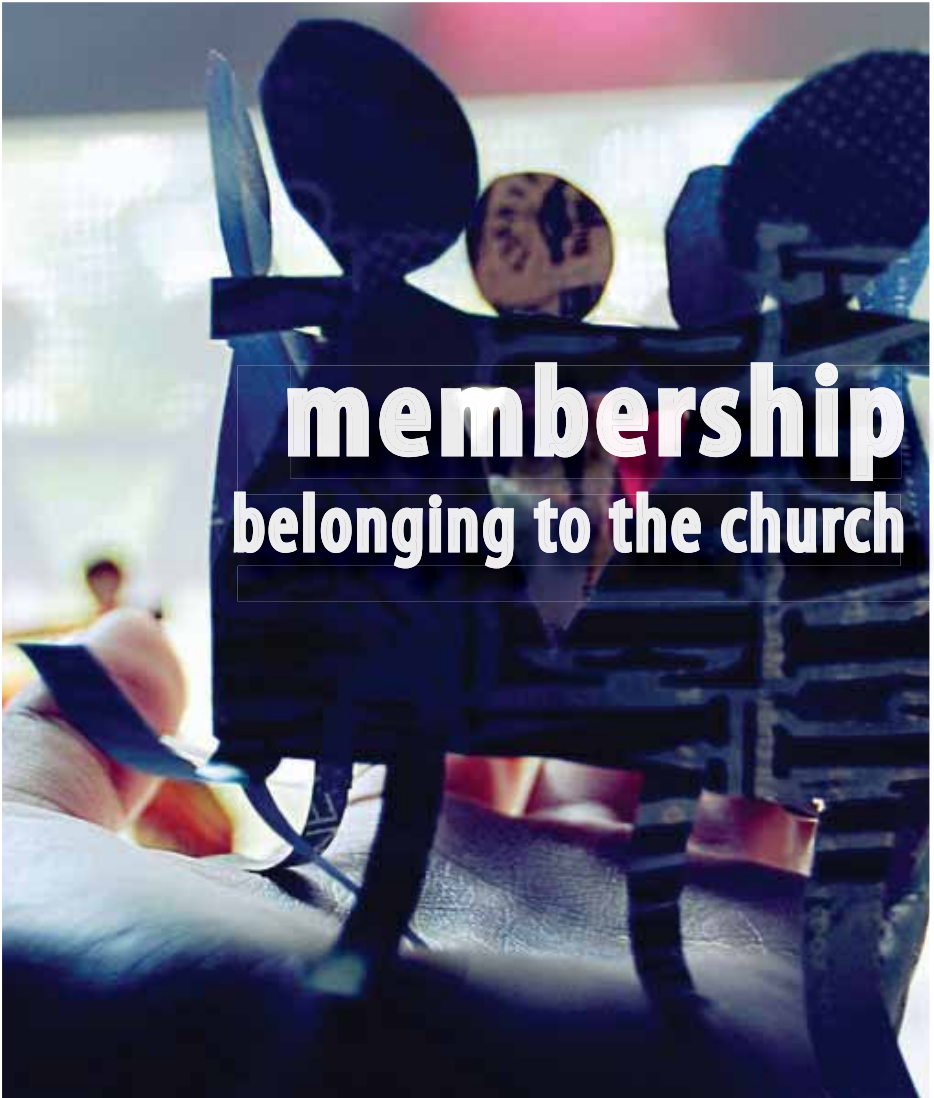


how we do things at



GREAT ASHBY
COMMUNITY CHURCH



membership
belonging to the church

Great Ashby Community Church: Membership

Great Ashby Community Church is a church which is made up of Christians of many denominations so our membership reflects this. We belong to the Baptist Union of Great Britain and are in partnership with the local Anglican diocese of St Albans. Anyone who has made a declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour either through believers' baptism or through baptism followed by confirmation may apply to be a member of the church. We have one single membership role although those who are Anglicans may also be a part of their local parish by being on the electoral role and may serve as members of the St Nicholas PCC. Great Ashby Community Church is a church that is governed by its membership.

Why bother? Reasons for membership

- a) Church membership shows that we take our Christian faith and commitment seriously. We belong to the body of Christ and wish to take as full a part as possible.
"You, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a royal priesthood." (1Peter2:5)
- b) Church membership helps to build strong churches by making sure that each church is supported by a core of people who are prepared to commit time, energy, finance and their own Spiritual gifts to building up the body of Christ.
- c) As members of the church we will share the responsibility together for government and decision making process within the church.
- d) Church membership enables us to challenge the modern tendency to see ourselves as consumers rather than contributors. Being a Christian is not a spectator sport but requires our personal dedicated involvement in the things of God and of the church.
- e) Although we admit that we are, each one of us, far from perfect, yet as we meet in the presence of God, we are together, with the help of the Spirit, enabled to hear his voice and his will for us.

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his purpose." (Philippians 2: 13)

A Covenant Community of faith and love

Those who are members of Great Ashby Community Church covenant together.

- a) This means that we promise to share our lives together, the joys, the sorrows, the rough and the smooth. In some ways this is similar to a marriage.
- b) Together we share in the privileges and the responsibilities of church life. We will worship together regularly and share Communion with each other.
- c) We will support each other in prayer and join together in God's mission in our local community and in the wider world.
- d) We will try, with God's help, to be a community which lives out the love and grace of God. We will, as members, endeavour to love, trust and encourage one another. We will commit ourselves to each other in mutual submission and with patience and forbearance we will respect and honour each other.
- e) We will contribute in giving our time, our gifts, our money and ourselves as we are able.
- f) In the way we govern ourselves we will reflect the upside down Kingdom of God. The final decisions in important matters of church life will be taken by the church members as they meet together. All church members and leaders are answerable both to God and to church meeting.

continued



So what happens next?

- a) The first thing to do is to talk to one of the church leadership.
- b) You will then be visited at your convenience by a couple of church members . . . they will explain simply how we work as a church. They will then ask you a number of things. They will ask about your own life story and your journey to faith in Jesus Christ including your baptism or confirmation. They will ask how long you have been coming to GACC and why it is that you wish to be a member. They will want to know how we as a church may be able to support you and what it is that you will be able to contribute to church life. They may also ask if they can take a digital photo of you to show to the church meeting.
- c) They will then recommend to a church meeting that you become a member and you will be welcomed into membership of the church at the next convenient Communion service.
- d) You will then be invited to attend and take a full part in our church meetings which take place several times a year also you will be invited to take as full a part in the life of the church as you are able and gifted by God to do.

For more information about being a member of Great Ashby Community Church contact:

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