesus, and how they came to King's and decided to stay.



Please use this space to write down some highlights of your story...

Our Story

Early Days

In 2002, a team from City Church Newcastle, led by Matthew and Ann Clifton-Brown, moved to Edinburgh to plant a Newfrontiers church in Scotland's capital. We started meetings in homes, then as more people joined we gathered for Sunday services in public venues.

We continued to grow and in 2011 God brought our attention to an old Church of Scotland building on Gilmore Place that was for sale. We made an offer that wasn't the highest bid, (there were developers who were prepared to pay a lot more to turn the building into flats) but we told the old church's committee that we would continue to use the building to preach the gospel. We prayed a lot too! Wonderfully, they accepted our bid and passed on the use of this building to us with lots of encouragement.

Edinburgh and everywhere

Since we began, King's has looked beyond the local. God spoke to us very early on about having an impact on our region, our nation, and the nations.

The church building has been our base since we bought it but our intention has always been to bless and reach the whole city. Small groups have started all over Edinburgh throughout the time we've been here, and we continue to pray and plan for more of them in more neighbourhoods.

Church planting is in our DNA and people have moved from King's to join church plants elsewhere. In 2017 a team of people from King's planted King's Church West Lothian. They are now established as an autonomous church making a big difference to their local community. This was our first church plant but we believe it will not be the last.

Over the years, God has done many wonderful things at King's. People have given their lives to Jesus and been baptised. The Holy Spirit has transformed lives, giving gifts and callings and confidence in God's love. There have been revelations of grace, the importance of the church, the truth of God's Word. Friendships, small groups, marriages, healings, ministries, babies and much more have flowed out of the life God has given us. Some of these people are still part of King's, others have moved on across the nation and around the world. Although we are a young church, some have left us to be with Jesus in glory.

Eldership

King's has always been led by a team of elders. Dan Hudson was one of the founding members of King's and has been an elder since 2006; in 2018 he took on the leadership of the elders from Matthew. Since September 2021 the other elders are Luke Davydaitis (appointed in 2012) and Chris Rawson (appointed in 2018).



Our "Why?"

This is the phrase describes why King's exists:

**To experience Jesus in community
and demonstrate His love to Edinburgh and everywhere.**



What do you find exciting or interesting about this statement? Is there anything you're not sure about?



*Part 2: Experiencing Jesus
in Community*

Jesus Our Saviour

We believe all that the Bible says about Jesus being the very image of God, God with God in the beginning, the Creator and Sustainer of all things (1). This would be reason enough to praise Him forever but He has done far more than this:

- He lived the perfect life we couldn't live.
- He died a sacrificial, substitutionary death on our behalf.
- He was raised to new eternal life, triumphing over the powers of Sin and Death.
- He has ascended to heaven, making the way for all who follow Him.
- He is reigning there now and preparing to return.

Every church must believe these things but not all churches respond to them in the same way. Here are some of our responses...

Excitement

We believe that the gospel is “good news of great joy” (2). When we sing our worship to Him on Sundays, the tone is almost always upbeat (3). This isn't because we think everything is great, or that we're blind to suffering in our own lives or those of others, but we want to accentuate the wonder of being saved and the reality of history being the story with a happy ending for all God's people.

Relief

Knowing that we are saved because of what Jesus has done, not our own efforts, is a huge relief (4). We're not trying to perform to win His approval, He's already given it to us in Christ. We don't need to compete with each other to ease our insecurities, we are seen as perfect in His eyes. We're not going to take ourselves too seriously (including those who are leaders) because this really isn't about us, it's all about Him.

Expectant

Jesus has risen from the dead and promised to build His Church, so we are expectant. We believe that God is doing great things even in difficult days. We have an outward focus, we start new things, we pray, we hope (5).

Scripture References

- 1** John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-23, Hebrews 1:3-4
- 2** Luke 2:10
- 3** Psalm 45:7, Galatians 5:22, Philippians 4:4
- 4** Ephesians 2:8-9
- 5** Romans 8:32, Matthew 16:18, John 14:12

Jesus Our Lord

Christians are disciples: students who learn from a Teacher, servants who belong to a Master (1). We are not our own, for we were bought with a price (2). Obedience to Jesus is non-negotiable (3) and He tells us what to do through His Word, His Spirit, and His church.

His Word

We believe that the Bible is God's timeless word to all people with supreme authority for us (4). Believing this doesn't make understanding and applying it simple or easy but we are determined to do these things, even when they bring us into conflict with our own desires and the way of the world around us.

The statements of faith in Appendix 1 give a summary of some of these key beliefs. Other convictions we hold include:

- God is the Creator of all things (5), and as such He has the right to hold us to account for how we use the life He has given us (6).
- Jesus is the only way to know God and be saved (7). There is place of eternal joy for those who believe in Him, and punishment for those who do not (8).
- Baptism is for believers in Jesus, not babies (see Appendix 2 for more on this).
- God made us male or female and we all have the same value in His eyes. The differences which exist between men and women should be honoured and celebrated (9).
- Marriage is a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman, and sex is reserved for this relationship (10).
- Life begins in the womb (11).
- Following Jesus requires self-sacrifice, humility, justice, faith, and love (12).
- All sin is deadly serious (13).
- The local church is the primary way in which God is expanding His Kingdom around the world, and belonging to it and serving in it should be a priority for all believers (14).

His Spirit

Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit (15) and promised that we can too (16). We want people to experience the powerful baptism/filling of the Holy Spirit that we see described in the New Testament (17), and we want them to receive and use the supernatural gifts He gives (18).

We expect those gifts of the Spirit to be demonstrated in our Sunday meetings and small groups, and also in the everyday life of our members all over the city. He is able to do far more in us and through us than we could ask or imagine!

Similarly, while some Christians try to live a good life by the own efforts, the New Testament is emphatic that it is only by receiving and co-operating with the Holy Spirit in us do we have any hope of truly changing, becoming more like Jesus, and faithfully following Him (19).

His Church

We'll describe in other sections how the whole church is to be involved in caring for one another and ministering to each other. In terms of how Jesus leads His people through His church, there is a role of elder which is entrusted to certain men only. (See our document, "Defining Leadership at King's" for a full explanation of this.)

We summarise the role of elders with 5 D's:

- Display: living lives which show the truth of the gospel to the members of the church and the watching world (20).
- Direction: praying and seeking God for where He is wanting to take the church (including input from others), make plans to achieve this, and ensure that it is happening (21).
- Definition of the truth of God as revealed in His Word (22).
- Discipline: protecting the church and its individual members from sin (23).
- Delegation: creating opportunities for everyone to serve (24).

As with all leadership, eldership should be defined by humble service (25) and genuine relationships with the members of the church (26).

Scripture references

- 1** John 13:13, Luke 12:37-38
- 2** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 3** Matthew 7:21
- 4** 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 4:4, 24:35
- 5** Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 42:5, John 1:1-3
- 6** Acts 17:31, 2 Timothy 4:1, Revelation 20:11-15
- 7** John 14:6, Acts 4:12
- 8** Matthew 25:31-46
- 9** Genesis 1:26-27
- 10** Matthew 19:4-6, Hebrews 13:4
- 11** Psalm 139:13
- 12** e.g. Micah 6:8, Matthew 10:38, 1 Corinthians 13, Galatians 5:22-23
- 13** Matthew 5:29-30, Galatians 5:19-21
- 14** Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 3:10
- 15** Luke 4:14-21
- 16** Acts 1:8
- 17** Acts 2:4
- 18** 1 Corinthians 12
- 19** Romans 8:2-11, Galatians 5:16-23
- 20** e.g. Hebrews 13:7
- 21** e.g. 1 Timothy 5:17
- 22** e.g. Acts 15
- 23** e.g. 1 Corinthians 5
- 24** e.g. Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- 25** Luke 22:24-27, John 13:12-15
- 26** John 15:15, 2 Corinthians 2:4



Are there any topics (including the ones mentioned above) that you would like more clarity on what King's believes about them?

Jesus Our Head

The New Testament tells us that individual believers are part of a corporate identity, the church. Jesus is the head of the church (1) and we don't only relate to Him directly but through each other (2). For the body to function effectively, its parts must know that they are needed and act accordingly. We'll see a lot more of how this happens in the later sections of this booklet.

Diversity

We want to be a community which demonstrates the multi-coloured, multifaceted wisdom of God (3). The church is where people from different backgrounds and nations, with different personalities and preferences, are brought together by Jesus. Sunday services and small groups should help make this happen but the aim is ultimately that those aren't just events to attend but places of connection and life have an impact throughout the week and beyond.

One-anothering

There are 59 instances in the New Testament when God's people are commanded to do something to "one another": love, live in harmony, instruct, greet, serve, help, forgive, teach, bear with, encourage... We are called to give and receive these things.

This can be delightful when someone brings you a meal at a difficult time or has a prophetic word for you; it can be really hard when you don't naturally get on with someone but they're in the same small group as you, or when someone in the church hurts you. Paul's letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians and Philemon all address division and difficulty between people: his solution is never that everyone goes their own way but that they learn to love each other.

When things go wrong

Dealing with hurtful behaviour, whether it is impacting the person doing it or others around them, is as important as it is challenging. God has called us to help each other's development in Christ (4), which means honest conversations are an essential part of our relationships.

Jesus teaches us how this should work in Matthew 18:15-17:

- It starts with a one-to-one conversation in person, giving both people opportunity to explain their viewpoint, and apologise or correct a misunderstanding if necessary. If the issue is small, this should be as low-key as possible.
- If that conversation doesn't bring resolution, someone else should be invited to get involved, preferably who is trusted by both parties, such as a small group leader. They need to be given all the information and share their perspective on the situation and what should be done about it.
- Very rarely do we get to stage where we need to get elders involved because of a complete unwillingness to admit fault and remain in sin after the first two parts of the process have been worked through.

In this rare situation, we may ask someone to step back from membership and withhold from certain areas of church life for a season. The purpose of this is to help the person regain good perspective (5) and hopefully gain fresh understanding of God's grace and the blessings of church family.

Scripture references

- 1 Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 1:18
- 2 1 Corinthians 12:12
- 3 Ephesians 3:10
- 4 Hebrews 10:24-25
- 5 Luke 15:17



How does understanding your Christian identity as part of a body shape your approach to church life?

Small Groups

Church is the family of God

The New Testament makes it clear that the church is the family of God. (1). Members of the church are therefore to work at establishing close family relationships with one another. The primary setting where these relationships can be developed at King's is in your midweek small group, so being a committed member of a small group is an important part of what it means to be a member at King's.

Many of us will go through seasons of life where it is difficult to attend regularly due to shift work patterns, taking care of young children, or looking after elderly relatives. As small groups aren't simply a weekly meeting, we'd encourage everyone in King's to play as full a part in the life of their small group as possible, even when they aren't able to attend.

The challenges of family

Being part of a small group is not always easy and Jesus uses this to make us more soft-hearted and humble. You may find yourself in a small group with some people you wouldn't naturally get on with or choose to spend time with! This is a beautiful aspect of church life, but it will involve learning to bear with others (2). and possibly even forgiving and working through hurt in the way the Jesus instructs us to (as just mentioned above).

The blessings of family

Small groups form the backbone of our community at King's. They are places for mutual encouragement and challenge. Small groups are often able to rally around members who need practical support or prayer.

As well as being a place where you can develop relationships with others, your small group should also be a place where you can grow in your knowledge of Jesus and what it means to follow Him. It should be a place of trust where people feel comfortable to ask honest questions and raise difficult issues. This can only happen when the relationships within a group are authentic and open.

Of course, none of this means you can never change your small group! Changes in your life circumstances will sometimes make that necessary. You can always talk to your small group leader about this.

Using your gifts

Small group should also be a place where you can discover and grow in your God-given gifts with the input of others (3). Similarly, small groups also offer opportunities to grow in leadership. This might look like volunteering to lead a discussion, a social or a meal. It might even look like learning to lead a small group yourself. If you're interested in leading a group now or in the future, please speak to your small group leader.

At King's, we have a course called POD for Small Group Leading that aims to help you explore what biblical leadership looks like in a small group setting. Your small group leader will be able to advise you as to whether this might be a helpful course for you to do.

Get involved

We currently have small groups that meet in different areas of the city on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. We encourage university students to join a small group as part of being fully involved in the life of the church. There are separate student events where they can focus on building community among their peers.

Small groups at King's are arranged into small group hubs (3-4 groups per hub), each with a couple of leaders who support the small group leaders in their hub. Chris Rawson oversees small group hubs on behalf of the elders.

To get involved in a small group contact Chris Rawson:
chris@kingschurchedinburgh.org

Scripture references

- 1** John 1:12, 1 Timothy 3:15, 5:1-2
- 2** Ephesians 4:2
- 3** Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28





How has being part of a small group at King's blessed you? Have there been any challenges or difficulties?

Growing As A Disciple

There are many ways in which God grows us to become more like Jesus through the Church. We have two programmes that focus on making this happen.

Path of Disciples

Path of Disciples is fun and practical way to discover what it means to have Jesus as a firm foundation for life, to walk with God and to serve Him.

We frequently start groups for three or four people to do POD together. The groups are flexible and can meet at any time and any place that suits the participants. Each session follows a similar format of discussing questions and looking at what the Bible tells us.

Path of Disciples has three parts, each with four sessions which build on what has gone before:

- Part 1 explains the good news of Jesus, how to know Him and have a firm foundation for life.
- Part 2 is about how to walk with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as well as with each other in the church.
- Part 3 looks at how to serve God the Father, with the love of Jesus, and in reliance on the Holy Spirit.

POD is designed to reproduce easily, so people who have done the courses can lead others in doing the same.

Go to our website for more information and to get in touch:
www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/whats-on/path-of-disciples/

Or contact Guy & Jocelyn Pembroke: pod@kingschurchedinburgh.org

Running Partners

Running Partners is designed to help Christians run the race of life alongside others.

Running Partners meet for an hour or so every few weeks to intentionally encourage, spur on and pray for one another. The aim is that through mutual openness, support, gentle challenge, and prayer, each of us might become more and more like Jesus so we might be better equipped to serve our families, our workplaces, our church, and our community.

Groups of three tend to work best. There is no 'leader' in a Running Partnership because it's about mutual discipleship, so it will probably be beneficial to partner with people who are at roughly the same stage of life.

These groups need not be permanent. We suggest you review after six months of meeting together. Many groups will run together for a season and then multiply, which is essential for welcoming in others.

Existing friendship is not a pre-requisite for doing Running Partners. If you don't know who to ask, we'd love to help.

Go to our website for more information and to get in touch: www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/get-involved/running-partners/

Or contact Matt Wright: runningpartners@kingschurchedinburgh.org



A person is seen from behind, looking out over a city at night. The city lights are blurred, creating a bokeh effect. The person is wearing a dark jacket. The background is a dark sky with some light clouds.

Part 3: Demonstrating His
Love to Edinburgh
and Everywhere

Through The Church

We believe Jesus' love will be demonstrated to Edinburgh and everywhere through local churches like King's. That doesn't just mean through Sunday services - it incorporates everything God has called the church to be.

This is God's plan but it is all too easy to lose sight of this. Many of us have experiences of church that are frustrating or painful, and there are negative portrayals of church all around us. And yet God has chosen the church to display His manifold wisdom to the whole earth and the whole spiritual realm (1). That is a high calling!

God is passionate about His church. He describes it in the Bible as His bride, His possession, His building, His chosen people. Right now, Jesus is building His church. He said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it" (2).

Membership is about partnering with Jesus in His work. As we do that, we will demonstrate His love to Edinburgh and everywhere.

Scripture references

- 1 Ephesians 3:10-11
- 2 Matthew 16:18

Serving

Church is the body of Christ

For a body to function as it is designed to, all the diverse parts must work together in harmony. So it is with the Body of Christ, the church (1). Everyone is required to play their part in order for it to achieve God's plans for it (2). This is what is at stake when you're asked to get involved in serving: it isn't about filling a rota, it's about fulfilling God's purposes!

Everyone involved

God has called King's to reach, serve and delight in people of all ages and stages, backgrounds, cultures, languages and colours. To do this, we need everyone contributing their gifts (3).

Serving is something that all members of King's should be involved with, each according to their ability. We'd love to hear what you're passionate about helping with, or if you're happy to serve wherever is needed.

Ways to serve on Sundays

- Children's work
- Connect Team
- Cooking
- Leading meetings
- Musicians and singers
- PA and AV teams
- Practical team
- Prayer team
- Preaching
- Youth team

Ways to serve throughout the week

- Administration
- Alpha courses
- Basics Bank donations
- Bethany Rapid Re-accommodation
- Welcome Centre volunteering
- Building maintenance
- Evergreen Elderly Café and community
- Finance
- Graphic design
- Hospitality
- Hub104 Youth Café
- Pastoral care
- Path of Disciples courses
- Publicity
- Safe Families volunteering
- Small group leading and assisting
- Student work
- Training
- Tech support
- Tots groups
- Trustees
- Video production
- Website maintenance

Scripture references

- 1** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- 2** Nehemiah 3:1-32, Acts 6:1-7
- 3** 1 Peter 4:10



How are you currently serving, or is there an area of church life that you'd like to be involved in or find out more about?

Giving

Christian giving

Giving money enables us to invest in what matters most, grow in faith, and discover the joy of generosity. Because of these wonderful things, why you give is more important than what you give.

The Old Testament practice was that giving to God started at 10% (called a “tithe”, first mentioned in Genesis 14:20). The New Testament commends giving generously and joyfully in light of God’s great goodness to us in Jesus (1). Tithing serves as a useful focus but we encourage people to plan with faith what to give, rather than calculating exactly 10%.

Money is a great way to develop your faith in God’s provision because He loves to bless us back when we trust Him in this way (2). We know that some people may be living on 110% of their income, so to move to living on 90% or less may require a series of steps in this new direction - this is a good thing to get started on!

We expect all members to contribute financially as they are able. Different people will contribute different amounts according to their ability. Those who have more should consider themselves able to take greater responsibility, and feel privileged to help those who have less.

What we spend money on at King's

Our building, our staff, our ministries... all these things cost money. Our current running costs are around £26,000 a month and almost all of this comes from the generous giving of our members.

Running a building like ours, which is a great resource for us and the local community, requires a lot of maintenance and development, as well as a mortgage. All this takes up about a quarter of our budget.

We often refer to paying staff as “releasing people” - enabling them to give their time and energies much more effectively. The pattern for God's people in the Old Testament was that they gave for the priests' livelihood; this seems to have continued into the New Testament where priests were no longer needed but people who ministered still were (3). Other people who were paid by the early church included travelling missionaries (4), apostolic ministry, which for us is New Ground (5), and support staff (6).

Salaries and related staff costs is about half of our expenditure. As of September 2021, our paid staff members are:

- Luke Davydaitis (elder)
- Dan Hudson (elder)
- Lisa Loughren (administration)
- Janet Marriott (administration, part time)
- Gemma Morton (youth work, part time)
- Chris Rawson (elder)

Many of the ministries we're involved with and events we put on require subsidies to make them affordable and excellent, so this is a significant part of what we spend money on.

As a church we look to give 10% of income away to others, as well as using our resources to bless those in need:

- We give to Bethany Christian Trust, Edinburgh City Mission, Hope Church Borders, the John 3:16 Trust (for evangelist Adrian Holloway), New Ground (supporting churches and mission across Europe), Sputnik Faith & Arts, Welcome Church Berlin, and to others as there is opportunity and need...
- We let various church and Christian activities use our buildings and facilities.

Giving to King's

The most helpful way for you to give is by setting up a regular standing order. This enables us to plan our budget much more accurately (and might help you to as well!). You can make payments directly to our bank account: sort code 830608, account number 10863956.

Whichever way you choose to give, if you're a UK tax payer you can increase the value of your giving by 25% at no cost to you! We can claim the tax back from HMRC on whatever you give, if you fill in a Gift Aid Declaration.

You can give via ChurchSuite or download our Giving Form from our website: www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/get-involved/give/

Scripture references

- 1** 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 9:6-15
- 2** Malachi 3:10, 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- 3** 1 Corinthians 9:14, 1 Timothy 5:17-18
- 4** Romans 15:24, 3 John 5-8
- 5** 1 Corinthians 9:3-11
- 6** 1 Corinthians 16:10-11; Romans 16:1-2, 22



Have you got a plan for giving to King's, as well as being generous in other areas of your life? You can talk more about this when you meet with one of the elders.

Witnessing

This is for everyone

Jesus's final words in Matthew's gospel give us a clear command to share the good news about Him to all people:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:20)

Disciple-making starts with telling people about the love of God shown to us by Jesus. We are to do this as a church and as individuals.

In a world that is indifferent at best and hostile at worst, this can be intimidating to some of us, so we need to learn to trust God and get involved in what He is wanting to do. It is an amazing privilege to be used by God to share the gospel in any way (1).

Doing it

There are many ways in which we can respond to what Jesus wants us to do, these are some of the things we do as a church:

- We believe one of the key things that the Holy Spirit wants to do in all Jesus's followers is give them power to witness (2). We ask Him to do this and trust that He will as we take steps of obedience.
- We encourage our members to be ready to share their faith with the people they spend their lives with.
- We expect that there will be people who aren't Christians at our Sunday services: we try to explain the things we are doing, and give them opportunities to respond to Jesus.
- We run events that our members can invite people along to, from caring projects like toddler groups to Christmas carol services at which we explain the hope we have.

- The Alpha Course has been used by God to bring thousands of people to faith in Jesus all around the world. We regularly run courses in our building and have begun to do courses elsewhere in the city.
- The Go Team are a group of King's people who go out and spread the gospel with people on the streets of Edinburgh, usually on the first Saturday of the month.
- At our prayer meetings, we often ask for individuals to be saved and for God to have mercy on our city (3).
- Church plants are the most effective way to reach people in new areas of Edinburgh and the Lothians with the gospel. We planted King's Church West Lothian in 2017 and we intend to plant more churches in the future.
- We give money to other church plants and evangelistic initiatives in Edinburgh and elsewhere.
- Everything we do, whether it is focused on blessing members of King's or reaching people far away from God, is ultimately a demonstration to the world of God's love.

Scripture references

1 Romans 10:14-16

2 Acts 1:8

3 Jonah 4:11

Working

The contents of this booklet and our Explore Membership course are focused on the life of the church. However, a vital way in which every member of King's demonstrate Jesus's love to Edinburgh and everywhere is how they spend their daily lives.

Sometimes Christians think that God is only interested in things like praying, reading the Bible, and being involved in church community. These are wonderful and essential but the Bible tells us that our jobs and studies and vocations matter to Him and should be part of how we display and even advance His Kingdom.

God has given us the world to care for and create with, to enjoy and to fill - in partnership with Him. Reflecting on Genesis 1:26-28, Timothy Keller states:

"[Gardening] is the pattern for all work. It is creative and assertive. It is rearranging the raw material of God's creation in such a way that it helps the world in general, and people in particular, thrive and flourish" (*Every Good Endeavour*).

This is full-time work, whether you're paid for it or not. We hope that our Sunday preaching and midweek small group discussions help our members to realise the full scope of what God has called His people to do.

Caring

Caring for those who are vulnerable is an essential calling on any church (1). We try to focus our attention on some areas of need that we feel called by God to help with, as well as encouraging everyone to respond with compassion and generosity at all times.

Some people are involved in this through their paid work or other volunteering. These are some of the organised ways that King's tries to give help...

Toddler groups

There are a lot of families with young children in our church and in the area around our building, so toddler groups are a great way to connect and offer help. We have a weekly King's Tots that happens on Tuesday mornings in term time, and two monthly Saturday morning groups: Dads & Tots and Adopted Tots.

Elderly Befriending

There are also many isolated older folk in our local area. Our Evergreen Team have been reaching out to them and blessing them with a café in our building and keeping in touch with them in various ways, including visiting local sheltered housing. We installed a stairlift so that they can come to our Sunday meetings, Christmas carol services, and other church events.

Youth Outreach

We run a youth café for young people from our local high school, offering kids from there a place to hang out and experience welcome and belonging.

We also work in partnership with other agencies, connecting to the brilliant work that they are doing...

Feeding the Hungry

On the first Sunday of the month we invite people to donate items of food, toiletries, and other essentials, which the Bruntsfield Basics Bank distributes with Edinburgh City Mission.

Supporting Vulnerable Families

Volunteers from King's are connected with vulnerable families by the organisation Safe Families to help avert full-blown crises by giving resources, time, friendship, and respite care.

Helping the Homeless

Bethany Christian Trust's Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre: cooking for the guests who would otherwise be rough sleeping, and chatting with them to help them feel welcomed.

Our weekly news email has regular updates on these ministries, and requests for help. You can also find out more about them on our website: www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/get-involved/caring-for-others/

Scripture references

1 Galatians 2:10



Leading

Good leadership is essential for any church. We recognise this by releasing and encouraging as many people as possible to lead in different areas of church life. We identify leadership gifting through giving opportunities to lead, and we support this through training and mentoring.

POD for Small Group Leading

Using our Path of Disciples model, we created a training programme for people who are considering helping to lead a small group. It is highly practical and relational, focusing on four key elements of small group leadership alongside others who are learning too, or who are already leading.

Grow Leadership Training

In the summer of 2022 we launched a new leadership training initiative for the Newfrontiers churches in Scotland: Grow. We want our churches to be places of growth:

- Personal growth, as we become more like Jesus.
- Numerical growth, as people are brought into God's kingdom.
- Geographical growth, as we reach more of Scotland with the gospel, particularly through planting more churches.

For these things to happen we need many people taking responsibility in our churches: men and women who are growing in their knowledge of God and His ways, in the skills they need to make things happen, and in their character to serve as God intends.

Grow is an ongoing training programme for anyone leading in church life. Each year there will be three Saturday sessions, with Christians from across Scotland meeting together for teaching and ministry.

Alongside this, there will be three Friday evening sessions, when the trainees from King's meet in a group to talk about teaching that they will have been sent in advance on video.

Whether you've just been asked to start helping with something, or you've been leading for decades, we believe that Grow will do you good - and those around you.

Going

Church planting

Our conviction about the centrality of the local church to God's purposes naturally leads to us wanting to see more churches started. This is at the core of our story: King's began as a church plant in 2002, we planted King's Church West Lothian in 2017, and God has spoken to us about planting more often than this in the future.

Planting a church isn't something that suddenly happens, there are many steps of obedience needing to be taken along the way. We hope that being involved in the life of King's, and especially serving in leadership, can serve as preparation for being involved in planting churches. Our Grow leadership training programme has been created with church planting in mind and it is our expectation that future church planters will have been involved in this. We profile church plants that we have relationships with to stir faith and share the reality of the challenges involved. We often pray about this together and are always listening out for when God makes it clear that it's time to move up a gear.

We also know that we aren't to do this alone, which is why we're delighted to have life-giving relationships with other churches in our city, our nation, and around the world.

Newfrontiers

Newfrontiers is a family of churches that began on the south coast of the UK in the 1970s. There now over 1,500 Newfrontiers churches in more than 80 nations, spreading across every continent of the world.

Being part of Newfrontiers is foundation to who we are. What we believe and how we behave are profoundly shaped by the relationships that we have with other Newfrontiers churches and leaders.

New Ground

Since 2012, Newfrontiers has no longer been one organisation but a group of apostolic leaders partnering together on global mission. When this happened, we joined the family led by Dave Holden, known as New Ground.

We love being in New Ground as it's the place we look to for apostolic leadership from Dave, and where our elders get input and encouragement. We believe the whole church benefits too as we work together on a shared mission, learning from other churches and building fruitful relationships.

Scotland

We're delighted to have great relationships with other churches across Edinburgh and Scotland. We're committed to seeing our city and this nation reached with the gospel and we know that this involves many churches playing their part. Our relationships with other churches are formed mostly through shared values and leaders' gatherings, with occasional shared events or initiatives such as Grow Leadership Training.

The elders from King's gather once a term with other elders from Newfrontiers churches in Scotland. There is a weekly prayer meeting for church leaders across Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife, which has led to online prayer meetings with hundreds of church members from those regions praying together.



What are your thoughts and reflections after the third session of Explore Membership? This might be good place to write down any questions you have or issues you want to discuss with an elder when you meet with them.

Appendix 1: What We Believe

Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed has been used by Christians since the Fourth Century AD to define the essentials of what we believe and to unite us around these truths:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father; God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God; begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Evangelical Alliance Basis of Faith

We are members of the Evangelical Alliance and are in agreement its basis of faith.

We believe in...

- The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
- The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
- The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
- The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
- The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
- The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
- The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
- The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
- The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers - given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
- The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

Appendix 2: Believer's Baptism

We often have people join King's from other church traditions and backgrounds, some of whom don't teach and practice the same things we do. Believer's baptism is one of the differences between churches that we think is really important. We're all about following Jesus, as a church and as individuals within it, and getting baptised as a believer is something that He clearly tells all of us to do.

What happened in the New Testament?

There are many moments in the story of the first Christians, the book of Acts, when someone puts their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. We're time and again that after they did this they got baptised (1).

What does "baptism" mean?

Our English word is basically the same as the original Greek, which makes it difficult for us to automatically know what it means. In Greek, the word means "plunge, dip, immerse, drench, overwhelm."

This definition is supported by what the New Testament tells us. In the story of the Ethiopian official mentioned above (2), the place of baptism is a river. This is also the case when John the Baptist was earning his nickname: "they were baptised by him in the river Jordan" (3). When Paul speaks about baptism, one of the images he uses is burial and resurrection, implying that the baptised person gets put into/under water (4).

When you put all this together, the most obvious explanation of what was happening to the believers in Acts being "baptised" is that they were being fully immersed into water.

Why did people get baptised in the New Testament?

The simple answer is that Jesus did this Himself (5) and then told all His followers to do the same! Baptism is the public event established by Jesus to show that you have given your life to Him:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Baptism is a symbol of what Jesus had done for all who believe in Him, and who they now are as a result of this:

- The plunging under water and then coming up again is a picture of His death, burial and resurrection, which have brought us forgiveness, righteousness, and every spiritual blessing.
- This also illustrates what has happened to every believer: they have died to their old way of life, and been born again into new life in Christ (6).
- There is also a strong sense of Christ’s ownership of us, in that we are responding to His command (7), and being baptised “into” His name (8). We belong to Him.
- Finally, and perhaps most obviously, baptism symbolises how God has washed us clean of all of sins through Jesus (9).

What about...?

We get our definition of baptism from what we see in the New Testament, which is the public immersion in water of someone who has confessed their faith in Jesus. Because of this, we don’t consider something done to an infant to be baptism. We understand that there are long traditions of this, and that infant “baptism” is practiced by many people who sincerely love God and want to follow Jesus, but we don’t think that this is what the Bible records for us to do.

Because we believe that this is an issue of accepting Jesus’s lordship in our life and is profoundly part of our salvation, we make believer’s baptism a prerequisite for church membership. If you haven’t been baptised as a believer, for whatever reason, we would love to talk this through with you.

Scripture references

- 1** Acts 2:37-41, 8:12, Acts 8:35-38, 9:17-18, 10:44-48, 16:14-15, 16:30-33, 18:8, 19:4-5
- 2** Acts 8:35-38
- 3** Matthew 3:6
- 4** Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12
- 5** Matthew 3:13-17
- 6** Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12
- 7** Matthew 28:19
- 8** Acts 8:16, Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27
- 9** 1 Peter 3:21, Acts 22:16

Appendix 3: Leaving King's

You are never under any obligation to stay as a member of King's: you can stop attending, serving, giving, etc. any time you want. Because we believe that membership is relational, we hope that you would talk to people in the church before making this decision, particularly your small group leader or an elder. People feel frustrated or unloved from time to time, and the best response when you're experiencing this is to talk.

We also know that city living can be transitory and a job or relationship or vocation might mean you choose to move away from Edinburgh. Naturally this would mean the end of your membership at King's. We would want to do all we can to help you make such a big change including giving advice on finding a new church to be part of, so please speak with people you know in King's if something like this comes up.

Leaving in these ways doesn't involve any formal process but it would be helpful if you also let the office know so that we remain compliant with data legislation. You're of course still welcome to receive our weekly news email, follow us on social media, and if you're ever back in the neighbourhood we'd love to see you!

Appendix 4: Contact details, Legal Information and Safeguarding

Our building and offices are at 104 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh EH3 9PL.

The office telephone number is 0131 6296119. The easiest way to get in contact with a member of staff is to email:

info@kingchurchedinburgh.org

King's Church Edinburgh is a registered Scottish Charity, number SC034328, with a board of trustees. As of March 2022, the trustees are Phil Capon, Luke Davydaitis, Joel Hancock, Dan Hudson, Alistair Simpson.

Safeguarding Policy

Jesus loved and showed compassion towards those on the margins of society: the sick, the young, and the disabled, and we want to make sure that Kings is a safe, secure, and welcoming place for them to find support and participate in church family life. We therefore take our duty to safeguard vulnerable adults and children very seriously. Rachel Fleming, our safeguarding officer, works closely with the trustees and eldership to ensure that our policies, procedures, and training meet the legal standards required.

We participate in Disclosure Scotland's Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. All our groups which support vulnerable people are fully risk assessed, and we place a priority on recruiting and training our volunteers to a high standard.

If you ever have a safeguarding concern, or you want to find out more about this area of church life, you can speak to Rachel at a Sunday service or email her: rachel@kingschurchedinburgh.org

An updated version of our Safeguarding Policy is available on our website: www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/about-us/policies/

Privacy Notice

We use the basic personal data you have given us only for the purpose of contacting you with further information about King's Church. We will not collect any personal data from you that we do not need in order to do this, and we only keep it as long as long as you want to hear from us. King's Church is the data controller of the personal data that you provide to us. All personal data we receive is processed by our staff and volunteers. It is not shared with anyone else unless the law allows us to do so. We have a Data Protection Policy in place to oversee and secure the processing of your personal data. This Data Protection Policy and a full version of this Privacy Notice are available on our website: www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/about-us/policies/

If you believe the data we hold concerning you is incorrect you can request to see this information and have it corrected or deleted. If you are concerned about the way your information is being handled, please email: info@kingschurchedinburgh.org. If you are still unhappy you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioners Office.

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Ephesians 3:10-11)

