



Argyle Community Church – Member's Guide

Welcome to Argyle Community Church!

Our Promise

At Argyle, you will always receive a warm welcome and enjoy the love of Jesus through sharing friendship and community with his people who worship and serve him in this Church family in West Reading.

Our Lifestyle

You can expect the joy and security that comes with the new life Jesus offers to all who seek and find him. The Church family will open the way for you to grow your own personal relationship with Jesus and, through his Holy Spirit, personally experience his strength and comfort in your life.

Our Authority

These eternal benefits are promised by God himself to all who believe on his Son – Jesus Christ.

Our authority for making them known comes from our full reliance on God's word – the Bible.

We are a Bible-based church, a summary of what we believe is set out in a statement of faith which is on our Church Website www.argylecommunity.church and on the reverse of this page.

Our Expectations

As a member of the Church family, you will be expected to:

- Be believing in the Lord Jesus and living for him.
- Be committed to the church by attending meetings regularly and praying for the members and activities.
- Agree with the statement of faith and practices of the church.
- Support the work of the church in practical ways including regular financial giving.
- Discover, use and develop your God-given gifts and seek to serve in the church & volunteer in the community.
- Be prepared to recognise the protection, guidance, discipline and authority of Godly leaders.

Our Vision

Always Growing in Christ's love, strength and new life.

Our Values

- Totally Jesus – Knowing Him and making Him known.
- Extravagantly Loving – Expressing the Father's love through worship and community.
- Consciously Dependent – We rely on the Bible and the Holy Spirit.
- Unceasingly Prayerful – Because prayer is transformational.
- Culturally Relevant – A church that connects with today's people.

Argyle Community Church Statement of Faith

God

There is one God who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the almighty Creator, Saviour and Judge who governs all things according to his sovereign will and is accomplishing his purposes in creation and in the Church to his glory.

The Father

God the Father is the source of all that is good. He initiates creation and redemption which he accomplishes through his Son and the Holy Spirit.

God's written Word

The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is God's written Word, revealing for all peoples his character and purposes. It is the final authority in all matters relating to belief and behaviour. The Holy Spirit moved the human authors of the Bible so that what they wrote is inspired, fully reliable and without error in all it affirms.

The human race

Humanity is the climax of God's earthly creation, bearing his image, designed for relationship with him, and being the object of his redeeming love. All people have sinned. This results in guilt, death and alienation from God as well as the defacing of every aspect of human nature. People are unable to save themselves from sin's penalty and power and from Satan's dominion.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, both fully God and fully man, entered history as Saviour of the world. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived an exemplary, sinless life in perfect submission to the Father and in loving relationships with others. He died on a cross, rose bodily and ascended to heaven where he is advocate for his people and is exalted as Lord of all.

God's gift of salvation

Christ's sacrificial death, in which he bore the punishment due to sinners, is the only and all-sufficient basis of God's provision of salvation for all people of every culture and age, expressing his love and satisfying his justice. By God's grace the repentant sinner, through trusting alone in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, is put right with God, adopted by the Father into his family and receives eternal life.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit makes the work of Christ effective to sinners, giving spiritual life and placing them into the Church. He indwells all believers, empowers them to love, serve, witness and obey God, equips them with gifts and transforms them to be increasingly like Christ.

The Church

The universal Church is made up of all who have been born of the Spirit. It finds local expression in communities of believers called by God to worship, fellowship, proclaim the Gospel and make disciples among all peoples, reflect God's character, engage in works of compassion, contend for truth and justice and celebrate baptism and communion.

The Spirit world

The holy angels are personal spirit beings who glorify God, serve him, and minister to his people. Satan is a spiritual being who was created by God but fell through sin. He, along with other evil spirits, is the enemy of God and humanity, has been defeated by the work of Christ, is subject to God's authority and faces eternal condemnation.

The future

The Lord Jesus Christ will visibly return to the earth in glory and accomplish the final triumph over evil. God will make everything new. The dead will be raised and judged. Unbelievers will suffer eternal punishment in separation from God; believers will enter into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God, glorifying him forever.