



Membership

Bruntsfield Evangelical Church exists
to glorify God through lives being
transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ

Why belong to a church?

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:1-16

- One God of Grace
- One Giver of Gifts
- One Goal of Growth

The lonely ember...

What is the history of Bruntsfield Evangelical Church?

We are an independent church in the heart of Edinburgh. We moved into the current building from a hall in Tollcross 50 years ago, and since then have added a false ceiling, put in a glass entrance from the foyer and most recently installed a lift and refurbished the back entrance.

Spiritually, our roots are in the ‘Open Brethren’ tradition, and principles which characterise the Open Brethren remain important to us. In particular:

- We do not belong to any denomination (e.g. Church of Scotland or Baptist), but we enjoy fellowship with all who know and love Jesus.
- Human leadership is entrusted to a group of Elders who seek to pastor the flock faithfully and look to the Lord for guidance. Others in the church provide leadership in specific areas of ministry.
- We believe all Christians have been given gifts by the Holy Spirit and we encourage them to use these gifts to build up the church.
- In accordance with Acts 2:42, we give priority to Bible teaching, fellowship, the Lord’s Supper (communion) and prayer.
- We also give priority to personal witness, corporate evangelism and mission, both local and worldwide.
- We baptise by immersion those who have trusted in Jesus as Saviour and wish to follow Him as Lord.

In recent years, the church has changed significantly and members now come from a variety of church backgrounds. We appointed our first Pastor, Jon Gemmell, in 2009 and our Youth Pastor, Peter Ervine, in 2011. Graeme Shanks joined us in 2012, first as Ministry Apprentice then Assistant Pastor and, since August 2017, Pastor. Alistair Chalmers took over as Assistant Pastor in August 2017. We also have a Church Manager (Ian Naismith) and three interns.

The church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and the East of Scotland Gospel Partnership.

What do we believe?

Our Statement of Faith summarises truths which we believe are fundamental beliefs of Christians. They are:

- The Bible is the Word of God, divinely inspired and fully trustworthy. It is our supreme authority for belief and conduct.
- There is one true and eternal God in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. With love, grace, holiness and sovereignty He created, sustains, rules, redeems and judges the world.
- All human beings are wonderfully made in God's image but have been corrupted by sin, which makes them subject to His wrath and judgement.
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who was born to the virgin Mary and is truly God and truly human. His life was completely without sin, and on the cross He became the perfect sacrifice for sin. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into Heaven where He continues to intercede for those who trust in Him.
- Salvation from the guilt and consequences of sin is only available by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- God the Holy Spirit leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
- The church is the body of Christ, made visible through local congregations of those who know Jesus as Saviour and serve Him as Lord. True fellowship within and among churches is on the basis of common faith in Christ as the only way of salvation. The church is given gifts by the Spirit as it worships God, proclaims the Gospel and promotes justice and love.
- Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly to raise the dead and bring salvation and judgement to final completion. He will establish a new Heaven and a new earth. Those who have trusted in Him will be granted eternal life, while those who have rejected Him will suffer eternal condemnation.

Who can become a member?

We welcome as members all those who love Jesus, are seeking to live in holiness as disciples of the Lord, agree with our Statement of Faith and are willing to commit to our Membership Statement.

Why become a member?

Everyone is welcome at Bruntsfield Evangelical Church without being a member, but if you love Jesus and see Bruntsfield as your church we encourage you to become a member. This allows you to participate fully in the life of the church.

In particular:

- There are areas of service which are normally only open to church members. These include preaching, leading a class in Kids' Church, and leading a small group.
- Certain communications and other information may only be made available to church members.
- In any consultation, we will give more weight to the views of church members than those who have not made that commitment.

How can I become a member?

We hold regular informal membership classes, where church leaders explain to prospective members the basics of our life together, including what we believe, how we function, what it means to be a member etc. This also gives a chance for people to ask questions about the church.

Following the class, those who want to become members of Bruntsfield Evangelical Church meet with a couple of the elders to talk about how they came to trust the Lord Jesus, how they understand the Gospel and what part they believe they can play in the church. This is also a further chance to ask questions.

Following this the church is informed of new members joining, normally at quarterly Vision Evenings.

How do we seek to live together?

The membership statement is designed to convey what church membership is all about. We believe that

- By grace through repentance and faithⁱ we have received Jesus Christ as the Lord, Saviour and Treasureⁱⁱ of our lives;
- As those who believe on Jesus' name we have been adopted by God and are therefore co-heirs with Christⁱⁱⁱ;
- We have been given new life^{iv} through the Holy Spirit who is within us, renewing us to be more like Jesus^v.
- In the presence of God, looking to Christ Jesus and dependent on the Holy Spirit, we commit to living gospel centred^{vi}, grace saturated^{vii} and sacrificial lives^{viii} with one another as one body^{ix}.
- We will devote ourselves to^x the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.
- With the help of the Holy Spirit:
 - We will pray for one another^{xi}.
 - We will walk together and watch over one another in brotherly love^{xii}.
 - We will rejoice at each others' happiness and bear each others' burdens and sorrows^{xiii}.
 - We will support one another in sickness and distress^{xiv}.
 - We will show courtesy in speech and be slow to take offence, always ready for reconciliation^{xv}.

- We will make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace^{xvi}.
 - Together we will seek to glorify Christ Jesus, our Lord and Head^{xvii}.
 - We will submit to the authority of Scripture, feasting upon it together and seeking to obey it^{xviii}.
 - We will use our spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ^{xix}.
 - We will reach out to others lovingly with the Gospel of Christ^{xx}.
 - We will cheerfully contribute to the church, the relief of the poor and other Christian work, as we are able financially^{xxi}.
 - We will respect our leaders knowing they watch over us as those who must give an account^{xxii}.
 - We will seek to live lives worthy of the Lord and to please Him in every way^{xxiii}.
 - We will live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts^{xxiv}.
 - We will seek the salvation of our friends and neighbours^{xxv}.
 - We will endeavour to nurture our children in the Christian Faith^{xxvi}.
- We commit to live our lives as faithful and diligent disciples of Jesus^{xxvii}; our identity will be in Him^{xxviii}, our worship will be for Him^{xxix}, our fellowship will be through Him^{xxx} and our community will exist for His glory^{xxxi}.

ⁱRomans 5:2, Ephesians 2:8; ⁱⁱLuke 12:24, Hebrews 11:6, Colossians 2:3; ⁱⁱⁱEphesians 1:5, Romans 8:23; ^{iv}Romans 6:4, Acts 5:15, 1 Peter 1:3; ^vRomans 8:29, 1 Thessalonians 1:6; ^{vi}2 Corinthians 4:15, 2 Corinthians 12:9; ^{vii}Romans 12:1, John 15:3; ^{ix}1 Corinthians 12:20, Ephesians 4:25; ^xActs 2:42; ^{xi}James 5:16; ^{xii}Romans 12:2; ^{xiii}Romans 12:15; ^{xiv}Matthew 25:40,45; ^{xv}1 Timothy 4:12, 1 Peter 3:10; ^{xvi}Ephesians 4:3; ^{xvii}2 Thessalonians 1:2, Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 2:10; ^{xviii}2 Timothy 3:16; ^{xix}1 Corinthians 14:12; ^{xx}Matthew 28:19, Mark 5:16, Ephesians 5:2; ^{xxi}2 Corinthians 9:7, Malachi 3:10, Ezekiel 16:49; ^{xxii}Hebrews 13:7; ^{xxiii}Ephesians 4:1, Colossians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 2:12; ^{xxiv}Titus 2:12, 1 John 2:17; ^{xxv}Mark 5:19, John 4:29; ^{xxvi}Deuteronomy 11:19; ^{xxvii}Colossians 3:4; ^{xxix}John 14:6; ^{xxx}1 John 1:7; ^{xxxi}1 Peter 1:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:14

What is the church leadership?

- The church is led by a group of male elders. Currently they are:



Graeme Shanks
(Pastor)



Peter Ervine
(Youth Pastor)



Ian Naismith
(Church Manager)



David Aird



Paul Johnston



Fraser McLaren

- Other leaders in the church include Ministry Leaders and Small Group Leaders. Legal and financial responsibility sits with the Trustees.

What is the staff team?

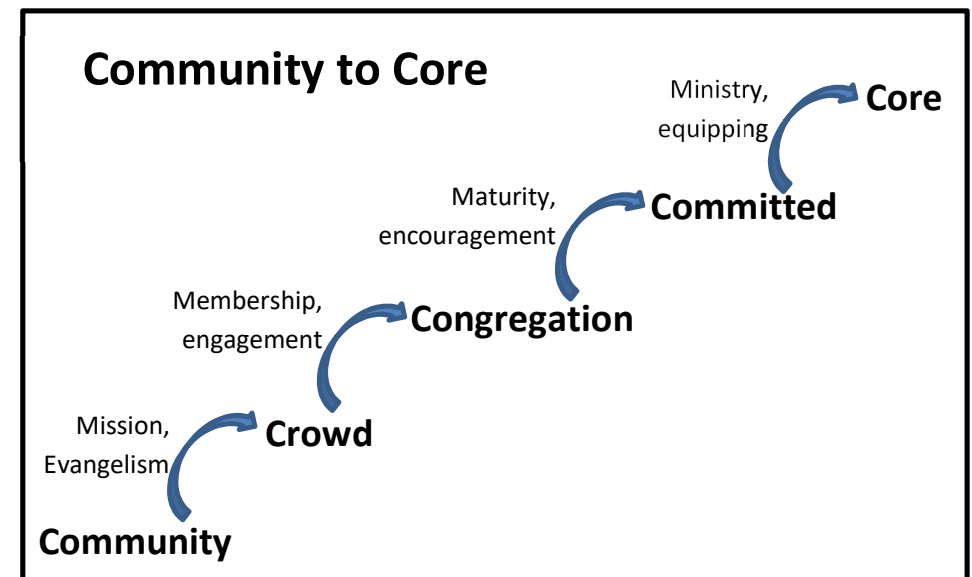
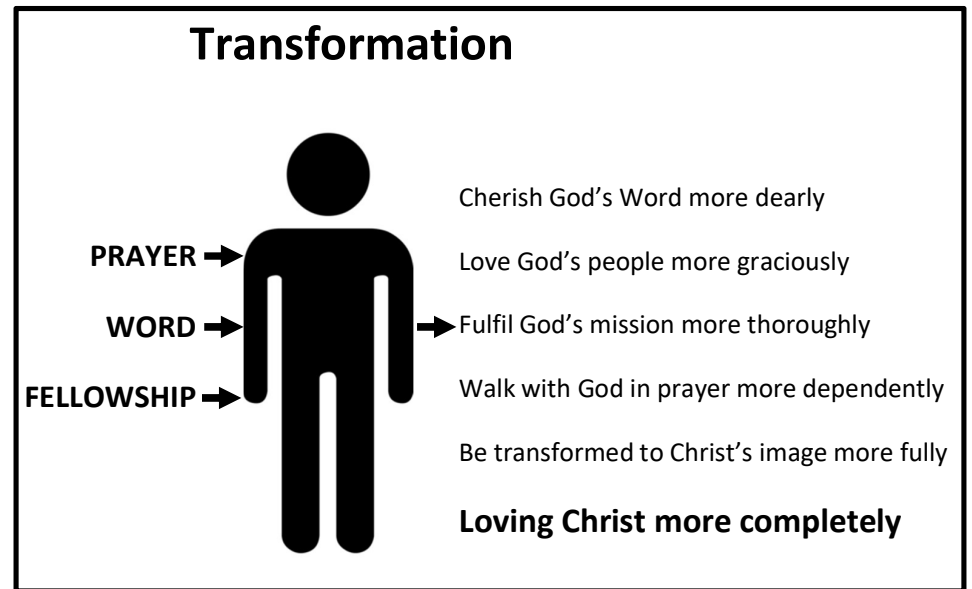
- The current staff team is Graeme, Peter and Ian plus Assistant Pastor Alistair Chalmers (right) and three interns - Simona Basilotta and Tim & Hazel Foster



Alistair Chalmers
(Assistant Pastor)

What is the Vision of the Church?

Bruntsfield Evangelical Church exists to glorify God through lives being transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the church believe about baptism?

- We believe the New Testament pattern for baptism is that it is for those who have come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. We therefore do not baptise infants, but are happy to perform a short act of dedication where the parents request it. We baptise by immersion (lowering briefly under water) using a tank under the church platform.
- We discuss baptism with those who wish to become members, but if you were christened as a child and do not see a need for baptism as a believer that will not prevent you becoming a church member.

What is the position on communion?

- You don't need to be a church member to take communion. We welcome all those who know and love Jesus to His table.
- There's a communion service every Sunday at 10am. This is quite a traditional and reflective service, with open worship before taking bread and wine together towards the end.
- We also take communion together at the end of the All Age Service on the first Sunday of each month. Sometimes the bread and cup (grape juice) are passed round, and sometimes there's the opportunity to go forward to take them.

What services and activities am I expected to attend?

We encourage all members to play an active part in the life of the church. If you only attend one service on a Sunday you'll lose out on what church can offer you, and others will lose out on your fellowship.

We have three services on Sunday – Communion at 10am, the All Age Service at 11:30am and the Evening Service at 6:30pm. Midweek, we have small groups twice a month, and all-together prayer the other two weeks (once in the evening and once at lunchtime). There are also activities organised for specific groups, such as students and women.

You won't be able to be involved in everything, but do try to attend as often as you can, and we strongly suggest that you join a small group if you haven't already.

What opportunities are there to serve?

Lots! Here are a few possibilities:

- We have weekly rotas for things like welcome, tea & coffee and flowers.
- We provide lunch for students each week in term-time.
- We run groups on Sunday morning for children and young people from babies to young teenagers. There's a Baby & Toddler group during the week and Friday Funzone for primary age children.
- We have a number of ministry teams, including for building, food & fellowship and the band.
- Basics Bank on a Friday provides food and toiletries to those in crisis situations, and we also staff the Care Van for the homeless one evening a month.
- You could host your small group regularly or occasionally.

We'll discuss possible areas of service at your membership interview.

Am I expected to contribute financially?

We don't make any charge for membership or have expectations of a minimum amount members will give. However, we believe it's important that all Christians give cheerfully and generously from what God has given them. The church has significant expenditure, including building and staff costs, and a large majority of our income comes from the gifts of members. There are a number of ways you can give:

- Many people find it helpful to set up a monthly standing order, which automatically transfers the amount you have decided to give into the Church bank account. You control the amount given, and if you pay tax the church can benefit from the Government's Gift Aid scheme (if you pay higher rate tax you can also reclaim some tax under self-assessment). If you are interested in setting up a standing order, please speak to our Treasurer, Ian Wilson, or the Church Manager, Ian Naismith.
- An alternative is to use [give.net](http://www.give.net), which is helpful if you wish to give to several charities and vary the amounts from time to time. Give.net allocates your gifts as you choose, and also claims Gift Aid for you. There is a small charge for this service. You can also make one-off gifts at www.give.net/BECEdinburgh. Please see Ian Naismith for more details.
- We have a bag offering at the 10am service, or you can put gifts in the blue box in the vestibule. If you use one of the brown envelopes at the end of each pew you can use the Gift Aid scheme.
- You can also give up to £10 by texting BECE01 £X to 70070, where £x is the amount you want to give.