



Welcome



*...Man looks at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart*

1 Samuel 16:7

...it made a *difference* to us



Making a *difference*

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8



Purpose and Hope

Our church is a mainstream Christian church belonging to the Baptist Union of Great Britain and has good relations with churches of all denominations in our area.

Our Mission Statement is: To fulfil God's purpose in our community and beyond. We believe that God's purpose is expressed in five ways:

- We grow through loving Jesus
- We grow through becoming like Jesus
- We grow through serving like Jesus
- We grow through caring like Jesus
- We grow through sharing Jesus



What do we believe?

We believe that being a Christian is not about being "religious" if that means going through certain rituals and customs. Rather it is about being in a daily, fulfilling relationship with God that governs how we live and relate to others. This relationship begins when we recognise that we are not perfect and have fallen short of God's standards. We know that God loves us in spite of our failings. By accepting Jesus into our lives, a good change begins. We are free to start living out God's plan for our lives as He wants us to live life to the full which in turn brings purpose, hope and assurance for the future.





Becoming a Christian



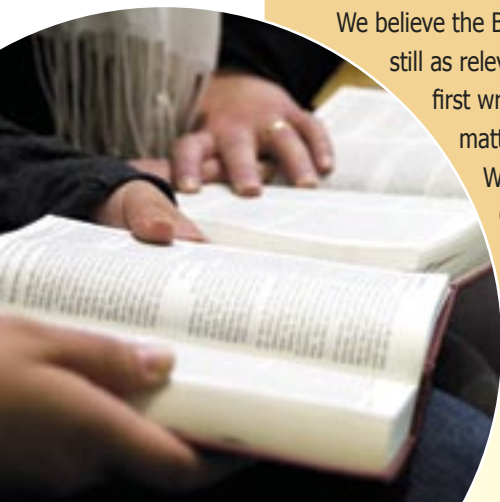
Upon becoming a Christian we believe it is important to be baptised. We call our practice **Believer's Baptism** because this is what Jesus taught in the New Testament. This special event involves acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God and that He died for our sins. The baptism itself is a full immersion (health permitting) as this is an outward illustration of what happens to us inwardly when we become Christians. The old life is left behind and our new life as a Christian has begun.

Because we practice Believer's Baptism rather than christening children, we hold a Service of Dedication for children. This takes place normally during a morning service where we thank God for the gift of the child, make promises together about how we will help the child grow spiritually, and ask for God's blessing on the child.

We try to live by the Bible's principles

We believe the Bible is God's written Word to us and that it is still as relevant to our lives today as it was when it was first written. Therefore the Bible is our authority in all matters of faith and practice.

We place a high value on understanding what God is saying to us through the Bible about our daily life and we try to live by its teaching and principles.



We aim to be Biblical, relevant & challenging

We try to make sure everything about our church is in line with the Bible's teaching and that the format of our activities is modern and engaging. At every Sunday service there is a time of worship followed by a sermon based on a passage from the Bible, which conveys how we can apply its teaching to our lives today. Our weekly Small Groups are open to all who attend our church and they provide an opportunity for support and friendship whilst exploring and discussing a Bible passage. In these ways we see how the Bible is challenging as well as relevant to our culture and community.



Support and encouragement

Our church is a place where you will find a warm welcome and a caring and supportive **community**. The church family is a great mixture of young and old, male and female. As we look to deepen our relationships with God and apply Biblical teaching to our daily lives, it is vital that we encourage and support each other, especially in the more difficult times in our lives. We do this informally on a personal basis through growing friendships that we make during church and in our weekly Small Group meetings. There is also a team of people who are available to pray with anyone who requests it after each of our services. We hope that you will find our church welcoming, where people can feel accepted, supported and encouraged.



How to find out more

Telephone: 01702 292620

Email: office@shoeburybaptistchurch.org.uk

Visit our Reception Desk: 90 Thorpedene Gardens, Shoeburyness, Essex SS3 9JD

Visit our website: www.shoeburybaptistchurch.org.uk

for up to date details of what is happening and where. You will also be able to listen to or download recent sermons, as well as find out more about our church.

Discover more about the Christian Faith

The **Alpha Course** is designed to help people discover what the Christian Faith is about and is run regularly throughout the year.

The course lasts for about 10 weeks and explains the basics of the Christian Faith in a relaxed and informative way. Food is provided and after the main talk all guests go into smaller groups to discuss and debate the topic of the evening.

Our **Entering the Family Course** looks more specifically at things such as Baptism, Communion and what it means to be a Church Member.

Course dates and details on how to sign up are advertised on the Church notice board and can be found on the church website: www.shoeburybaptistchurch.org.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Welcome Pack. We hope that you will see that our church is here for you. We hope to see you soon.

You are not alone



Our Church's Mission Statement:

To fulfil God's purpose in our community and beyond





SHOEBURYNESS & THORPE BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

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To help our neighbours and to avoid congestion in the surrounding streets, we would urge you to park your car in our large car park to the rear of the Church. The entrance is in Thorpedene Gardens and the exit in Caulfield Road.