

# Membership



A downloadable resource  
from

Melton Mowbray

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

## Why bother with church membership?

*The New Testament emphasises the value of committed relationships – we are saved as individuals, but we are called to express and grow our faith in a community of love. In short, we are God’s new family, and family relationships only work where there is commitment to one another, and we can only function well as the body of Christ when we are willing to give and receive from one another.*

*In today’s world there may be suspicion about institutions and people may be less concerned about denominational labels, but church membership isn’t about being traditional for the sake of it.*

*Only in committed relationships can we enter fully into the New Testament vision of the church as a community of love. Membership means I moved from attending to wholehearted belonging.*

## A covenant relationship

*A covenant relationship has its roots in the Bible:  
**God’s Covenant with Israel***

*In the Old Testament, God bound himself to Israel with clear promises. And Israel bound them selves to the living God. It was a two-way commitment.*

*You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, a covenant the LORD is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promises you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Deuteronomy 29:12-13)*

### **Jesus’ Covenant with his Followers**

*Jesus described the wine of communion as the sign of his blood, the seal of the new covenant. Christians are bound to God when grace is met with faith.*

*We are saved as individuals, but called to grow as disciples in the community of the church.*

*In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you’. (Luke 22:20)*

## A community of love

*The New Testament is full of 'one another' instructions to help believers to cultivate a covenant of love.*

*This means that love among Christians is not automatic – we can mess up local church all too easily. But it also tells us that positive, wholesome, attractive relationships are possible, enjoyable and great fun.*

*Covenant relationship means a commitment to keep on loving one another.*

*At Melton Mowbray Baptist Church we seek to be a fellowship where love, devotion and honour, no finger pointing, acceptance, patience, forgiveness, submission, forbearance, encouragement and harmony, are evident amongst us as God's people.*

## Covenant commitment to the church

*You can attend a church occasionally...  
...and be a welcomed visitor.*

*You can attend a church regularly...  
...and feel that you belong without making any commitment.*

*or*

*You can actively commit yourself to a local church and enter into a covenant relationship of love. We are called to be committed to one another, in service to Christ.*

## WHAT TO DO NEXT...

*If you would like to talk further about church membership and what it means to be a member at Melton Mowbray Baptist Church, or would like to become a member, then please speak to one of the leadership team, who would be more than happy to help.*

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## MELTON MOWBRAY BAPTIST CHURCH

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