

King's Church Family Covenant



We are seeking to be the kind of Church family that Jesus intended, and demonstrating this in a commitment to God, and to each other.

We see this covenant as the best way of communicating what it means to be a member of the King's Church family.

“Built for the Glory of God,
and for the uplifting of His people.”
#everyone-a-witness



“Welcome to the King’s Church Family Covenant”

An Introduction...

Why a Church Family Covenant?

- At King’s Church we want to be a church where we understand what membership **really** means.
- At King’s Church we want to be a church where membership is **highly valued** and expressed in committed relationships – relationships that glorify Jesus.

We want to **express** this membership in terms that are clear, biblical, and towards fulfilling what Jesus had in mind when He said “I will build My church...”

We want to be able to **clearly communicate** what being a member of King’s Church looks like.

- The King’s Church Family Covenant is **not** a ‘contract’ of membership.
- The King’s Church Family Covenant is **not** a commitment to length of membership.
- Participating in the King’s Church Family Covenant is **not** a pre-condition of being with us.
- It does make a presumption....that you are a born again and baptised Christian, with a living faith in Jesus
- It seeks to speak to our **hearts and attitudes**.
- It lays out the foundations for strong fellowship, real relationships and vision that the family of Kings Church is seeking to nurture & demonstrate.

We are working towards this, and we recognise that we are ALL a work in progress.....and God hasn't finished with any of us yet!

This is **not** about human effort, performance or striving - but (in the strength of the Spirit) living out the new life that Jesus gives us.

However, we are also encouraged in scripture to “make every effort”. In other words, we are not to be **passive** in working out our relationships with God, or each other. It’s going to take some **activity** on our part!

We believe this covenant will help lead us to the kind of membership that reflects what Jesus intended - in order that the church be fruitful and effective in its ministry.....

.....AND SO GOD IS GLORIFIED!



This is the King's Church vision about being “one of the family”, and building relationships that glorify Jesus.

We believe... that God is calling an end to a casual and undefined church membership and He is looking to build a strong church family that continually reflects Jesus, and also follows the Biblical teaching of what being a body, a family, a Jesus-centred church is - and does.

The goal is that Jesus gets more glory and worship! It's all for Him!

So...it's not surprising that the covenant relationship begins with.....

1. Together, we will seek to love and worship God with passion.

- *I will always endeavour to worship honestly, in spirit and truth in everything.*
- *I will endeavour for my worship to be ‘God centred’ not ‘me centred’.*
- *I will endeavour for my worship to be stimulated by how great He is, and not limited by how I feel. As I worship Him, I love Him more...and so I worship Him more, which leads me to love Him more...*
- *We are a family that also worships together. Therefore I will participate which means as well as sing my worship to God. I am encouraged to pray, bring a scripture, or a word of encouragement or prophecy from God, or a personal testimony during our corporate worship - as God leads.*
- *I will endeavour to grow in my intimacy and relationship with God. I will look to be diligent in my feeding on God’s word, both in my own personal study and the corporate gatherings.*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1

²³*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.* ²⁴*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

John 4:23-24

¹⁵*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.* ¹⁶*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* ¹⁷*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:15-17

²*May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.* ³*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to¹ his own glory and excellence,* ⁴*by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.* ⁵*For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,* ⁶*and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,* ⁷*and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.* ⁸*For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 1:2-6

At King's Church we want to truly express being the body of Christ. This means we are not just individuals "slung" together, but we recognise and value each other as a family, brothers and sisters in Jesus, who have each been added by Jesus to one another, to be one body.

As such we all have an important part to play in the health, the vibrancy and the fruitfulness of the King's family. We are all valued the same - recognising that we have different roles to play in the life of King's Church.

Therefore...

2. I will seek to play my part as a “living stone” in the King’s Church family.

- *I recognise that being a member of the King’s Church family means I am not called to be a passive spectator or a mere consumer - but I will gladly seek to be an active member of the family - as God enables me.*
- *I will endeavour to be an encourager and to help disciple others as we each grow in our faith.*
- *I understand that we belong to one another in Christ and I will see others as being valuable parts of the family. I will value others as I would want to be valued - the same value that Jesus places upon all of us.*
- *I will endeavour to faithfully pray for the other members of the church family. I see this as vital to being part of the family - and I can pray at any time.*
- *I will welcome and receive discipling, care and ministry from others, as we seek to grow in God together.*
- *I will actively seek to help in the practical areas of church life.*

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-6

⁴For as in one body we have many members,^[ε] and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

Romans 12:4-5

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Philippians 2:1-3

¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today”, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you...

Colossians 1: 3-6

We are one in Christ - and God loves unity. We are a church family who highly value the unity God has given. Jesus makes it plain that we are dealt with by God in the same way we deal with each other, both in requiring sacrificial, unconditional love and the gift of forgiveness. We recognise that a strategy of the enemy is to divide the household of God.

Therefore...

3. I will seek to protect unity in King's Church:-

- *by seeking to love others in the same way as I am loved by God and by demonstrating this by my behaviour towards other members.*
- *by refusing to gossip - or even entertaining gossip.*
- *by not causing division (or faction or dissention) in sharing my disgruntlements with a view to persuading others to adopt my thoughts.*
- *by keeping watch over my attitudes at all times.*
- *by not harbouring ill-feeling and quickly dealing with issues*
- *Where there is a relational difficulty I will forgive (as I too am forgiven by God) and develop a new "Jesus glorifying" attitude towards others – if necessary speaking with them about the situation, and working for resolution and peace in such a way that glorifies Jesus.*
- *I will not allow unforgiveness to fester, or rob me of my joy and peace (and that of others) thus securing Gods pleasure and presence.*
- *Where I struggle with forgiving others, or resolution seems difficult, I will seek the counsel of those who are equipped and trusted by the church.*
- *I will demonstrate this part of my commitment in sharing communion in a right spirit with the rest of the family of King's Church.*

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and on the growth of our fellowship together."
Romans 14:19 JB Phillips

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have a sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply from the heart."
1 Peter 1:22

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."
Ephesians 4:29

Love your neighbour as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbour.
Romans 13: 10

So open your hearts to one another, as Christ has opened His heart to you, and God will be glorified
Romans 15:7 JB Phillips

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Mark 11:25

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13

¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.

Hebrews 12:14,15

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers until he should pay all his debt.

³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Mathew 18:21-35

We have been saved by an amazing God. We know that He wants to save others, we know that He can save others and that He wants to speak through all of us.

We believe that the sharing of the Gospel isn't just something that only "specialists" do but ALL of us are called to be witnesses. "Everyone a witness!" is important.

Therefore....

4. I will seek to share in the gospel sharing of King's Church:-

- *By making my whole life available for God to use to be an avenue for His love and His Gospel.*
- *By recognising that this mission is the primary ministry of the church in Southend, the nation and the nations of the world.*
- *By praying for the spiritual maturity and numerical growth of the church and being available to be part of the answer of my own prayers!*
- *By desiring to live evangelistically and sharing the Gospel instinctively (as the Bible encourages us all to do) rather than waiting for the church to 'do' evangelism.*
- *By engaging with 5-3-1, beginning with prayer for the unsaved and believing God for the answers. Then being willing to keep the appointments He makes.*
- *By encouraging others in their developing discipleship.*
- *By being open-hearted to people I meet.*
- *By being welcoming to all visitors and newcomers at King's Church.*

¹⁸*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-19

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:9

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father – to Him be glory and power for ever and ever!

Revelation 1:5,6

"....We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1:2,3

"¹⁵ Yet I have written to you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. "

Romans 15:15-16

Being a member of a body (as the Bible describes) means that we need each other. The scriptures give a picture of interdependence not individualism or isolation.

We do not belong to a church family so that WE can be served, but so that we can serve each other – as Jesus says. This means that we always seek to ‘do our bit’ in the life and ministry of the church.

Therefore....

5. I will seek to gladly serve the family and ministry of King’s Church

- *By developing a servant’s heart – playing my part in the Body of King’s Church.*
- *By discovering gifts and talents God has given me, and using them to bless others and for Gods glory.*
- *By encouraging the gifts and talents given to others, so that whole church is strengthened and equipped.*
- *By desiring and allowing God to bring me into the fullness of the person He created me to be.*
- *By being equipped by God through acting on His word, not just listening.*
- *By shifting from “What does my church do for me?” to “I am a ‘living stone’ at King’s Church – how am I serving others?”*
- *By pursuing effectiveness and fruitfulness as a Christian in my home, neighbourhood, workplace, School and College – in fact wherever God has placed me.*
- *By praying for, and encouraging, Christians in other churches and fellowships in the town, recognising that we are part of the wider Body of Christ in this area.*

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body”, that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body”, that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”, nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honourable we bestow the greater honour, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

¹⁰Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:10, 11

¹¹It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:3-5

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22

It would be very strange... if the eye, or the knee, never showed up or just turned up occasionally. The body would be incomplete and ineffective in purpose. It would not be able to fulfil its vision for being a body - if members of the body opted out of being their part.

Likewise, it would be challenged to be effective if the members of the body did not contribute as they were able. The early church family was devoted to each other and faithfully resourced the church (both practically and financially) in its ministry.

Therefore....

6. I will seek to enable the whole ministry of King's Church

- *By valuing my brothers and sisters highly, and in "going the extra mile" to be with them by attending faithfully the various gatherings as I am able - "If I can, I will!"*
- *By making every effort towards being a good "shop-window" for the power of the gospel and the renown of Jesus.*
- *By faithfully supporting the work and ministry of King's Church with financial resources regularly, proportionally, gladly and willingly to enable the work of the whole church.*
- *By being part of teams or ministries that God has opened the doors to.*
- *By using my gifts and talents to further the kingdom - and to be open to receiving new ones.*

²⁵*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:25

²⁷*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.*

Philippians 1:27

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Proverbs 11:25

"Freely you have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:8

⁶*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. "God loves a cheerful giver."*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

¹¹*Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours.*

Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all. ¹²Wealth and honour come from You; You are the ruler of all things.

In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name.

¹⁴*'But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand.'*

1 Chronicles 29:14

This is the King's Church vision about membership and building relationships that glorify Jesus.

The 6 Main Points of the King's Church Family Covenant...

1. *Together, we will seek to love and worship God with passion.*
2. *I will seek to play my part as a "living stone" in the King's Church family.*
3. *I will seek to protect the unity in King's Church.*
4. *I will seek to share in the gospel ministry of King's Church.*
5. *I will seek to gladly serve the family and ministry of King's Church.*
6. *I will seek to enable the whole ministry of King's Church.*

Please ask for a full copy of the King's Church Family Covenant or read it online at...

www.kingssouthend.org.uk

Please speak to a member of the Leadership Team if you have any questions.

King's Church Southend—wanting to be church as Jesus intended!



King's Church
knowing Jesus makes all the difference