

Welcome to

St James in the City

Membership Course

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about St James in the City. This course is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from many different backgrounds, this course was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is.

The basis of this course:

"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)

Key Truths:

1. The church is.....
2. God expects you to be.....of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is.....

The goal of this course

That I will commit myself to.....

and

Part One

St James in the City Purpose Statement

Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

Our purpose Statement: Why we exist as a church

The purpose of God's church here on earth is based on two key scriptures:

The Great Commandment:

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

Matt. 22:36-40

The Great Commission:

*"Jesus said, '**Go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptising them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything** I have commanded you."*

Matt. 28:19-20

- To "Love God with all your heart" is "**WORSHIP**"
LOVE
- To "Love your neighbour as yourself" is "**MINISTRY**"
SERVE
- To "Go...make disciples" is "**EVANGELISM**"
BUILD
- To "Baptise..." is to "**INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP**"
LIVE
- To "Teach them...all things" is "**DISCIPLESHIP**"
GROW

Based on these universal values the purpose statement for our church is:

‘St James in the City: living to make a difference’

Our passion is to:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Love God: | our central focus is meeting together to worship and glorify GOD. It's what energises us to live for him. |
| Live as community: | create strong supportive networks. Provide friendship, family and home to people from many backgrounds and nations |
| Grow more like Jesus: | know more about HIM. Become more like HIM. |
| Serve our communities: | work to make a real difference in Liverpool and beyond, especially for the poor. |
| Build God's kingdom: | locally, nationally and globally for those yet to know JESUS. Train, equip, send and resource. |

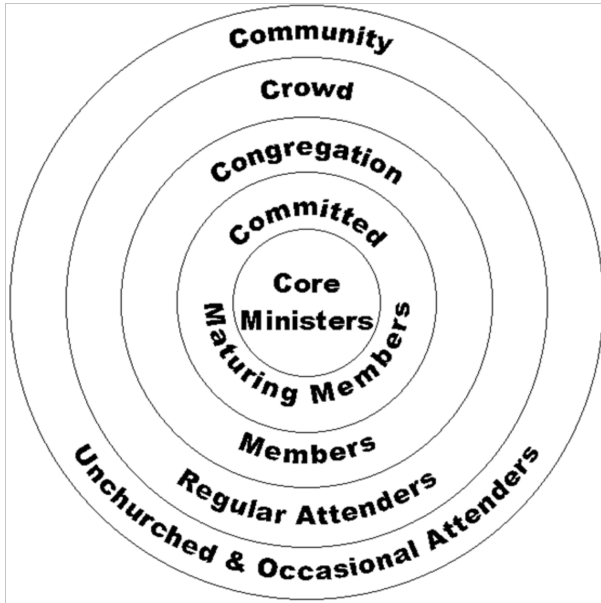
Part Two:

St James in the City Strategy

(Paul) “I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Good News.”

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (Ph)

2.1 Circles of commitment:



St James in the City’s objective is to keep moving people toward the centre by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to five basic commitments:

2.2 The Christian Basics Course

The five covenants:

2.3 We exist toas a community

“You are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” Eph. 2:19 (LB)

2.4 We exist to more like Jesus

“Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

Growing more like Jesus involves developing the necessary for spiritual growth.

- i) P _ _ _ _ _
- ii) B _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _
- iii) F _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- iv) G _ _ _ _ _ _ _ G _ _ _ _ _

“Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.”

2.5 We exist to our communities

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...”
1 Pet. 4:10 (LB)

- Every member is a.....
- Every task is.....

- i) S.H.A.P.E profile
- ii) One to one interview
- iii) Purpose Groups

Spiritual Gifts

Heart

Ability

Personality

Experiences

2.6 We exist to God's kingdom

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect...”
1 Peter 3:15

- i) To help you share your story
- ii) To invite friends along to St James in the City

We believe our church must grow..... and.....at the same time.

2.7 We exist toGod

This is our central focus. Meeting together to glorify GOD energises us to live for him.

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”

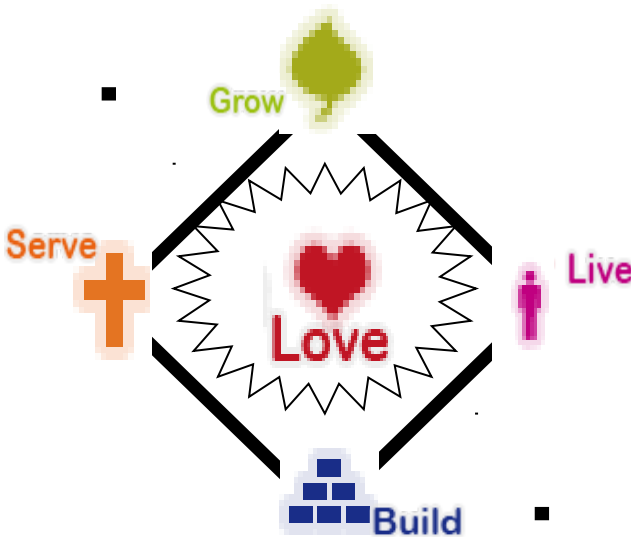
Matt. 4:10

This is a commitment to worship God with my whole life

Which expresses itself as:

- *Living as a Community*
- *Growing more like Jesus*
- *Serving our Communities*
- *Building God’s Kingdom*

“Therefore, I urge you in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship.”
Romans 12:1



2.8 Why do we have these covenants?

We become what we are.....

Part Three:

Our Structure

“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...

*Everything should be done in a fitting
and orderly way.”*

1Cor.14:33,40

3.1 How our church is structured:

We are a body — not a business!
We are an organism — not an organisation!

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.”
Romans 12:4-6

In an organisation, “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

At St James we have a simple structure so we can maximise and minimise.....

“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...”
Eph. 4:11-12

3.2 Our structure:

The people are the “.....”.

The leaders are the “.....”.

3.3 Staff team:

At the moment the staff team comprises of:

- **Vicar** - Rev Neil Short
- **Associate Vicar**- Rev Jude Padfield
- **Curate** - Rev Ed Down.
- **Worship Pastor** – Debs Davies
- **Operations Officer LivServe & St James** - Kirsty Fazakerley
- **Interns**

- **Project Development Officer LivServe** – Denise Bernard
- **PCC** - A group of key leaders who set the vision and value for the church and make major decisions.
- **Strategy Group** - They meet alternate months with the PCC. They look ahead to long term plans and prepare issues for the PCC.
- **The Berkeley Foundation** - Paul Cunningham leads the team which includes Gareth, Rick, Alastair, John, Donniya, Ana, Chris and Althea.

3.4 Annual General Meeting (A.G.M):

Every year we have an A.G.M in spring. We have reports looking back over the past year and Neil shares the vision for the church for the coming year. The church accounts are available for everyone. The salary and expenses of leaders are published – we are open and accessible.

3.5 Our affiliation:

- St James in the City is part of the Toxteth Deanery, 12 churches
- Which is in the Diocese of Liverpool, about 300 churches
- Which is part of the Church of England
- Which is part of the Anglican Church world wide, with the Archbishop of Canterbury as its leader

Part of our weekly collections go into a central Church of England pot, this is then added together with contributions from all the other churches, and money from ancient bequest to pay all the clergy in England. At the present time we receive back more than we contribute.

14% (2016) of our weekly collections we choose give away.

What it means to be a Member

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word:.....

At St James in the City we recognise the need for a membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

1. A biblical reason: Christ is committed to the Church

“...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.” Eph. 5:25

2. A cultural reason: It is an antidote to society

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of Britain’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A practical reason: It defines who can be counted on

Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

4. A personal reason: It produces spiritual growth

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

What is expected of me as a member?

At St James in the City we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

The St James in the City Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Saviour, and being in agreement with St James in the City's purpose statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the St James in the City church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

LIVE as a member of St James by:

- Gathering with the Body of Christ each week
- Supporting the members of your Purpose Group

GROW as a disciple of Christ by:

- Reading Gods word
- Spending time with God daily
- Being a member of a Purpose Group
- Giving generously to Gods work

SERVE my community by:-

- Completing your SHAPE profile
- Having a one to one interview
- Discovering which Purpose Group to join

BUILD God's Kingdom by:-

- Learning to share your story
- Going on a short term mission trip.

LOVE God by:-

- Spending some time in his presence each day
- Making corporate worship your top priority.

*These are aspirations not rules. Sometimes there are very good

reasons why a member cannot or even should not commit to one or two of the above. I will be happy to discuss any issues with you personally.
Neil

Answers

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This Booklet has been adapted from Rick Warren’s Class 101

Notes