

# *Six Ways Erdington Baptist Church Handbook*

Our church has been here since 1878.

Our official name is Six Ways Erdington Baptist Church but we are often referred to simply as Six Ways. We are a Charitable Incorporated organisation (CIO), registered with the Charities Commission.

The Charity Trustees are the Minister(s) and Deacons.

We have a constitution which is available on request from the Church Secretary or can be downloaded from the church website. Here is some additional information to help with understanding how things work at Six Ways Erdington Baptist Church.

We are part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and a member church of the Heart of England Baptist Association. These two organisations are here to support and serve us rather than being 'over' us. We belong also to Churches Together in Erdington and work alongside these and other churches.

## **Mission**

It is our view that the church exists to serve God, through serving the community of Erdington and beyond. If you want to get involved by volunteering to be part of the work of the church, we have things you can do! We host the Erdington Foodbank and ESOL Erdington, for people learning English as a second or other language. We have Six Ways Mini Stars Toddler Group; Nexus youth group; CAMEO for active retired people; Girls Brigade; and Friday Club for primary school children.

We also have a church plant, a new congregation based in Castle Vale, that we support.

We are always looking for more people to get involved. And it is a great way to feel part of things.

## **Giving**

Our church here at Six Ways is funded entirely by the income we generate here, through offerings, gifts and money we raise through lettings. We ask that you give an offering to the best of your ability. We do **not** say this has to be a tithe (one tenth of your income), but many people give on the basis of this good Biblical principle. Please give what you are able to. This will fund what we do here at this church and supports wider mission work too. You can:

simply put money in the offering bag.

request envelopes so you can give anonymously but regularly.

give by standing order into our bank: 77-85-16; 26072968

if you pay income tax, you can sign up to *Gift Aid* your offerings and other donations. This means we receive an extra 25% from the UK government at no extra cost.

## Keeping in touch

**Website** [www.sixwayserdington.org.uk](http://www.sixwayserdington.org.uk) . This can help you keep in touch with what is happening. You can listen to sermons and look at lots of different information.

**Magazine** We have a monthly magazine. There is a small charge for this, it is less if you subscribe. It contains all sorts of items, news, articles. It is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening.

**News sheet** Every Sunday, we have a news sheet which is available for the rest of the week and on our website. The news sheet contains information about events and issues in the life of our church.

**email, WhatsApp, text** Lots of updates and prayer requests are sent by these means, so please make sure we have your details. But the best way to keep in touch is to keep coming to church and getting involved!

**Church members' information** The Deacons and minister will make every effort to ensure good communication by listening and by making sure that things like agenda and minutes are available for members of the church. Documents such as these for church members' meetings will be available at church seven days before meetings; will be emailed to members; and in some circumstances, delivered to individuals. There will also be information relevant to meetings in the weekly news sheet and monthly magazine.

## Car parking

We have *some*, but not loads! If the car park is full, it is possible to ask at the car wash over the way. Or there is street parking on Wood End Lane, Oakfield Road or on the High Street (subject to restrictions).

## Refreshments

Every Sunday we continue after the service with tea/coffee and biscuits. These are served in the hall. It is a good way of getting to know more people.

**Ordinances** (*by this we mean set things which Jesus says we must do*)

**Baptism (Matthew 28:19)** We believe in the importance of baptism of believers, as practised in the New Testament. All who attend Erdington Six Ways Baptist Church are encouraged to take the step of baptism in order to respond to God's grace towards us.

**Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)** We celebrate the Lord's Supper/Communion on the first Sunday morning and first Thursday morning of each month. This is open to all people who are followers of Jesus. We use non-alcoholic wine. If you are gluten-free, let us know so we can provide for you.

## **Becoming a member**

*Membership here is open to people who have not been baptised as believers, but our preference is that you consider carefully what the New Testament tells us about baptism and are indeed baptised as a believer.*

- You attend Six Ways for a good amount of time (there is no set period) and if you are showing commitment to the mission, purposes, and values of the Church, and a desire to journey in faith with the Church you should be encouraged to apply for Church Membership.
- You talk with the minister(s) about being a member.
- At the next Deacons' Meeting we appoint a Deacon to meet with you to discuss things further.
- At the next Church Members' Meeting we appoint another individual to meet with you at the same time as the Deacon.
- You meet with these 2 people and then they report back to the next Church Members' Meeting about why you should become a member. We vote to approve your membership.
- You are welcomed into the church membership at the next available communion service.

## **Children and young people**

Our Sunday services are normally about an hour/hour and a quarter long. The first half hour we all spend together. The second section is when children and young people go to their age-specific groups:

- Creche – for pre-school age
- Junior Church – with separate groups for Key Stages 1 and 2; and a group for secondary school age young people.

Once a month (usually the first Sunday), we have an all age service where we all stay together for the whole service.

## Supporting one another

Jesus commands us to love one another, so the basic thing we should do is to look out for and after one another within the church. As well as Gerard, our Minister, we have our team of Deacons and a Pastoral Team who are there to serve and support the people of the church.

## Safeguarding

We take very seriously indeed the importance of our responsibility towards all people, of all ages, who attend our church on any day of the week. Six Ways Erdington Baptist Church therefore has a safeguarding policy which guides our approaches to looking out for and after each other. The wellbeing of all people in our church, especially those most at risk, is the responsibility of all of us. The safeguarding policy is available from our Church Secretary upon request or can be viewed or downloaded from our website. We have a trustee responsible for safeguarding issues and a designated person for safeguarding.

## Who is in charge?

The short answer is, *Jesus!* The Bible tells us he is the head of the church. The Bible also tells us that the church is the Body of Christ, so it follows that it is the people of the church who are “in charge” of things. It is those people who have committed to being members of the church who make the decisions. We do this together, as we discern the mind of Christ, in *church members’ meetings*. But we also have a group of up to 12 *deacons* who are elected from within the church membership to be servant leaders (they serve us at communion services). The deacons also meet regularly to deal with some of the business of the church. The paid *minister (Gerard)* is in turn, answerable to the deacons and members of the church.

## Our deacons

Our deacons, together with the minister(s) are the legal trustees for the church. Deacons are elected by the members of the church and this usually happens at our Annual General Meeting in March.

## Appointment of Secretary and Treasurer

The appointment of a Church Secretary and Church Treasurer will take place in accordance with clause 15 of the constitution. As has been our practice as a church, this will take place by ballot in the same way and with the same procedures as for Trustees of the church.

## **Our Deacons**

Our current Deacons:

Morine Burrell-Banton (secretary); Trudy Butterworth (treasurer); Ayo Awe, Joyce Fraser, Keith Gordon, Angela Jefferies, Sharon Martin, Aldith Marshall, Vicki Olusanya, Angela Richards, Ralph Wilson.

Trustee responsible for safeguarding: Joyce Fraser

Designated person for safeguarding, (currently Isabel Goshawk)