



# WoodfordHall

A R M A G H

Loving God | Loving His People | Loving Our City

**Members Booklet**  
"He cares for you" 1 Peter 5:7

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## **Introduction**

This is an important document to read carefully. It is not an extensive work, but is a simple guide, designed primarily for those who have recently become Christians or others who have little knowledge of the Local Church at Woodford. Should you decide to commit to becoming a member at Woodford we would like your decision to be as well informed as is possible.

This booklet sets out our vision, purpose, values, and statement of faith; then how we seek to fulfil these, through our relationships, practices, activities and meetings. This guide provides an overview of our structures, ministries and beliefs, demonstrating our focus on Biblical principles. Everything that we state, say and believe is based upon the Bible which we believe to be the Word of God.

# Who We Are

## Who We Are

The Church at Woodford Hall  
Our Vision, Purpose and Values

### The Church at Woodford | A Brief History

We as a group of Christians began to meet together in September 1986 to simply remember the Lord, pray and tell people about what the Lord Jesus has done for the world. Although we are located in Ardmore, we retained the name of Woodford Hall because some members of the church were taught much about the Bible and God's way of salvation at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Williamson at Woodford House situated on the Newry Road, just half a mile away from the present church building. It was decided to remember the sterling work they had achieved over many years and so Woodford was included in the naming of the building here at Ardmore.

The work officially started in 1986 when we set up a wooden hall at Ardmore. The Lord blessed this act of faith and increased the work at the hall and so in 1988 a second wooden hall was put in place just adjacent to the existing one. Many people from the local community heard the gospel and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord of their lives. The Sunday school work and the expanding size of the Boy's and Girl's Rally created a need for extra facilities.

In 1997 it was decided to construct a new building to cope with the needs of the Local Church and the outreach with which it was involved. At the same time new housing developments were being built in the immediate area and this provided an opportunity to serve the local community. The new building was opened in September 2000 fourteen years after the Lord had brought us to the area.

We are still committed to remembering the Lord, prayer, Bible study and making known to the world that "He (God) cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

## Our Purpose

### Worship

Worship is central to everything. Our purpose must be that we magnify God in all that we do in the power of His Spirit.

### Fellowship

Fellowship with one another helps to create an environment of pastoral love and support. As members of the body we seek to be a caring community. For this purpose we have a clear position on membership of the local church.

### Mission

Evangelism is the call to 'Go into the world and teach the gospel'. Our mission is to reach into our local community and the wider world with the message of the gospel.

### Discipleship

It is our desire to see people, not only won for Christ, but growing in their journey as Christians. We want to teach and train people so that they grow in maturity in their faith.

### Service

Service (or ministry) is essential if the church is going to fulfil its purpose. We want to help everyone find their place so that they can use their gifts, talents and resources.

### Teaching

The Bible is everything for 'Life and Godliness', so our aspiration is to teach God's Word with clarity and relevance in the power of the Spirit.

## Our Vision

To Love the Lord.  
To Love His People.  
To Love our City.

## Values

It is our desire to function as an autonomous, Bible-based, evangelical church that holds and displays the following values:

- Devoted to God.
- Love for one another.
- Concern for the lost.
- Welcoming to guests.
- Accessible and involved in the local community.
- Accountable to God and each other.

Why Come?

# Why Come To Woodford Church?

Church Membership, is it important?  
Statement of Faith

## Church membership, is it important?

When someone is saved, they become a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). As a believer he/she is united to Christ and to the other members of His body, in this way he/she is fully qualified to become a member of a local expression of His body, the local church. The Local church is God's method of protecting, caring for and disciplining a Christian. It is advantageous for a believer to become committed to a local church for growth and spiritual wellbeing. This involves a personal contribution on all levels but ultimately brings much satisfaction.

## The Definition of Church Membership

To become a member of a church is to formally commit oneself to an identifiable, local body of believers who have joined together for specific, divinely ordained purposes. These purposes include receiving instruction from God's Word (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2), serving and edifying one another through the proper use of spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11, Eph. 4:11-12), participating in the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42), and proclaiming the gospel to those who are lost (Matt. 28:18-20). In addition, when one becomes a member of a church, the believer submits to the care and the authority of the Biblically qualified elders who God has placed within it.

## The Basis for Church Membership

The Biblical foundation for church membership permeates the New Testament. This Biblical basis can be seen most clearly in 4 ways.

1. The example of the early church.
2. The existence of church government.
3. The exercise of church discipline.
4. The exhortation to mutual edification.

### 1. The Example of the Early Church

In the early church, when individuals repented and believed in Christ, they were baptized and added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 16:5). More than simply living out a private commitment to Christ, this meant joining together formally with other believers in a local church and devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers. (Acts 2:42).

The epistles of the New Testament were written to the churches. In the case of the few written to individuals—such as Philemon, Timothy and Titus—these individuals were leaders in churches. The New Testament epistles themselves demonstrate that the Lord assumed that believers would be committed to a local assembly. There is also evidence in the New Testament, that just as there was a list of widows eligible for financial support, (1 Tim. 5:9), there may also have been a list of members that grew as people were saved. (cf. Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 16:5). In fact, when a believer moved to or visited another city, his church often wrote a letter of commendation to his new church ensuring that a welcome was assured.(Acts 18:27; Rom. 16:1; Col. 4:10; cf. 2 Cor. 3:1-2).

In the book of Acts, phrases such as “the whole congregation” (6:5), “the church in Jerusalem” (8:1), “the disciples” in Jerusalem (9:26), “in every church” (14:23), “the whole church” (15:17), and “the elders of the church” in Ephesus (20:17), would support the New Testament account of church membership. (also see 1 Cor. 5:4; 14:23; and Heb. 10:25).

## 2. The Existence of Church Government

The consistent pattern throughout the New Testament is that a plurality of elders is to oversee each local body of believers. The specific duties given to these elders presuppose a clearly defined group of church members who are under their care.

Among other things, elders are responsible to shepherd God’s people (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2), to labour diligently among them (1 Thess. 5:12), to have charge over them (1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim. 5:17), and to keep watch over their souls (Heb. 13:17). Scripture teaches that the elders will give an account to God for the believers placed in their care. We are also taught to pray often for the elders of the local church and indeed to call upon them when difficulties arise. (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:3).

Those responsibilities require that there be a distinguishable, mutually understood membership in the local church. Elders can shepherd the people and give an account to God for their spiritual well-being only if they can define who the members are.

The elders of a church are not responsible for the spiritual well-being of every individual who visits the church or who attends sporadically. Rather, they are primarily responsible to shepherd those who have submitted themselves to the care and the authority of the elders, and this is done through church membership.

Conversely, Scripture teaches that believers are to submit to their elders. Hebrews 13:17 says, “Obey your leaders, and submit to them.” The question for each believer is, “Who are your leaders?” The one who has refused to join a local church and entrust himself to the care and the authority of the elders has no leaders. For that person, obedience to Hebrews 13:17 is impossible. To put it simply, this verse implies that every believer knows to whom he must submit, which, in turn, assumes clearly defined church membership.

## 3. The Exercise of Church Discipline

In Matthew 18:15-17, Jesus outlines the way the church is to seek the restoration of a believer who has fallen into sin—a four-step process commonly known as church discipline. First, when a member sins, they are to be confronted privately by a single individual (v. 15). If he/she refuses to repent, that individual is to take one or two other believers along to confront him/her again (v. 16). If the sinning member refuses to listen to the two or three, they are then to tell it to the church (v. 17). If there is still no repentance, the final step is for the elders to apply discipline to the offender, possibly ending their membership of the local church (v. 17; cf. 1 Cor. 5:1-13).

The exercise of church discipline according to Matthew 18 and other passages (1 Cor. 5:1-13; 1 Tim. 5:20; Titus 3:10-11) presupposes that the elders of a church know who the members are. For example, the elders of Woodford Hall have neither responsibility nor the authority to discipline a member of the church down the street. The Bible’s teaching on church discipline assumes church membership.

## 4. The Exhortation to Mutual Edification

The New Testament teaches that the church is the body of Christ, and that God has called every member to a life devoted to the growth of the body. In other words, Scripture exhorts all believers to edify the other members by practicing the “one-another’s” of the New Testament (e.g., Heb. 10:24-25) and by exercising their spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11). Mutual edification can only take place in the context of the corporate body of Christ. Exhortations to this kind of ministry presuppose that believers have committed themselves to other believers in a specific local church. Church membership is simply the formal way to make that commitment.

## Conclusion

Living out a commitment to a local church involves many responsibilities: exemplifying a godly lifestyle in the community, exercising one’s spiritual gifts in diligent service, contributing financially to the work of the local church, giving and receiving admonishment with meekness and in love, and faithfully participating in corporate worship. Much is expected, but much is at stake. For only when every believer is faithful to this kind of commitment is the church able to live up to her calling as Christ’s representative here on earth. To put it simply, membership matters.

## Statement of Faith

This section will tell you what we believe; it is massively important to take time on this portion and look at the verses from the Bible and pray for Gods help to understand.

### The Bible

We believe that the Bible (the Old and New Testament) is the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error, as originally given of God. It is the final and supreme authority for life and godliness. (Matt. 5:18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21).

### God

We believe in the One Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is personal, spirit, and sovereign; perfect, infinite and eternal in His being, self-existent, holy, loving, completely wise and all-powerful; absolutely separate and above the world as it's Creator and yet everywhere present in the world as the upholder of all things. (Gen. 1:1; Psa. 90:2; Psa. 139:1-16; John 4:24; Col. 1:15-17).

### The Son Of God

We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is eternal and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born a man by the virgin birth, therefore to continue forever, as both true God and true man. He made full atonement for our sins through His vicarious suffering and death on the cross. He rose triumphantly from the grave on the third day, ascended into heaven, and is now at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf. (Matt. 1:18-25; Isa. 53:4-6; Heb. 4:14-16).

### The Holy Spirit

We believe that the person of the Holy Spirit in the Godhead is the divine agent in creation, revelation, and redemption. In this age of grace He convicts the world of sin, regenerates those who believe, and indwells, baptises, seals, empowers, guides, teaches, and gives spiritual gifts to believers. (Gen. 1:2; Acts 5:3-4; John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 6:19, 12:13; Eph. 4:30).

We believe that God eternally exists in three persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are of one essence and equal in power and glory, therefore, to be honoured and worshipped equally as true God. (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Deut. 6, John4:24.)

### Angels

We believe in the existence of angels, a higher order of created spiritual beings, superior to man. They were active in the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ and presently minister to believers. (Matt.4:11, Luke 1:28-35, Acts 1:10-11, Hebrews 1:13-14)

### Satan and demons

We believe that Satan is a real, supernatural personality, a fallen angel of great power, cunning, and wickedness. He and his demons are the enemies of God and of all good, seeking the destruction of Christ and the eternal ruin of every person. However, Satan and all his demons have been defeated by Christ's death and are doomed to be cast into the lake of fire. (Mark 1:13; John 13:2; Col. 2:15; Rev. 20:10).

### Man

#### - His Creation

We believe that man, consisting of body, soul and spirit was directly created by God in the divine image. Man is not an animal, but is created higher and above animal life; created with dignity to worship, serve and represent God. (Gen. 1:26-27, 1Thess 5:23, Heb. 4:12)

#### - His Fall

We believe that man was originally created good, but when tempted by Satan, he disobeyed God's command and became a sinful creature, incurring both physical and spiritual death. As a result all members of the human race are born in sin and are sinners by nature and practice. (Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-6; Rom. 1:19-32, 3:23, 5:12).

#### - His Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift of God's grace, freely offered to us on the basis of Christ's substitutionary death on the cross for sin. It is received by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and is in no way obtained by human effort. This salvation results in eternal life, a new nature, right standing before God, sonship in the family of God, and provision for sanctification and victory over the power of sin. (John 1:12-13, 3:3-8; Rom. 3:24; Gal. 3:26, 5:22-23; Eph. 2:8-9).

## The Resurrection

We believe that every person will be physically raised from the dead: the saved to life everlasting and the unsaved to eternal condemnation (John 5:28, 29, Rev.20:11-15)

## The Church

We believe in the one true church, the body and bride of Christ, which He began to build on the day of Pentecost and will complete at His second coming, and into which all regenerated believers of this age are baptized by the Holy Spirit. We believe that the local visible church is composed of baptized believers in Christ, voluntarily joined together and meeting at stated times to worship, fellowship, observe ordinances, and when necessary, administer and accept discipline. We believe in the autonomy of the local church. (Matt. 16:18, 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Heb. 10:25).

## Ordinances

There are two Christian ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism by immersion signifies that the believer has died with Christ, has been buried with Him and has risen to walk in newness of life with Him. The Lord's Supper is a memorial feast at which believers worship by remembering the Lord and show forth His death until He comes again. In accordance with the early church, the Lord's Supper should be celebrated every Lord's day. (Acts 20:7)

## Baptism

Baptism does not make us a Christian or bring forgiveness of sins. However "the New Testament does not envisage Christians who are not baptised by immersion." (F.F. Bruce) We consider it to be the responsibility and privilege of every believer to participate in this ordinance in obedience to the Lord's command. (Acts 2:41, Matt. 28:19) Literature concerning Believer's Baptism is available amongst the church's free literary items.)

## The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is also known as the "Breaking of Bread". The Lord's supper is a memorial feast at which believer's remember, worship and show forth His death until He (Christ) comes again. In accordance with the early church, the Lord's supper should be celebrated every Sunday, which is the Lord's day, also known as the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7, 1Cor.16:1) This memorial feast involves bread (symbolising the body of Christ) and wine (symbolising the blood of Christ) of which each person who is saved and walking in fellowship with the Lord can partake. This meeting or get together is commanded by the Lord. ("Do this" 1 Cor.11:24-25) so we do everything within our power to make it to this remembrance meeting. (Literature concerning the Lord's Supper is available amongst the church's free literary items.)

## The End Times

### - Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the personal, visible and imminent return of Christ to the air and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory, to reign on the earth for 1,000 years.(Matt. 24:21-31; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 19:11-16, 20:1-15).

### - The Final State

We believe that believers will stand at the judgment seat of Christ to be assessed for their life and service on earth, and so rewarded. Unbelievers will be judged according to their works at the Great White Throne and subsequently cast into the lake of fire where they will consciously suffer forever. (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15, 22:12).



## Church Life

Main Meetings

Different ministries in the Church

Different aspects of the Church

### Main Meetings in the Church

#### Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a memorial feast at which believers remember the Lord Jesus in His life and death until He comes again. This is done through the partaking of two symbols; the Bread (1Cor 11:23-24) representing His Body and Life and the Cup (1Cor 11:25) representing His Blood and Life poured out for us, to bring us into New Covenant relationship with Himself. In accordance with the early church, the Lord's Supper should be celebrated every Lord's day. (Acts 20:7)

#### Sunday Night Meeting

This is one of the key outreaches within the local church. Every Sunday evening various speakers come along to preach the good news that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. We spend time singing and often there will be a soloist to sing or someone to share their testimony (how God has changed their life). It is important for every member to make an effort to pray for this meeting and not only to be there but to endeavour to bring people along to hear the message.

#### Mid-Week Bible Teaching and Prayer Meeting

We believe that "all Scripture is inspired of God" and is authoritative in all matters. The Bible is central to all that we believe and do, whether as a local church or as individual believers. It is essential as Christians to hear the Word of God taught and to implement what we hear and learn in our lives. (2 Tim.3:16)

Prayer is a wonderful privilege given by God to each believer. To be able to enter into the presence of a Holy God through our Saviour Jesus Christ, to worship Him, confess our sins and cast our cares at His feet knowing that He hears our prayers. We meet at various times during the week to collectively pray for the needs (both spiritual and physical) of our local church, those within it, those in our wider family circles and those in our community. "Prayer is the Work" and key to God's blessing; and so very important. Special times of prayer (specially organised periods of prayer) are to be expected in the life of a thriving Church. (Acts 2:42, Acts 12:5)

#### Report Meetings

When Paul and Barnabas had finished their first missionary journey (Acts13-14) they came back to their local church and "declared all that God had done for them, and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" (Acts14v27). At Woodford from time to time a missionary (when they are home) will give a report on the work of the Lord. These are encouraging times as we listen to reports from all around the world of the blessing and moving of God. It also helps us to know the needs, so we, as believers can provide valuable assistance to our brothers and sisters to aid them in their outreach. These meetings also help us to pray in a more informed and constructive way.

## Different Ministries in the Church

Part of the life of the church involves serving, the following might be ways in which you can contribute to the life of the local church.

### Sunday School

Each Sunday morning between September and May, before the Lords Supper, we have Sunday school and Bible class. It caters for a wide range of age groups from 4 to 12 years old. Children and young people are made welcome. Our aim is to teach children and young people Scriptural truths.

### Youth Work

#### - EBR/EGR

We are part of a world-wide church-based organization called "Rallies". Every Boys Rally (EBR) and Every Girls Rally (EGR) are based on Christian principles and seek to cater for the physical, emotional, educational, social and spiritual needs of its members.

We aim to lead boys and girls to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We aim to teach them how to develop a strong Christian character through a balanced spiritual, educational, physical and social programme which will cater for the well-being of the whole person. A typical night will include several of the following activities: Bible teaching, sports, team games, team challenges, crafts, badge work and outings.

As the name implies Every Boy's and Every Girl's Rally welcome every boy and girl irrespective of class, religion, or culture. The Rally programme caters for boys and girls from 4 years old, "Sparrows", through to Juniors and then Seniors and Cadets. The Rally provides an outlet of service for many members of the church.

#### - Youth Fellowship

This is for those aged 13+. The programme generally takes place on 3 different Friday nights a month.

**Friday Nights:** Friday nights we have Bible Teaching and Games.

**Saturday Nights:** Every so often we will have a Fun Night away. E.g. bowling.

**Sundays:** Every so often we will have a Youth Day; we will spend the whole Sunday together, usually going to a home after church for dinner and fellowship, then back to the youth gospel service that night.

## Miscellaneous

### - One off events

Every year we try to have at least 2 topical nights based around different current events. These are good for getting to know people.

### - Outreach to children

We run children's Clubs in the Local estates in May and June. This involves teaching the children choruses and memory verses, a Bible lesson and a quiz; as well as playing games.

### - Senior Citizens ministry

Once a year we run a Christmas dinner for Senior citizens from the local community with a short carol service and Bible message afterwards. (We try to visit some of those who attend the dinner throughout the year.)

### - Fun Day

Usually the first Saturday in June is a day when we invite in the Local community to get to know them and to build relationships with them. There are a number of different fun activities and a barbecue.

### - Holiday Bible Club

Each August we have a week set aside for children's outreach at the hall. This again involves teaching the children choruses, memory verses, a Bible lesson and a quiz; as well as playing games.

### - Ladies outreach

Throughout the year the ladies of the church seek opportunities to reach out to other women from the local community. This includes each Tuesday evening in May when they take part in a programme of health activities and listen to invited guests who speak of life changing experiences. Other events are organised periodically.

## Different Aspects of the Church

### Pastoral Care

Each member of the church is part of the body of Christ and therefore we are all inter-dependent and should have equal concern for each other. (1 Corinthians 12) Also Galatians 6:2 encourages us to carry each other's burdens. We recognise that pastoral care is essentially about people and their importance as individuals and how they are shepherded within the church fellowship. We also recognise that this applies to both spiritual and temporal needs. While the elders, as shepherds of God's flock, clearly have a particular responsibility for pastoral care (1 Peter 5:2), we believe every member of the church is involved with this important ministry.

We want to provide appropriate responses to pastoral needs by way of help or encouragement. It is important to have a flow of relevant information for prayer. We fully recognise the need for confidentiality and only share sensitive matters for prayer as appropriate. As a fellowship we trust our pastoral care ministry operates in accordance with our Lord's 'command' of love for one another (John 13: 34 - 35)

### Evangelism/Mission

Jesus expects us to continue His mission in the world  
We have a responsibility in at least three spheres: immediate, local and global.

**Immediate world.** Most of us have family, friends, neighbours, class or work colleagues. These are our immediate world where our demonstration of the gospel will be visible as well as vocal.

**Local community.** There is the local community in which we live. Based on the addresses of the existing membership we judge this to cover a ten mile radius from Woodford. There are some 100,000 non-regular churchgoers in this catchment area. A significant mission field! The immediate vicinity of Woodford Hall provides a significant local population and it is our responsibility to reach them for Christ. A number of activities and events are prioritised towards reaching the local community. Our primary opportunity to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to our local community is the Sunday evening meeting. We expect members to attend and encourage them to invite people from their immediate world. In addition there are a significant and vital number of targeted ministries.

**Global mission.** Northern Ireland has a special responsibility to cross-cultural/global mission given its rich heritage. We take seriously the words of the Lord Jesus "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1: 8). It is for these reasons we are committed to global mission.

## Role of Men and Women

All members (Both men and women) of the local church have an important role to play, gifts to exercise and functions to fulfil. Just as the body (1Cor12) has many members and organs, all different, all important so also does the church. In the NT, as in nature itself men and women are different, though equal in dignity. The Local church is a place where this is celebrated in that both women and men have different roles within the Local Church. Men are to take the lead in both the Responsibility for and the Public Worship in the Local Church

The New Testament abounds with examples of godly women who, consistent with their assigned roles, served their Master with dignity and honour. God's women make a vital contribution to the kingdom of Christ on earth, to the local church and in the sphere of their own homes. Whether they are continuing steadfastly in prayer (Acts 1:14), doing good works and alms-deeds (Acts 9:36), showing hospitality (Acts 12:12; 16:14; 1 Timothy 5:10), teaching the word in harmony with divine authority (Acts 18:26; Titus 2:3, 4), being good wives (Proverbs 31:10ff), rearing godly children (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14, 15), or accomplishing various other commendable tasks, let us "rise up and call them blessed".

The leadership at Woodford Hall accept three main principles in relation to the role of ladies in public participation at church meetings and believe these are based on Scripture. These principles in relation to church meetings are:- women must not teach publicly in the meetings of the church; Women should not usurp authority over men. (1Tim.2:11-12) and when praying women should recognise the principle of headship and cover their heads accordingly just as men should uncover their heads (1Cor.11:1-16).

It should be noted that we make the distinction between church meetings and church activities. Church meetings are regarded as times when the whole church is gathered together, and the Elders have responsibility for the direct meeting. These are the Lords Supper, the Sunday Night meeting and the Midweek Prayer and Bible study meeting. Church activities are outside of these meetings, for example EBR/EGR, Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Ladies meetings etc .

## Marriage

The institution of marriage is central to God's plan for the stability of family life and the purity of intimate relationships between a man and a woman who are fully committed to each other in love. The commitment to each other and to God in a marriage is the fundamental building block for the wellbeing of the family, local church, and wider society. We believe in the Biblical teaching of the principle of the "unequal yoke" 2 Cor. 6:14 i.e. it's not in God's purposes for those who are truly saved to enter into marriage with those who do not share their faith. (Mark 10:6-9)

## Stewardship (Money Matters)

As Woodford is an independent and autonomous church we believe that the work of God should be funded by the people of God. Giving, we believe, is not primarily a financial issue but a spiritual one. What we give, in proportion to our means, is a reflection of our appreciation of God's grace and our sense of spiritual wealth in Christ. We have been entrusted with resources that are God's rather than possessions that are ours. There is an offering box set out as you walk through the meeting room door on a Sunday morning. Our treasurer can provide details of the gift aid scheme whereby tax payers gifts can be maximised through the use of gift aid (this is where the government gives taxes already paid by the member, back to the church, in proportion to their giving). If we consider Woodford to be our spiritual home, where we are spiritually fed and meet with our spiritual family, we suggest it is fitting to make a contribution as the Lord enables. Annual accounts are available on request from the elders.

## Child Protection

As a church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protecting and safekeeping of children and young people entrusted to our care. We recognise that all of those involved in work with children and young people carry a significant responsibility. The Elders, on behalf of the church, take seriously and are committed to supporting and training those who work with children and young people.

We undertake to comply with all legislative requirements and adhere to relevant codes of practice and guidance set by statutory agencies for the protection, safety and well-being of children and young people entrusted to us. Woodford Hall has a Child Protection policy and each individual working with children and young people undergoes an appropriate training session. Each worker is also vetted through Access NI. A full copy of the policy is displayed on the notice board within Woodford Hall and is available from the elders on request.

# How Do I Become A Member?

If you believe you want to become a member of the local church at Woodford Hall, you should communicate your interest to one of the elders. Two elders will arrange to meet with you, answer questions or clarify any issues you may have. We may contact your previous church (if appropriate). Upon mutual acceptance by the elders you will be welcomed into the church formally on a Sunday morning at the Lord's Supper and your name added to the assembly prayer list.



Loving **God** | Loving **His People** | Loving **Our City**

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