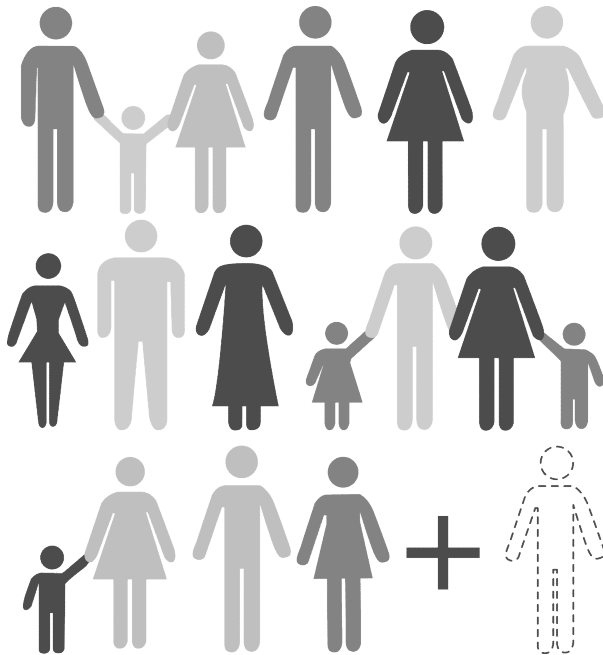


Joining in **Membership**



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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INTRODUCTION

JOINING THE CHURCH FAMILY AT NEWCRAIGS

We believe that the Christian life is meant to be lived in community. With God as our Father and Jesus as our elder brother, we have been brought into a new vision of a family of

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it' 1 Corinthians 12:27

brothers and sisters in Christ. As the body of Christ we believe that God has called us to live together in truth and love, so that in all things we will grow up into maturity in Christ.

Anyone who trusts in Christ for their salvation is a Christian. They are already incorporated into the universal church, which is the worldwide family of God. However, the New Testament expects that wherever possible every Christian should also be part of a local church, living in genuine and close community with other believers.

As we commit to the local church and take our role seriously, we put ourselves in the best possible place to allow God to do his work in us and through us. The 'Joining in Membership' course sets aside a morning to explore how this works in the local church. Divided into three sessions we will explore together:

Session 1: Family Values

Church history, our mission, vision and values.

Session 2: Family Life

The nuts and bolts of the church – how we're structured and run and our responsibilities and commitments.

Session 3: Your role in the Family (Discover your S.H.A.P.E.)

The unique contribution we can all make to God's Kingdom work here in our town and your commitments.

There will be plenty of time for questions, discussion and tea and coffee in between.

To help you get the most out of the morning, as well as reading through the 'Looking at Membership' booklet, we would appreciate you taking some time to fill out an application for membership. Please bring this with you to the course.

The following application pages provide you with the opportunity to:

1: Tell us your Story

Christian Conversion Story

Pg 4

2: Discover where you fit in!

Discover your S.H.A.P.E.

Pg 7

3: Provide your Personal Details

Membership Information

Pg 14

4: Commit to becoming a Member

Our Commitments

Pg 19

What you share is confidential – none of the details will be stored other than on this sheet. This information will only be seen by the Leadership Team. But we would also encourage you to personally share your story of God's grace and mercy with others.

Christian Conversion Story

How did you become a Christian?

This isn't a trick question. Each story is personal and an account of a loving heavenly Father bringing you into His family.

1. What you were like B.C – ‘Before Christ’

Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ and how did that affect you? (Your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships)

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What caused you to begin considering God/Christ as a solution to your needs? (If you became a Christian as a child tell us about your home environment and the impression made on you by other Christians who influenced you)

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2. Your conversion to Christ

What finally motivated you to receive Christ as your own Lord and Saviour? (Specifically how did you receive Christ and become a Christian)

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3. A.D* -now that you are a Christian

How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ? (*Anno Domini – ‘in the year of Our Lord’ – that is under His leadership, love and protection)

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What's life like now that you're a Christian? (What other benefits? have you experienced since that life change? What challenges have you also experienced?)

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4. Conclusion

What was the central thing that, for you, was resolved in becoming a Christian? Have you shared your amazing story with any non-Christian? (Every Christian believer has an amazing story of God's love even if it doesn't feel 'spectacular' to you!) If so, please tell us about that experience.

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Thanks for sharing this with us. Don't doubt that God can use your story to do others eternal good!

Discover your S.H.A.P.E.

Every Christian has been given unique gifts and abilities to help the body of Christ to grow. Romans 12:3-8 gives a helpful breakdown of the gifts Jesus gives to His Church.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

You will be most effective and fulfilled in ministry when you use your **spiritual gifts** in the area of your **heart's** desire in a way that best expresses your **abilities, personality** and **experiences**. It can be difficult to identify gifts, particularly if you've not been a Christian very long and haven't had the opportunity to try different areas of service. This means we need to explore **what** we each do best, **how** we do it and **where** we best fit. In order to do this we use the SHAPE summary below.

- **Spiritual Gifts**
- **Heart**
- **Abilities**
- **Personality**
- **Experience**

As you go through each one jot down any thoughts you have in the back of this booklet and we'll work together in helping you serve at Newcraigs.

1. Spiritual Gifts

Discussion question ... What gifts would you say God has given you?

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What opportunities have you had to serve in the past? *Perhaps think about what other people have noticed and found helpful as you have served in other areas of church life and community?*

Write down your experiences...

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Write down what others have noticed about you...

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2. Heart

God cares for every need. You and I can't! For that reason, in His wisdom, God chose to place in your heart and mine a small piece of His own heart, creating a passion within us. That is why you care about some things more than others and why different people care about different things—it is by design. If we all cared for the same things many needs would go unmet!

Discussion question ... If you could click your fingers and know you wouldn't fail, what would you do for others?

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What excites you and interest you? What would you be willing to do because your heart says 'I must do this...? *Think about our work in the community and the wider world not just 'inside' the church.*

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Think of different groups – maybe circle one or more of the following groups to which your heart is drawn:

*Children and youth / Parents and Families / Single Parents /
Singles /Married / Widowed / Elderly / Unemployed / Homeless /
Disabled /Poor*

Or it may be ‘issues’ which fires your heart – again circle one or more of the following:

*Poverty / Debt / Hunger / Childcare / Justice / Addictions /
Violence /Education / Environment / Politics / Economic / Health/
Literacy/Discipleship*

What area of church life would ‘draw you in’?

Caring/the Community/Administration/Music/Technology/ Youth
and Children/ **None of the above – I have a real heart for ...**

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3. Abilities

Discussion question... What have you always found you are good at?

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I would describe myself as: (Circle your answer(s))
Patient / Outgoing / Introvert / Assertive / Sociable / ?

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4. Personality

Discussion question... Would you describe yourself as a creative, a do-er, a listener, a helper, a thinker or something else?

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5. Experience

God never wastes an experience, no matter how difficult it may have been or continues to be. Think about the areas of your life, and write down any experiences that may help you see where you could be of service in the life of the church.

Discussion question ... How have you served God in the past?

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Please summarize your experience for us:

Education experience:

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Work experience:

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‘Life’ experience:

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Are there any special gifts or skills you feel you can use at Newcraigs Church?

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Finally, and just as importantly as the positives above, tell us where you definitely would be a ‘square peg in a round hole!’ What areas of service are not for you and best left to others?

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Thank you.

Membership Information

First Name(s):

Surname:

Preferred Title:

Date of Birth:

Nationality and Citizenship:

Present Address

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Postcode

Your Name and contact details will appear in an updated Prayer and Membership Directory given to all Members. Please indicate that whether you are happy for us to include your details by ticking the YES or NO box.

Please include my address in the Prayer and Membership Directory: YES ☐ | NO ☐

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Telephone Number (with codes)

Please include my number in the Prayer and Membership Directory: YES ☐ | NO ☐

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Mobile Number:

Please include my number in the Prayer and Membership Directory: YES ☐ | NO ☐

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E-mail address:

Please include my email in the Prayer and Membership Directory: YES ☐ | NO ☐

Tell us about your family

Are you married? YES ☐ | NO ☐

Name of Spouse:

Have you been married before? YES ☐ | NO ☐

Are you divorced? YES ☐ | NO ☐ Are you widowed? YES ☐ | NO ☐

Any Children? Name (s):
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Present occupation (what do you do, what responsibilities do you have?)

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Date of conversion to Christ (Approximately and your age at the time)

Date: Age:

Have you been through Believers Baptism? YES ☐ | NO ☐

Please tell us about any previous church involvement

Previous Church Membership in the last 10 years (if any, and dates)

Dates From - To:	Name of Church
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Name and Address of previous pastor/church leader:

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Contact number:

Would you be happy for us to contact your previous church?

YES ☐ | NO ☐

What was your involvement in church activities? (Include any official position/role)

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Reasons for leaving (short summary)

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Tell us more about yourself

Is there anything it would be helpful to know – (Any medical concerns, significant life experiences, traumas you may have suffered, pressures upon you now, problems you may have to face)

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Tell us about your ‘Coping Mechanisms’ – Any hobbies you pursue, your interests – other things you do to relax and enjoy.

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Tell us about your hopes and fears for the future – what are your dreams and desires, your expectations in your relationship with Jesus and as you join Newcraigs?

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What about your relationship with Jesus now? How would you describe your walk with the Lord?

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Are there any other issues you would like to discuss with a leader?

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Thank you.

Our Commitments

All those who join the church make public promises, whether they join at their baptism, or whether they transfer membership from another church. We ask new members three questions; the first asks whether you have become a real Christian; the second asks about your willingness to follow the Lord Jesus, and the third spells out what that means as a member of a church.

1. Have you sincerely turned away from sin and back to God (Repentance) and have you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved (Faith)?

2. Do you genuinely want to love the Lord, to follow and obey Him, pleasing Him in every area of your life?

3. Will you always seek to keep in fellowship with all members of this local church, to give faithful attendance at all regular meetings, to pray for other members, to encourage other Christians to love and good deeds, to practically care for needy members, to commit yourself to being kind and hospitable, to give sacrificially of your money, time and skill for the Lord's work, to be concerned for the growth of Christ's Kingdom on earth, and so in all these things to bring honour and glory to our God and Saviour Jesus Christ?

The third promise we make covers many aspects of our life together, and makes clear the responsibilities as well as the privilege we all have. These flow from the first responsibility we all have in living a consistent Christian life. If we are one thing at church, but another at home, work or with friends we let the Lord down, and reflect badly the church to which we belong.

We have been called and set apart to live lives consistently with the teachings of Scripture. With God's help we can be salt and light in the world.

Every member of the family has a unique and vital role to play in loving, forgiving, teaching, encouraging, and one another. One of the ways we will grow is by being part of a smaller group of fellow disciples as we meet in Growth Groups during the week and then as we gather all together in celebration of the gospel on a Sunday. They are such a blessing and you will be blessed being part of a growing church here in Kirkcaldy.

Which Growth Group are you attending?

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If you're not yet connected with a group then please speak to one of the Elders or one of the Growth Group leaders.

And finally...

Please formally agree with the following statement as you apply for membership:

☐ I have read, understand and wholeheartedly support the vision, mission and values I have read. I agree with the Statement of Faith of Newcraigs Church. With God's help I fully agree with the promises outlined and would therefore desire to become a member of this local church. Please tick the box and sign, print and date below.

Signed:

Name (PRINT)

Date:

Comments and questions

Jot down any additional notes, information, thoughts or questions here. There'll be time to ask questions at the morning sessions.

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