

Emsworth Baptist Church

Ethos Statement :

Our ethos is our motivation for all our work, the reason why we do what we do. It is to worship God wholeheartedly by creating a loving community for all ages, establishing faith, dedication and obedience to Jesus, going out to serve our neighbourhood and the wider world.

As we do this we work together to extend Jesus' model of the Kingdom of God on earth by living out a lifestyle of love, truth, justice, mercy and forgiveness, according to his teaching. We are inspired by his message, life and example through which God's unconditional love for all people is expressed. It is this faith in Jesus and his love which compels us to serve others and which directs and influences both our internal relationships and our work with those whom Emsworth Baptist Church is seeking to serve.

In this way, Emsworth Baptist Church operates on the understanding that our activities are simply an outworking of our faith; that our doing derives directly from our being. There is an essential and indissoluble link between the inner and the outer, the private life and the public face of Emsworth Baptist Church. The link between who we are and what we do cannot be broken.

Values about people :

Commitment to love and respect people :

We affirm the God-given value of each person and believe each one should be treated with equal, unconditional love and respect.

Commitment to people's well-being :

We believe that God created people in his image, to be whole human beings and to flourish. We believe that well-being should characterise the lives of all those who meet in our buildings, including all volunteers and staff.

Commitment to people's transformation :

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn, develop and change, realising their full potential as far as possible. We believe everyone should be encouraged, supported and challenged to become who he or she can be, and thus make a full contribution wherever they live, volunteer or work.

Values about the way we work :

Commitment to Christianity :

We are committed to maintaining our distinctly Christian ethos by ensuring that Christians, as volunteers and staff, are appointed to those positions which we have agreed require Christians to fill them. However, at the same time we want to embrace the values of inclusivity and diversity by welcoming and involving, where appropriate, those of other faiths and those of none.

Commitment to transparency :

We believe we should be open and transparent about our beliefs and the link between our beliefs and our mission in matters of publicity, fundraising, employment etc.

Commitment to servant leadership :

We believe in working for the common good, where appropriate, through partnership with other churches, other Christian organisations and other voluntary and statutory agencies.

Commitment to community :

We believe that a healthy community is one to which people feel they belong. Within this church we are committed to the same way of life where volunteers and staff experience a sense of belonging to and identity with the church. We believe that successful delivery of our mission happens when people feel they belong and have a role, where inclusive community and a family atmosphere are fostered. We further believe that individuals and the family built on heterosexual lifelong marriage are foundational to community and we work towards promoting and encouraging healthy family relationships.

The Baptist Union – 5 Core Values

A prophetic community – following Jesus in

- Confronting evil in justice and hypocrisy
- Challenging human concepts of power, wealth, status and security

An inclusive community – following Jesus in

- Transcending barriers of gender, language, race, class, age and culture
- Identifying with those who are rejected, deprived and powerless

A sacrificial community – following Jesus in

- Accepting vulnerability and the necessity of sacrifice
- Seeking to reflect the generous, life giving nature of God

A missionary community– following Jesus in

- Demonstrating in word and action God's forgiving and healing love
- Calling and enabling people to experience the love of God for themselves

A worshipping community– following Jesus in

- Engaging in worship and prayer which inspire and undergird all we are and do
- Exploring and expressing what it means to live together as the people of God, obeying his Word and following Christ in the whole of daily life