

looking at **Membership**



GLORIFYING AND ENJOYING GOD

through gospel centred ministry;
making disciples of Jesus Christ &
equipping people for a life of service.



REACH, BUILD & SEND

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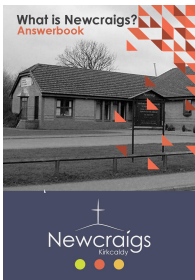
Contents

Introduction	p3
The history and future of Newcraigs	p4
Who leads the church?	p5
The purpose of membership	P6
What does it mean to 'become a Christian?'	p6
The 5 'M's of Christian living	p8
What does church membership look like?	p12
Living as a community?	p13
What does membership at Newcraigs involve?	p14
How do I join Newcraigs as a member?	p16
Do I need to be baptised to be a member?	p18
How do you view the roles of men & women?	p19
What about sexuality and marriage?	p20
Who decides what happens?	p22
What are the distinctives of the Christian faith?	p23
Newcraigs Statement of Faith	p25
How do finances work?	p27

Introduction

Interested in becoming a member at Newcraigs Church or finding out what's involved?

This booklet aims to outline our vision and values, our mission and meetings, explaining what is involved in being an active member at Newcraigs and answering some of the most common questions.



We encourage you to get involved in one of our mid-week groups. You can find details of these in the Welcome Area on a Sunday. This will help you get to know other members who will also be able to answer any questions you may have before applying for membership.

We would always advise you to give a good length of time, at least 6 months, to get to know the church and the leadership and for us to get to know you. Once you are ready, you can apply for membership online at www.newcraigs.co.uk/membership.

You will then be invited to a membership evening where you will be able to meet the leadership of Newcraigs church over a meal. A second session where we will explore what we believe and what we do and help you find out the part you can play in what God is doing at Newcraigs.

We will then provide an opportunity to hear your testimony and how you understand your commitment to this local church, and to share our commitment to you as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The History of Newcraigs

In 1986 a small group of people from Hebron Evangelical Church felt God's clear leading to step out in faith by launching a new gospel initiative reaching out to a new area of Kirkcaldy with the Gospel message.

In August of that year they met for the first time, a group of 18 by then, in the Chapel Neighbourhood Centre. A church called Newcraigs Evangelical Church began. In April 1990 the church moved to its present location into purpose built premises.

We are an independent evangelical church based between the Newliston, Blackcraigs and Redcraigs housing schemes in north west Kirkcaldy, hence the name Newcraigs.

The Future of Newcraigs

Our aim is to glorify and enjoy God by being disciples of Jesus Christ and seeing the growth of His Kingdom in Kirkcaldy and throughout the world. (We exist not to simply *do* church, we must *be* the church!)

The Church is a living body chosen by Jesus Christ to represent Him to the world. We are to make disciples as we go through life, so we take the good news of Jesus to where we live, work and play.

We stand united as a church to reach others with the gospel of Jesus, to build each other up in the church, to be more like Jesus and to equip individuals with the good news of Jesus.

Who Leads the Church?

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church (Ephesians 1:9; 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23) Jesus is the apostle who plants the church (Hebrews 3:1). Jesus is the leader who builds the church (Matthew 16:18) Jesus is the senior pastor who rules the church (1 Peter 5:4) and it is ultimately Jesus who closes down churches when they become faithless and fruitless (Rev 2:5).

Therefore, it is absolutely vital that a church loves Jesus, obeys Jesus, imitates Jesus, and follows Jesus at all times and in all ways according to the teaching of His Word (Colossians 3:16).

Human leadership in the church is a mediated authority given to qualified Christians who are following Jesus and encouraging other people to do the same.



Adam Broughton is our Pastor. He is responsible for a significant portion of the ministry and teaching. He supports and encourages the ministry team leaders to grow in their areas of responsibility. As well as overseeing growth group leaderships and their development, he oversees pastoral care of the members with the support of Pastoral and Community Care teams.

Adam is part of the Eldership who oversee the spiritual priorities of the church. To see a full list of the Eldership and Staff at Newcraigs, visit our website: www.newcraigs.co.uk/meet-the-team

The Purpose of Membership

The radical commission of Jesus to his church was not to make members but disciples. So why do we have a membership?

To some the idea of becoming a member is more about a dusty list of names, or people paying their subscriptions to an organisation. However, the New Testament speaks about being members of the body of Christ and members of God's family (1 Cor 12:12-27). Put simply, members are the church!

Newcraigs Church is made up of individuals from different backgrounds, cultures and generations who have encountered the love of God and been adopted into his family through faith in Christ. Worshipping Jesus and serving one another we are committed together to the mission he has called us to in Kirkcaldy and beyond.

We love having new people coming to our meetings and we want to help those who have become Christians find their place with us where they can experience genuine community, grow in their love for God and commit to serve in the mission he has called us to.

What does it mean to 'become a Christian'?

There is good news and bad news. The bad news is that none of us are perfect and have all fallen short of God's standard. All of us have disappointed ourselves, we have hurt others, and we have done wrong, but sin is not a social concept – it's a theological one; against God and Him alone have we sinned.

God opposes all that is evil and wrong so our sin separates us from

the very one who gives life and purpose. In the end we will face God's judgement because of our sin.

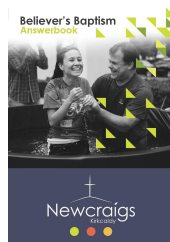
The good news is that God has provided a way to deal with our sin. More than this, we can know Him and experience the adventure of living life with Him and for Him. Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, came to die on a cross to pay the penalty we deserve for our sin. He did this so we could be forgiven and be made right with God. He was raised to life and "is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him" (Heb 7:25). Here are the 4 ways we need to respond to the gospel:

1. **Repent.** We respond to the effectual call of God the Holy Spirit - which in turn means to be sorry enough to change. Change your mind about your past, agreeing with God's verdict about your sin and turn to Him for forgiveness. (John 6:44; Acts 2:38; 5:31; 11:18).

2. **Believe**, not merely *about* Jesus - *even the demons know who he is* - but trust *in* Him as the one who died for you and was raised to life. By committing your whole life to him you will receive the Spirit of adoption. Through the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in us, we are no longer God's enemies but we become God's children. (Gal. 4:4-7; Romans 8:14-17)

3. **Be Baptised**, which means being "plunged under water" as Jesus was and Jesus' first disciples were. Dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ. (Matt 28:19; John 14:15; Rom 6:3-7).

4. **Belong** or "get added in" as a member of God's people locally. When we leave our past and put our trust in Jesus as our Lord we begin a new relationship as sons and daughters, forgiven, clean and right with our Father in heaven and members of his family. (Acts 2:47; 2 Cor 6:14-18; Heb 13:17)



The 5 M's of Christian Living

God wants all of us to grow in fellowship, discipleship, ministry, evangelism and worship. It's by balancing those five purposes that we truly live out God's plan for our healthy spiritual life.

Magnification - Worship: You exist for God's glory, his purpose, and his delight. Living for his glory is the first and most important purpose of your life. This impacts your work, your family, your ambitions and all that you do. All of life is worship as you seek to glorify God in all that you do.

Membership - Belonging: You have been gathered by God into His great treasure, the church. You were designed to be a part of a church family with common beliefs, purposes and commitment. Give yourself to welcoming, connecting and caring for all those that God brings to Newcraigs Church.

Maturity - Growing: Spiritual growth is not so much about "doing" as it is about "becoming" more like Christ. Ultimately, the Christian life is about building an intimate relationship with Jesus as the Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out, and loving others the way Jesus loves us.

Ministry - Serving: God has given each of us the opportunity to serve others and make a real difference in our community. When you serve others in Jesus' name, you're ministering. We are all shaped by God with individual gifts and talents that are to be used to support the Body of Christ.

Mission - Kingdom Living: You were made for mission. God is at work in the world, and he wants you to join him. God invites you to participate in the greatest, largest, most diverse, and most significant cause in history – his kingdom. You were saved to serve and made to go out and spread the Good News.

What does Church Membership look like ?

Looking back to the first church in Acts gives us a model of what belonging to a church looks like in practice. Luke tells us they “devoted themselves” to the church in various ways.

“Devoted” is a strong word that involves our hearts, our minds, our time, our energy and our passion. This devotion does not come from a decision to “do the right thing”, but rather from a life changing encounter with the living God.

They devoted themselves to the i) apostles' teaching and to the ii) fellowship, to the iii) breaking of bread and to iv) prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. v) Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. vi) Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. vii) And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

i) We devote ourselves to the Word of God.

Today, we have the apostles’ teaching in the Bible. This is not just a book full of good advice; it is God’s revealed will for our lives. We therefore recognise the authority of the Bible as final in what we believe and how we should live. Furthermore we are committed to studying it that we may live to please our Father who loves us and has saved us. We learn from the Bible on Sundays, study it closely together in small groups during the week and we encourage personal study of the Bible for all our members.

ii) We devote ourselves to one another.

Becoming a Christian is not a solo activity just as playing a team game is not about individuals. With God as our Father we have been adopted into his family. Our love for each other reveals the character of God to those who don't know Him.

For members this will include a practical expression of:

- being committed to meeting together on Sundays
- getting involved in serving on a Sunday team and elsewhere
- meeting in a Growth Group regularly

iii) We devote ourselves to Christ.

The cross is central to our salvation. Baptism initially identifies a new Christian with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection; breaking bread together continues to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. In the past, the penalty is paid for our sin; in the present His victory sets us free from the enslaving power of sin; in the future we will one day be free from the very presence of sin.

iv) We devote ourselves to prayer.

Praying is an expression of the relationship we have with our heavenly Father. When we pray we are recognising that He is in charge; we are dependent on Him and we want to live His way. Reading through Acts we find that the church gathering together to pray was central to who they were. We encourage every member to participate as they take opportunities to pray for individuals via a prayer diary. Growth groups and monthly prayer meetings are also places you will be able to get involved with ministry and pray for wider issues and initiatives.

V) An overflow of giving.

The image of throwing a few coppers into the plate at the end of a church service couldn't be further from the joy filled overflow of generous giving seen in the early church. With hearts on fire for God they recognised that everything they had belonged to Him. They were motivated by a deep sense of devotion to Christ and commitment to the mission he had called them to. (See our 'Answerbook' on giving)



Vi) An overflow of worship.

There was something infectious about these first Christians filled with the Spirit and overflowing with worship, each bringing something to God, or from God to encourage and strengthen the church. We encourage members therefore to participate wholeheartedly in our times together!

Vii) A growing Church

Today, many long for community and purpose in their lives. When God captivates hearts with his truth, the results look like the growing church in Acts 2.

Good news travels fast and changed lives are an attractive reason for others to find out what has happened. Knowing God, you have the privilege of having a story worth sharing. The gospel literally means "good news," and as Jesus was sent to bring it to us, so He sends us to bring it to others. In Newcraigs we will regularly provide encouragement to help you grow in sharing your faith.

What is the Vision and Mission of Newcraigs?

Newcraigs Church exists to bring the hope of Christ to the heart of Kirkcaldy.

Matthew 28:18-20—¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

We glorify God



REACH

We believe that all people need a relationship with God, and in order for that to happen they must hear the good news about Jesus' death for our sins, and his resurrection so that we too may one day have eternal life. We believe that God intends his church to be a beacon of hope in a dark world. We aim to serve, love, and speak in the name of Christ so that through us, people may trust Christ and find the joy of salvation.

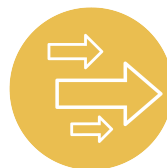
by making disciples



BUILD

We believe that all Christians are called to grow and become more Christ-like, this happens when we are living in community with other believers. As the body of Christ we are called to live together in truth and love, so that in all things we will grow up into maturity in Christ. In our life together we aim to imitate Christ in speech, love and service, so that we may help each other grow in Christian maturity.

of all Nations.



SEND

We believe that God calls us to be concerned for his worldwide Church. As a local church we have the privilege of receiving many Christians, some who will go on to serve God throughout the world as well as in the local community. To this end, we nurture, teach and train everyone so that they will be better equipped for fruitful lives of service.

Living as a Community

Sunday Gatherings

Sundays at
11am and 6pm

Our Sunday gatherings enable us to focus on **Bible Teaching** as we respond in **Worship, Praise** and **Prayer** so that together we become **a picture of the gospel**.

We want it to be a time and place where we are taught what it means to share our faith and we learn to live out our lives in counter cultural confidence in the power of the gospel.

We want to celebrate new faith (through Baptisms) and new life (through Thanksgivings) - a place where we explore the claims of Christ together.

Sunday gives an opportunity for members, regular attenders and guests to hear the good news of Jesus. We are given the opportunity to ask "What is God saying?" and "What is God asking?"

Growth Groups

Midweek
Evening

True community requires sharing life together. As our church grows and our Sunday meetings become bigger, meeting in smaller groups, called Growth Groups, becomes even more important.

Growth groups enable us to live out the commands of Jesus practically. Being part of one helps you and others enjoy a depth of friendship, mutual encouragement and care.

These groups run three times a month; the first Wednesday of every month is a prayer meeting where the whole church gathers together.

For more information on Sundays or Growth Groups, pick up some Answerbooks at Newcraigs.



What does Membership at Newcraigs involve?

Please read 1 Cor 6:9-13; Gal 6:1-3; Eph 4: 1-16; 1 Thess 4:9-12 & Heb 13:7;17)

In brief we would be looking for the following:

- Committed to Jesus Christ and aiming to live your life as a good witness for Christ at home and work.
- Committed to our Vision and Mission and Statement of Faith.
- Entrusting yourself to the care and authority of the elders who are responsible for providing each member with genuine on-going pastoral care as well as creating an environment where real Christian growth can take place.
- Giving and receiving instruction in God's Word with meekness and in love; faithfully taking part in corporate worship.
- Actively involved in a Growth Group if at all possible. This becomes increasingly important to make connections with people as the church grows in number. Active in the prayer life of the church.
- Every member is encouraged to give generously from their finances towards the financial upkeep of the church ministries, the building and those whom we support in mission.
- Attending our 'Focus Meetings' which are held on a Sunday. These are key opportunities to share vision, important news, finance updates and so on. To also attend the Church AGM held once a year for members only.
- Be committed to serving in at least one key area of ministry and be part of what God has equipped you to do.

Here are some areas of service you might consider:

- Stewarding and Welcome Team
- Communications
- Sound/Technical/Audio/Visual
- Musicians and Worship Band
- Catering and Refreshments
- Building and general maintenance
- Prayer Team
- Children's and Youth Ministries
- Creche and Toddlers
- Practical support: giving lifts, babysitting, making meals...

God has given each of us a different set of gifts, and we all have different skills to offer. Take a look at our **"SHAPE" document** to see where your gifts lie. Alternatively, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders who will help you find a place to serve.

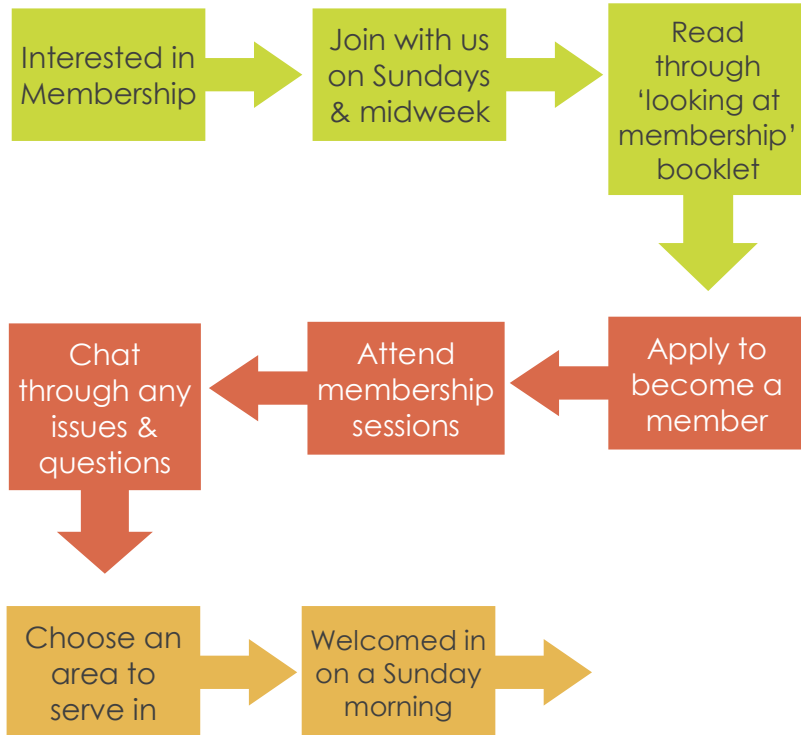
What if I am already a member of another church?

Once you have decided to become a member at Newcraigs we would encourage you to write to your previous church and resign your membership. You should only be accountable to one church family.

Some church members are prevented by infirmity or necessity from regularly attending the church. Others, however, deliberately choose not to attend the church of which they are a member for a period of time. The Leaders of the church will try and seek a resolution to the reason for this and membership may also be withdrawn.

Students who are currently members of a 'home' church can still become Associate Members of Newcraigs without leaving their previous church.

How do I join Newcraigs as a Member?



We exist to give glory to God before the nations. Membership is a public declaration of your profession of faith, baptism and discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ being recognised and valid within the oversight, love and care of this local church.

Becoming a member at Newcraigs Church is saying “count me in with all God is doing here!” So the first step is getting involved! Come to our Sunday meetings and get involved in a Growth Group and get to know us . Read through this booklet and feel free to ask any questions raised.

The second step is to apply for membership. You can do this online at www.newcraigs.co.uk/membership - Alternatively 'Joining in Membership' application booklets can be found in the Welcome Area on a Sunday along with Gift Aid forms, for tax payers. If you haven't been baptised we will arrange this with you as well.

The third step is to find out more about membership at the 'Joining in Membership' sessions held several times during the year. You will be able to meet the leadership at Newcraigs at an evening meal and hear more about our vision and mission and what we believe and do at two following sessions. (You are welcome to attend these before you apply formally, giving you the opportunity to find out more.)

The fourth step will be to meet with the leadership. They will listen to your testimony and validate your willingness to live as a disciple of Jesus under the care, service and authority of the elders at Newcraigs.

Do I need to be baptised to be a member?

The last words of the resurrected Jesus before going back to the Father were to “make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit...” (Matt 28:19) Those who accepted the gospel and became disciples were baptised in obedience to Jesus’ teaching.

The word “baptise” literally means to submerge. Getting baptised is a picture of what has happened in a believer. In submersion the old life without God is dead and buried with Christ. Being raised up out of the water pictures the new life that began with Christ through faith.

Jesus makes the connection between becoming a disciple and being baptised. Therefore, we believe it is a vital step for those who want to follow Jesus.

However, we do not insist on baptism for membership. If you have been baptised as an infant we would still encourage you to make a personal pledge toward God in believer’s baptism. This is not a sign of disrespect for what your parents did but can be seen as a fulfilment of their prayers. Several members of Newcraigs were previously baptised as infants and then, upon coming to a personal faith, were baptised as adults. God has led you to this point and we pray that you will take this important step as soon as possible.

Whatever your own experience and beliefs about baptism you are welcome to be involved as an active part of the church. However we ask all members to respect the church’s views on baptism as set out in this booklet. This is the view the Elders will teach from the Bible in our church on the subject of baptism .

How do you view the roles of men & women?

Our culture has a lot to say about this question, but it is our commitment to the Bible that shapes our thinking and practice in all areas of life and ministry, including the roles of men and women in church and the home.

Man and woman, though different, together reflect the likeness and image of God and are therefore equal in status and value to God. They reflect the equality that is within the Godhead between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Although equal in status, each member of the Trinity has a different role. Likewise, we find the Bible teaches that men and women are equal in status yet also have different roles. (Gen 1:26-28; Luke 22:42; Jn 14:26; 1 Jn 4:10)

Within marriage the husband has responsibility for his wife to love her as Christ loved the Church. He must provide for her, protect as well as lead her and his family. The wife is to submit to her husband's servant leadership as the Church submits to the leadership of Christ. (Eph 5:22-23)

The New Testament connects this pattern of leadership in the family to leadership of the church and teaches that the governing and teaching roles of eldership within the church are given to godly men to fulfil. (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

We actively encourage both men and women to use their gifts as we fulfil the church's Vision. Every person plays a role in the mission that God has given us to reach out with the gospel, to build one another up and to serve God's people as the New Testament describes. (Matt 28:18-20; 1 Cor 11:5; 1 Cor 12; 1 Peter 3:15).

What about Sexuality and Marriage?

We recognise that different views on sexuality and marriage have developed over recent years in the secular world and even within the church, especially after amendments were made to the law regarding marriage. We therefore think it important to outline our position in relation to this subject. We want anyone who is considering becoming a member of Newcraigs to be clear on where we stand as a church fellowship with regard to these matters.

1. As a church community, we recognize that all people are made in the image of God and should be given dignity and respect. (*Genesis 1:26-28*)

2. We will continue to welcome all people, sharing the kindness and compassion of Christ with them, regardless of how they self-identify in terms of sexuality or their understanding of gender identity. (*Luke 9:48, Luke 15:2, Acts 28.30*)

3. We will continue to teach the Biblical truth that sex is a glorious gift of God, given to be celebrated only within the context of the joyful bodily union of one man and one woman in marriage. This union reflects the complementary union of Jesus, the bridegroom, with His bride, the Church. (*Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:2-9, Ephesians 5:31, Revelation 19:7-9*)

4. Although we understand that some sincere followers of Jesus take a different view on these matters, we believe that this is a primary issue involving serious matters of Biblical authority, personal holiness and ecclesiology.

We do not therefore permit those in sexually active relationships outside of heterosexual marriage, to become or remain members unless they cease such relationships in true repentance before God. Those who are sexually active outside of heterosexual marriage are to refrain from sharing Communion unless truly repentant before God. (*Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 11:27-29*)

5. We value and celebrate singleness, and do not esteem marriage as being a higher state. (*1 Corinthians 7:7, 25-35*)

6. We will support all people in the messiness of life, recognising that we are all prone to falling short of God's standards in the area of our sexuality. By God's grace we are all on a journey towards healing and wholeness. (*Romans 3:21-26*)

7. We will continue to challenge those in the wider Church who adopt false teaching on marriage. (*Matthew 7:15-17, Romans 16:17-18, Colossians 2:8, 2 Timothy 4:3-4*)

8. In matters of sexual ethics we will not take for granted that what the media communicates is always true. Instead, we will offer a vision of the ways in which all of us can live redeemed and transformed lives which are honouring to God" (*Proverbs 2, 1 Peter 2:1-2, Matthew 11:29, Ephesians 4:17-32*)

Who decides what happens?

We are Jesus ruled, elder led and accountable to the members of the congregation as we seek to submit our lives under the teachings of God's Word, the Bible. Decisions concerning matters of the church including the use of the building are prayerfully made by the leadership. Often the trustees will be directly involved in matters concerning employment and legal implications.

The pastor heads up the day to day ministries of the church and is accountable to the elders board.

The elders often seek to consult with the members and welcome their input before making any major decisions. When appointing new elders, the existing eldership would identify suitable candidates as they are led by God. The final decision will be made by the elders following consultation with the membership of the church.

Church Discipline

From time to time situations arise where the behaviour of an individual or group runs contrary to Scripture or adversely affects the church.

(1 Cor. 5 : 2, 5,13; 2 Thess. 3 : 11 - 15; 2 John 7 - 11).

No disciplinary action is taken without the hope of restoring the believer(s) to the church and their personal walk with God. If the person under discipline is clearly and evidently repentant, they will be accepted back into the membership at Newcraigs. [A more comprehensive document on Pastoral Care and Church Discipline is available.](#)

What are the distinctives of the Christian faith?

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 unchangeable in his holiness, justice, 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 - All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. 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 under the just condemnation 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. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted 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, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

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. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for 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. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of 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, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

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 and 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 in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.

Newcraigs Statement of Faith

As Evangelical Christians, we believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and so we believe the great truths that the Bible teaches. We are happy to affirm and confess the essential doctrines of Christianity in the following statement of faith:-

The faith of Newcraigs Evangelical Church is founded entirely upon the Bible, which we believe to be God's inspired word. The Bible tells of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's eternal son, who was born into the world through the virgin birth, lived a sinless life, and gave His life on the cross of Calvary as a perfect sacrifice to God for our sins.

The Bible states that we are all sinners by nature, and thus fall short of God's perfect and holy standard. Of ourselves, we can do nothing to improve our position or deal with our own sinful nature. The Lord Jesus has done this for us through His death, and by believing in Him as our Saviour we have forgiveness of our sins, and are assured of a place in Heaven.

We believe from the teaching of the Bible that the Lord Jesus rose bodily from the grave, ascended to Heaven where He is exalted by God, and that He will return to take all true believers to be with Him for ever.

All believers have the gift of the Holy Spirit and have access to God by way of prayer at all times.

All other areas of belief are secondary to this Statement of Faith and will not be allowed to become issues of division within the Church.

How do finances work?

Our giving provides an opportunity to worship God as we invest in Kingdom work for the glory and fame of King Jesus. As a church we are totally self-funding, by means of members' offerings. These are used to serve and invest in the gospel work of the church and wider ministry:

At home - Ministers' and part time support, evangelistic events, children's and youth work, resources, repairs to the building and renewals of equipment, visiting preachers, training, printing, stationery, teaching materials and church office expenses.

Elsewhere - Support for missionaries and international workers, support for individuals and organisations in this country, support for those training for ministry, gifts to other mission organisations.

If you are a tax payer please complete and return the Gift Aid Declaration via Stewardship Services. Anyone who is a basic rate taxpayer can increase their giving by this method which increases the benefit to the church. Higher rate tax payers can obtain an additional 18% rebate on their annual assessment, so reducing personal cost.

We also take an offering every Sunday and you are free to place your offering in the collection for the general fund or in the box in the main foyer. On the second Sunday morning we also take up a collection for the Community Care Fund—money is then available to give to individuals and families when needed. You can give weekly or monthly.

Many members have set up a standing order from their bank to transfer money over on a regular basis. This is explained in the 'Grace of giving' answerbook.





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