

Fryerns Baptist Church

147, Whitmore Way, Basildon, Essex SS14 2TJ

Covenant of Membership & Fellowship

1. Being redeemed by the grace of God, we acknowledge our allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ as the head of His Church, and we give ourselves to one another, being members of one body, sharing in each other's joys and sorrows.
2. Although we are interested in many aspects of the Lord's work, we consider this Church has first claim upon us in obedience to Christ. We will endeavour, God helping us, to use our talents to God's glory and encourage others to do the same.
3. If anything in the Church fellowship gives us concern we will share and discuss such matters with the Pastor(s), Elder(s) and Deacons in order to find a solution according to God's will.
4. We will seek regularly to attend Sunday services, Prayer meetings and Church Business and Fellowship meetings unless duty or illness prevents us.
5. As the Lord prospers us financially, we will gladly contribute to the church needs and missionary funds; remembering that Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it.
6. We will seek to care for and support the Pastor(s) and Elder(s) called and appointed to give spiritual leadership to the Church, and give them our love and our prayers.

Passages for study:

Acts 2 v 41

Romans 12 v 1

1 Corinthians 12 v 13 – 21

Ephesians 4 v 1 – 6

Philippians 2 v 1 – 16

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Constitution & Articles of Faith

1.0 Introduction

The Church meeting at Whitmore Way, Fryerns Basildon was founded in 1953. The Church building was opened in 1954.

Founded by The Metropolitan Association of Strict Baptist Churches (later renamed Association of Grace Baptist Churches South East [A.G.B.C.S.E.] and the National Federation of Strict Baptist Churches.

The Church records its gratitude to God for the pioneering work and ministry of the founding Pastor Charles B. Phillimore and his wife Grace.

The Trust-deed of the Church is held by A.G.B.C.S.E. and this can be inspected at either the Association or the Church offices.

The Church looks back at all the way the Lord has led the work over the years with gratitude and praise to Almighty God.

We are grateful to the Lord that in this present generation He is calling men and women who desire to give themselves to each other in fellowship, for the worship of their Saviour, the encouragement of each other and the evangelism of the community in the place where God has placed them.

A new generation requires the restatement of Biblical revelation in modern language and this is an attempt to do just that.

This constitution is published with the sincere prayer that it may be used of the Holy Spirit to encourage and to fulfil our Christian duty, to help us to remain true to our Biblical convictions and to enable us to serve the Lord in an orderly and harmonious way.

This constitution recognises our human limitations, and we pray that Almighty God will grant the grace and strength needed to be, not perfect, but a true church of the living God.

Recognising our human limitations, pray that Almighty God grants grace and strength needed that we might be "Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like thee His praise should sing" Psalm 103 v 1-4

1.1 Articles of Faith

The articles of Faith, as set out in Fryerns Baptist Church Trust Deed, are a summary of the Strict Baptist Affirmation of Faith. The full deed can be inspected at either the Association or the Church offices.

Fryerns Baptist Church adopts, as a general summary of faith, Strict Baptist Affirmation of Faith 1689/1966.

This confession of faith gives a concise statement of biblical doctrine, but in no way is its authority equal to that of the Word of God.

1. The Scriptures reveal that there is but one God, that there are Three Persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; and that these Three Persons are equal in eternity, substance, power and glory.
2. In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son, ever subsisting in Essential Deity, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary, so that our Lord Jesus Christ is very God and very Man in one complex person.
3. Eternal and personal election unto Salvation.
4. The fall of mankind in Adam – their guilt and condemnation – together with their entire and universal depravity, by which they were utterly alienated from God, and are unable in and of themselves to turn to Him.
5. Particular redemption by the vicarious sacrifice of Christ.
6. Justification by grace, through faith, by the imputed righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Regeneration and sanctification by the direct agency of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of Divine Truth; and that saving faith is not a legal duty, but a sovereign and gracious gift of God.
8. The absolute necessity for a holy life is a result of true faith and evidence of regeneration.
9. The final perseverance of true believers.
10. The plenary and verbal inspiration of the Old and New Testaments.
11. The resurrection of the dead, and the universal judgement. The visible resurrection and return of the Lord Jesus Christ in bodily form to the world, and the fulfilment of His promise to receive the saved to glory. 1 Thessalonians 4 v 13 – 18.
12. The everlasting punishment of the wicked, and the everlasting happiness of the righteous.
13. The duty of preaching the Gospel to every creature of the fallen race of Adam.
14. The necessity of baptism by immersion, on profession of repentance and faith, in order to have access to Church Fellowship and admission to the Lord's Table.
15. The congregational order of the Churches.

2.1 The name of the church is Fryerns Baptist Church.

2.2 Definition and Purpose of the Local Church

A local church is a fellowship of born again followers of Jesus Christ, whose profession of faith shows itself in holy living and good works.

A local church maybe recognised where:

- a. The Word of God is faithfully preached
- b. The two ordinances established by Christ's authority, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are correctly administered
- c. The authority of the Lord Jesus Christ is seen in that the Church is governed by biblical principles

The purpose of this local church:

- a. To provide for the united worship of God in prayer and praise
- b. To provide for the nurture, fellowship and opportunity for service
- c. To evangelise in the community around us and in the unbelieving world

2.3 Summary of Faith

2.3.1 The Bible

The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God and are the only authoritative rule of Christian faith and practice.

Passages for study:

Psalms 19 v 1

1 Timothy 3 v 15 - 17

Revelation 22 v 18 – 21

2.3.2 Doctrine of God

There is only one living God. He is glorious and infinite, yet gracious and merciful. To Him all mankind owes the highest love, reverence and obedience.

The Trinity: There are three distinct persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Creation: God created all things perfect, from nothing. Man was originally created by God after His own image, created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4 v 24

Providence: God is ceaselessly active in upholding and controlling the universe and in guiding history to its predestined end. However, He is not in any way approving of sin or the author of sin, nor does He take away each man's responsibility for his sins.

Passages for study:

Genesis 3

Psalms 51

Ephesians 2 v 1 –10

2.3.3 God's Grace and our Salvation

The Mediator: Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed Mediator between God and Man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered, and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again on the third day and ascended to the Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church and Sovereign of the universe.

Election: Is God's eternal choice of a vast multitude of people to eternal life – not because of foreseen merit in them, but because of His mercy in Christ. Those who have been predestined are called, justified, sanctified and glorified.

Regeneration and calling: Being 'born again' is the implanting of spiritual life by the Holy Spirit. God calls us into fellowship with Jesus Christ by His Word and His Holy Spirit, our minds being spiritually enlightened and our wills and affections being renewed.

Repentance: Is a saving grace by which we receive and rest upon Jesus Christ alone for salvation in response to the invitations of the Gospel. Repentance is a change of mind about sin, a turning away from, and hatred of. It is to express godly sorrow for sin under the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Justification: Is an act of God's free Grace by which He pardons our sins and accounts us righteous. This is not based on anything we have done, but only on the righteousness of Christ Jesus imputed to us and received by faith alone.

Sanctification: Those who are born again and so united to Jesus Christ and adopted into the family of God are set apart for God, renewed in their whole nature and become Christ-like. This renewal is a progressive work of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in all believers, and so enables us to pursue a life of holiness in obedience to all the commands of Christ, though never attaining to perfection in this life.

Perseverance: Those whom God has accepted in Christ and sanctified by His Holy Spirit will never totally, nor finally, fall away from the state of grace, but will persevere and will be preserved to glory.

Passages for study:

Isaiah 53

John 1 v 1 – 14

Acts 16 v 13 – 15

Romans 8 v 28 – 9 v 33

2 Corinthians 4 v 1 - 6

Philippians 2 v 5 – 10

2.3.4 The Church

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, which is composed of God's elect in every age. According to His commandment, Christians are to gather in local churches. To each of these churches He has given authority for administering worship, order and discipline. The officers of a church are Pastors, Elders and Deacons.

Baptism: Is an ordinance commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ for believers only, in which they are immersed in water in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. It is a sign of their union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, for the remission of sins and of their giving themselves to God to walk in newness of life. It is properly the initial step of new converts in obedience to the Lord and is a mark of Christian discipleship.

The Lord's Supper: Is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and wine and to be observed by Church until He returns. It is in no sense a sacrifice or means of having sins cleansed. Its purpose is to commemorate Christ's death, to strengthen the spiritual lives of Christians, and to be a bond and renewal of our fellowship with Christ and our fellow believers. The evidence of the New Testament is that man should examine himself before a Holy God. 1 Corinthians 11 v 27

Baptism and Church membership should precede participation at the Lord's Supper.

Evangelism and Mission: It is the duty of every Church and every Christian to share in making known the Gospel to all men everywhere. As faith comes by hearing the Word of God, so we are to endeavour by all methods consistent with the Word of God to persuade men to seek Jesus Christ and His salvation.

Passages for study:

Isaiah 2 v 1 – 5

Acts 14 v 21 – 28

Acts 20 v 17 – 38

Ephesians 5v 24 – 27

2.3.5 The Christian Life

The Word of God: God has commanded us to love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. This is the Lord Jesus Christ's Royal law and the Christian's rule of life as is laid down in scripture.

The Lord's Day: Is to be kept Holy. It is given for our benefit, which we obtain through resting from our normal occupations and by giving ourselves to the worship and service of God.

The State: Civil government is ordained by God and it is the duty of Christians to obey those who have rule over them in matters consistent with the teaching of the Scriptures. Christians are to pray for their rulers.

Passages for study:

Psalms 1

Matthew 5 v 13 - 20

Matthew 7 v 15 – 29

Romans 6 v 1 – 14

James 2 v 14 - 26

2.3.6 The Last Times

The Return of Christ: His return will be visible, personal and in bodily form. All as recorded in 1 Thessalonians 4 v 13 – 18

The Resurrection: The bodies of men after death return to the dust, but all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised at the coming of Christ.

The Judgement: God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when everyone shall receive according to his deeds. The wicked will go into everlasting punishment in hell with the devil and his angels. The righteous, with glorified bodies, will live and reign with Christ forever.

Passages for study:

John 5 v 24 - 29

John 11 v 21 - 27

John 14 v 1 – 6

Acts 6 v 12

Romans 8 v 18 – 25

1 Thessalonians 4 v 13 – 18

Revelation 1 v 4 – 8

Revelation 21