



**Membership Information Pack
and Application Forms**

Church has never been described as an institution comprised of one person alone. The New Testament describes church as people being together in meaningful relationships.

Paul calls it the “Body of Christ” in Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 & Ephesians 4:4-16. It is also called a building in Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Peter 2:4-5. This resembles the people as stones that are built together to form the church with Christ as the “cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20).

With the importance of “togetherness” set out by scripture we see also in Hebrews 10 that we are warned not to neglect meeting together with each other. There is great need and importance for the Christians to come together in order to praise God and to support each other in the building of God’s church.

When Saul came to Jerusalem he tried to “join” the disciples (Acts 9:26), the word join meant to cement, glue or bond together. The joining was much more than an affiliation with the group, rather it was a bonding together that made him part of the family through a definite commitment.

Throughout society commitment to others is crucial, the essence of “team” shows through in marriage, in the home, in the work place and in recreation. Unless people work together progress is not made and goals remain unachieved. The practical outworking of partnership with the local church brings effectiveness in growing and sustaining God’s kingdom for His glory!

We Believe...

The Bible: We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error and the fully inspired Word of God and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

The Trinity: We believe that God exists co-equally and co-eternally in three persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are one God, sovereign in creation, providence and redemption.

The Saviour: We believe that Jesus, born of a virgin, was fully God and fully man in his sinless life, through his authoritative teaching and in his taking our place in death on the cross as payment for our sins. Following his death he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God in wait to receive his church.

The Holy Spirit: We believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit who works in the life people for the conviction of sin, for repentance, renewing and empowerment for the believer through baptism of the Holy Spirit with signs following. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the believer able to participate in the ministry of the local church.

Mankind: We believe in the universal sinfulness of all humans since the Fall, bringing all humans under God's judgement.

Salvation: We believe in the absolute necessity of salvation by which the sinner repents and receives full pardon from God and becomes righteous in his sight. Salvation is received because of Christ's work on the cross, through faith, and is evidenced by the fruits of the Spirit and a holy life.

The Church: We believe that in the Priesthood of all believers we are united in the universal body of the church, the body of Christ.

The Ministry: We believe in the ministries that Christ has set in his Church, namely, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and in the present operation of the manifold gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the New Testament.

The Ordinances: We believe in the baptism of believers by immersion in water in obedience to the command of Christ and in the commemoration of Christ's death by

the observance of the Lord's Supper (communion) until his return.

The Commission: The whole church is commissioned to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them and teaching them all that Christ had taught and commanded the first disciples.

The Coming King: We believe in the personal, physical and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in power and glory.

The Future State: We believe in the resurrection of the dead and in the final judgement of the world, the eternal conscious bliss for those who are saved and the eternal conscious punishment for those who are not saved.

We Behave...

1 John 2:6 says, "Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did."

The common place saying in the life of the believer should be "What would Jesus do?" or "WWJD?" Jesus said that if we followed his teachings then we would be blessed. The New Testament shows the importance of personal holiness and asking for God's help to live a righteous life.

We Belong...

Though already addressed above in "why join a church?" the importance of belonging needs to be understood in an active involvement in the life of the church. Belonging incorporates activities such as: The Study of God's Word; Prayer; Fellowship; Communion (in the home and in the church); Worship; Evangelism. These things should happen not only in 'organised' church, but also by our own initiative as we live in the community.

Membership Qualifications

- Personal faith in commitment to the Lord Jesus as Saviour and Lord
- Acceptance of our belief statement
- Have been or will be baptised as an adult believer
- The acceptance of biblical standards of personal holiness
- A definite seeking for the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the New Testament evidence of signs following
- Acceptance of the leadership and submission to the discipline of the local church
- Regular attendance at Fellowship meetings
- Involvement in discipleship activities
- Regular giving to the church according scriptural standards
- Local support for and involvement in the activities of the Church as it seeks to fulfil its servant role in the community in worship, witness and practical ministry

No Church is perfect, but we are called to 'strive for excellence'
(1 Cor. 14:12)

Through membership with the church and pursuing the goals set forth it is hoped that the church may be built as the vision becomes clearer for the local church in its community.

We invite you to commit yourself to membership in our fellowship and we offer you the warmth of our love in Christ.

Pack compiled by Pastor Lee Carmichael and sourced mainly from "Believing and Belonging" written by John Lancaster

Title	Mr		Mrs		Miss		Dr		Rev		Other	
Forename												
Surname												
Address												
Tel.	Mobile						Home					
Email												
<p>Please write briefly below your reasons for wanting to become a member of Ingatestone Elim Church:</p>												
<p>Please write the name of a leadership team member who supports your application</p>												

Please tick below the activities you already attend/do at IEC

Sunday Services		GNG Volunteer	
House Group		Hospitality Team	
Mid Week Prayer		Multimedia Team	
Prayer and Praise		Missions	
Unashamed Friday		Other (Please Specify)	

Unashamed Sun.

Is IEC your only church? Yes No

Have you previously attended another church? Yes No

Name of Previous Church

Time at previous church (Years) From To

Please state below your reason for leaving your previous church

Time at IEC? Years Months

Have you been baptised in water? Yes No

Please write below any ministries whether in or outside of IEC that you would like to become involved in:

****To the pastor and leaders of Ingatestone Elim Church:***

After prayerful consideration, I have decided that this local church is the place where I should follow through my commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. I ask you to consider my application for membership so that I may more fully commit to being part of God's work through the church, with the desire to be enabled and equipped by my fellowship to witness to God's saving grace wherever I am.

Signed _____

Date _____

Consent:

I consent to the pastor contacting my previous church to obtain a character reference in support of my application to membership

Signed _____ Date _____

I consent to my data being stored and used for the purposes of internal communication, including fundraising, as part of being a member at IEC.

Signed _____ Date _____