

PARTNERSHIP

with Jesus and His people

Partnership at Crofton Baptist Church

Partnering with Jesus and His people

Partnership is how we define belonging at CBC.

At Crofton Baptist Church, being a Partner is not like being a member of the gym or signing up for a TV subscription; it's an ongoing partnership with Jesus, with one another and with CBC.

Partnership emphasises a sense of togetherness; a shared sense of purpose around a common goal; that we are part of something that is active and dynamic; and that we are choosing to play our part.

Partnership is less about special privileges and more about intentional accountability and oversight in our discipleship to Jesus. We believe that partnership unites us around our shared vision of 'helping people follow Jesus' and reflects our shared values more clearly.

For us partnership is something living, real and present, it emphasises the understanding that we all have a part to play, which is why we ask our partners to renew their partnership agreement every two years.

Being a partner at CBC is not about how much money you give, or spending every hour serving in different roles. It's about reflecting on God's goodness and joining in with what God is doing.

It's about playing an active part in God's Kingdom building story through His people here at CBC and taking responsibility for being a partner with your prayers, finances, gifts and service.

And, of course, it means that we equally commit to partnering with you and commit to helping you on your journey of faith and in the practical challenges of life.



Partnership at a glance

Partnership is:

- About coming together with purpose, united in our vision of helping people follow Jesus.
- About participating in something bigger than ourselves. Whether through serving, giving, or simply being present, we each have unique gifts, and when we use them together, something beautiful happens.
- About growing together in discipleship, encouraging one another, and staying accountable to the values we hold dear.

Partnership is not:

- About going it alone, but about being part of a supportive family that lifts each other up.
- Focused on personal benefits, but on the joy of growing together in Christ.
- About exclusive privileges, but about joining a vibrant community working toward a shared mission.

Our part in Partnership:

- We care deeply for each person, ensuring that everyone feels valued and supported as part of the church family.
- We help you discover and use your unique gifts, empowering you to contribute in ways that bring life to both you and the church.
- We walk alongside you through every season, offering support, guidance, and opportunities to grow together in faith.

**WE DO
LIFE
TOGETHER**

BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH COMMUNITY

**WE GET
STUCK IN**

THAT RESOLUTELY FOLLOWS JESUS

**WE'RE HERE
FOR YOU**

AND

**WE'RE ALL
ABOUT
JESUS**

EXTRAVAGANTLY SHARES THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Why become a partner at CBC?

Five Reasons for Partnering with CBC

Biblical partnership recognises that we can do so much more together than we can do on our own. It recognises the Biblical concept that we all have gifts from God that are designed to be used for the benefit of the whole church family

Partnership says:

"I belong here" and...

God says that believers belong together". (Heb. 10:23-25). In other words, you feel called to identify with this local group of believers and publicly declare your commitment to God's work through this Church.

"We share the same ministry goals" and...

God says that "believers are to be committed to one another for the sake of spiritual impact" (Eph. 4:16). You believe Jesus has work to do locally and globally, and you're ready to join others in making it happen.

I accept my responsibility for a group of fellow believers in the family of God" and...

that is God's plan as well. (Gal. 6:1-2, 10). You want to be part of a caring community, sharing in worship, Bible study, and fellowship, supporting each other through joys and sorrows.

"I am accountable to other Christians for my walk with God", and...

God warns against spiritual autonomy. (Heb. 13:17; Mat. 18: 15-20). You seek guidance and support to stand strong for Jesus, not wanting to go it alone.

"I accept responsibility for how things are done here", and...

God says, "that is how it should be". (1 Corinthians 12:20-27). Partners help shape the church's direction by electing leaders, approving the budget, and calling pastors as spiritual leaders.

When we sign up to partnership at CBC we say 'yes' to being a part of the vision of the church:

To help people follow Jesus

As members of the Evangelical Alliance, we adopt their statement of faith. These are the central beliefs of the church handed down through generations that shape the way we see everything today.

We believe in...

The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.

The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.

The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image, to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.

The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the Virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.

The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.

The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; His ascension to the Father, and His reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.

The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.

The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.

The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers – given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the Gospel, promoting justice and love.

The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

Becoming a Partner at CBC

If you are interested in learning more about Partnership at CBC then visit our website or scan the QR code below.

CROFTONBAPTIST.ORG.UK/PARTNERSHIP



There are the four steps to becoming a Partner at CBC:

- 1.** We encourage you to get to know us and express your interest in partnership when you feel ready by speaking to a Pastor or a Church Leader.
- 2.** We'll meet with you to discuss the Vision and Values of Crofton Baptist Church, along with the privileges, responsibilities, and practices of partnership, and explore how your gifts can contribute to our church family.
- 3.** You'll need to agree with our Basis of Faith, as outlined by the Evangelical Alliance.
- 4.** Be willing to sign the Partnership Agreement.



Partnership Agreement

Partnership at Crofton Baptist Church is a meaningful way to affirm our commitment to the Vision, Mission, and Values of our church family. It's not a contract, but a tangible symbol of our covenant to support one another and serve God together in His world.

As a Partner, I affirm that -

1. We Believe – by affirming the statement of faith of Crofton Baptist Church, accepting that I am accountable to other Christians for my walk with God and doing all I can to protect the unity and testimony of our church.

2. We Gather – by choosing to identify with others in my church family by participating regularly in our together times by affirming that I belong here.

3. We Share - by committing to sharing with others through the Holy Spirit in the life and love of God, belonging to a caring network of people, identifying and sharing the gifts God has given, encouraging one another and sharing one another's joys and sorrows.

4. We Serve - by agreeing to play my part in the Vision, Values and Mission of Crofton Baptist Church recognizing that we are called to be a worshipping, sacrificial, inclusive and prophetic community.

5. We Covenant – with God's help, making myself accountable to God alongside others in our church family for the mission of God. Choosing to take responsibility for how things are done by being present at regular Partnership Meetings and practically supporting the financial budgets as I am able.

I understand that this agreement obligates me to the partners of Crofton Baptist Church and is an acknowledgement of my support of the church's leadership. (Ephesians 5:21). I accept the responsibility to notify Crofton Baptist Church leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this agreement, or if I have any questions, comments or concerns regarding Crofton Baptist Church.



We Covenant Together

Pausing at the start of each Partnership year encourages us to consider what it means to be committed to the Crofton's vision and values. It also provides an opportunity to contemplate our personal journey of following Jesus and to renew our covenant with one another as we embrace the next season of our lives together.

As we covenant together, it's crucial to reflect on our commitment to Jesus, His people, and the church.

Overleaf are some questions designed to help you consider how you can deepen your partnership with both Christ and the community, ensuring that we move forward united in our shared journey of faith.

We hope these prompts inspire you to reflect on questions like, "How can I grow as a follower of Jesus?" and "How can I intentionally develop my spiritual life in partnership with God?"

Our goal is for these questions to serve as a catalyst, encouraging you to invite all of Jesus into every aspect of who you are and everything you do.

Partnering with Jesus

Reflecting on my partnership with Jesus over the last year or so...

Reflecting on the past year, consider:

1. What am I thankful to God for?
2. What experiences pleased or saddened me over in the following areas:
 - The way I used my money
 - My work
 - My friends and family relationships
 - My spiritual growth
3. What are the key themes God has been speaking to me about over this year?
4. What are some of the spiritual disciplines that have helped me stay committed to Jesus over the last year?
5. Where do I sense God wants me to grow?
6. Who am I accountable to and who are the people that can speak into my life and help me follow Jesus?
7. What do my daily rhythms look like and what might need to change?
8. What are the biggest obstacles to my spiritual growth right now?
9. What deep stuff do I need to deal with? *Healing, forgiveness, anger, etc.*
10. How am I creating space for God to speak into my life?
11. What will I commit to reading or learning to help me grow in my faith in the upcoming season?



Partnering with His people

*Reflecting on my partnership with
God's people here at Crofton*

**Reflect on these questions as you
consider your involvement in the
church family:**

1. How can I actively engage with others in our church family?
2. What time constraints or circumstances make it challenging for me to connect with others at church?
3. Which relationships within the church family can I focus on developing in the upcoming season?
4. Where is God calling me to serve and use my gifts? Are there opportunities available, or is He guiding me to new areas of service?
5. How can I effectively partner with Crofton using my time and resources?
6. What disappointments or conflicts have I faced this year? Is there anyone I need to forgive?
7. How am I reaching out to those who don't know Jesus? What actions can I take, such as praying for colleagues or seeking opportunities for faith conversations?
8. Who am I intentionally making time for to share my faith with?



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  Crofton Baptist Church

 @croftonbaptistchurchuk1909  office@croftonbaptist.org.uk

01689 877010 | 100 Crofton Lane

Orpington, BR5 1HD | Croftonbaptist.org.uk

Crofton Baptist Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

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