

## Privileges & Responsibilities

As in all families, membership brings privileges and responsibilities. The *privileges* include

- being part of a loving and caring family of believers
- being nourished in faith through teaching from God's Word
- being encouraged and equipped to live for Christ in all circumstances
- being part of a community of prayer and worship
- being encouraged to read and apply the Bible in all areas of life

The *responsibilities* include

- embracing the vision for the mission and ministry of All Saints church
- regularly attending and participating in weekly gatherings for worship and prayer
- looking for ways to share the good news of the gospel with non-Christian friends and family
- being a part of a CONNECT group, if possible, or being linked to one. (Janet McLean or Stuart Silk will be able to give you more information)
- praying regularly for the life and ministry of All Saints, through our monthly Prayer Meeting (3rd Wednesday) or in Connect Groups
- looking out for each other and offering care and support to one another
- giving regular financial support to the mission & ministry of the church. (Please ask for a Giving Pack at the Church Office)
- serving enthusiastically in at least one area of the church's ministry.

- respecting the established leadership of the church

## The Next Step?

- Read through this leaflet once again, noting particularly the qualifications for joining the Electoral Roll and the statement of All Saints mission and priori
- Pray: is this the church fellowship that I want to identify myself with? Do I acknowledge the concept of Covenant membership and will I be a wholehearted and enthusiastic member?
- If the answer is "yes", fill in the Electoral Roll Form enclosed with this leaflet. A separate form should be filled in for each family member over the age of 16 years. Extra forms can be obtained from the back of the church or the Tiger Office or downloaded from the church website [www.allsaintslindfield.org](http://www.allsaintslindfield.org)
- If you haven't already filled in a GDPR form recently, please do so—this will enable you to be included in our online church directory and be prayed for regularly. This, too, can be downloaded from our website..
- Return the Form(s) to the Church Office, addressed to Ken Martin our Electoral Roll Officer **by 31st March 2019**
- Attend our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Vision Sunday (April 28th 2019)

*For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

*Romans 12:4,5*



## Revising the Church Electoral Roll

April 2019

## Introduction

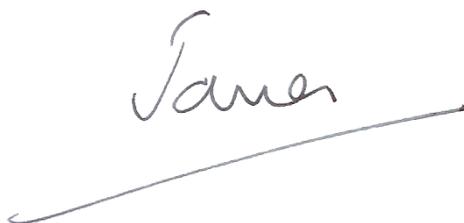
Every six years the Electoral Roll - the membership list - of every parish Church in England lapses and has to be revised from scratch. 2019 is such a year and therefore we need to produce a brand new Electoral Roll before our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 29th April.

This revision is a good thing - it enables us to keep our record of church members up to date and gives us an opportunity to emphasise the benefits and responsibilities of church membership.

At All Saints we operate a scheme of what we call "Covenant membership" which is described in more detail in the following pages. Naturally, we want to make people feel warmly welcomed into our church fellowship, but we want those who become members to know from the outset what the respective responsibilities and privileges of church membership are.

We hope that you will want to join us. We are by no means a perfect church - but we are working, by God's grace, to grow together each day in faith, hope and love. I hope you will want to identify with us and join us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Canon James Clarke  
Vicar of Lindfield

### Joining the Church.

Joining a church is a big decision. At All Saints' we want those considering membership to make that decision with their eyes open, understanding fully what the implications and expectations are. Of course, everyone is welcome just to attend our church services, with no strings attached; but if you want to identify yourself in a more committed way with the vision and mission of All Saints', then church membership is the next step.

### Our priorities: Reach > Build > Send

All saints aims to

- **REACH** out to our community with the good news of God's saving grace in Jesus;
- **BUILD** up God's people, so that individual Christians grow steadily into the likeness of Christ; and
- **SEND** out a people encouraged and equipped with God-given gifts for service in His kingdom as daily we live for Him.

We believe that every church member has his or her part to play in this—there are no passengers, only members of the crew!

### The Electoral Roll

Because of the unique nature of the Church of England as the established church of the land, all Anglican churches have an Electoral Roll, (not to be confused with the Register of Electors for local or central government!) It is the nearest thing the Church of England has to a membership list, and so it is an important part of church life. Legally, it enables you to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (which elects the Parochial Church Council) and it determines the number of representatives All Saints' can elect to the Deanery Synod.

### What are the qualifications?

Legally, in order to qualify for membership, you must:

- be aged 16 or over,
- be baptised,
- subscribe to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and
- *either* live in the parish.
  - or* have worshipped habitually at All Saints for at least 6 months.
  - or* were on the roll as an habitual worshipper but have been prevented by sickness or other essential reason from worshipping for the past six months.

***However, we hope that those who apply to join the Electoral Roll will want to embrace more than the legal bare minimum and will want to share more fully in the life of the church as active partners in promoting the gospel. This is what we refer to as Covenant Membership.***

### Covenant Membership

The idea of covenant has a rich biblical background, expressing God's commitment to his people. We want church members to be committed to the church family, playing their full part and enjoying the benefits of being part of a vital and growing fellowship.

Covenant Membership of All Saints means joining the family of the church locally – a family united as Christians in our allegiance to Jesus Christ and in a bond of love and care for one another. The church, imperfect as it is, is not a cosy club for those whose hobby is religion. Rather, as scripture says "you are the Body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Cor 12:27). The church is a body of people commissioned by God for a life of active service and discipleship.