



Welcome to
Forest
Baptist
Church

Welcome!

You are probably reading this leaflet because you are a visitor or newcomer to Forest Baptist Church. If that's the case then let us say that we are very glad to see you! People of any and every sort, of any and every age, of any and every belief, are very welcome to come along to our public services. Our hope is that by being with us you will be helped to think about God and, if you don't yet know Him, to come to know God through Jesus Christ, His eternal Son.

In this leaflet we'd like to introduce you to our church. We'll tell you a little about ourselves and what we do. But if you have any questions then please feel free to ask our pastor, David Last, who would be happy to speak with you. You can also find out more on our website (address on back page.)

If you are reading this leaflet at the church, then we'd greatly appreciate it if you would sign our visitors' book and after the service please stay around to chat to others and have a cup of tea or coffee with us (only available in the morning). And if this is your first visit then we hope that we'll see you again soon.

Introduction

AT Forest Baptist Church we look to the Bible to teach us what we need to know about God. The Bible is, of course, a large book with many things to say. But at its heart is a **message about Jesus Christ.**

The Bible says that God is the creator of everything and that Jesus is his eternal Son. It tells us that Jesus came into this world around 2000 years ago to bring salvation to people. All of us – everyone,

everywhere – have gone astray from our maker. We no longer know God nor honour Him as He deserves. We no longer live as God wants us to live. And if we continue on that path it will end in disaster.

But **Jesus has come to rescue us**, bringing us back to God and changing our lives. Jesus promises that all who ask for forgiveness and new life will live forever. That message is at the heart of our church.

Sunday Services

EACH Sunday we meet to worship God, believing that God has told us to keep one day a week specially for Him. These services take place at 10.30 in the morning and 5.00 in the afternoon.

Our services are open for anyone to attend. Normally the meetings last between 60 and 75 minutes. In them we do a number of things. We sing praises to God. We speak to God in prayer. We read from the

Bible believing that in this book God has spoken to us. We listen to a preacher explaining the Bible – making clear its meaning and applying it to our lives today.

We also regularly celebrate the Lord's Supper together in a meeting which follows the morning service. This special time is described in more detail later in this booklet.

As well as our Sunday services we have other activities. Some of the most regular ones are listed below.

Regular activities

Sunday services – 10.30am and 5.00pm The morning service is also available on YouTube for those who are prevented from coming out. The evening service is available online via Zoom. *Contact: David Last*

Midweek meeting – 7.45pm every Wednesday in the home of a member. We also have a Zoom link for any unable to come in person. *Contact: David Last*

Thursday Prayer Fellowship – 10.30am, each week, meeting in a home. *Contact: Gill Rumford*

Friday Club – This club for children aged 5-11 runs at the Welsh Chapel from 3.30pm until 5pm every Friday during term-time. *Contact: Ces Field*

Details of other events are announced at the start of our services.

What is a church?

WHAT is a “church”? For some people it simply means a building. For others it means a religious organisation which arranges services, meetings and activities. But like other Bible-believing churches, we understand “church” simply to mean **a gathering together of Christians.**

Let us explain by looking very briefly at how somebody becomes a Christian.

Firstly, to become a Christian a person **repents of their sins.** That means they recognise they have wronged God and want to be forgiven and changed.

Secondly, the person then understands that the Lord Jesus Christ – alone – can forgive their sins if they trust Him. So they **put their faith in Him as their Saviour.**

Thirdly, the person then displays their faith outwardly by **being baptised** – dipped in water – as Jesus told His followers to be. (Baptism is described in more detail on the following page.)

Fourthly, the person then **joins with other Christians** so that they can care for one another, study the Bible's teaching and worship and

serve the Lord Jesus together.

And that fourth stage – the joining together of Christians – is what we mean by a “church”.

Now at Forest Baptist Church we use the phrase “**becoming a member**” to mean joining our church. To become a member, a person needs to have passed through the first three steps above. He or she needs to have repented, believed and been baptised.

Then we have a particular process we follow, involving our leaders and the other members of the church, to bring a person into formal membership. This process is laid down in the church's constitution (an official document which explains what the church believes and how we operate).

To be a member of any Bible-believing church is a great privilege. **The Lord Jesus has promised rich blessings to Christians** when they gather together, work together to spread the Bible's message and lovingly care for one another.

If you would like to know more about a member of our church, then please feel free to speak to our pastor: David Last

Baptism

FROM our conversations with others we know that many people do not know what is meant by a “Baptist Church”. So let us explain why we have this title.

Some people think the title means that we are followers of John the Baptist – a prophet who appears in the Bible. Certainly John was an important person but he himself said that his job was only to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. So in fact, like all true Christians, **we are followers of Jesus Christ.**

However, Jesus did carry on doing something which John had started: he baptised (dipped people in water). Jesus taught that anybody who came to believe in Him as their Saviour **should be baptised.** You can find Him commanding this in Matthew 28:19 and His disciples implementing His command in various places in the book of Acts – one example is quoted on the right.

What is the purpose in being baptised? We believe the ceremony is rich with meaning although we cannot cover all the details here. But one of the things it shows is that a new believer in Jesus now trusts Him completely as Saviour and is looking to start a

new life with Him, empowered by His Holy Spirit.

Notice that it's people who come to trust Jesus as their Saviour who should be baptised. Some Christians consider it right to baptise babies when naming them. However, we believe that the Bible teaches that baptism is to be kept solely for those adults and children who clearly show that they have repented of their sins and come to faith in Jesus.

If you have put your faith in Jesus as your saviour, but haven't been baptised, then please do come and speak to us about this important step of obedience, which the Lord Jesus has given to all his people.

Peter said 'God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.' When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, **“Repent and be baptised,** every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:36-38)

The Lord's Supper

Part of our worship is to hold the “Lord's Supper.” In other churches this is sometimes known as “Communion” or “the Eucharist”. This is the time when the formal members of the church eat and drink together.

But you're not a member. So what should you do?

Well, if you are a faithful, baptised member of another Bible-preaching church who would normally be elsewhere on a Sunday but is visiting us then we'd be glad to have you take the Supper with us.

However, maybe that's not you. Possibly you're still thinking about becoming a Christian, or you haven't been baptised yet, or you are still deciding whether to join our church as a member. Well, in those situations we ask you **not** to take the bread and drink – instead, just use the time to pray. The person serving will understand and quietly move on to another.

You are then very welcome to discuss your circumstances with our pastor, to decide what the best next step is for you. He would be glad to talk with you.

What's the point of the Lord's Supper?

Some brief points to explain why we have this meal:

- 1.** the Lord Jesus told His first disciples to do this and then taught them to hand it onto future generations of Christians. By eating and drinking we are remembering and honouring the command of the Lord Jesus.
- 2.** it reminds us of the death of the Lord Jesus and its importance: Jesus died to turn away God's wrath against our sin and to protect us, His people, from destruction.
- 3.** it points to our need to centre our lives upon Jesus. He described the bread as His body and the wine as His blood: He is as vitally important to our spiritual lives as food and drink are to our physical lives. As we take the supper God gives us strength to live trusting in Jesus and walking in His ways.
- 4.** the sharing of this meal represents how closely united the members of the church are, and therefore it reminds us humbly to love our brothers and sisters.



Response Form

If you would like some extra contact from somebody in the church then please fill in your details below, tear this sheet from the booklet and pass it onto one of the elders. We will only use your name and details for the purpose of dealing with your enquiry. We will NOT pass on your details to anyone other than the person (or people) in our church who are best able to deal with your request. If you are concerned about the way your information is handled please ask to speak to our Data Protection Officer. If you are still unhappy you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioners Office.

Name:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

In what way can we help you?

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