

Erdington Six Ways Baptist Church



BEING BAPTIST

We are part of the **Baptist Union of Great Britain**, whose basis is:

1. *That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.*
2. *That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who 'died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried, and rose again the third day'.*
3. *That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world."*

- **Governance: who is in charge? –Jesus is at the head. We have a pastor and Deacons who are servants of the church. The gathered believers, ie the members of the church, are in charge. Decisions are made at meetings where all church members are entitled to come and vote.**

Ephesians 1:22-23: And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- **Freedom – we believe that all should be free to worship freely.**

Acts 5:29: But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority.

Galatians 5:1: For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

- **Communion – we believe it is important to follow Jesus' command to re-enact the supper he shared before he was arrested and killed. We believe this is a symbolic thing we do to remember, to celebrate and to look forward to when Jesus will come again.**

Luke 22:19: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

- **Mission and evangelism: telling, showing, doing for others – we believe that Jesus is Good News! Therefore it is our responsibility to share this with others.**

Matthew 28:19: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

A very brief bit of history...

The Bible available in English and the Reformation led to questioning, fresh thinking about how to “do” church. In England, 400+ years ago, groups of people wishing to worship in a more Biblical way, including through the baptism of believers, began to meet together. Some of these people began to separate from the Church of England, but it became harder and harder to do this without being persecuted.

In 1612, Thomas Helwys began the first English Baptist church at Spitalfields in London.

In 1878 Erdington Six ways Baptist Church was founded. We are now one part of a worldwide community of Baptist churches, but also have autonomy as to how we operate

Some of our Baptist principles are:-

- **Jesus is Lord – first and foremost, we believe that Jesus is the head of our lives as individuals and as church**

Romans 10:9: because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ephesians 1:22-23: And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- **Bible authority –we believe that the Bible, the word of God, is vital in guiding how we live our lives.**

2 Timothy 3:14-17: But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that

everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Baptism of believers – we believe that as followers of Jesus we should follow what he did and what he told us we should do: be baptised by full immersion as an outward sign of an inward change.

Matthew 3:13-15: Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

- **A church for and of believers – we believe that wherever and whenever the church gathers, it is about people committing, at various levels, to be parts of the body of Christ.**

Acts 2:41-44: So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common;

Priesthood of all believers- we believe that Jesus is Lord and that we are all equal beneath Him. Anyone recognised as called to do so by the church can lead our services. Also, all the believers together ‘are the priest’!

Corinthians 12:27-31: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.