

# Welcome HOME



Who we are...

[www.lighthousejersey.com](http://www.lighthousejersey.com)

[www.facebook.com/lighthousechurchjersey](http://www.facebook.com/lighthousechurchjersey)

# CONTENTS

<b>What is a Church ?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How is THIS Church different to others?</b>	<b>3</b>
Our history	3
Our values	4
Our leadership	5
Our ministry model	5
Our membership	6
Our meetings	6
Our mission	6
Our ethos	8
<b>So - what does membership entail?</b>	<b>8</b>
The process	8
The hallmarks of a member ...	10
Communicating	10
Coming	10
Connecting	11
Contributing	11
Cooperating	11
Continuing to grow	12
No longer a “Consumer”	12
<b>Pictures of the Church that we find helpful</b>	<b>16</b>
The Church as a City	16
The Church as a Building	17
The Church as a Human Body	18
The Church as a Grove of Trees	20
A Lighthouse	21

**Welcome!** We are so glad you have visited our Church.

We are a Church of normal people who have been radically changed by the love of God. We now live to take this love to everyone in the world around us.

Our worship style is relaxed and “modern” and we are passionate about learning from the Bible and seeking to put what it says into practice in our everyday lives.



Our VALUES (the things we feel passionate about) are listed below and hopefully you will see how these values are expressed in all of the aspects of our Church outlined in this booklet.

Our Church website, ***[lighthousejersey.com](http://lighthousejersey.com)***, is a great place to find out more about us and what is happening in our Church’s life. Our resources can also be viewed at ***[leadinglightsnetwork.com](http://leadinglightsnetwork.com)***. We would love it if you came to see this Church as your own home and family – for you to experience the same blessings we have received, and to add your unique gifts and contributions to what God is doing through us.

***Gregg & Bronwyn Donaldson, James & Heidi Matheson*** (Elders / Pastors)

## What is a Church ?

The word “Church” can have so many meanings to different people. In the Bible the Church is linked to words like:



## The Church’s true foundation

We are told in the Bible that a Church can only be built on the foundation of Jesus, and His words:

### Jesus’ death on the cross for us

*“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor 3:11*

## God’s words

*“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Mat 7:24*

## All Churches do this

All Churches that follow Jesus and His word exist for the following 5 reasons:

- To **worship** Jesus - we do this in times of prayer and heartfelt singing, as well as in the daily routine of living our lives for Him.
- To **teach** people His Bible - We do this through sermons, Bible studies, written articles and discussions.

- To **reach** others who don't yet know Him - by loving people and telling them about Jesus.
- To use their gifts in **servicing** God and each other
- To **fellowship** and love one another

The Church is a place of joy, love and life, and we have found it to be all of these and more.

*"Belonging is one of our deepest human needs and one of our most wonderful joys."*

In common with many other great Christian Churches around us, we at Lighthouse hold to all of the above fundamentals. We love and adhere to these things dearly, but we also have some **DISTINCTIVE** characteristics that make us different to other Churches. These do not make us better, or more correct, but they do make us who we are, and we are proud of what He has called us to be in this place and for this time.

## **How is THIS Church different to others?**

### **Our history**

We started in 2009 when God birthed a brand new expression of Christianity in Jersey, starting with 4 people on a bench on a Sunday morning. We have moved venue numerous times, and grown beyond recognition, but we have never lost the pioneering momentum of those first months, and we are still extremely excited about helping other brand new Churches get started from scratch all over the world.

## Our values

### OUR VALUES

#### *Grace*

Grace means a “free gift” as opposed to something earned or deserved. Because we realise we have been forgiven freely, not because we are “good”, it makes us “Gracious” to others.

#### *Relationships*

God is all about relationships, and we get a thrill out of getting to know Him better, and getting to know each other better. We really do consider ourselves to be a family from many diverse backgrounds, and places.

#### *All Involved*

There are no spectators here. We are a team and every single one of us has a vital and beautiful part to play in the mission God has given us to do.

#### *Charismatic*

Miracles did not die out 2,000 years ago. We expect (and see) miraculous power and answers to prayer everyday, and we are not ashamed of being passionate and demonstrative in worship.

#### *Evangelistic*

This simply means that this gift is too good for us to keep it to ourselves. We have to keep sharing it and spreading it around, and we will do anything and spend anything to help more people hear about God’s amazing love and forgiveness. In fact, this is our mission.

## Our leadership

Unlike some other Churches, we do not use a democratic system of leadership. This means that:

- Our leaders (“elders”) are appointed (not voted in / out) with the help of an external Apostolic network called Harvest Network UK, who also oversee and discipline our leaders if necessary.
- We don’t have votes on decisions. The leaders seek people’s *perspective* on issues ... but not their *permission*. They *serve* people ... but they don’t *obey* people, they seek to only obey God.
- Our leaders are like “Shepherds”. Shepherds LEAD their sheep, they LOVE their sheep, they FEED their sheep, and they GUARD their sheep (*Ps 23 and John 10*). The Bible has a lot of guidance for shepherds and for sheep. Shepherds are to “lay down their lives” for the sheep (*Jn 10:11*), they are to “represent God” to them (*Nu 20:12*), and they must “give an account” to the “chief shepherd” (Jesus) for how they have served Him in leading the sheep (*Heb 13:17*).

Sheep are to “follow their shepherd’s leading” (*Jn 10:4*), not “butt and bite each other” (*Ez 34:21*), and submit and honour their leaders (*1 Thes 5:12, 13; Heb 13:17*).

We believe this method of leadership honours God, and allows us to focus on what God has called us to do, rather than on internal politics.

## Our ministry model

We do not believe in “clergy” and “laity”. In some Churches the “clergy” do the ministry (they are called the “Ministers” or “Priests”), while the “laity” do not do ministry - they *receive* ministry.

In our Church everyone is a “minister”, and so we all play our part - every single member in God’s family has a ministry to exercise. Rather than calling the

“pastor” when something needs to be done, it may be YOU who is the one to do the ministry in a situation! Our leaders organise and make directional decisions, and equip people in how to exercise their ministries, but it is the members who actively exercise their ministries in support of the bigger mission of the Church, while submitting to God and to the leaders’ decisions.

## Our membership

We do not have a “membership” register here, but we do believe in Biblical membership of Jesus’ body.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings, no matter what you believe, but not everyone who attends our meetings is a “member” of the body of Christ, or a member of this particular Church. Please see the section “So what does membership entail?” on page 8 below for more information on how we see this working.

## Our meetings

Sundays are not the main or the only meeting of our Church. Small groups meeting in the week around the Island are a vital part of our Church life. In these meetings people get to learn and grow, they use their gifts and talents for God, and they are “Pastored” or cared for. Sundays AND small groups make up our Church structure. They are both important and helpful, but they serve very different functions:

- **Sundays** are a time for large group worship and teaching, and for equipping the members of the Church to be able to do their ministry;
- **Lifegroups** small groups are a time for everyone to use their gifts and ministries within the family of God.

## Our mission

We have a very definite sense of mission - God has called us to DO something for Him.

Jesus' last words on earth before he went back to heaven were: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."* [Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV]

We feel compelled and excited to be able to participate in this mission, and it is not just a nice idea for us - we really want to be active in doing it.

We reach out wherever we are, and whenever we meet, to bring the "good news" of Jesus to others.

We also actively reach out into the world using prayer, travel, the internet and TV broadcasts. Our aim is to see new Churches started around the world so that those in all nations who do not yet know Jesus can become *"disciples ... baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ... taught to observe all things that Jesus has commanded us"*.

This impacts our Church and personal lives in many ways:

- We do not exist to make ourselves happy, or to fulfil our own personal desires. We exist for OTHERS.
- We do not exist to try to fulfil all of the hundreds of "good" causes that exist on the earth or to be an answer for all the desperate needs and injustices around us. Our primary purpose is Jesus' Great Commission, because we know that when His kingdom is extended, and Churches are planted here and around the world, then all the other problems will be addressed as well. We are FOCUSED.
- We are sacrificial and generous till it hurts, because we know that our time here on earth is short and there are millions who need to know Jesus. We are PASSIONATE.

While we love all the many other parts of Church life - prayer, worship, teaching, discipleship and fellowship - these are done in support of, and

subordinate to, the main mission of reaching the world for Christ. Everything we do, and the motive for all our activities, is filtered through this main mission - to reach a lost world with God's love and message.

## Our ethos

All of the above have made us into a family with a unique ethos / feeling:



We hope you can feel welcome and find your home here.

## So - what does membership entail?

### The process

There is a process in any relationship, and this applies to Church membership too. We call it the "road from community to core"...

# The Road From Community to Core

## CONGREGATION

When people start attending our meetings they become part of our congregation. Some are investigating Jesus, some come for healing or help. All are welcome.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Once a person is a Christian, their level of contribution steps up because generosity and service are signs that we are becoming more like God - the ultimate "giver"...

## CORE

Our goal is to bring everyone to their maximum potential in God - a Core of brothers and sisters who are fiercely loyal and passionate to God, to each other, and to the mission that He has called us to.

2



3



4



5



6



1



## COMMUNITY

We love our community and we want to be an active part of it. We interact with our city and shine His light to the world around us.

## CHRISTIANS

At a point a person responds to the claims of Jesus. They become a brand new creation - putting Jesus on the "throne" of their lives - this is becoming a "Christian".

## COMMITTED

A point comes where a person is ready to commit to:

1) this FAMILY relationship - Being part of a family involves a commitment to work through difficulties and hardships. This is a sign of maturity and belonging.

2) this VISION and VALUES - Buying into what God has called us to do and the way we do them. You line up your calling and ministry with those of this body.

3) this LEADERSHIP - A sure sign that a person is one of this Church's "sheep", is that they are following this Church's "shepherds". This is how we know who God has given us, by looking for those who are following.

## The hallmarks of a member ...

*"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God," [Eph 2:19]*

When you're ready to commit to being a member of this body of believers, what we stand for, and where we are going - then the following will be the signs in your life..

### Communicating

You will let us know you are part of this Church and this family of believers. You can speak to one of the elders or lifegroup leaders to let them know that this is now your home, or you can sign up on the contact page of our website, or fill in the yellow form on the back table at Church and tell us how God is wanting you to be involved.

Keeping the lines of communication open will be an ongoing part of being a member in this Church, and we will trust you to let us know what is going on in your life, ask any questions you have, and to ask for help when you need it.

*"They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us." [2Co 8:5]*

### Coming

You will be a regular at meetings and gatherings. We need to be together and interact with each other in order to be members of one body, and so members will attend regularly and enthusiastically, not just for their own benefit, but also to disciple, and serve others.

*"Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." [Heb 10:25]*

## Connecting

You will not only be present at gatherings, but you will also be getting closer to other people in the Church. We need to seek intimacy and foster openness so that our relationships can deepen, and we also need to be careful that we don't get stuck in a clique - forming new relationships and welcoming visitors cause growth in our body and in us as individuals.

We also need to intentionally "foster unity" and to fight against those things that would cause division and disunity. We avoid gossip and slander, and we protect and speak well of each other, encouraging others to do the same.

*"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."* [Eph 4:2-3]

## Contributing

Every part of the body contributes, and we all need each other's contributions. The sharing of your talent, time and finances will show that you are part of this body and this will mean making a decision to give, and to serve, even when it may be difficult or inconvenient to do so.

*"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."* [Eph 4:16]

## Cooperating

For a body to operate in unity and effectively, all the parts need to be moving in a coordinated and unified fashion. There will be times where the leadership make decisions, or ask you to do things that you may not initially understand or agree with. We will need you to ask your questions and listen to our answers, and then, as long as the leaders are not sinning, follow and comply with trust

and respect for the leaders for the sake of the unity of the body.

*"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." [Heb 13:17]*

## Continuing to grow

If a Christian stops growing, they will start to get hard hearted and eventually will start going backwards. God loves you just as you are, but He also wants much more for you. For this reason we as a Church are committed to a continual process of growing more like Jesus, and so you will be challenged and helped to stretch, change, and become all God has in mind for you. If someone stops being willing to change and develop, they will be uncomfortable in our Church. You, as a member, will always be seeking the next step God has for you and be willing to grow and become more like Christ.

*"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." [Eph 4:15]*

## No longer a "Consumer"

We would like to conclude this section with an excerpt from writer Richard Lacey - "Am I a consumer Christian?"

~~~

**When I approach church as a consumer...** I come to be satisfied. I am at the centre of the 'experience'. My needs, expectations, preferences, tastes, hobby-horses and opinions become priorities and so I am vocal about them.

**Whereas, when I approach church in a Christlike way...** I come to bless, encourage and spur others on. My priority is what Jesus desires and so his command to love others therefore trumps my own desires and needs and I am vocal in expressing gratitude.

**When I approach church as a consumer...** I come as a critic, assessing and

judging the quality of the welcome, music, sermon, coffee and \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in as appropriate) according to my preferences. **Whereas, when I approach church in a Christlike way...** I come to edify others. I look for the good in everything and everyone. I overlook imperfections, spur on those who are growing in their gifts and treat issues of preference or disagreement with grace.

**When I approach church as a consumer...** I come to be served. I expect others to meet my needs. I expect the service or activities or pastor to tick all my boxes. If not, I may decide to complain to the management or to fellow consumers. **Whereas, when I approach church in a Christlike way...** I come to serve. I realise God has given me gifts to build others up and I consider it a privilege to use them. My focus is on blessing others by fulfilling the role he has given me within the body of Christ.

**When I approach church as a consumer...** I come to be entertained. I do not want to be challenged or – God forbid – rebuked. I expect to be uplifted, stirred, moved and affirmed. To be bored is a cardinal sin, to be offended even worse. **Whereas, when I approach church in a Christlike way...** I come to grow. I expect to be challenged by the ministry because I know I am a self-deceiving sinner and my greatest need is to be sanctified and made more like Jesus. I humbly accept the diet God chooses to give me from his Word through those who minister to me.

**When I approach church as a consumer...** I come as an individual. Interacting with others is an inconvenient necessity. I therefore don't hang around long after meetings, or if I do, I only speak with a small circle of friends. I am uncomfortable with small groups because they involve participation, scrutiny and close personal contact. **Whereas, when I approach church in a Christlike way...** I come to be part of a community. While at times I find it challenging, I count it a privilege to be part of a fellowship of diverse people with whom I can share my life. I welcome the accountability and scrutiny that comes from close

contact with members of a small group and I seek to be an active participant in one, praying for and pastoring others.

**When I approach church as a consumer...** I attend, but I don't commit. I prefer the fringe to the core. I prefer to spectate rather than participate. I pick and choose the meetings I attend. I cannot be relied upon to turn up. I do not willingly volunteer, take on responsibility or contribute to church life. **Whereas, when I approach church in a Christlike way...** I commit myself to my brothers and sisters and show this by my attendance and attitude to service. I embrace my calling to be a partner and co-worker with them for the gospel and I do whatever I can to support church initiatives. I therefore give sacrificially of my time, energy and money.

**When I approach church as a consumer...** I come to be ministered to. I expect the church leaders to service me. I expect them to visit me, know all about me, have time for me whenever I require them, and be skilled in offering spiritual tlc. If they don't fulfil this, then I feel my rights have been infringed. **Whereas, when I approach church in a Christlike way...** I come to minister to others. I recognise that there will be many unseen pastoral demands on church leaders that are greater than my own. I recognise that I have a responsibility to care for my brothers and sisters and so am proactive in watching for opportunities to minister to others.

**When I approach church as a consumer...** I resist change because it involves personal discomfort. Church exists to meet my needs and so I oppose changes that inconvenience me or require me to flex or adapt. The status quo is good because it's why I was attracted to that church in the first place. **Whereas, when I approach church in a Christlike way...** I support change when it benefits others or has a gospel motivation. I gladly accept personal inconvenience if it means others will be blessed. I embrace changes that mean church is able to communicate the gospel and make disciples more effectively.

I trust those who make change decisions even when I cannot see the need.

~ ~ ~

Biblical membership means that we are Communicating, Coming ,  
Connecting, Contributing, Cooperating, Continuing to grow, and that we are no  
longer “Consumers”.

Jesus invited us to become “yoked” with Him, promising it would result in “rest  
for our souls”(Matt 11:28-30). This speaks of us being joined together, with  
likeminded people, like a team of oxen, under Jesus’ direction, to pull a load  
and to achieve a mission.

Will you join this team, and pull together with us in what God has called us to  
do and to become? There is nothing more fulfilling in all the world, and... “you  
will find rest for your soul”.

*“Come with us and we will do you good”* [Numbers 10:29]

## Pictures of the Church that we find helpful

### The Church as a City

In Bible times Churches were referred to as “the Church in Ephesus” or “the Church in Philippi.” These “city Churches” were large, had elders governing them, and consisted of many smaller “house Churches” meeting in people’s homes around the city (Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19; Col 4:15; and Phm 1:2.), with central larger meetings from time to time.

The Church in Ephesus, for example, had over 50,000 members. This larger city Church would meet in homes around the city, but also in larger gatherings of several hundred people (Paul rented a large public room called the “lecture hall of Tyrannus”). In Corinth similar home groups existed, with larger meetings happening in the home of a man called Justus, which was presumably quite large. The Church in Jerusalem met “in the temple and from house to house” (Acts 2:46).

In our Church we try to copy the Biblical model as follows:

1. **The Local (City) Church** - Our large Sunday gatherings are the equivalent of the “lecture hall of Tyrannus” meetings that Paul would hold. In this way we are aiming to keep everyone together and unified and these meetings are a great opportunity for teaching, celebration and evangelism.
2. **The House Church** - We have smaller meetings in homes called ‘Lifegroups’ and other smaller meetings in the week including and youth meetings. Closer fellowship and sharing occurs here and people are cared for by their Lifegroup in a much more personal way. Many of the descriptions in the Bible of Church meetings can only be copied in the

context of a city Church or, more effectively, in a smaller home Church meeting; for example:

*'How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.'*

**1 Corinthians 14:26**

## The “one another” verses in the Bible

There are over 40 verses in the New Testament that use the phrase “one another”. We are told to “love one another”, forgive one another”, “be hospitable to one another” and “minister our gifts to one another”. The “one another” verses in the Bible show that Church is about all of us - not just a few paid professionals.

The smaller group meetings are wonderful and essential, but without the bigger “City” gatherings where vision and teaching and evangelism occur, they are incomplete and cannot survive on their own.

In this way our Church seeks to act like a city Church with the many smaller groups in homes fulfilling the house Church function.

*“Love one another deeply”* 1 Peter 1:22

## The Church as a Building

Another brilliant picture of the Church in the Bible is that we are a building made up of stones that are living people.

*“You are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”* Ephesians 2:22

The building is built on the foundation of Jesus Himself and He is called the “chief cornerstone” without which the whole building collapses. Gifted ministers called “apostles and prophets” (called “master builders” in the Bible) help ensure that the building is built straight and true, and when all of this happens then it becomes a place where God’s Spirit dwells in power.

At Lighthouse we really do want God’s presence and power in our midst, and we see and enjoy this regularly in our times together.

We are looking for people who are willing to be those “living stones” who will be built and joined together with others in this place so that we can show others the wonderful presence of the Lord.

Another important and wonderful truth is that His presence is not just experienced by those who are very committed. Even visitors and others who attend irregularly can enjoy the power and miracle presence of God in our meetings. As you get added and built together into what we are doing in this place you will see that God can do great things through you and we are able to do more together than we can on our own.

## **The Church as a Human Body**

There is a beautiful passage in Ephesians 4:7-16 where the Church and its members are likened to the parts of a human body. It mentions various ways that the body parts can be blessed or “supplied” so that we can grow strong and mature. Let’s look at these sources of supply, as this is very helpful to us in understanding membership and Church life.

The passage talks about 4 sources of supply - supply coming from:

- ❖ God Himself (Eph 4:7 *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*).
- ❖ It talks about supply coming from Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers (they *"equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"* Eph 4:7).
- ❖ It mentions supply coming from each of us using our gifts to serve God and each other (Eph 4:16 *... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*)
- ❖ But it also speaks of a supply that comes from the JOINTS. Eph 4:16 *"the whole body [is] joined and knit together by what every **joint supplies...**"*

A table can have a beautiful and strong top, and lovely legs, but if the JOINTS between the legs and the top are weak, the whole table is weak.

A rugby team can have great individual players who are very skilful and strong, but if they do not work well together, the team is weak.

**'A forearm can be very strong and healthy, but if it is not *joined* through an elbow to the rest of the body, it is no use at all.'**

Christians can be very capable and gifted but if they are not JOINED to a local body they will never serve their full purpose in God. There is room in a Church for many different levels of interest, involvement, commitment and

relationship from those just “checking things out”, to those who are fully sold out for the Church’s mission, and yet it is only those who are “joined” who will understand and receive the supply that comes from this commitment.

Another way of saying this is that you may have received great SUPPLY through being very connected to **GOD**, and you may have received great ministry (SUPPLY) from apostles, evangelists and other **MINISTERS**, you may be receiving great SUPPLY from **OTHER CHRISTIANS’** ministry (their encouragement, support, prayer etc), you may be receiving SUPPLY from your **OWN MINISTRY** (It is more blessed to give than receive and we receive great blessing when we give out in ministry). But if you are not JOINED in a local body, you are missing a source of blessing and supply that can only come from “*what every joint supplies*”.

*‘From Jesus the whole body, **nourished** and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.’* Colossians 2:19

This verse shows us that the nourishing and growth comes from God but it flows through JOINTS.

Get JOINED and see how God uses and blesses you here.

## **The Church as a Grove of Trees**

Imagine a grove of trees beside streams of living water, bearing fruit and giving life and shade to many. The Bible says that God wants you to be like a tree flourishing beside streams of water (Psalm 1:3), and Psalm 92 says:

*Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. Psalm 92:13, 14*

Great fruitfulness and life comes from being planted in God's house. It is only there that we are nourished by the streams of God's living water.

We have seen the Church as a CITY, as a BUILDING, as a HUMAN BODY and as an ORCHARD.

All of these pictures give us an idea of how the Church should function, and of how individual members should be fitted together.

The picture of an orchard also shows how the Church provides shade and shelter, and produces fruit that nourishes many other people. Lastly, the seeds that the trees produce allow other trees and orchards to be planted in other places.

Will you plant yourself in this orchard and see the fruitfulness that results in your life and in the world around us?

## A Lighthouse

*"You are the Light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14*

God has planted this Church in beautiful Jersey to be a Lighthouse to those near and those far. A Lighthouse gives hope, safety, and rescue to those who

are lost or in danger. We would love you to come and become a part of this mission and this family.

Please contact us by email or look at our websites, or better still, introduce yourself to a few people at Church and ask how you can get involved.

God has great plans for us all, and we would love to be a part of helping you step into God's full plan for your life.

***"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Nations, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 13:47***