

BRIDGE CHURCH

Pennygillam Ind Estate

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

2022



OUTLINE

WELCOME & VALUES

1. Church Welcome
2. Vision Statement
3. Statement of Faith
4. Church Core Values

LISTEN & LINK

1. Church Admin connection
2. Get to know you
3. Link to people, groups of personal interest
4. Roles of Leadership Team
5. Roles of Church Members

CONNECT & BELONG

1. Sunday and Weekly Gatherings
2. Connecting to official Groups
3. The Church Ministries
4. Church courses and programs

MISSION & SERVING

1. Our Outreach
2. Roles within the Church Ministries
3. Roles within Community Links
4. Church's Mission Fund

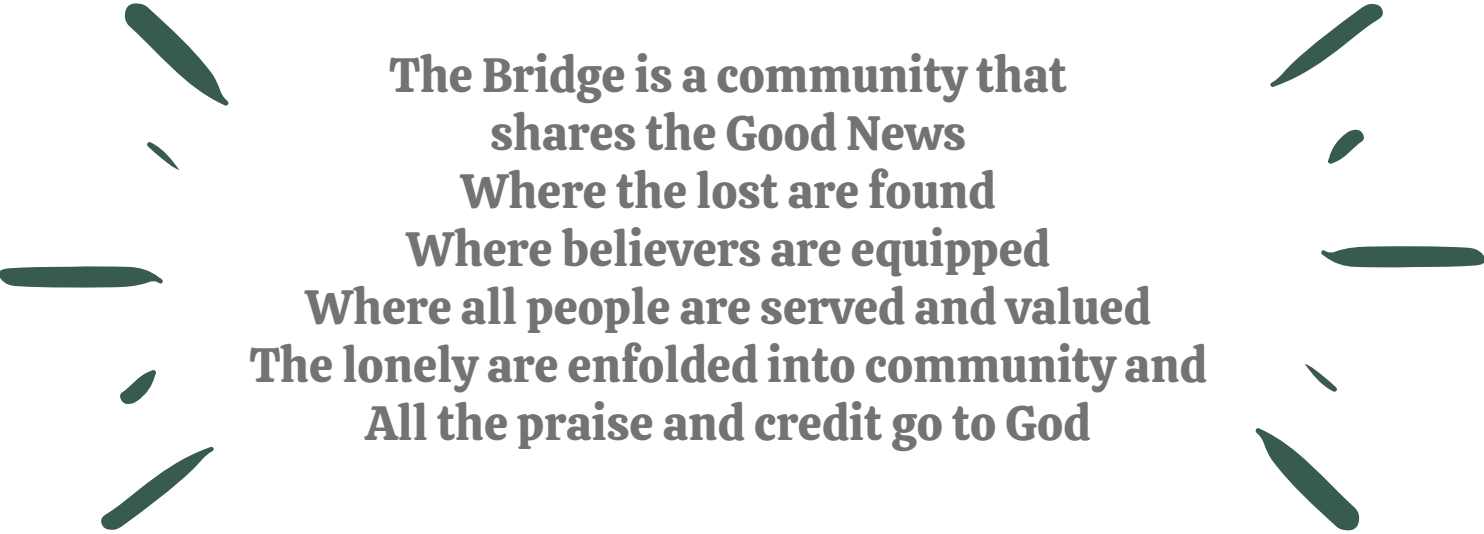
WELCOME AND VALUES

We are a church that believes in the Good News of Jesus Christ; that He came to pay the price of our sins so we might have a relationship with God the Father. We believe He has given us the Bible and that it is His Word. With the help of His Holy Spirit we can not only understand the word of God but also live it out.

We as a church are called to live a life of worship to God which brings glory to His name and that encompasses every area of our lives. We are a church that seeks to stand by each other and support each other in life on a daily basis and believe that each individual is valuable and has a gifting that they can use in building the ministry of the church. We love God and love people and it is our aim to share this Good News of Jesus Christ with the community of Launceston through the way in which we serve and love those in the community.

We are a fresh expression of the Methodist Church and we are connected with Churches Together in Launceston.

VISION STATEMENT



**The Bridge is a community that
shares the Good News
Where the lost are found
Where believers are equipped
Where all people are served and valued
The lonely are enfolded into community and
All the praise and credit go to God**

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

We believe in one true God, God the Father.
Who is the Creator of all that is seen and unseen.
He is full of compassion, love and holiness.

We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord and Saviour.
Who is one with the Father, fully God and fully man.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and was sent to earth for us and our salvation
He is the only way to forgiveness of sins and eternal life.
He was crucified and buried and on the third day rose from the dead,
conquering sin and death
He is now seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.
He will come again to bring justice to both the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,
Who is one with the Father and the Son
Who spoke through the prophets and apostles
and fills believers with power to overcome darkness
and guides believers into all truth.

We believe in the Bible, God's Word to all people.
It is infallible with no mixture of error, myth or deception
It is to be read, studied, preached, believed and obeyed.

We believe in the Church, the Body of Christ
Who gather to worship and honour God,
Equip and encourage His people
and serve and share the Good News of Christ to others
to build His Kingdom here on earth.

We baptise believers in obedience to God
We take communion together to regularly remember
the body and blood of Jesus that was broken
and poured out for all at the cross.

We believe that prayer is direct communication with God
He hears all prayers offered in faith, in the name of Jesus,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We faithfully await the physical return of Jesus when He will complete
God's divine plan. We look forward to being united with God in all that is to come!

CHURCH CORE VALUES



Christ Centred – We aim to do all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord (Colossians 1:16 and 3:17, John 1:3)



Word of God – We submit to the teachings of God’s word. It is the first place we look for guidance and instruction. (2 Timothy 3:13-17)

Grace – We seek to share God's grace and Christ’s unconditional love for us in everything we do. (2 Timothy 1:9)



Worship – We aim to live a lifestyle of submission to God by giving Him control of every part. (Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:23-24, Romans 14:8, Matthew 16:24-26)

Love – We love Christ, one another, and the lost.

(Matthew 22:36-40, John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 16:14)



Servanthood – Christ was a servant of all. We aim to serve Him and others by following the example He set for us. (1 John 3:18, 2 Corinthians 4:5, Galatians 6:10)



One Body (Community) – We live life together. Every member of the body has a role and gift within the life of the church. (Romans 12:4-5, Colossians 1:18, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 4:15-16)



Generosity – It is more blessed to give than to receive. We aim to be generous with all God has blessed us with including our talents, time and money. (Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38)



Mission – Christ ascended into heaven giving the mission to go into all the world making disciples. We aim to serve this mission both locally and globally. (Matthew 28:16-20)



Excellence – We aim to strive for excellence in all we do for no other reason than to glorify God. (Colossians 3:17; 23-24, 2 Timothy 2:15)

Prayer – We immerse everything we do in prayer. (Ephesians 6:18, 1 John 5:14-15, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Jeremiah 29:12)



Holy Spirit – We aim to be open and sensitive to the way in which the Holy Spirit moves. We expect Him to move and believe for amazing things in our church and lives. (Acts 2:38, John 14:26; 16:12-15, Romans 8:26)



Transformation - We aim to continually be transformed both individually and collectively as we are made into the image of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:14-15)

LISTEN AND LINK



We aim to contact newcomers to collate details such as address, phone, email, family member details etc. This aids the church in helping to connect you and your family with specific ministries, similar families within our church quickly and effectively.

Our desire is to connect you quickly with the life of our church so that you feel welcome and at home within our church family.

If you have any questions about our data protection please contact admin@bridgechurchuk.org

We want to get to know you and your family, your interests and what you would like to get involved in!

There are many groups, people and ministries within our church community that you might like to connect with and be a part of. In the next section we will go into detail of each of these but for now, here is a list below along with the names of those overseeing.



- Housegroups** - Tracey Venning
 - Youth** - Jordan Duke
 - Children** - Mark Blencowe
 - Men** - Dan Worth
 - Women** - Naomi Thomas
 - Worship** - Toby Lee
 - Prayer** - Jo Parsons
 - Fervent** - Mande Beazley & Gill Taylor
 - Seed** - Maddy Lee
 - Grounded** - Jill Duke
 - Wear Love Out** - Naomi Thomas
 - Communications** - Lucie Worth
 - Media** - Toby Lee
 - Church Courses** - Mande Beazley
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ROLES OF LEADERSHIP TEAM

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, leaders are entrusted to protect, lead, equip, and care for the church body and individual members.

The following is an overview of the roles for leaders as outlined in the Bible.

Our leaders aim to...



APPOINT LEADERS according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).



PRAYERFULLY SEEK GOD'S WILL for the church community and steward her resources to the best of their ability based on their study of the Bible and leading of the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

CARE FOR THE CHURCH and seek her growth in grace, truth and love (Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 20:28, Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

TEACH and counsel from the Bible (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).

EQUIP MEMBERS for the work of ministry and for maturity in Christ, and encourage in the gifts God has given (Eph. 4:11-16, 1 Tim. 4:14).

BE APPROACHABLE for any areas of concern, issues or problems regarding the church. Leaders are called to serve those whom they oversee (Mark 10:42-43, Phil. 2:3-4).

BE ON GUARD against false teachers and teachings (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).

DISCIPLINE IN LOVE when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20).

SET AN EXAMPLE and join members in fulfilling the roles of church membership (Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Pet. 5:3).

ACCOUNTABILITY - The leadership team commit to seek God's will in all decisions and are accountable to the Bridge Church Council, Church Members through Annual Church Meetings (Matt 18:6)

ROLES OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Believers are called to exhibit the character of Christ and “live by the Spirit” (Rom. 8) by both pursuing and rejecting certain attitudes and actions.

The following is a list of what the Bible teaches about obedience that produces faith and how we, as believers, are expected to live:

SUBMIT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:14–17; 2 Pet. 1:19–21).

PURSUE JESUS through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 9:24–27; Eph. 5:1–21; 1 Thess. 5:12–22).

FOLLOW JESUS by obeying His commands and example

- being baptised after becoming a Christian or reaffirming your faith.
- regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion.

PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH by attending weekly services, engaging in community, and serving those inside and outside the church (Acts 2:42–47; Heb. 10:23–25; Titus 3:14).

BE A GOOD STEWARD of what God has given, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Matt. 25:14–30; Rom. 12:1–2; 2 Cor. 8–9; 1 Pet. 4:10–11).

BE HOLY by God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, we walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:13–16, 4:1–3).

PURSUE righteousness, faith, love and peace (2 Tim. 2:2), the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23), compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience (Col. 3:12), love and Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1)



ROLES OF CHURCH MEMBERS CON'T

REJECT the flesh, attitudes and activities that lead to sin or that could present a stumbling block (Rom. 14:14–23, Gal. 5:19–21, 1 Cor. 8:1–13, James 1:21).

ACCEPT GOLDLY DISCIPLINE

- following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another—the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
- receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15–20; 1 Cor. 5:9–13; Heb. 12:5–11).

BE RESPONSIBLE with sin

- confess sin to God and where appropriate, to fellow believers.
- repent and seek help to put sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6–10).

RESPECT THE AUTHORITY of the appointed leaders of the church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (Eph. 4:1–3; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5).

APPROACH LEADERSHIP with issues, concerns, questions relating to the church or if for any reason you feel led to leave the church, notify the leaders. Test everything against the Word of God. (Acts 17:11, Prov. 11:14, 1 Thess. 5:21).

KNOW YOUR WORTH You were created for a purpose and a reason (Eph. 2:10, Ps 138:8), you are a chosen and dearly loved child of God (1 John 3:1), God is at work within you (Phil. 1:6) and He chose you before the foundations of the world (Eph. 1:4), your personal part within our church is vital and God given (1 Corinthians 12:18–20)



CONNECT AND BELONG

SUNDAY & WEEKLY GATHERING

Church is the people. It's not the building or even what we do. You and I are the church. One of our main focuses is connecting together. There are many different groups and ways that we can meet up on a Sunday and throughout the week. The most effective Body of Christ is the one that knows each other. Just as it says in 1 Corinthians 12:26, "if one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honoured, every part shares in its joy." We desire to be a church who fully knows God and also who fully knows each other.

Let's keep the momentum up of meeting together, sharing with one another, weeping and rejoicing with one another in our trials, joys, successes and failures. Let's get to really know each other and allow others to really get to know us as well. We encourage you to join a housegroup and to connect in with our services and other events that happen throughout the year.

CHURCH GROUPS

HOUSEGROUPS - TRACEY VENNING

House groups are a key part of church life and are typically made up of around 8 – 15 people who meet in the hosts home for fellowship, study, prayer and mutual support. Everyone can join a house group and everyone is encouraged to do so. There are a wide range of days & times to choose from and when necessary new groups will start.

House groups provide a safe environment where we can have fun and fellowship together as we support and encourage one another in our faith, in an informal atmosphere where everyone feels valued whatever their contribution. What we study varies from following along with the Sunday sermon to stand alone studies and plenty of space to share what God has laid on your heart personally. Some groups meet weekly and others fortnightly and most groups have a social calendar too which usually revolves around food!

CHURCH GROUPS CON'T

COMPASS - Men's Ministry - DAN WORTH

Our men's ministry is a way for men to come together through regular breakfasts, events and weekends away. Men aren't always the best at sharing their feelings and faith but our hope is through regular meetings we start to build life long friendships where we feel comfortable to open up and share with each other, while supporting, encouraging and building each other up.

CHOSEN - Women's Ministry - NAOMI THOMAS

The vision for our women's ministry is 'Building an army of women who share life experiences, encourage, support and guide one another; learning from others as we blossom and thrive, living life as Christian women'.

We provide an opportunity for ladies in our community to gather, socialise, learn from each other, share and delve deeper into God's word. In previous years we have met once a month and this has ranged from pamper and Christmas craft evenings, social bowling, wreath making, guest speakers, tea parties, worship and prayer evenings and more.

YOUTH - JORDAN DUKE

Shift XL is our weekly Bible Study for young people in year groups 7-13. Our aim is to gather young people together for fellowship and fun, while having a key emphasis each week on the Word of God. This allows an opportunity to pray for one another and be open with one another in groups of 6-10 young people. Shift XL runs two groups on a Monday evening, Juniors and Seniors.

Our Championing program is the next step towards supporting the young people and is done on a one to one level. This is a chance for young people to express concerns and to grow a relationship with a young adult in the church that will be lasting. All young people are given opportunity to join if they would like to.

CHURCH GROUPS CON'T

BRIDGE KIDS - Family & Children's Ministry - MARK BLENCOWE

Bridge Kids aims to provide excellent, Bible-based teaching for the KS1 and KS2 children of Bridge Church as well as all children attending primary schools in the Launceston area.

We achieve this through Bridge Kids Church each Sunday morning, Connect After School Club on a Monday afternoon and Shining Stars toddler group every Monday, Thursday and Friday morning.

During the year, Bridge Kids also organise holiday clubs, collective worship assemblies and family events. Bridge Kids also has a growing online presence that we continue to develop allowing families who cannot attend in person the same opportunities to grow in their faith.

PRAYER - JO PARSONS

Prayer underpins every area of our lives. It's a conversation with God, it's how we get to know Him. Just as it was for Jesus when He was on earth, prayer is our lifeline and intimate connection to our Heavenly Father. It sustains us, equips us for the battles we face and reveals to us the heart and mind of God.

The purpose of the prayer ministry team is to actively promote prayer within the life of the church; not to do all the praying for the church, but to equip, enable and encourage others to make prayer a part of everything they do. Prayer ministry is offered and encouraged in person at church, in house groups and ministry groups, and remotely via prayer emails, zoom meetings and organised events.

While seeking to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit, we pray that God's love, guidance and healing power would be released for the benefit of His people and to His glory.

GROUNDING - JILL DUKE

We want to equip new believers with all they need to build a strong relationship with God. Grounding is an opportunity to come and sit in the cafe setting, grab a coffee, let the kiddies play and explore faith and the word of God together while building friendships and supporting one another.

CHURCH GROUPS

WORSHIP - TOBY LEE

Our worship team meet during the week to not only spend time practicing and preparing for Sunday mornings and other worship events but also to spend time together in prayer, study and fellowship. The vision is to see an increase of expectant and free worship, releasing creativity throughout the church. There is a passion for having our own voice as a church within our times of sung worship. As a team they have started to write songs with prayers and testimonies birthed out of Bridge, to give God all the glory.

The passion is that this will build a culture of teachability and a longing for spiritual growth as a church body.

FERVENT - MANDEE BEAZLEY AND GILL TAYLOR

Fervent was born out of an earnest desire to gather together and pour out our hearts in prayer for the children in our own families, believing God's promise that there is great power when we join together in prayer. There is a need to pray strategically, to stand in the gap and go to battle for not only our own children but for the current generation of children and young people who are growing up in incredibly difficult times. We believe that such specific and strategic prayer for our children and young people should be at the heart of our church family, not just for a small group of praying parents.

Fervent meet once a month for an hour of prayer and then run several larger events throughout the year.

HOSPITALITY - LUCY WORTH

There are many different 'in house' hospitality ministries that are carried out within the life of our church. These include door welcoming, serving teas and coffees, media and sound tech, property and cleaning. Every bit of help in the life of our church moves us forward and serves one another. Please consider joining one of the many different rotas within the hospitality sector, sometimes it's unsung service, but we really do believe that God sees it all and will bless those who serve.

CHURCH COURSES AND PROGRAMS

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

We believe part of being a church family is about committing to the church and each other. Our membership evenings are run once a year and give those who have joined the church an opportunity to confirm their commitment and become active members during Annual Meetings and throughout the year.

BAPTISM COURSE

Baptism is the means by which a person makes a public profession of faith and discipleship. It is a crucial part of our journey in to faith and something as a church we have been able to celebrate together on many occasions.

We have a heart to do baptisms as often as possible for those who feel God is calling them to step out and make this commitment and so we run our baptism course several times a year. This is an informal time to come together with members of the leadership team to learn, understand and prepare for baptism as well as an opportunity to ask questions and seek advice.

This is also a place to explore reaffirming your faith if you have been baptised before if you believe this is something that might be right for you.

PEACED TOGETHER

This group is a creative and mental wellbeing group that follows a nationwide course. We use creative arts and crafts to bring more hope and peace into our lives, exploring various topics, and discussions to promote peace, enrich skills and deepen friendships along the way. It's a wonderful opportunity to take time out for you, get together with others and create something special at the same time. We run it throughout the year and you can visit peacedtogether.co.uk to find out more.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Working through grief and the loss of a loved one takes a long time. This course is for those who are bereaved, whether recently or dating back several years. The course is normally run in small groups and includes time to listen and then also time to discuss and ask questions.

As a church we want to reach those both in our church and in the community who are hurting and broken hearted and show them unconditional love.

MISSION & SERVING

SEED

Open four mornings a week it is a non profit cafe with a small soft play area offering a warm and comfortable place to come and relax. It is a very popular space for mums to meet together but also often used by childminders and the setting of some of our church groups including Grounded. We see an average of over 100 people a week using the cafe.

Young families have few options to come and have an area where their children can play and the parents can connect and we have seen first hand the positive impact Seed Cafe has had on the community. Offering a place that welcomes both adults and children to come and freely be themselves, build confidence and meet others. We have built relationship with the community and seen visitors to the cafe become much loved members of our church.

We have also been able to use this safe place to build connections and help vulnerable members of our community.

WLO

Wear Love Out is a community-based project where we, as Bridge Church family, get to show God's love to the community through practical acts of kindness.

Our vision is to continually be ready to serve each other and our community providing gifts, resources and practical help giving everyone in the church the opportunity to come together as a team to serve others.

LAUNCESTON FOODBANK LINK

We have partnered with our local foodbank providing a collection point for donations within the church giving us the opportunity to provide for those in our community who are struggling and in need of this vital service.

ROLES WITHIN THE CHURCH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY MORNING TEA AND COFFEE

Our coffee team work in pairs to make sure there are always hot drinks, biscuits and a warm welcome waiting for everyone who enters the building creating a relaxed and inviting atmosphere both before and after the service.

WELCOME

Stepping into a new church can often be daunting and for some even stepping into a church they are already a part of can feel hard some days. Our welcome team know how important it is for everyone to feel known, loved and welcomed into our church from the moment they get to the front door.

CLEANING

Welcoming people into the building is always exciting. With the help of our volunteers we hope to always be able to welcome them into a clean and inviting space.

TECH TEAM

Our tech team continue to stream all our services, reaching those who cannot come to the physical building and they do this alongside ensuring a smooth running Sunday morning service. This takes a dedicated team who work together and are always learning new skills.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

We know that when people set into the church on a Sunday morning they bring with them the highs and lows of the week that's past. That is why our team know that being available to pray with and support people is so important.

CHILDRENS WORK

Our children are the next generation to further the Kingdom of God and bring hope, peace, love and light to the community around us. Our children's team have so much fun learning and exploring the bible through teaching, singing and crafts.

YOUTH WORK

Our teenagers face many decisions and hurdles during these years of life and we want to make sure that we stand with them through prayer, friendships and solid biblical teaching.

CHURCH'S MISSION FUND

We genuinely believe that there is no better investment than to sow into your local church. There is no other organisation that has the potential to change the world the way the church can. The church is where people find Christ, the lost are saved, the hopeless find hope, people are set free from brokenness and addiction and people are accepted for who they are.

We as Christians believe that everything we have is a gift from God and therefore we believe it is important to put Him first in every area of our lives, including our finances. It is a spiritual impossibility to be a totally devoted follower of Christ without being completely surrendered in our finances (Matthew 6:24).

As you surrender this area of your life God also wants to pour out more blessings into your lives, this won't always be financial but His provision is constant for those that believe, follow and trust Him.

We, as a church leadership team, want to thank you for your giving and for the belief that you have in us as a leadership team to channel your money in the best possible way. Please understand our heart is, and always will be, to spend the money of the church in a way that blesses and honours God and ultimately extends the reach of His Kingdom.

We are committed to giving back out 10% of all that comes into the church. Our heart is to seek God's will and to give into ministries that are both sharing the gospel and reaching those in need.

This has included ministries that are actively working in war zones such as Ukraine, charities that provided support during COVID including vaccines in third world areas, as well as local ministries working within our communities helping the homeless and families in poverty.
