

The technical word for this is "salvation" and the way that we can receive it as a free gift from God is by "faith". Faith means that we believe in Jesus and trust in what He did. This is an act of our will. The bible says:
"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16



Becoming a Christian is as simple as A B C:

Acknowledge that we are sinners, who fall short of God's standards, and repent. This means turning away from our old attitudes and asking God to forgive us.

Believe that God wants to be our Father and that Jesus is our Saviour who died in place of us, taking on Himself the punishment that we deserved as sinners, so that we can become children of God.

Confess Jesus is our Lord, and that we will live our lives to give glory to Him.

*If you are not sure whether you have ever committed your life to Jesus Christ, then why not do so - **today!***

There is a prayer on the next page which has helped millions of men and women express their faith in Jesus and invite Him into their lives.

Our Mission:

**Releasing people
to be the people
God created them to be**



Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. I am sorry for my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross so that I might be forgiven and receive eternal life. I open the door of my life to You and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Take control of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart, why not pray it now? If you mean it sincerely, Jesus Christ will come into your life, just as He promised.

If you would like someone to talk or pray with you, please speak to one of our "Welcomers" who be happy to help you.



We have facilities to interpret our Sunday morning service in Sign Language (BSL).

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**Any
Questions**

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Welcome to Charlton & Blackheath Christian Fellowship (we call it **CBCF** for short). We hope you enjoy your time here. **CBCF** is part of the Christian church.

You may have a number of questions about what you have seen and heard. You might like to ask someone from **CBCF** or one of our leaders. Maybe you are a little shy and don't like to approach people you don't really know. This leaflet tries to answer some of the questions that people frequently ask.



Why is your service much less formal than other churches I have visited?



There are many different churches in this area with a variety of styles of service. At **CBCF** we have very good relationships with other local Christian churches and we recognise that there is not a "perfect" service. We have developed our particular style of worship, along with many other churches, because we want to acknowledge the glory of God and celebrate the fact that He wants to be in relationship with His people. While we aim to show reverence towards God, we also want people to feel free to express themselves as part of our corporate offering of worship. We try to encourage our children to participate as well. In practice, this means that in praising God we sometimes sing, clap, wave flags, play instruments or dance. At other times we may sing in a more reflective way, or even just be silent. We also have British Sign Language at our meetings, adding a visual impact to our worship.

I noticed that there was a long talk in the service. Why is this?

At **CBCF** we believe the bible to be God's inspired word. Through the bible God has spoken to His people over thousands of years and continues to speak today. God

tells us about Himself, His character and His plans and shows us that He loves us and wants us to get to know Him, particularly through His Son, Jesus Christ. The talk, often called the "sermon", is an opportunity to learn more about God and His purposes from the bible. We believe that God has called us to tell people about Him and the good news (gospel) that Jesus Christ came into our world to help us to make friends with God. We also believe that God wants us to live our lives according to his standards which He shows in the bible.



I noticed that people in the congregation sometimes participated by speaking out loud. Can you explain?



At **CBCF** everyone is free to be involved in the service under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. One way this happens is through prayer, which is simply speaking and listening to God. It could be "extemporary" or more formal, everyone praying together, or one person leading from the front. Sometimes we break up into small groups to pray together.

We encourage people to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and some of them are vocal gifts, such as Prophecy, which means God speaking through a person, or Word of Knowledge, when God gives specific information to someone to encourage others. We ask anyone who has such a word to check it out with one of our elders before coming to the front.

There may also be opportunity for people to receive individual prayer ministry during or after the meeting

I heard people speaking in a strange way, almost a foreign language. What was this all about?

We believe that when God sends His Holy Spirit to live in His people, He gives special gifts to them, to help and encourage them. One of these gifts is "tongues". You can read about it in the bible in 1 Corinthians chapters

12-14. It means that we are able to pray in "heavenly" languages, unknown to us, but under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Usually if someone prays in a tongue publicly, we will wait until the Holy Spirit gives the interpretation of the tongue.

Does this church have any activities during the week?

There are a variety of mid-week meetings. House groups meet on in a variety of locations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and every other Thursday. There is a weekly Prayer Meeting on a Monday night and also a Ladies Craft Night on the first Monday of every month. There are also occasional mens' meetings.



What does it mean to "become a Christian"?

Many people think that attending church or just being good means that they are Christians, but this is not the case.

The bible teaches that becoming a Christian is about having a relationship with God. It is a definite act of will, which involves realising that naturally we are not "good" by God's standards; we fall far short of God's goodness. The bible calls this "sin". God is perfectly holy and we are not. God wants us to be His children and has provided a way for us to "born again" as His children, spiritual children. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be punished for our sin so that we can become God's children.

Jesus was crucified on the cross at Calvary, nearly 2000 years ago, shedding His blood so that we could be washed clean from our sin, and become children of God.

