WHO WE ARE

AN INTRODUCTION

TO

DEAL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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Deal Pentecostal Church is in fellowship with Assemblies of God (GB).
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Margaret and Paul Fermor

Introduction

This booklet has been compiled to help you understand us. We acknowledge that there is great diversity within the Christian Church and each local Church will develop their own emphasis depending on the people, gifting and experience. The Bible is always our point of reference and our intention is to be open to the Holy Spirit at all times.

The practice of our Church is the result of much prayerful thought and discussion, coupled with past experience. But the way we conduct our Services is mostly down to preferences as the Bible has little to say about methods.

The following material will give you an insight into our way of thinking and our interpretation of the relevant Scriptures.

As Pastors of the Church, it is a joy to fellowship with you. We believe that God will speak to you directly as you hear His Word preached week by week in our Church. God's blessings are automatic for Believers who are in fellowship with God and His people and He really does meet all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

I want you to know that we pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling and that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. *2Thes.1:11-12*

May you prosper and enjoy good health, even as your soul prospers. Remember, we belong to the family of Believers, so wherever we are, let us continue to think, act, talk and give as Believers!

We are available to help, encourage and support you.

Margaret and Paul Fermor

CHURCH CORE VALUES

What we do at Church is deliberate and is motivated by our Core Values:

Love for Jesus:

We have a relationship with, and dependence on, Jesus as the Son of God, for which we give thanks in unashamed private and public praise that reflects our appreciation – His Worth-ship (Worship)!

That is why we sing and pray with passion & exuberance.

Love for God's Word:

The Scriptures are always true[Jn.10:35] *and they point to Jesus.*[Jn.5:39] *They are an insight into God's character and values;*[Ps.119:11] *a manual for right and blessed living. The Word of God really works in us who believe.*[1Thes.2:13]

That is why we read and study the Bible together and learn a Scripture verse each month.

Love for each other:

Our relationship with others (which will be different for each of us) is expressed with affection and concern – we care for one another enough to pray for and help each other.

That is why we greet each other warmly, fellowship around refreshments & meals and share our resources.

Love for the world:

We witness to others, through our conversation, behaviour & attitude, about God's glory, goodness and love. This witness is rooted in our indebtedness to God for His love and grace toward us.

That is why we try to honour God at all times. We want to accurately represent God so others can know Him too!

Love for life – now and for ever:

We realise that this life is a gateway to eternity and our response to God now determines what happens when we die. We have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing so we aim to be a blessing to others.

That is why we enjoy God but take Him seriously. We really are too blessed to be stressed!

CHURCH HISTORY

The Church's History

Deal Pentecostal Church started in 1927 when the Evangelist Stephen Jeffreys held a Healing Crusade at the **Winter Gardens Theatre** (now Astor Theatre) in Stanhope Road.

Winter Gardens Theatre, Stanhope Rd., Deal.

PASTOR STEPHEN JEFFREYS

The World-renowned Evangelist, is holding a GREAT DIVINE HEALING & EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN at the above Hall, from

THURSDAY, MAY 19th, to FRIDAY, JUNE 3rd inclusive.

ORDER OF SERVICES FOR CAMPAIGN

Great Gospel Service each Evening (except Saturdays), at 7 30.

DIVINE HEALING SERVICES—Each Afternoon (except Mondays and Saturdays), at 3 o'clock.

Bring the Sick and the Afflicted to the Services.

Don't miss hearing how God has worked in Signs and Wonders all over the Country.

The East Kent Mercury report stated: "*Evidently the Pastor believes in the maxim that the devil is mad when God's people are glad. His sermons are decidedly good.*"

At the end of that crusade an **Assemblies of God Pentecostal Church** was formed and met in Nelson Road, eventually buying a building in Western Road. In 1989 the Church bought their present property in Mill Hill.

The building was originally "*Glynn Vivian Miners Mission*" which was established in 1927 to support the newly opened coal mines at Betteshanger and surrounding area (we still have some "*Glynn Vivian*" crockery). In 2006 the church changed its name from *New Life Christian Centre* to *Deal Pentecostal Church.*

For more stories of our Church see "Testimonies" page 31.

The Pastors' History

Margaret and Paul Fermor came to Deal in 1999. Paul began his training for the ministry in 1989 at the Plymouth Elim Pentecostal Church in Devon. After a year of academic study, Paul, together with Margaret, pastored a church in Stowmarket, Suffolk before moving to Bridgwater, Somerset in 1993 to pioneer a church there. After completing further studies, Paul was ordained in 1994 as a Minister with the Elim Pentecostal Churches. During their time in Bridgwater, Margaret and Paul hosted "*Discipleship Schools*" where people from the UK and overseas came for intense training before being encouraged to "*go and make disciples of all nations*". Many of those students are still ministering effectively in various parts of the world today. Paul has ministered in many countries including USA, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Philippines and Latvia. Both Margaret and Paul have been privileged to see God perform miracles through their ministry, however their emphasis is Emmanuel—God is with us. In 2004, Paul graduated with a Master's degree in Theology from the University of Wales, Bangor, through the AoG Bible College at Mattersey, Notts. His subjects were *Church History* and *Divine Healing* with a dissertation on "*The effect of miracles on faith throughout Church history*".

Paul was Treasurer of the South East Region of Assemblies of God from 2002-2011 and their Chairman from 2008-2011. He is currently the Clerk of Appeals with Assemblies of God (GB) and a member of their Professional Standards Team. Locally, Paul is Senior Chaplain with the South East Coast Ambulance Trust, with oversight of the Trust's Chaplains throughout Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

CHURCH VISION

Our Church's Vision is JESUS and we believe that He should be our focus.

We proclaim Jesus, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ Col.1:28

We want to give every man, woman and child the opportunity of understanding the Gospel and provide a Church where they can grow and develop in ministry for the glory of God

To fulfil this vision we are:

A Local Church with a World Vision:

We meet locally for worship, prayer, Bible teaching and fellowship. We minister globally, reaching out to the world with the good news of Jesus Christ.

A Praying and Glorious Church:

God intends that His wisdom is seen and His glory experienced in the Church. As we pray fervently and in faith, we see God perform miracles.

A Training Church:

Our Church Services are planned to equip the congregation to live faith-full lives and to prepare them for works of service. We encourage active participation in the corporate Praise, Worship, Prayer, Bible Reading and Ministry. Church is a life-boat not a pleasure-boat and we are called to be workers not spectators. We want all of God's people to be released to minister the Gospel.

A Sending Church:

Our Church is a Mission Church and we send our members out as missionaries. A Missionary is not someone across the sea but someone who sees a cross! The mission field begins in our neighbourhood and extends to the nations.

CHURCH VALUES

Preaching and Teaching the Bible:

The Bible is the basis of everything we believe and testifies of Jesus, who is the Word of God. God's Word is spirit and life. It is active and works in us who believe because faith comes from hearing the Word of God proclaimed.

Prevailing Faith:

Prevail means "to win through, to take the crown, to overcome". Faith is the complete confidence in God and His Word. It is prevailing faith that overcomes and keeps us in victory. Maturity comes from the testing of our faith. We are blessed if we persevere and don't give up.

Presence of God:

God can be known personally and to know Him is eternal life. God lives in us by the Holy Spirit and in His Presence, miracles become normal, prayers are answered and love for Jesus deepens.

Passionate Love for God:

Our love for God will be extreme if we have been forgiven much. God wants us to be totally absorbed with Him and His will.

Praise, Worship and Glory:

Our objective in Praise and Worship is to express our love for Jesus, so our songs are based on Scripture and very Jesus centred. As we spend time appreciating God, it is easy to hear Him speak to us. We determine to know God's "glory" or "overwhelming Presence".

Prayer:

The fervent prayer of a Believer is powerful and effective. We pray in confidence, with boldness and in faith, knowing that we can receive anything from God if we ask according to His will.

Pentecostal Power - Holy Spirit Baptism:

God wants us to be continually overflowing with the Holy Spirit who empowers Believers to live a victorious, overcoming and faith-full Christian life.

Pledge of a Good Conscience - Water Baptism:

God has saved us to live in His blessings of health, wealth and wisdom. Water baptism of Believers is a pledge of a good conscience and an important part of our salvation experience.

Proportional Giving:

Tithing is the normal minimum giving for Christians and is much more than just the physical act of giving to the church. Tithing is giving cheerfully a part of our income into the storehouse (that is, the place that spiritually feeds us). Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.[Mal.3:10] *Although a tithe is usually considered 10%, the Bible says that we should not be pressured by others: Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*[2Cor.9:7]

Prophetic Ministry Gifts:

God has given to the Church the specific Ministry gifts of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors & Teachers, to train, equip, edify, unite and mature us. Ministers who have these gifts are regularly invited to speak at our Church in order to complement the Ministry gifts of our Pastor and Church leadership. God has also given to the Church, other gifts to help us such as, miracles, healings, helps, administration and variety of tongues. We expect these gifts to be in operation in our Church.

Pastoral Care:

The Church leaders are committed to serving you and make themselves freely available. In the same way, the Church leaders ask that you commit yourself to them. However, we do not have dominion over another person's faith.[2Cor.1:24] *This means that the Church leaders' authority is limited to the Church activities—you are accountable to God for your own actions and on day will have to answer to Him. Church leaders are appointed to equip and release you to serve God, not control you. Our desire is for every Church member to grow into maturity and to be able to minister the Gospel effectively. We want our "ordinary" members to be, and to do, something "extra-ordinary" for God.*

We are guides into God's most sublime secrets, not security guards posted to protect them.[1Cor.4:1 TM]

CHURCH MEETINGS

The Greek word for **Church** in the NT is *Eklesia* meaning "**a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place for the purpose of deliberating**" (deliberating = discourse or debate with action taken after careful consideration).

♦ ***Gathering:*** Church is always a ***gathering*** of people never just 1 or 2 people in their home.

Citizens: Christians are ***citizens*** of heaven. This has nothing to do with our natural or first birth but solely to do with our second birth from above: *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.*[Eph.2:19] *But our citizenship is in heaven.*[Phil.3:20]

Called: We have responded to God's ***call*** and are doing something about it. Church is when we leave our home thinking - lunch, business, family, friends, leisure etc. to worship God with a single mind: *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*[2Pet.1:3]

♦ ***Public:*** Church meets in ***public*** not in private. We are not a secret society or cult. We are transparent and accountable.

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace. For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand.[2Cor.1:12-13] *Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.*[2Cor.2:17]

Purpose: Our meetings are ***deliberate*** and we intend to take action after hearing the facts. *They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*[Acts.17:11]

We are **Church** when we come together in public to make quality decisions to change after spending time together listening to God's Word. Church is always an activity with purpose. We don't come together casually but determine to give our best to God because He deserves it. Worship means worth-ship; what God is worth to me.

Jesus is building His Church on the foundation of sound doctrine and teaching. Sound teaching is balanced truth (or truth that is explored fully) not truth that is compromised or restricted.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." …on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it (or not prove stronger than it).[Matt.16:16-18]

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.[Eph.2:19-20]

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.[1Tim.4:16]

Church Activities

We make every effort not to burden members with excessive numbers of regular meetings but the meetings we do have are important. Our regular meetings at present are Sunday mornings, and Wednesday mornings. Church members are expected to attend these meetings whenever possible. Church is inclusive never exclusive. Groups separated by natural parameters such as age, culture, language etc. are departments of the Church. The only boundary God has put on the Church is the spiritual parameter of the **new-birth**. *Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."*[Jn.3:3] Although everyone who is born-again is a member of God's Church, those who believe that God has called them to our local Church and want to commit themselves to our Church family are welcome to become Members of Deal Pentecostal Church.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.[Jn.3:18]
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.[Mk.16:16]
In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.[Eph.1:7]
to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.[Heb.12:23]
The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.[Gal.5:19-21]
When you were dead in your sins and in ...your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.[Col.2:13-14]

Pastoral Care and Ministry

Pastoral care by the leadership is mostly achieved through the fellowship times that we have around the refreshments and meals. Occasionally home visits are required when sickness or emergencies arise. The Church leaders are encouraged to take an active interest in all Church activities as part of the pastoral care provided by the Church. **We encourage and expect the fellowship of Believers**. Our fellowship should remind, reflect, repeat, rehearse and reinforce the truths that we are learning together as a Church.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.[Acts.2:42]
Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;[1Pet.5:2]

The ministry in our Church is overseen by the Church leadership. We emphasis, expect and experience the Ministry of the Holy Spirit and have total confidence in God's ability to save and to heal. When God is ministering to people, we endeavour to ensure their safety and comfort.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.[Heb.1:3]

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.[Heb.7:25]

He sent forth his word and healed them;[Ps.107:20]

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.[Phil.1:6]

Ministry in our Church is conducted in public where any prophecy can be judged. On the few exceptions where ministry is in private, all precautions are taken to prevent any appearance of inappropriateness. **We strongly discourage personal ministry where there are no witnesses present.** This type of ministry can easily lead to abuse and an unhealthy dependence on a person rather than God

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. [Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.[AV]*]*[1Cor.14:29]

Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.[2Cor.13:1]

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.[1Jn.1:7]

Now the overseer must be above reproach.[1Tim.3:2]

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership of our Church is open to all Christians (over 16 years old) **who desire to worship within the context of our Fundamental Truths and who actively support our Vision & Values.** Before being accepted as a Church Member, each candidate should have been Water-Baptised as a Believer, be attending our Church Services regularly and be seen to be integrating into the Church family and activities before they are accepted as Members. All Members are expected to be Holy Spirit Baptised (or to be seeking such) and be living a life that is honouring to God. Upon being accepted as a Member of this local Church, candidates will be asked to publicly commit themselves to our Church Family. They will then be publicly welcomed as Church Members. A Church Member must have been attending our Church for at least 6 months before they will be given any leadership responsibility.

Church is our extended family.

Being single is good. We are born single and die single. Being alone is not good (whether we marry or not). God has set the lonely in families

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*Gen.2:18

*God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.*Ps.68:6

We expect the Holy Spirit Giftings to lead us through His gifts manifested in the Believers within the Church.

Our Church is led by the Church leaders not by the Congregation, however, any major decisions will be brought to the Church members for ratification before being implemented. The Pastor is responsible for the conduct of the Services but is answerable to the other Church leaders. The Pastor is credentialed by AoG and is accountable to them for conduct and doctrine.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,[Eph.4:11]
Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.[1Cor.12:1]
Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.[1Cor.12:7]
And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.[1Cor.12:28]

We believe in an "*open*" Church

The Holy Spirit empowers and equips people for ministry. **Any Believer, whether a member or not, may actively participate in our services** and if so led, bring a prophecy, a word of encouragement or an exhortation. The Church leaders are committed to facilitating the ministry gifts of the Holy Spirit but also take seriously the responsibility to weigh carefully what is said.

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.[1Cor.14:29]

The Church leaders' authority is limited to Church activities and instruction in the Word of God. Outside the Church meetings they have no jurisdiction or authority over others unless requested.

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow-elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.[1Pet.5:1-4]
Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.[Heb.13:17]

Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.[2Cor.1:24]

All this I saw, as I applied my mind to everything done under the sun. There is a time when a man lords it over others to his own hurt.[Ecd.8:9]

We expect our members to behave at all times in a manner that honours Jesus and is compatible with the Vision and Values of our Church.

We have observed that people who oppose the Church leadership for no scriptural reason, do not stay in fellowship with us, and, unless they repent, they do not stay in fellowship with God either!

When a Christians from another Church wishes to join our Church, it is normal for us to contact the Pastor of their previous Church. If a member decides to leave us, we encourage them to allow us to pray for them and to send them to their new Church family with our blessing. We believe in being accountable and transparent. Membership of our Church is dependent upon a person's support of our Vision & Values and their desire to worship God with us. It is not necessarily a lifetime commitment.

David went out to meet them and said to them: If you have come to me in peace, to help me, I am ready to have you unite with me. But if you have come to betray me to my enemies when my hands are free from violence, may the God of our fathers see it and judge you.[1Chron.12:17]

Church membership does not mean that we have had an impeccable past but it does shaow that we have had miraculous conversion—and that guarantees a glorious future!

All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered round him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.[1Sam.22:2]

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.[1Pet.1:23]

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.[Eph.1:13-14]

One of the names of Jesus is **Emmanuel**—which means "*God is with us*". We recognise that God is now with us and that He will never leave us.

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.[Jn.14:23]

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."[Heb.13:5]

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.[2Cor.13:5-6]

Biblical Personal Values

We don't impose personal values that are not clearly taught in the New Testament, but we do insist on those values that are plainly taught. For example, while drunkenness is clearly not acceptable, the total abstinence from alcohol cannot be sustained from NT teaching. Divorce in certain circumstances may be permitted, but we reject outright, all immoral relationships, including adultery, homosexuality, pornography and abuse.

Please note: we uphold the Biblical standard of monogamous, heterosexual marriage between a biological man and biological woman as the only acceptable union.

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.[1Cor.6:9-11]

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

We know we are loved and cared for

We are important to someone – important enough for them to help us, regardless of the cost.

Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.[Jn.15:13-15]

We know we belong

We have a sense of security and support, knowing that someone is concerned for us.

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.[1Cor.10:17]

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.[Rom.12:15-16]

I have no-one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. [Phil.2:20-21]

We know we have help available to us

We are not afraid to ask for assistance. We can receive help and also give help. We also have someone who will tell us when we are wrong

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No-one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.[Acts.4:32-35]

My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.[Jas.5:19-20]

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Church should be enjoyable but with Church membership come responsibilities. We expect all Members to participate willingly in our church's activities. **"No" is not an acceptable answer**!

The Church is a Lifeboat, not a Pleasure boat; there is no room for spectators - we are all called to serve. **We are in the business of changing "members" into "missionaries"!**

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.[Gal.5:13]

Members matter!

Each member is expected to function as a Believer both spiritually and practically, within the Church and outside of the Church. Although we are servants, we are not slaves and each of us has a choice—we have chosen to serve God out of gratitude not under compulsion. We love God because He first loved us!

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.[1Cor.14:26]

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'[Matt.25:40]

He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'[Matt.25:45]

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.[1Jn.4:20-21]

Cultivate your own relationship with God but don't impose it on others… If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it is wrong [Rom.14:23] TM

We are members of Jesus Body

God has made us one with Him and with each other. It is a serious matter to divide what God has joined together. Malevolent gossip, backbiting, bitterness and resentment will divide the Body—we don't do it!

For we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.[Eph.5:30-32]

'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.[Matt.19:5-6]

But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.[1Cor.6:17]

We are all responsible for maintaining unity

God has already united us—now it's up to us to keep that unity.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.[Eph.4:2-6]

What if a Christian sins?

The Church should treat people in exactly the same that God treats them. If a sin is confessed and repented of, God has no record of it—so why should the Church hold their past against someone? However, in order to facilitate restoration, it may be prudent to relieve people of their responsibilities for a period of time sometimes. It is important that someone is not placed in situations where it would be easy to repeat previous transgressions. For recurring problems, repentance should be proved by a person's actions before they are given responsibilities again. However, if a criminal offence has been committed, we have a moral and legal obligation to inform the Police.

Our Church has a **Safeguarding Policy** which requires us to involve the relevant authorities should any child or vulnerable adult be perceived to be in danger.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.[1Jn.1:9]

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.[Matt.3:8]

What if a member does not repent or want to change?

In extreme cases, it is within the Church's jurisdiction to suspend or expel a person from membership. When relationships breakdown, our intention is to bring reconciliation with God and with people so we always try to keep the door of communication open. But until the person wants to be reconciled to God they will never be truly reconciled to people.

But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.[Cor.5:11]

Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.[2Cor.2:7-8]

LEADERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES

Management Trustees

The Church Council are the Management Trustees. They comprise of the Minister, together with other Church members appointed by the Church Council and must satisfy the requirements of Scripture as found in *1Timothy 3:8-13*. All Trustee appointments should be ratified by Church members at the AGM or at an extra-ordinary Church meeting. The current **Management Trustees** are **Paul Fermor, Margaret Fermor, Ray Teague, Jean Odon, Mark Toogood, Geraldine Farrugia, Joy Crick.**

The Church Council is legally responsible for the management of the Church and has the spiritual oversight of the Church. The minimum number of the Council is three with the quorum consisting of more than half the number of Church Council members. Normally the Senior Minister of the Church is the Chairman and the Church Council meet at least four times a year, regulating their own proceedings. Notice of at least forty-eight hours has to be given for Church Council meetings unless all agree to attend. Requests for specific matters to be considered may be submitted in writing to the Minister or Church Council at least one week before a meeting.

Holding Trustees

The Holding Trustees are the named people on the Deeds of the Church's property lodged with the Land Registry. We have used the Charity Commission's Officiation Custodian as our Holding Trustees. The application by Officiation Custodian was accepted 23/03/2020

Leaders of Departments

All those in any form of leadership must be a Church Member and have been attending our Church regularly for at least 6 months. They are expected to set an example by attending the main Church meetings prepared and in time to be used as required. Prior notification should be given to the Leadership of any expected non-attendance.

Complaints

The Church has a *Complaints and Grievance Policy* which is available from our Church website or the Church Office. A member with a grievance, other than one relating to a disciplinary matter, may ask the Minister or Church Council to investigate the matter. The Church Leadership would take any substantiated complaint seriously but where there is a conflict between personalities, we expect the individuals to try to address the matter with each other before approaching the

Church. The biblical principle for resolving difficulties is for the offended party to go and see the other person to seek reconciliation as described in *Matthew 5:23-24 and 18:15-17*.
If members have a misunderstanding, disagreement or grievance within the Church, but find it difficult to approach the Pastor, they should contact another member of the Church Leadership, another Minister who regularly ministers at the Church, or contact AOG Area Council. This safety-net is here so that no-one needs to feel they are beyond help or that they are being disloyal.

Autonomy of the Church

The Church is free to conduct all its own congregational affairs without the infringing of its rightful privileges by the AoG General Council, its Committees, Departments or Members or by any AoG Area Council except in matters specified by the AoG Constitution.

AoG Assistance

In the event of serious difficulties arising within the Church, application for advice or assistance may be made to the AoG Area Council. This assistance would be given when the Pastor, the Church Council or ⅓ of the Church Members request it. The AoG Appeals Panel may be appealed to if either party is not satisfied with the ruling of the Area Council.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why are we a Pentecostal Church?

As a Pentecostal Church we expect the experiences recorded in Acts to be evident in the Church today. The Holy Spirit who empowers Believers today is the same Holy Spirit who empowered the Apostles in the Bible times. We call this empowerment the "**baptism of the Holy Spirit**" which is distinct from the new birth. **At conversion the Holy Spirit**

comes into a person. At Spirit baptism the Holy Spirit flows out of a person!

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. Jn.7:38-39

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts.1:8

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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. Acts.2:38-39

When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts.8:15-17

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Acts.19:6

Why do we read the Bible together in our Services?

The Bible tells us to! Reading the Bible together focuses our thoughts and unites everyone around God. Faith comes from hearing the word of God and it is good to facilitate faith at the beginning of a Service.

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 1Tim.4:13

to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, Eph.5:26

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Rom.10:17

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Ps.119:130

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,[2Tim.3:16]
For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.[Heb.4:12]
And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.[Jn.5:37-40]

We are a New Covenant Church

We need to rightly divide the Word of God[2Tim.2:15] and read it in the light of the New Covenant. For instance, it is pointless for us to pray for God to "*rend the heavens and come down*"[Is.64:1] when He did that at Pentecost! **The Holy Spirit is here on earth right now** – Jesus does not send Him from heaven each day!

"The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel… this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." By calling this covenant "new", he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.[Heb.8:8-13]
I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.[Lk.24:49]
But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.[Jn.16:7-8]
No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.[Acts.2:16-17]

Why do we pray together in our Services?

Church Services are a corporate act of Worship and we should be partakers not spectators. Praying together is one way for everyone to participate. The Bible also gives us examples of Christians praying together.

When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.[Acts.4:24]

I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.[1Tim.2:8]

Why do we pray for people to be healed in our Services?

We pray because God still heals people. Jesus instructed His Disciples to heal the sick. It is God's intention to display His glory and wisdom in the Church.

You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.[Ps.77:14]

For I am the LORD, who heals you.[Ex.15:26]

[Believers] will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.[Mk.16:18]

the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.[Jas.5:15]

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,[Eph.3:10]

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,[Eph.3:20]

Why do we give money in our Services?

We give as an act of worship and in appreciation of God's love and provision. To help us trust Him, God asks us to tithe. Tithing is giving cheerfully and in faith (*i.e. trusting God that the money will be used effectively and also that He will provide for our needs*) the 1st part of our income to God through the local Church. It is normally accepted that a Tithe is 10% of one's income. Because God has promised that seed-time and harvest

will never fail, we are confident that a good seed sown in good ground will eventually produce a good harvest. Before giving, we usually read some scripture verses together as an audible prayer to encourage us to trust God. We use a large offering receptacle to remind us that our God is a great God and that we can never out-give Him. By placing the receptacle at the front of the Church, we encourage people to take an active role in the offering rather than casually giving a "tip" when asked! We also use this time to remind each other that we are truly blessed by God.

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.[Phil.4:19]

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.[1Cor.16:2]

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.[2Cor.9:6-11]

We believe that those who preach should receive payment from those instructed. This applies particularly to the Pastor but also to others who minister.

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing

good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers [Gal.6:6-10]

For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the ploughman ploughs and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. [1Cor.9:9-14]

Why do we sing hymns and songs in our Services?

Worship is our expression of the value or worth of God and singing is an easy way of doing this. Our songs are Jesus centred and our aim is to bring people into an awareness of God's majesty and glory together with an opportunity to express their own appreciation of Jesus. Thus our singing normally starts with "praise" – describing God's greatness and singing about Him (i.e. *Praise <u>God</u> from whom all blessings flow, Praise <u>Him</u> all creatures here below*). We will usually move on to "worship" – appreciating God and speaking directly to Him. (i.e. *<u>Jesus</u>, how lovely <u>You</u> are, <u>You</u> are so gentle so pure and so kind.*) Our objective is to bring people into a place where they are able to appreciate God without having to say or do anything – this is the "glory" realm and in this atmosphere, miracles become normal.

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. [Eph.5:19-20]

When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.[1Cor.14:26]

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.[Jn.4:23-24]

The Bible calls this place of Glory, the "Sabbath Rest". It is a place of contentment and peace with an awareness of God's protection and provision.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.[Matt.6:25]

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.[1Pet.5:7]

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it… There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God… Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no-one will fall by following their example of disobedience.[Heb.4:1-11]

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.[Matt.11:29-30]

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."[Lk.10:41-42]

A good definition of worship is found in Matthew's Gospel:

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.[Matt.2:9-11]

Note the sequence: **1)** *overjoyed;* **2)** *they saw [Jesus];* **3)** *they bowed down and worshipped him;* **4)** *they opened their treasures;* **5)** *presented him with gifts.*

Why are the words we say, so important?

Our mouth is the door of our soul. It's not what we say we are; it is what we say, we are! Actually the tongue is the hardest of all creation to control.

From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful have a craving for violence.[Prov.13:2]

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.[Prov.18:21]

Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.[Jas.3:5-8]

As we make a habit of agreeing with God's Word, we find that our thinking becomes God-like and our character becomes holy and wholesome. In the NT the Greek word for "**confess**" is **ὁμολογέω (homologeô)** and means "*to speak the same word, to agree*". Thus when we "**confess Christ**" we mean that we are saying the same words as Jesus and agree with Him.

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.[Rom.10:9-10]

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.[Rom.12:2] .

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.[Col.3:9-10]

You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.[Matt.12:34-37]

Mature Christians confess (talk about, speak, agree with) the Word of God.

The word "***infant***" in Heb.5:13 literally means a non-speaker.

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.[Heb.5:11-14]

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.[Josh.1:8]

We must be careful what we say. God's Word is true – even if everyone else disagrees

Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labour.[Prov.12:24]

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. [1Tim.4:15-16]

Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."[Rom.3:4]

Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.[1Jn.5:10]

God's Word is living and works in those who believe

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.[Heb.4:12-13]

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.[1Thes.2:13]

Notable Quotes!

*Expectation is the atmosphere of miracles*Kathryn Kuhlman:

*Don't pray hard, pray easy! It's not your prayer that does it, it's God.*Oral Roberts

Christianity is one hundred percent supernatural – God possessing man J.G.Lake

Each miracle healing becomes undeniable proof that the Gospel is indeed true! T.L.Osborn

*A living Christ and a living Father God, perfectly satisfies and we need no philosophy… When faith dies, philosophy flourishes.*E.W.Kenyon

*Affirmations are not a technique to get what you want in life but rather a means of building the truths of God's Word into the life of and consequences of a Believer in dependence on the Holy Spirit.*Jim McIntyre

TESTIMONIES FROM DEAL

Redemption Tidings August, 1926. Vol. 2. No. 8.
Margate.

God is still with us in power and pleased to bless our efforts indoors and on the sea front. We had our monthly convention at Deal on Saturday, this is a new place for Pentecost, there was about 130 present including those from our own assemblies. Closing with Christian love…. *W. Miles.*

Redemption Tidings July, 1927. vol. 3. No. 7.

Deal Campaign.

South East Coast Presbytery Aggressive Programme.

After having organised two successful campaigns at Folkestone and Canterbury with Mr. Stephen Jeffreys as Revivalist, the Dover Assembly next turned their attention to the town of Deal.

The Winter Gardens Theatre was procured for the Pastor to hold a further mission. For three weeks prior to the opening date the young men and women Crusaders canvassed the town with handbills, also held open-airs in various parts.

The campaign started on Thursday, May 19th, when pastors and people of the surrounding Assemblies nobly rallied for the fight. This gave a good testimony of a full Hall on the opening day. God's servant spoke with power, and as the days went by the tide of revival deepened. Altogether about 110 souls sought the pardon of their sins, the Lord also gave many Christians a new revelation of their inheritance in Christ. Many healings took place as the sick were ministered to in the Name of Jesus.

The Lord provided for the continuation of the work in a very wonderful way. A Baptist Chapel (now the Glad Tidings Hall) situated in Nelson Street, which had been used as an organ factory, has been procured on lease. The Pastor made known the need of furniture and funds were forthcoming to completely furnish the building. Since then loving hands have painted it throughout and built a platform. At an early date it is hoped that the Baptistry will be restored so that Believers can obey the truth of water Baptism.

Mr. G. A. Hibbert, of Grimsby, has taken over the Pastorate of this new Assembly of God. Please pray that the Lord may stand by our brother; he reports crowded meetings and continued blessing.

And the end is not yet, praise the Lord! Such successes from the Lord have made the saints at Dover bold to launch out further afield. The Corn Exchange, Maidstone, has been procured, and Mr. Stephen Jeffreys commences a campaign there on June 20th. A large hall has also been obtained at Tunbridge Wells for next January for the Pastor, and negotiations are now in hand for a further hall in Hastings. Why should not one Assembly open up several others?

The Kent Presbytery have stood by us in loving advice and help; and should the Lord tarry for a further little while, we as a Presbytery are determined to have Assemblies of God in all parts of the county. To our Gracious God and Him alone be all the glory. *A. Newington.*

Redemption Tidings October, 1927. vol. 3. No. 10.
Deal: Glad Tidings Hall.

15 Baptized: Cancer Healed.

Quite a transformation has taken place in what is now Glad Tidings Hall. Formerly the first Baptist Church in Deal, then an organ factory, it has now come into its first estate as a place where prayer is wont to be made, where a full and perfect salvation in Christ is preached, and baptism by immersion is practised.

The pastor (Mr. Hibbert), and his wife, are earnest and zealous, and there is a holy enthusiasm in the services, and quite a few have been won for Jesus. The attendances at the Assembly throughout the summer have been splendidly maintained, and the Friday evening Prayer Meeting has been the best attended Prayer Meeting in Deal - sometimes as many as 60 attending (a large number this little town), and a spirit of fervent believing prayer has ascended up to the throne of grace. Of course the enemy is at work, but, despite all, the work goes forward.

Many can truly testily to a great spiritual longing satisfied, and there been have times when the "*shout of a king has been among them*". My wife and myself can testify to a new spiritual impetus and joyousness in the Christian life through the meetings. On the last Sunday in July there was a Baptismal Service, when 15 were immersed, and we understand another baptismal service is being arranged for September 25th, when about 8 will obey the Lord's command.

Last month a brother was poked in the eye with a cow's horn, causing the eye to swell as if a large rubber ball had been inserted, and great discolouration, but bless God, after prayers had been made according to James v, 14, the eye was all right and quite normal in 4 days, swelling, pain, and everything disappearing. Another Sister, who was staying at Deal, had been given 2 months to live and was very ill suffering from cancer, has also been healed, and put on 7lbs in a few weeks; and on going back to her home the Doctor called her "*The Resurrection!*" *G.A.H.*

Deal: Old Renovated Baptist Church Opened

Deal is rejoicing in the fact that God is still on the Throne, and can say, "*Hitherto hath the Lord blessed us*," for He is indeed building the House. When this hall (an old Baptist Church) was first taken over it was in a very bad condition; the baptistry was in a hopeless condition —walls smeared with grease, windows broken—but hallelujah! the Lord sent paint and willing workers soon transformed the building into a comfortable, homely House for the gathering of saints.

When we were nearing the end of the summer we required heating for the winter, so the Lord was acquainted with it. Bless the Lord, He answered prayer! Money came along, stove supplied, place heated, and God glorified. Friends said the hall would look better with a length of matting, so the Lord sent fourteen yards of nice matting, a clock, and then kind friends furnished the pastor's vestry.

The Pastor had been using as a platform a pair of trestles and two table tops, which bent in the middle whenever anyone of any weight mounted the platform. Funds were low, and we never got any further with the plans which were drawn up for a new one. One day a brother examined the improvised platform, and there came along wood, all nicely shaped and numbered, so that all that was needed was glue and putting together. At the next meeting the congregation was surprised to see a beautiful platform, ten feet long, five feet high, five feet wide, all panelled, oak stained, varnished, and draped with blue silk poplin. Truly the Lord does provide. We have had many tokens of the answers to prayer, including a beautiful organ from a sister and a beautiful communion set EPNS finish.

The spiritual side of the Assembly, too, is getting deeper. There is a revival spirit in the air, and souls are being saved. A Convention was held just before Christmas, and Mr. C. L. Parker, from the Bible School, came along. Everyone who attended the meetings testified of blessing and uplifting, and since then we have experienced a continual stream of blessing. Every meeting has been charged with the power of the Holy Ghost, and we sometimes wonder what will happen next, so great is the Presence of God….*G A. H.*

Testimonies from Deal Pentecostal Church

I went to Church as a child but cannot remember hearing the good news of Jesus Christ until I was about 30 years old. I was attending a Methodist Church and we were singing the hymn "**There is a green hill far away**". When we sang "*He died that we might be forgiven, He died to make us good, that we might go at last to Heaven, saved by His precious blood. There was no other good enough, to pay the price of sin; He only could unlock the gate of Heaven and let us in*", I asked Jesus to forgive me. That simple prayer changed my life. I used to have epilepsy, which began when I was 5 years old. I had fallen and bitten my tongue badly, needing some stitches. With nothing for shock in those days, I started having fits. I could not keep any jobs for long because of the stigma of epilepsy. **But Jesus healed me** and for over 15 years I have had no medication for epilepsy neither have I had any fits. I used to live in a flat overseen by a Warden but I now live in a Bungalow - I don't need the Warden! Jesus is so wonderful to me. I just love to be close to Him and I know that He loves to be close to me. Doris Haskett (2005)
Doris was promoted to Glory in 2015

I went to Sunday School and as I grew up I knew that Jesus was the Saviour of the world but that was all. When my mother died I was extremely lonely and so when my sister invited me to come to the Pentecostal Church that she attended I accepted. The people were very happy, clapping with the music. I thought they were a "funny" Church but there was something about it that made me keep going. At Christmas time in 1965 I realised for the first time that Jesus must be my personal Saviour as well as the Saviour of the world and I became a Christian. I was later baptised in water as a Believer and very soon I was baptised in the Holy Spirit. My Pastor prayed for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit and I was! It was such a wonderful experience - I felt I was in heaven. I have had that wonderful experience of being so close to God several times since. Jesus is always near me and He helps me through each day. Sometimes when I am by myself and I feel a little low, I just praise God at the top of my voice and His peace fills me up. *The seas have lifted up, O LORD, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty. Psalms 93:3-4* Elsie Reeday (2003)
Elsie was promoted to Glory in 2015

A time to be born I was born into a loving family in the north of England in 1921. When I was 11 years old our family moved to Deal when my father started work at Betteshanger Mine. We attended the Glynn Vivian Miners Mission on Mill Hill and on November 5th 1933 the love of God exploded in my heart when I gave my heart to Jesus - I was born again. As God's Word became a lamp to my feet and a light unto my path, I began to grow as a Christian.

A time to serve Then came the dark days of the War. I served my Country with the A.T.S. from 1941 -1946. When peace came, I rededicated my life to my Saviour and was baptised. In 1951 I became a Sister with the National Children's Home and opened Lynstead Children's Home in Deal. God taught me to look to Him for every need. I spent many happy years caring for young broken lives through God's redeeming love.

A time to live After 18 years I retired from the Children's Home and God gave me a Christian husband - Merv. Now we have time to serve God in mature years into the 21st century. The place where God's love exploded in my heart so many years ago is now **Deal Pentecostal Church** and is our Church. We know with assurance that God will never leave us and will be with us to the end. **It's now time to look up and move on with God.** Ethel Wager (2002)

Ethel was promoted to Glory in 2005

I was brought up in a loving family and went to Sunday School with my brother and sister. My parents took us to Church but I never really understood the love God had for me until after I was married.

My husband & I went to a meeting for young people and I heard that God required a response from me. The question was asked: "*Are you sure you would go to heaven and be with God, when you die?*" I knew that I wasn't sure, but when I went home that night I asked God to forgive me. I knew straight away that Jesus had become my Lord and Saviour.

There began such a change in my life that other people noticed and I felt so different in myself and in my attitude towards others. Jesus is now the centre of my life and I love to sing songs to God that express my love for Him. I enjoy reading the Bible and find that it teaches me more about God and the way that He wants me to live my life. As I pray, I know God hears and answers me and that He helps me. Church is now a place where I go and enjoy the Presence of God and meet with others

who know Him. Because I know God and He is with me now, I am able to say with confidence "*Yes, I do know God and I will be with Him in heaven*".

Margaret Fermor (2006)

As a child I was sent to Sunday School at the *Glynn Vivian Miners Mission* on Mill Hill (now the ***Deal Pentecostal Church***). So I grew up knowing that Jesus Christ loved me. I continued to attend Sunday School regularly until I was in my early teens when other more important things attracted my attention. I was married in 1962 and 3 years later my husband, who was in the RAF became a Christian by asking Jesus to forgive his sins and become part of his life. This drew me back into the Christian life. I experienced God's love in many ways as I struggled with the usual difficulties of bringing up a young family in a service environment with the constant changing of homes and schools.

In 1973 we returned to Deal and became members of the Pentecostal Church. I was actively involved with the Children's work and not only experienced God operating in my own life but also in the lives of those young people. Due to personal reasons, I stopped attending Church some years ago but I always knew that God still loved and cared for me. In 1999 I came back to the Church and found a loving, caring atmosphere which was God centred. On 26th January 2000 I asked Jesus to once again become the centre of my life. Since then, on a daily basis I have experienced the presence of God in a new way.

Perhaps, like me you once knew and believed in God. It is not too late to come back to Him and once again experience the love and peace that only He can give. Shelia Teague (2007).

Sheila was promoted to Glory in 2021

I know that my God works miracles because of what He has done for me. My left wrist and hand was bent with arthritis and very painful. At my Church, the preacher said that God was going to heal a painful arm and wrist. Suddenly I felt as if an elastic band was released in my arm - the pain went and my fingers were released. They are still free today!

In 2000 I had arthritis in my ankles and was unable to walk for any distance. My legs were always swollen and I was in a lot of pain.

We had a visiting preacher at our Church who said God was going to heal someone's ankles. When he prayed for me, the pain and the

swelling went. I can still remember my joy the next morning when I woke up with no pain in my ankles – the first time in years! *Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.* Olive Wager (2007)
Olive was promoted to Glory in 2016

I recently suffered from headaches and was sent for a C.T. scan. The doctors thought I had a mini- stroke as I felt giddy and was unable to talk coherently. I prayed to God about my situation and the results were OK. This event brought me closer to the Lord and I know that He is there all the time. Some years ago I suffered with cataracts in both eyes. After surgery it was wonderful to see again but later my vision became all blurred again because the lenses had closed over. I went for laser treatment and I can now read without glasses.
Although the doctors conducted the surgery I know it was Jesus who healed me because the Bible says "*I am the Lord who heals you" (Ex.15:26).* When you live on your own it is wonderful to be able to turn to the Lord. I know that He listens to me, He lifts me up, He lives in me and He will never leave me. Doris Bradford (2007)
Doris was promoted to Glory in 2019

Born and raised in a Christian family, I learned to love Jesus as a child. I responded explicitly to his love when I was about 7 yrs. old, when I learned the song '*Jesus, I love you above all things*'.
Not long after this, a crisis struck my family and I got separated from my father and brothers. I felt left alone, but instantly made this decision: '**God, from now on, I want You to be my Father**.' And He was there beside me, in every small and great thing of my childhood.
When I was 14, I was at a youth meeting where I started to cry and cry… I felt a pain in my heart which I had never realized was there. God told me that evening that He was going to take away all the pain and sadness from my heart and that He was going to give me His joy in return. Four years later I looked back at my diary and said: "it *looks as if I have never ever witnessed anything bad in my life!*" My classmates even asked me: '*Why are you always so joyful?*'
I now know that I could have grown up as an emotional wreck; I could have gone an awfully wrong way, but my Heavenly Father picked me

up and still gives me His joy as my strength for every day of my life. Liesbeth Vinkesteijn-Stalmans (2009)

At the age of seven I asked Jesus to come into my heart. Mature followers of Christ along the way taught me how to recognize his voice. He has been my friend when I struggled through my lonesome teenage years. He never left my side even in moments of deep darkness when depression engulfed me in my early twenties. Though I considered to end my life I sensed his encouraging love. From the moment I started proclaiming His wonderful thoughts of me, a miracle happened: the 'sky cleared' and since then I never again had to resist such a stream of hellish negative thoughts. *You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.* *Ps18:28* His guidance in my life is tangible and too unmistakable for coincidence. I experience his love to such an extent that I know I am the apple of his eye. Jesus will turn your life '*upside down*'! **Have you met him yet?** Roland Vinkesteijn (2009)

I can always remember being interested in country pursuits and have always been interested in country pursuits and when I was 15 I learnt to ride for my Duke of Edinburgh Award. After I left school, I started work at the local Hunt Kennels and then went on to make my career with Foxhunting, eventually becoming Huntsman of the Dartmoor Foxhounds for 12 years.
When I was 14, I became concerned about my eternal future. I knew there was a real hell and didn't want to go there, and I knew there was a real heaven—but didn't know how to get there! Whilst listening to a Christian radio broadcast, I heard someone explain that you must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ—so I did. I placed my trust in Jesus to save me—it was so simple! I met Margaret in 1974 and we were married the next year. We grew as Christians together as we saw God's Word work in our lives and when challenged to offer our whole lives to God, we said, "*Yes Lord*". We then felt called into full time employed service for God, and after training, we pastored a Church in Suffolk for 3 years before moving to Somerset to pioneer a Church in Bridgwater, which we pastored for 5 years. In 1999 we moved to Kent where we now pastor the Deal Pentecostal Church. I am also Senior Chaplain with the South Coast Ambulance Trust.

God always keeps His promises but learning to trust God is a life-long experience and we have experienced God's provision in amazing ways. Instead of hunting foxes, I am now hunting people for God and as we have shared God's Word in the UK and also in Albania, Latvia, Philippines, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe, we have proven the Bible to be true: "I *will honour those who honour me*" (1Sam.2:30). Paul Fermor (2002)

My sisters and I saw in our parents something of God's love that was real and alive. For them the Bible was more than a doctrinal guidebook, it was a way of life, living in faith.

When I was about fifteen something happened that I've never forgotten. I was on my way home after spending an evening at a friend's house and noticed the sky was a vivid red - it looked as though it was on fire. The unusual sight had brought neighbours out to look at this amazing sight. Suddenly I was gripped by fear, and raced home as fast as I could. I wanted to make sure Jesus had not returned and taken my parents and Christian friends to heaven. I was afraid I was left behind! That may sound silly but the Bible tells us that Jesus will return to take His people with Him and we need to be ready.

Over the years I had let the Lord down many times, this makes me sad because I know He is always there for me and will never leave me. It's not enough for me to just believe the Bible, I fill my mind with it so the Holy Spirit can transform me and make me the person God intended. Now my sisters and I know Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. He loves us so much, and this is where our true identity can be found, in being loved by Him. Geraldine Farrugia (2008)

Cast your cares on Jesus

I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour at the age of seventeen. A friend had invited me to go to church with her. That evening the Minister spoke on the Second coming of Christ. He said, "*Where will you spend eternity if Jesus returned tonight.*" I realized then that I was separated from God. I needed Christ in my life. I felt His love surround me and knew that I could trust God to take care of me for the rest of my life.

It is possible to live free from fear in this modern world because the love of God in our life casts out all fear and I have found this to be a solid promise from God. I have found that by trusting Jesus Christ

for my every need, He has proved to be faithful in keeping His promises. I have chosen to walk by faith in God. His is the only way to have an abundant life. Choose Jesus Christ. Jean Odon (2009)

I enjoy running, although I doubt if I will ever get the main prize in a race, as I run for fun and fitness. However, I am involved in a far more important race: the Christian race.
Whilst in Singapore with the Royal Air Force, I was invited to a church meeting by a colleague. There I heard for the first time how Jesus Christ provided the only way by which we can find inner peace.
It was explained that to achieve this, we need to establish a new relationship with God. At the end of the meeting there was an invitation for us to make sure that we had peace with God. I decided to ask Jesus to forgive my sins and to become part of my life.
That was nearly 40 years ago and I can still say that Jesus has always been a true friend in every experience and difficulty that I have passed through. In 1985 I suffered a stroke from which God has graciously restored me. This was a very difficult period of my life but I can truly say that throughout that time the peace of God was present within me and I was able to trust Him as regards to my future. This peace transcends all understanding and guards our hearts.
As an athlete I may never win a major prize, but I agree with the Apostle Paul when he says "*I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus*" Ray Teague (2005)

I went to Sunday school as a child although my family didn't go to church, I made friends there. As I was growing up I was very aware of Jesus loving me and looking after me. Jesus helped make me more independent. He blessed me with a husband that I met through a Club that we attend called "Pathfinders". My husband Sean was attacked one evening coming home from work. Jesus, my church family and the local community helped me to support Sean. He is now recovered from his injuries and has regained his confidence. I am very grateful to God for the compassion and practical care people gave to support us. I love being married and am so blessed in every way. Alison Turnbull (2014)
Alison as promoted to Glory in 2016

When I was just fifteen years old my sister introduced me to her best friend. He has had an amazing influence on my life because he became my best friend too. As I look back on the last 67 years he has been the one person who has stuck with me through thick and thin. I was fortunate in having a happy marriage and four beautiful children, but like most of us, life hasn't always been plain-sailing. There have been financial and family worries and also bereavements to contend with. Within a space of a few years I lost my 25 year old son, my husband and then my mother. I am so glad that my sister introduced me to her best friend when I was young. His name by the way is Jesus. Not only has he forgiven me all the mistakes and wrong things that I have done, but He has kept the promise that He gave me – that He would always be with me and never leave me and that when the time comes for me to die, He has prepared a place in heaven. What a wonderful Friend!!!
Daphne Forester (2015)

From the Simplest of Words

My life story is built on the simplest of words - Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. That song I sang in Sunday School 50 years ago, still resonates in me now as we sing it in church today.
Growing from a child to an adult, the depth of understanding about these words has grown because I realise how much Jesus loves me. A baby born to a loving mum feels her love, feeds and sleeps securely. It grows to a young child, learning to say "*love you mummy*". As a teen, learning that mum and dad cares, loves, shares life, gives presents and pay the bills. Then as a young adult, learns that mum and dad love them, supporting them in setting up their own home and still sharing joys, stresses and sadness's of their life. Now they understand more of the cost of that love, knowing how to return that love and how to love others. In much the same way growing up with Jesus doesn't make everything easy, good, or straightforward. But learning through all of life's rejections, problems and anxieties that there is a Heavenly Father who can hug me on the inside when I cry, who never turns His back on me, never lies to me, who can be there when no-one else can be, and who helps me understand what truth is, who can help the family stay together, is an unbelievable privilege and wonder.

It's not through naïveness or insecurity that I believe in a Heavenly Father. My belief has been proven through His dependability, miracles, wonder of nature and above all through human nature itself. Joy Crick (2015)

CONFESSIONS

A Prayer of confession over my Bible

This is my Bible; I am what it says I am.
I have what it says I have.
I can do what it says I can do.
Today, I will be taught the Word of God.
I boldly confess that my mind is alert, my heart is receptive,
I am about to receive the Incorruptible, Indestructible,
Ever-living seed of the Word of God.
I will never, never be the same.
In Jesus Name. Amen

A Prayer of confession over my giving

Father, in the Name of Jesus,
I confess that Your Word reigns over every area of my life.
You give me the ability to produce wealth
and so confirm Your covenant.(Deut.8:18)
I bring my whole tithe into the storehouse
that there may be food in my house.(Mal.3:10)
I am generous and freely give,
knowing that I will prosper.(Prov.11:24-25)
I give generously, cheerfully and willingly,
knowing that You will make me rich in every way,
so I can be generous on every occasion.(2Cor.9:6-11)
I am a partner with You in giving and receiving,
confident of You crediting my account and supplying all my needs according to Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus.(Phil.4:15-19)
Because I obey You, I am blessed when I go out and when I come in. You send a blessing on everything I put my hand to.(Deut.28:1-8)
Your blessing brings wealth and You add no trouble to it(Prov.10:22)
Good health, full life and true prosperity is my inheritance in Jesus and the reward of the righteous.(Ps.1:1-3; Prov.13:21; Jn.10:10; 3Jn.1:2)
Father, I thank You for true prosperity in Jesus Name
AMEN, I make this prayer mine

Remember to Whom you belong

I am created by God, I am His. I am redeemed by God, I am His. I am twice His, by original right and by purchase. **I belong to Jesus Christ.**
God defends me, I am His. God corrects me, He makes use of me, I am His. He loves me, He delights in me. **I belong to Jesus Christ.**
I am my Beloved's and He is mine. No-one else possesses any right or power over me. All that is mine is His. **I belong to Jesus Christ.**
All my sin, weakness and shortcomings, I give to Him. He has taken all my condemnation, misery and fear. **I belong to Jesus Christ.**
His strength is my strength, His righteousness, my righteousness, His wisdom, my wisdom and His holiness, my holiness. **I belong to Jesus Christ.**
He is my God. He is my Father. His family is my family and His heaven is my home. **I belong to Jesus Christ.**

I am a Disciple of Jesus Christ

I identify with the blood of Jesus Christ, the Word of God and the Anointing of the Holy Spirit. I'm a part of the Fellowship of the Unashamed; I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast, I have stepped over the line; the love of God controls me. I won't look back, let up, slow down or back away.
The decision has been made, **I am a Disciple of Jesus Christ**.
My past is redeemed, my present makes sense and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, colourless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, cheap giving and dwarf goals. I no longer need pre-eminence, position, promotion, plaudits or popularity. I don't have to be recognised, regarded, rewarded or considered right. I now live by faith and walk with patience. I live by prayer and labour with power. My face is set, my pace is fast and my goal is the Kingdom of God. My road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in face of sacrifices, hesitate in the presence of adversaries, negotiate at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up or let up until I have stood up, prayed up and spoken up for the cause of Jesus Christ. I must go until He comes, give until I drop, teach until all know and work until He stops me. **I am a Disciple of Jesus Christ!**

Rise up within me O Christ of God and cause me to triumph and walk in victory every moment of today!

A Prayer of Confession over myself

I believe that Jesus, the Son of God is the Anointed One so I am built on a solid foundation and I cannot be shaken.
I am an heir of God and a joint-heir with the Anointed One.
I have the God-given power to operate like His Son, because I have received the Spirit of His Son.
The Anointing is my inheritance. I have the Anointing in me, I have the Anointing on me, and I am anointed!!
All things are possible because the Anointing on Jesus is on me. My burdens are removed and my yokes are destroyed.
Nothing can hold me down, hold me back or hold me up.
I am a barrier-breaker and I can do all kinds of things.
I break old records and I set new ones. I blaze new trails and I break new ground for the glory of God.
Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. I am a new species that never existed before, so I do what has never been done before. I am making a mark that cannot be erased.
I am a barrier-breaker!

God is good, His Word is true and it works in my life!

Holy Spirit flow through me today.
Trust me with opportunities to show Your power
and I will gladly take them.
Thank you for using me.
I expect a Miracle from You today

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and been Water Baptised as a Believer, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with this local church family at **Deal Pentecostal Church**. I desire to worship and serve God in the context of the **Statement of Fundamental Truths** as approved by **Assemblies of God** and I actively support the **Vision and Values** of **Deal Pentecostal Church**. In so doing, I commit myself to God and to the other members of our Church, to do the following:

I will Protect the Unity of our Church
By acting in love toward other members
By speaking words of faith and encouragement to others
By respecting both the authority of the Holy Spirit and of our God-appointed leaders

I will Share the Responsibility of our Church
By being an active witness to God's grace
By inviting the unchurched to attend
By warmly welcoming those who visit

I will Serve the Ministry of our Church
By using my God-given gifts and talents
By being equipped to serve
By developing a servant's heart

I will Support the Testimony of our Church
By attending faithfully
By living a godly life
By giving regularly

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR BIBLE LITERACY

1. **See the bigger picture of Scripture** i.e. know about the books of the Bible, where they are and what they are about, especially the NT. Remember the Bible is not a legal rule book but a love story about God and you and is written primarily for those who believe.[1Jn.5:13]
2. **See the purpose of Scripture - God's Plan of Redemption as revealed in Jesus - throughout the entire Bible.**[Jn.5:13; 20:31]
3. **Cultivate an awareness of God's Presence**. *They will call him Emmanuel which means 'God is with us.'*[Matt.1:23] Affirm His love for you and your love for Him: *I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine;*[S.ofS.6:3] remembering and reminding yourself of what God has said [2Pet.1:12-13; 3:1-2; Josh.1:8] knowing that all God's promises are yours in Jesus: *God has made a great many promises. They are all "Yes" because of what Christ has done. So through Christ we say "Amen." We want God to receive glory.*[2Cor.1:20NIrV]
4. **Consciously commit your ways to God throughout each day**. *Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.*[Ps.37:5NLT]
5. **Consciously cast your cares onto God throughout each day**: *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*[1Pet.5:7NLT]
6. **Learn to follow God's promptings**. God has written His laws on your heart: *I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.*[Heb.8:10] It is the willing and obedient who enjoy God's blessings: *If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land.*[Is.1:19]
7. **Discuss and share what you believe**. *I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.*[Phil.1:6] *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*[Prov.15:22]
8. **Learn from others**. *Brothers and sisters, I have used myself and Apollos as examples to help you. You can learn from us the meaning of…*[1Cor.4:6NIrV]

Fellowship is sharing - giving and receiving: *Yet it was good of you to share… with me in the matter of giving and receiving.*[Phil.4:14-15]
We should teach and be teachable: *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*[2Tim.2:2]

9. **Grow in wisdom – like Jesus did**: *Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.*[Lk.2:5NIrV] **Wisdom is applied knowledge – putting God's word into practice**: *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man.*[Matt.7:24]
Don't just listen to the word. You fool yourselves if you do that. You must do what it says. Suppose you listen to the word but don't do what it says. Then you are like a man who looks at his face in a mirror. After looking at himself, he leaves. Right away he forgets what he looks like. But suppose you take a good look at the perfect law that gives freedom. You keep looking at it. You don't forget what you've heard, but you do what the law says. Then you will be blessed in what you do. Suppose you think your beliefs are right because of how you live. But you don't control what you say. Then you are fooling yourselves. Your beliefs are not worth anything at all. Here are the kinds of beliefs that God our Father accepts as pure and without fault. When widows and children who have no parents are in trouble, take care of them. And keep yourselves from being polluted by the world.[Jas.1:22-27NIrV]

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had… Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him… And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you[Phil.2:5;12-13; 4:8-9 NLT]

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

as approved by the General Council of Assemblies of God

This statement of Fundamental Truths is not intended as a creed for the Church but as a basis for unity for a full Gospel Ministry: *I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.*[1Cor.1:10]

We believe that the Bible (i.e. the Old and New Testaments excluding the Apocrypha), is the inspired Word of God, the infallible, all sufficient rule for faith and practice *(2Tim.3:15-16; 2Pet.1:21).*

We believe in the unity of the One True and Living God who is the Eternal, Self-Existent "I AM", who has also revealed Himself as One Being co-existing in three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit *(Deut.6:4; Mark12:29; Matt.28:19; 2Cor.13:14).*

We believe in the Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Miraculous Ministry, Substitutionary Atoning Death, Bodily Resurrection, Triumphant Ascension and Abiding Intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His personal, visible, bodily return in power and glory as the blessed hope of all believers. *(Isa.7:14; Matt.1:23; Heb.7:26; 1Pet.2:22; Acts 2:22; 10:38; 2Cor.5:21; Heb.9:12; Luke24:39; 1Cor.15:4; Acts1:9; Eph.4:8-10; Rom.8:34; Heb.7:25; 1Cor.15:22-24, 51-57; 1Thes.4:13-18; Rev.20:1-6).*

We believe in the fall of man, who was created pure and upright, but fell by voluntary transgression *(Gen.1:26-31; 3:1-7; Rom.5:12-21).*

We believe in salvation through faith in Christ, who, according to the Scriptures, died for our sins, was buried and was raised from the dead on the third day, and that through His Blood we have Redemption *(Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; Rom.10:8-15; 1Cor.15:3-4).* This experience is also known as the new birth, and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit upon initial faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *(John 3:5-6; James 1:18; 1Pet.1:23; 1John 5:1).*

We believe that all who have truly repented and believed in Christ as Lord and Saviour are commanded to be baptised by immersion in water *(Matt.28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 2:38-9).*

We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit as an enduement of the believer with power for service, the essential biblical evidence of which is speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance *(Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:4; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 19:6).*

We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Christ in the Church today *(1Cor.12:4-11, 28; Eph.4:7-16).*

We believe in holiness of life and conduct in obedience to the command of God *(1Pet.1:14-16; Heb.12:14; 1Thes.5:23; 1John 2:6).*

We believe that deliverance from sickness, by Divine Healing is provided for in the Atonement *(Isa.53:4-5; Matt.8:16-17; James 5:13-16)*

We believe that all who have truly repented and believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour should regularly participate in Breaking of Bread *(Luke 22:14-20; 1Cor.11:20-34).*

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the everlasting conscious bliss of all who truly believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and the everlasting conscious punishment of all whose names are not written in the Book of Life *(Dan.12:2-3; John 5:28-29; 1Cor.15:22-24; Matt.25:46; 2Thes.1:9; Rev.20:10-15).*