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Introduction

Welcome!

We are glad you are interested in finding out about our Church family. This booklet complements the Belonging course. Some of the material will only be bulleted, whereas on the course each point will be expanded upon for your note taking with opportunity for Q&A.

You are welcome to read through the material at any time, before and after attending the Belonging course and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Prophetic word to CCBS On the left was an old, traditional house, beautiful in it's way. Well built, prosperous looking red brick.

On the right the second house, a total contrast to the first.

A glass structure, if you have seen a super modern Huff house that's what it reminded me of. Transparent, the interior visible -

Innovative, cutting edge, even the process of building is radically different requiring a high degree of accuracy in construction.

•Sue Currie 2018

Purpose of the course:

The community of faith is described as a temple, dwelling place, household and family of God. See: Ephesians Ch2:19-22



- We see joining a church community as a process of being built together and the Belonging Course as part of that process...
- After the course there will be an opportunity to meet up with someone in leadership and discuss next steps.

The story so far...

The church was founded in 1983 by 6 visionary people with a heart for an expression of church based firmly on the teaching of the New Testament, and joined the NewFrontiers group of churches then led by Terry Virgo in 1985. This subsequently morphed into membership of the Relational Mission section of NF in 2011 which continues to provide the global context for our contribution to church planting and world mission as well as giving relational oversight and ongoing accountability for our leadership team.

With a consistent desire to build on the word of God and be led and equipped by the Spirit of God, the church grew steadily over the years both through several hundred coming to faith and others joining as established Christians wanting to be part of the church family and part of what God was doing. Of course there have been ups and downs and challenges on the journey. We're not perfect!

The church's particular vision has developed over time and been shaped by weighed and accepted prophetic ministry, received through both church members and visiting ministries. We've always had a heart for authentic relationships with God and each other as we pursue the biblical mission to make disciples of all nations. Along the way we've been consistently blessed with the evident presence of God, fulfilling both biblical promise to be the dwelling place of God and prophetic encouragements that we carry 'a residential anointing'.

It is common for newcomers and members to comment on their experience of encountering God during worship.

During the 1990's we were able to buy and re-develop what became the Charis Centre following clear prophetic instruction and remarkable supernatural provision through specific freewill offerings that raised precisely the sums needed at the time. That's a story in itself!

We believe we're all saved by grace as a response to God's initiative in our lives and faith in the saving work of Jesus - not by achieving some kind of success or level of right living. This motivates us to serve God and we want everyone to take part in the life of the church in a completely voluntary way and not at all as a result of any sense of duty or obligation or pressure from anyone else. We value every single member and want everyone to participate in church life and mission, using their God-given natural abilities and spiritual gifts to the full.

We all have a part to play and we hope you will want to join us on a journey to seeing God fulfil His purpose for us as a local church as we play our part alongside other churches in God's mission to the town, the nation and the world. 1

Foundations



Detailing the foundations

Jesus Christ.

Eph.2:20 'Christ Jesus himself .. the chief cornerstone. In Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His spirit.'

Salvation through Christ Acts 2:36-39. Repentance, faith, baptism in water (see Statement of Faith) baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Word & Holy Spirit.

Both are vital - complementary not contradictory.

The Word to Instruct (2 Tim.3.16-17) The bible is our supreme authority and plumb line for personal life, doctrine and church life.

FFL = 62.00

The Spirit to Empower (Acts 1.8) 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you'.

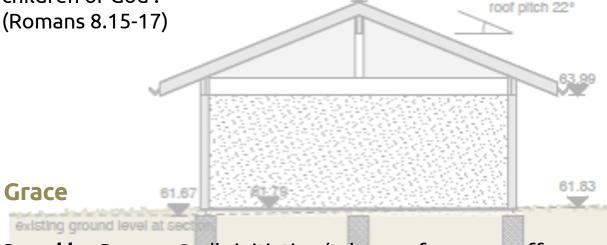
We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and is to be the benchmark authority in the lives of Christians and the Church. We also believe in and seek the work and gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives and through us to others, both in the church and in our witness to the world.

Section A-A@1:100

Identity

It is fundamental to our spiritual health, maturity and fruitfulness to know our secure identity: 'He chose us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ' (Ephesians 1.4-5)

'you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father'. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God'.



Saved by Grace = God's initiative (takes performance off our witness)

Serve by Grace = In response to motivation and empowerment by Holy Spirit (Grace gifts are most fruitful when well appointed.)

Live in Grace = Show grace to each other

Section B-B@1:100

Without strong foundations

we're unstable

Without healthy culture

we're unable

Without a mission we don't know

what we're doing

Without a vision we don't know

where we're going"

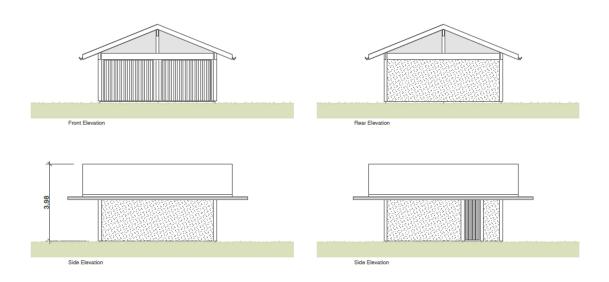
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Culture



Raising the culture

Like the walls of a building, culture sets the space of a community and supports our purpose and hope of a God filled future.



Our desired cultures are characteristics of God and his kingdom.

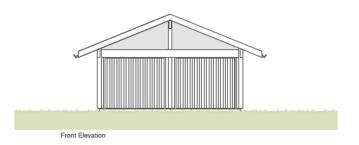
Honour

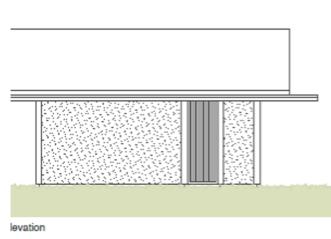
Honour is integral to the trinity. God honoured mankind by making us in His image.

We want to honour everyone as valued people made in God's image, bought with His precious blood adopted as His children. We avoid cynicism, gossip and critical attitudes, even when we disagree or need to be reconciled with each other.

Authenticity

Represents God well Creates free & meaningful relationships.



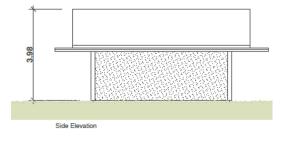


Passion

'love God with all your heart soul mind and strength' Engaged / alive people Wholehearted worshippers Wholehearted obedience

Generosity

We seek to reflect God's generosity by being generous towards others and by serving the poor both locally and internationally.



Courage

Fear disables. Courage enables authenticity, honour, generosity, passion and witness.

3

Mission



Following the mission

Our mission as a community is based on what Jesus said were the greatest two commandments and the great commission (see Matthew 22.37-39 and 28.19-20) together with some key prophetic distinctives that God has spoken to us about.

These are summarised with each part of our purpose below –

Love God wholeheartedly

'love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind' Matthew 22.37

'a house of prayer for the nations'.....'a centre of training in leadership and worship'

Love people unconditionally

'love your neighbor as yourself' Matthew 22:39 'remember the poor'....'feast with the lonely'...

'a cool funky place for young people' (Thirst Café)

Tell everyone clearly

'broadcast the seed'

'broadcast the seed'

'don't settle for being an ordinary town church but be a church that trains and sends like the Antioch church but be a sawbridgeworth

Bishop's Stortford

Bishop'

'be a model church from which the gospel rings out across the region'... 'touch nations'

ast Finchley Beast Fi

Chelmsford



"Love God Wholeheartedly, Love people unconditionally, Tell everyone clearly"





Vision



Vision

This is our vision, to be



A family of God, In the presence of God. Displaying the glory of God

We have our prayer-filled hope in the outworking of this vision.

Hope in God is certain confidence in him to work amongst his people to fulfil his word. RW PIPE

See Rom 5:1-5 and Phil 1:6.



Roof Plan

A Family of God. To be a loving family who honour each other highly, are totally secure and absolutely real Prophetic words to CCBS: 'train an army of young people'... 'honour the old'... 'welcome everyone'.... 'all generations'... 'welcoming those from other nations. In the presence of God RW CHAIN 'you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit' (Ephesians 2.22)VELUX : Prophetic word to CCBS: 'residential anointing' RW CHAIN

Roof Plan

Displaying the Glory of God.

Isaiah 61.3 we are to be 'a planting of the Lord for the display of His Splendour' = glory

(Ephesians 3.21) 'Now... to Him be glory in the church'

Specific Prophetic Words for CCBS:

'arise shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you'

'the place where you dwell is too small'

'break the mould of what's expected of a church in a UK town' Prophetic dreams of this church with 900 people

- •NB- 'We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this allsurpassing power is from God, not from us'
- •2 Corinthians 4.7

The big picture...

- 1. God's kingdom is ever-increasing (Is 2.2,9,7 Daniel 2.34-45, Parables of the Kingdom, Rev 7.9)
- 2. The global church is at the centre of God's plans (Ephesians 3.21)
- Roo Prophesied by Isaiah (61.1-3)
 Inaugurated by Jesus (Luke 4)
 Fulfilled through Jesus' church (Matthew 16.18)

Vision is fulfilled when
mission is outworked,
Mission is outworked when
culture is lived,
Culture is lived when
foundations are strong'

5

In Practice



Putting it into practice

Group Life

We encourage everyone to get involved in Group Life. There are a wide variety of Small Groups and these are a great place to get connected, belong to the family and grow as a disciple of Jesus.

Visit our connect page on the CCBS website or speak to the welcome team on a Sunday.

Serve on a team

There are many ways to get involved and contribute to the mission God has given us by joining one of the teams serving within the church and/or the wider community.

Visit the Serve on a Team page on our website or contact the office for details of the teams and how to join in.



6

Leadership



•We believe that God gives us leaders to bless us, whose authority is to be respected by the church but not imposed upon it. The training of godly leaders is given high priority.

Principles of Biblical Leadership

•1. Leadership through Relationship and Trust

1 Thessalonians Ch1&2

Slaves of Christ and Servants to those led

Together with brothers and sisters loved by God.

Lived amongst, not separated.

Not leadership from error or impure motive, no deception

Pleasing God who tests our hearts

Authority that is not wielded or coercive.

Like young children of affection and open vulnerability

Parenting as mothers and fathers do for their children

Caring, encouraging, comforting, urging lives lived worthy of God.

•2. Leadership Based on Godly Character

- •The Timothy list 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- •The Titus list Titus 1:5-9
- •Rom 16.1 Phoebe

3. Leadership Called & Anointed by God

See Acts 13.2, Romans 12:8, 1Cor12:28.

The spiritual gift of leadership is given by God to men and women who will help the church grow and thrive beyond the current generation. God has given this gift not to exalt individuals but to glorify himself when believers use his gifts to do his will.

•4. Leadership Recognised by Others

See Acts 15:22-29

by Apostolic ministry or delegate

by other elders

by the church

People follow voluntarily.

•5. Leadership by a Group, not an Individual

- •Titus 1:5
- •Acts 14:23
- •1 Timothy 5:17
- •Rom 16

The Role of the Leaders

Ephesians 4:11-16, Christ's Gifts to the Church:

Apostles, Prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers Responsibility to "equip" (set right, strengthen) and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Ministry leadership Team. "MLT" (See table below)
See Rom 16. Variety of people, called and equipped for service.

Elders to minister (serve) the family by:

- praying
- leading
- •feeding / teaching
- protecting & keep watch
- •setting an example
- equipping, training & releasing
- correcting
- •giving an account before God

•The Response of the Church

Open Lives - 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Honour and Love - 1 Thessalonians 5:13

Voluntary Following - 1 Peter 5

Voluntary Submission - Hebrews 13:17, Acts 16:4

COMMUNITY CHURCH LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

CCBS sits within the stream of new frontiers movement of churches. New frontiers is separated into "spheres". CCBS is working with and receiving input and oversight from one of those spheres called Relational mission.

The diagram below illustrates our leadership structure within the wider context of New Frontiers and our relational connections with other churches and organisations.



The meaning of "Muddy banks". A prophetic word that our boarders are not defined in concrete but are rather like the muddy banks of the river where we interact with other church movements and apostolic voices around the world. (Adrian Horner, March 2019)



The following table outlines the activity of each leadership area.

Leadership Group: DELIVERY: key leaders & influencers

Who: Elders, MLT, other staff & volunteers who carry significant leadership

responsibility or influence.

What: Relational Connection, Awareness of others world, Feedback on vision and Key

strategic decisions. Prayer.

Ministry Leadership team: DEVELOPMENT: Strategic vision (near future course corrections not fundamental approach) & management.

Who: Ministry leaders (inc elders who are ministry leaders) plus one or two others. 12 people men and women.

What: Develop detailed vision under the vision of the elders. Key management details. Issues where teams are 'stuck'. Prayer.

Trustees: ACCOUNTABILITY: Senior accountability team

Who: Individuals with appropriate specialist skillset, capability and aligned vision to elders.

What: Legal, Financial matters incl. overall Salaries. Accountability for Elders on overall direction of the Trust. Prayer.

Elders: **DIRECTION**: Senior Governing body. Direction, Discipline, Devotion (word and

prayer), Doctrine

Who: staff and non-staff elders. **What**:Direction - big picture

Discipline - church discipline issues.

Devotion - personal and corporate. Praying together, spiritual life of the church.

Doctrine - key doctrinal issues

Reference:

Mature Christians in a season of life that allows infrequent but invaluable involvement.



Finance





This issue of money is at the heart of discipleship

See: Matthew 6:19-21.

According to Jesus our heart is wherever we are putting our 'treasure'

•Tight fisted or open handed?

See: Deuteronomy 15:7-11

•First fruits, not fag ends!

See: Proverbs 3:9-10 - first principles

•Health and wealth?

See: 1 Timothy 6:3-10 Godliness is not a means to financial gain.... but wealth is a blessing

Proverbs 10:22 "The blessing of the LORD brings wealth"

1 Timothy 6:17 "Hope in God not in financial security"

Malachi 3:10 shows there can be a connection between our faithfulness and God's blessing as we bring the full tithing to the storehouse, God opens the windows of heaven.

Seeking First the Kingdom of God

See: Luke 12:22-34

As we seek the Kingdom our needs will be met.

What Are We To Give and Where To?

- •Old Testament examples
- •Abraham Genesis 14:18-20 first tithe in recognition of ministry
- •Numbers 18:21-24 to support ministry
- •Deuteronomy 12:17-18; 14:23 the festival tithe
- •Deuteronomy 14:28-29; 26:12-13 for the poor
- •Nehemiah 13:10-12
- •Malachi 3:8-10
- •New Testament examples
- •2 Corinthians 8:1-15 NB v 7 the grace of giving
- •2 Corinthians 9:6-15 sowing, reaping and cheerful giving.
- •1 Corinthians 9:7-15 NB especially vs 13-14.

These verses show us the New Testament's affirmation of the Old Testament principle of tithing to support ministry.

- Summary
- •We give because it is in our hearts to do so.
- •We give a 10% tithe to the local church to which we belong, consistent with biblical teaching and practice.
- •We additionally give to offerings or other causes as we see fit.

Conclusion

We want to live in grace in this area as in every other area. We believe that tithing to the local church is consistent with biblical teaching and practice. We would want money to be given freely and with genuine joy as one natural expression of the joining of our hearts to a common vision and of our obedience to the Word of God. If the desire to tithe to the church is not in your heart, then this may indicate that your heart is not ready for the commitment to membership just yet.

Church Finances

Role of the Trustees - 1 Corinthians 8:20-21

"We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."

8

Theology



Theology



No movement-wide statement of faith, but a body of teaching (overseen by the International team) and outworked through relationship.

Principles Commonly Held within the Newfrontiers network of Churches

A Reformed Biblical theology and practice

High view of scripture - it is always the word of God.

Evangelical – recognise the command to proclaim, and call the unsaved to repentance

Affirm the reality of Hell – unbelievers will not simply be 'snuffed out' Not dogmatic regarding a 6 day (6 x 24 hour) creation.

Do not interpret apocalyptic prophesy (Revelation) literally – no fixed belief concerning the millennium.

A conservative approach to Biblical interpretation – 21st Century cultural differences do not negate moral absolutes.

Not liturgical, but open to other traditions to deepen our faith.

Affirm the 'Priesthood of all believers' – Body ministry and Membership

Communion / Lord's Supper – range of views from remembrance to real presence.

Baptism by total immersion as a believer (recognising this may not always be possible for medical, age and mental health reasons), not infant baptism.

Newfrontiers Theology

Charismatic

Affirm an experiential Baptism in the Holy Spirit coincident with, or subsequent to salvation for every believer.

Affirm all of the Gifts of the Spirit as available to and operative within Christ's church today.

Affirm the Prophetic and Apostolic ministries in today's church along with those more traditionally accepted – Pastor, Teacher & Evangelist (Eph. 4:11)

Extending the Kingdom of God is the primary focus of ministry – eg. Spiritual Warfare or Healing serve the purpose of Kingdom growth. Full-timers are set aside to release time to ministry – based on calling. Ministry based on serving in our giftedness by the Spirit Eph 4 Offices (the few) - 1 Cor/Rom 12 Gifts (all of us)

Basis of Salvation

God's Grace initiates our salvation and His acceptance of us. We contribute nothing to our salvation except the sin which makes it necessary!

Nothing we do contributes to the security, or otherwise, of our salvation.

Genuine salvation cannot be lost - 'Once Saved Always Saved' Sovereignty is more than foreknowledge - loving Divine choice (election for purpose – Eph 2:10). We do not affirm the concept of double-predestination – No-one is consigned to Hell from birth, The Father's desire is to see all return home to him. 1 Tim 2:3-6

Theology

The following statements of faith, that we hold are the same as those of the Evangelical Alliance. If this is in an e-book format Click here to go to the EA website or if not search EA basis of faith.



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.