



Member's Manual

James Street Pentecostal Church

[James Street, Coalville, LE67 3BX](#)

www.jamesstreetchurch.org.uk



John 15:12-17(esv)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

An Invitation to Belong, Grow and Be Fruitful

As you consider membership we invite you to reflect on the benefits of belonging to a group of people who are deeply committed to God and to each other. That is not only where we are spiritually safe but also where we can be most effective for God.

Jesus commanded his followers to love each other and said that no one has greater love than that of laying down his life for his friends ([John. 15:12-17](#)). At the time he was talking about how to be fruitful in a relationship with Him. It is clear from this chapter that to remain in Jesus we need to be actively and deeply loving other Christians and that if we do that then we will bear much fruit.

Jesus also said that he would build His Church and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it ([Matt. 16:18](#)). When we cooperate with Jesus, allowing him to guide us into our proper place in his body, the church becomes a formidable force in the spiritual realm able to demolish the works of the enemy and to establish the kingdom of God on earth.

Becoming a church member is about putting your roots down in a place where you can grow, flourish and bear much fruit. Spiritual growth or growth in Christian character and effectiveness can sometimes be painful and requires discipline and commitment to the process. But, it results in righteousness and peace ([John. 15:2](#); [Heb.12:11](#)).

Questions to Ask Yourself

- ◆ Are you are willing, with God's help, to actively love the other believers in the fellowship through the good times and the difficult times?
- ◆ Will you submit to the authority of the church leaders who are there to help you develop in Christian character and service?
- ◆ Are you committed to attending regular meetings for fellowship, prayer, teaching and worship?
- ◆ Are you prepared to get involved in various ministry opportunities in order to discover and grow in your spiritual gifts?
- ◆ Will you take care of your personal devotional life so that you can be more of a giver than a taker in the life of the church?

Biblical Reasons to Join a Local Fellowship

- ◆ To demonstrate that you are not ashamed to identify with Christ and his people ([Mark 8:38](#); [Phil.4:13-16](#)).
- ◆ To guard against being an independent Christian and to be

accountable ([Matt. 18:15-20](#); [John. 17:20-23](#)).

- ◆ To be stronger and more effective in your witness and ministry by participating in a united effort with God's people ([1 Cor.12:17-20](#)).
- ◆ To discover and express your spiritual gifts ([1 Cor.12:4-11, 27-31](#); [Eph. 4:11-16](#)).
- ◆ To respond to what God says about being needed and needing others as part of the body of Christ ([1 Cor.12:12-27](#)).
- ◆ To encourage other believers ([Heb. 10:24-25](#)).
- ◆ To support Christian leadership ([1Tim. 5:17](#); [Gal.6:6](#); [Heb.13:17](#)).

Expectations

If you are a Christian believer, aged 18 or over, who has been baptized and you agree with the church's constitution and fundamental truths, you can apply for membership.

As a Member you will be expected to

- ◆ Live actively and openly as a Christian witness in every area of your life.
- ◆ Live according to Biblical standards of holiness.
- ◆ Accept the authority and guidance of the church leadership.
- ◆ Regularly attend services and meetings of the church.
- ◆ Give financially to the work of the church using the principle of tithing as a biblical guide.
- ◆ Actively serve the fellowship according to the faith, gifts and time God has given you.
- ◆ Support the Vision, Mission and Outreach of the church in practical ways and in prayer.

Members are also expected to attend the annual general meeting and other general meetings of the church in order to discuss and vote on significant church matters, for example, the appointment of trustees.

Privileges

In addition to the spiritual benefits of membership, members also have the right to vote at general meetings and can be considered for appointment as church officers including trustees. Your attendance at general meetings is important as a quorum of members is needed to validate any votes. More details about general meetings, voting and trustees can be found in the constitution.

Complaints

We are imperfect followers of Jesus still growing in grace, so there are many ways we can become irritated by each other. We often need to bear with one another and forgive each other in order to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit. But, there are times when we need to draw attention to something serious that is harmful to others and to the witness of the church. If you want to raise a safeguarding issue, contact the safeguarding officer or deputy safeguarding officer (details on the church noticeboard and website). For other complaints talk to the pastor, an elder or a trustee.

Ending Membership

There are many reasons why members may want to resign their membership. Some people move away and need to be connected to a new fellowship closer to their new home. Some may feel that they are not growing or being fruitful where they are. Sometimes relationships break down. We ask you to take your membership seriously and realize that church life does not always go smoothly. God often uses the hard times and people that we find difficult to help us grow ([James 1:2-4](#)). Before deciding to end your membership please spend time in prayer, take godly advice and discuss your feelings with a church leader.

The Church Leadership has the right to remove someone from membership if they are damaging the work and witness of the church. Your membership may also be considered lapsed if you have not regularly attended church services or general meetings without valid reasons. You will be informed in writing if this is being considered and can appeal (See the constitution for details). Pastoral efforts will also be made to try to avoid anyone losing their membership ([Eph.4:3](#)).

Membership Agreement



Member's Declaration

I declare that: I am over 18, have been baptized as a Christian and want to become a member of James Street Pentecostal Church.

- ◆ My desire is to be united in loving fellowship with God's people, to grow in Christian character and understanding and to bear much fruit.
- ◆ I have read and agree with the constitution, the fundamental truths and the description of membership in this manual.
- ◆ I wholeheartedly accept the expectations and responsibilities of membership set out in this manual and ask God to help me to fulfill them in order that I will be an active life-giving member of the fellowship.
- ◆ I promise, with God's help, to love and pray for all the members of the fellowship, to support the church leaders and respect their authority under God.

Full Name: **Address:** **Signature:** **Date:**

Membership Agreement



Leader's Declaration

On behalf of the Church Leadership of James Street Pentecostal Church I accept your application for membership and look forward to seeing how God will bless us as we journey together with him.

Our desire, as leaders and members of the church, is that you will feel very much at home with us as your church family. We hope that you will become firmly established in the faith, grow in Christian character and witness, discover and develop your spiritual gifts and become established and fruitful in your ministry.

We pray with Paul that:

"Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Eph.3:17-19)

And with Jesus that:

We may be united as one so that the world will believe in him ([John 17:20-21](#)).

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date: