



SERVICES:
Sunday (Lord's Day) at 11 am & 6:30 pm
Midweek (Tuesday) Meeting at 7:30 pm

Maryport Street Baptist Chapel
Maryport Street, Devizes
Wiltshire, SN10 1AH

Articles of Faith

1. HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Scriptures are divinely inspired in their entirety and are inerrant. They are the gracious revelation of the mind and will of God; we acknowledge them to be the sole authority in all matters of faith and practice.

2. GOD

We believe that there is one living and true God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three persons are equally divine, the Son and the Holy Spirit being as truly God as the Father.

3. GOD'S DECREES

We believe in the unchangeable decrees of Jehovah, and that in His sovereign purposes He has determined all that shall be done in nature, providence, and grace; doing His will in the armies of heaven and among the children of men, having no variableness or shadow of turning.

4. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal and only-begotten Son of God, and that, as the Mediator of the new covenant, did in the fulness of time assume human nature in the womb of the virgin. In this sinless human body and soul he suffered, bled and died as the Substitute and Surety of his people. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His present priestly intercession for His people.

5. HUMANITY

We believe that when Adam fell the whole human race became guilty of original sin, and as his posterity are born into the world they inherit this fallen nature and are transgressors against God. And we believe that since the Fall all men are so completely dead in trespasses and sins that they cannot, while in that state, know or feel anything of God in Christ spiritually and savingly.

6. COVENANT OF GRACE

We believe in the everlasting and unchangeable love of God, and that before the foundation of the world He elected certain members of the human race unto salvation, whom he did predestinate unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. We believe that in fulfilling this gracious plan He made a covenant of grace with the Son and with the Holy Spirit on behalf of the persons thus chosen, wherein a Saviour was appointed and all spiritual blessings provided for them.

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7. REDEMPTION

We believe that the redemption which Christ obtained by the shedding of His blood is particular, that is, it was designed only for God's elect, the sheep of Christ.

We also believe that Christ's command, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, means that this truth in no way restricts either zeal and urgency in evangelism, or the free offer of salvation in Christ to all sinners.

8. EFFECTUAL CALLING

We believe in the effectual calling of all the elect in God's appointed time; and that regeneration (together with repentance and faith) is not of man's free will or natural ability, but is wrought by the efficacious and invincible grace of God. And we believe that those who are chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son and quickened by the Holy Spirit, shall certainly and finally persevere, so that none of them shall perish.

9. JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the justification of sinners before God is by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ alone, without the consideration of any works done by them before or after their calling. We believe in the necessity of the Holy Spirit's work in conversion and sanctification; also for right understanding of the Scriptures, the ministry of the Word, and true worship. We believe that such things as good works and holiness of life are indispensable evidences of a genuine experience of the grace of God.

10. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ, to be continued until His second coming. We believe that baptism is for believers only and by total immersion, and that only those who have been so baptised can scripturally commune in the Lord's Supper.

11. JUDGEMENT AND GLORY

We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory, the resurrection of the body, both of the just and unjust; and that when Christ shall judge all mankind, the latter shall go away into everlasting punishment and the former into life eternal, as He himself has said.

12. CONCLUSION

We believe these doctrines of grace to be the teaching of Holy Scripture, and we contend for them, not as a mere creed or dry system, but as inseparably connected with vital godliness and pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father.

THE 1689 LONDON BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

At the Church Members' Meeting dated 23rd November 2017, it was agreed to formerly include in the articles and constitution our adherence to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. However our sole authority is the Word of God.

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MARYPORT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, DEVIZES

Church Constitution

1. The Church of Jesus Christ (the Church) is a unique entity and it has no comparison. The Church has been ordained by God; purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ with His own precious blood; it is equipped and comforted by the gracious operations of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ is Head of His Church, He loves His Church and He will present it a glorious body, holy, without blemish, spot or wrinkle at the end of the age. The Church universal consists of all people who have been chosen, purchased, called, preserved and glorified by the Triune Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
2. The local Church is a gathering of believers joined together in love and unity, to the Lord Jesus Christ and each other to worship in accordance with the Scriptures. The local Church to which this constitution applies shall be known as **Maryport Street Baptist Chapel**.
3. The gathering of believers 'the Church' at Maryport Street Baptist Chapel believes the Word of God to be infallible, inerrant and sufficient. In all matters of faith and practice the Scriptures are our basis and guide. Documents such as the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith are a helpful expression of belief, but the Scriptures remain our sole authority. The Church believes the **Authorised King James Version** of the Scriptures to be the most accurate English bible translation available to us at this present time and it is therefore the version that is to be used at all services and meetings of the Church and in church premises.
4. Any person wishing to join this Church will make request to the Pastor (Elder)*, who will interview, or arrange for the applicant to be interviewed. A recommendation will be made to Church members and the applicant will be accepted into membership of the Church provided no valid scriptural objection is raised by any member of the Church. The applicant will be required to adhere to the basis of faith and abide by this constitution, unless there is a clear scriptural reason for not doing so. Membership of the church is effective as of this meeting, the individual will be publicly welcomed into the Church at the next Lord's Supper.
5. Any person wishing to be baptised will make request to the Pastor (Elder)* who will arrange an interview with the applicant. The decision of the Pastor will be conveyed to the Church; unless there is a valid scriptural reason provided by any Church member why this ordinance should not be undertaken baptism will be administered as soon as practicably possible. The practice of the Church is to baptise believers on profession of their faith by total immersion in water. Once a person has been baptised they will be admitted into membership of the Church at the next Lord's Supper.
6. Members are expected to attend the regular services and meetings of the church. It should be the delight and privilege of members to attend these meetings in love to the Head of the Church and not through slavish duty. Where a member regularly neglects these opportunities for fellowship and corporate worship, they will be required to give a reason for their regular absence. Where there is no reason or an unsatisfactory reason given which is not according to the principles laid down in Scripture, the matter will be dealt with by the Church. The purpose of this requirement is to encourage members through assembling together, which is the Scriptural means the Lord has provided for the maintenance and building up of His people.

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7. Where the manner of life and/or actions of any member is contrary to the principles set out in Scripture, they will be exhorted to repent and reform. A failure of the member to do so will lead to Scriptural discipline being applied by the Church.

8. Each member of the local Church has gifts and abilities which should be used for the benefit and building up of the Church. In particular the Head of the Church has directed and provided Elders and Deacons for the preaching of the gospel and guidance of the local Church.

9. The function and responsibility of Elders and in particular the Pastor of the local Church is the faithful proclamation of the Word of God and the spiritual health and direction of the Church.

10. It is the responsibility of the Deacons to assist the pastor and in particular to deal with the financial aspect of the life of the Church, ensuring that the resources of the Church are used wisely.

11. Where there is a necessity to consider the calling of a Pastor a Church members meeting will be convened. Only a man who has the qualifications set out in the Scriptures will be appointed as a Pastor. The Church will be guided by the Lord's providential leadings and the evident Scriptural qualifications of the man under consideration.

Where a Pastor is clearly no longer fitted for the position and this can be evidenced then a Church members' meeting will be convened to consider the termination of his Pastorate. Where the Pastor is now unqualified according to the Scripture to hold the office, he will be removed from office immediately. Reasonable care and provision will be made for him and his family.

There may be occasions where the Pastor either feels unqualified or unable to fulfil his office and it will be appropriate to release him from his charge. Where the Pastor wishes to retire or believes he is being led elsewhere by the Lord then reasonable notice of his intentions must be given.

12. The Pastor (Elder) and Deacons shall decide on the number of Elders and Deacons required at any one time. The existing Elders and Deacons will recommend an individual based upon the qualifications set out in Scripture and bring the matter to the church. Unless any Church member can give a Scriptural reason why the recommendation should not be accepted, the individual concerned will be appointed.

Elders and Deacons will continue in their office unless they become unqualified by Scripture or they are unable to fulfil their duties through some other reason.

13. Church Members' Meetings will be held at least once a year. It is expected that all members who are reasonably able to do so will attend. All discussions at such a meeting remain private. It is a legal requirement that the Church will hold an annual general meeting. Notice for a Church members' meeting will be given in advance and no later than on the Lord's Day prior to the date of the meeting. There is a legal requirement that at the annual general meeting of the Church a quorum consisting of 50% of Church members eligible to vote shall be present. At the annual general meeting it is a legal requirement for a statement of Church finances to be given to the Church.

14. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed. The Trustees of the properties are responsible for ensuring the doctrinal principles upon which the church was founded are upheld, and for ensuring maintenance of the fabric of the chapel and premises. This requirement is set out under Trust Law.

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15. The Spiritual direction of the church lies with the Pastor (Elder)* and Deacons. They must sanction any new activity and its administration.

16. All matters not covered by this constitution shall be left in the hands of Pastor (Elder) and Deacons for consideration, remembering however the final authority in such matters is the Scriptures.

Notes:

- a) Where decisions are made which relate to statutory responsibilities for compliance with Trust Law, a quorum of no less than 50% of eligible members are required to be present at such a meeting, and decisions will be carried by a majority vote. All will be done in accordance with the Trust Deed.
- b) Where decisions need to be made on the appointment of Church Officers, a quorum of no less than 50% of eligible members are required to be present at such a meeting, and decisions will be carried by a majority vote. This is to ensure compliance with statutory legislation, as Church Officers may be remunerated financially or be in the position of administering the employment of a Pastor on behalf of the church.
- c) Where there is an Asterix (*) and the constitution states Pastor (Elder), it is accepted that in the case of there being no Pastor or Elder, then the diaconate will assume responsibility in these matters looking to the Lord to provide suitably qualified and gifted men for the Eldership and Pastorate.
- d) Where an individual is unable to be baptised by immersion in extreme circumstances, the Pastor and the Officers will make a decision as to whether the administration of the ordinance can be omitted and the individual can still be considered for membership and able to partake of the Lord's Supper.

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