



DO YOU BELONG AT SBC?

If you have been coming to services at Selsdon Baptist Church for a while, you may feel that you already belong to the fellowship here. You may have already taken on some jobs – stewarding or the coffee rota perhaps – or have joined a homegroup. But this does not automatically make you a ‘member’ of the church here.

While everyone is very welcome to attend our services and other events, and to help in different ways at church, this is a good time to challenge those who regard this church as their spiritual home to become members. Members need to be Christians first and foremost – people who have truly repented of their sin and accepted the forgiveness Jesus offers, and are now trying their best to follow Jesus (none of us are perfect!). Becoming a member shows that you want to play your full part in the life of Selsdon Baptist Church. Membership means committing yourself to using the gifts God has given you – skills, money and time – to serve Jesus in this particular part of his church family as is appropriate for you. It also gives you the privilege of attending church members’ meetings, where you can take part in discussions and vote on decisions that we make together. This will be especially important as Diane leaves us in March and we begin the process of searching for our next senior minister. Only those who are in formal church membership will be able to attend and vote at the meetings where these matters are considered.

The way Baptist churches are run may be different from other churches you have attended. Each Baptist church has the authority under God’s guidance to make their own decisions and appointments. While we are affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain, who help us in practical ways, they do not have authority over us. It’s up to each member to play their part in the work and direction of the church.

Members are not ‘super Christians’ nor do they have to sit a test or pass an exam! But each prospective member will be visited by a deacon plus another church member to find out more about you and your experience of Christian faith, and give you an opportunity to ask questions about SBC.

Following the visit, a report is made to the next church meeting, where the members confirm the decision to bring you into membership. You will then be welcomed publicly at a convenient Communion service.

If you would like to know more, or want to apply for membership, please speak to our minister Diane, church secretary Theresa Nichols, pastoral care coordinator Ruth Manson or any of the deacons. The deacons’ names and photos are on a board in the lobby at the end of the church nearest Addington Road if you do not know who they are. Or else fill in a Visitor card from the plastic wallet in the seats in the church and hand it in to a steward after a service and one of the leaders will contact you.