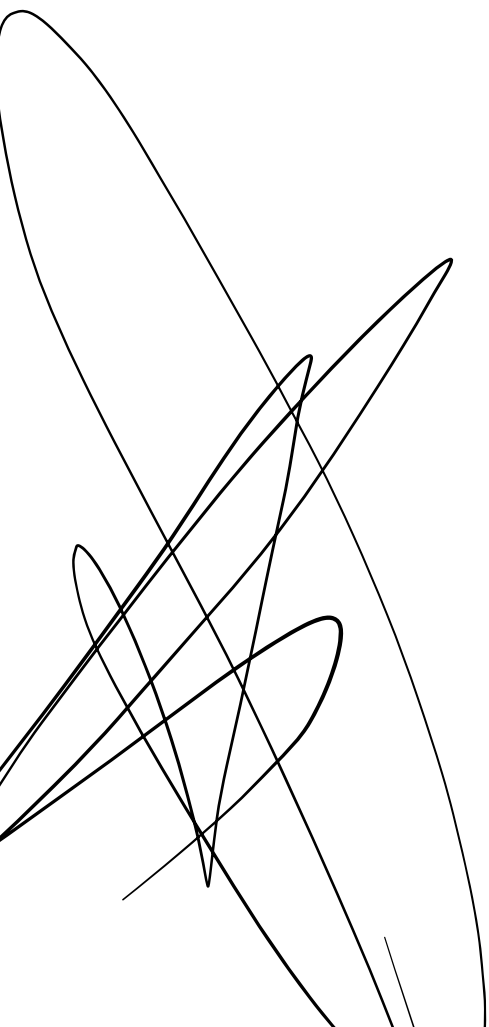




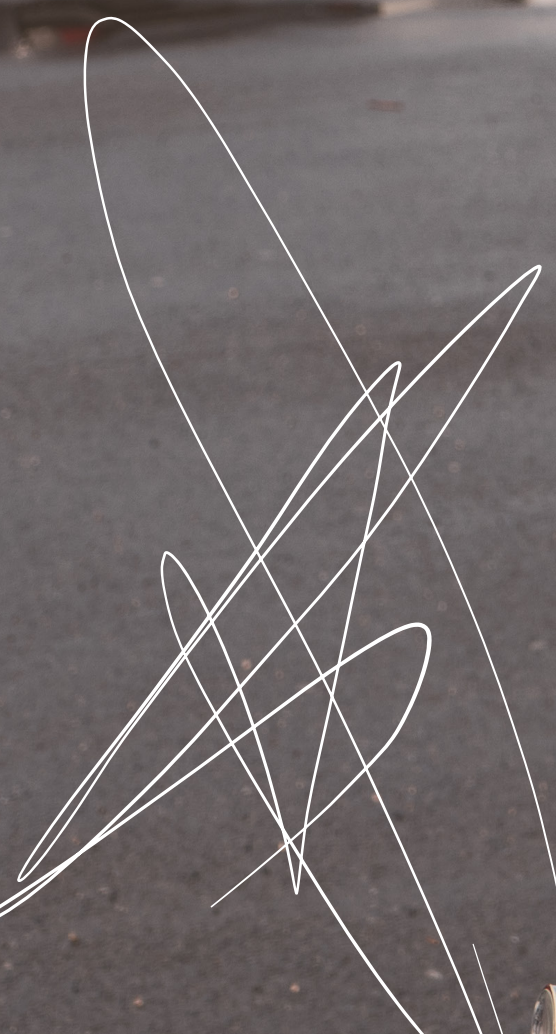
# Membership



**THE CHURCH  
HE SEES  
IS A CHURCH  
WITHOUT WALLS;  
PRESENCE-LED  
MISSION-MINDED  
AND KINGDOM  
FOCUSED.**

[Zechariah 2:4-5](#)

[www.rugbyelim.org.uk](http://www.rugbyelim.org.uk)







# 01 Hello

## Welcome

Thank you for considering church membership at Rugby Elim. This booklet contains details about the Elim movement, the local Church, membership, and the process involved in becoming a member.

## Introduction

Rugby Elim's Vision is drawn from Zechariah 2:4-5:

The church he sees is a church without walls; presence-led, mission-minded and kingdom focused.

Allied to this are our values and the culture we want to see, reflecting biblical principles.

Each Sunday we gather through one of our services, for times of Spirit-led worship, inspirational Bible teaching, creative prayer and deepening relationships in community. We believe the church is the place to belong, encounter God, enlarge your faith and discover your purpose.

We desire to be a church which seeks to hear the Father's voice, is led by Jesus and is experiencing ever deepening encounters with the Holy Spirit. We believe that God is on the move in our town and He's asked us to join him in bringing fresh hope, abundant life and His kingdom to Rugby and its area.

We are excited that you are interested in becoming a member of our church.



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# 02 What?

## What is Church Membership?

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:4-5)

The word ‘membership’ might seem an exclusive word that requires little of people – you can be a member of a gym or of a loyalty point’s scheme at your local supermarket, but it doesn’t always mean much. Membership of a local church is much more about partnership – if you partner in something there is a sense of contribution and commitment on both sides.

It is clear from the New Testament that God never intended Christians to “go it alone”. The picture language the Bible uses in describing the Church is almost always in terms of people being together in meaningful relationships.

The Church is called the “Body of Christ” (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians: 4:4-16) and this implies many different members joined together in unity. It is also called a “Building” (Ephesians 2:19-20; 1 Peter 2:4-5) and this again suggests many separate stones joined together to form a strong structure. Peter also calls the church a “Holy Nation” (1 Peter 2:9 and 10), again giving us a picture of a corporate gathering of people. All these terms speak of togetherness, of people in relationship with others.

Everyone who has committed his or her life to a personal relationship with God is a member of the Body of Christ but with that comes a call to outwork your purpose as part of a local church. To be a member is essentially a commitment to be an active part of a local group of believers; recognising that God has called you to join this part of his church.

Membership does not save you, only faith in Jesus Christ does. It is an important decision open to those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, seeking to follow and live for him.

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# 03 Why?

## Why Church Membership?

Whilst the Bible may not specifically mention a procedure for church membership, we think there is a clear principle of people committing to local churches within a structure that provides care. We believe in the importance of church membership.

From a member's point of view it helps to know the vision of the church and commitment of its leaders. From a church leadership point of view it's helpful to know who is committed to working together in making the vision a reality.

The leadership aims to set an example of love and care for all the members. In turn, we rely on working together with our members to accomplish God's mission for the church. Rugby Elim greatly appreciates and relies on members to use their time, talents and treasure to support the ministries, to help to accomplish God's vision for our community.



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# JESUS





# 04 Apply

## Application process

Please read this booklet carefully and prayerfully, and feel free to ask us any questions. It is designed to give you a good understanding of our beliefs, goals, and structure. It explains the standards, responsibilities and benefits of membership. It lets you know possible ways to get involved. The application process is simple:

- Attend a welcome event.
- Read this booklet.
- Fill out the application forms
- One of the Elders will arrange to meet with you to get to know you and to answer any questions you may have about membership or the church.
- After you've met an Elder your application will be considered at the next leadership meeting.
- New members will be publicly recognised and welcomed into membership with a prayer.



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# 05 Story

## The story so far...

Rugby Elim is part of a larger movement known as the Elim Pentecostal Church. The name 'Elim' is taken from Exodus 15:27. It was a place of oasis in the wilderness.

A young Welshman, George Jeffreys, founded the Elim movement in 1915. Following small beginnings in Ireland, Essex and London, God so demonstrated His power across the UK that thousands were saved and miraculously healed. The Elim pioneers rediscovered God's power, promised in the Bible to all who would commit their lives to following Jesus, and brought about a renewed emphasis on the work of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As a result, churches were started in a large number of towns and cities to care for those who had committed their lives to Christ.

The teaching of Elim in those early days was publicised under the heading 'The Foursquare Gospel', highlighting Jesus Christ as Saviour, Healer, Baptiser in the Holy Spirit and Coming King. Our commitment

to those truths has not changed and Elim is still legally known as the 'Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance'.

A General Superintendent and a National Leadership Team, made up of various Elim Ministers, give spiritual direction and oversight to the movement. These are the individuals who lead Elim nationally.

Elim nationally has a Conference where decisions concerning the whole movement are made. Across the UK churches are grouped into Regions. Each Region has a Regional Leader who is responsible for supporting the churches in the Region and acts as a 'Minister to the Ministers'.

Like all Elim Churches, Rugby Elim subscribes to the Movement's Foundational Truths and Constitution. We contribute ten per cent of our income to central funds to support the movement nationally. But for all general purposes we are locally

governed and are free to develop our work, as we feel led by the Holy Spirit. Today, there are over 500 Elim churches in the UK, ranging from very small to very large, with partnerships with approximately 9,000 churches worldwide and mission work in over 40 countries.

The Elim movement's national and international offices are found in Malvern. Also at Malvern is Elim's Regents Theological College, which offers many training opportunities. These are offered at degree and other levels, with courses in youth ministry, church planting, leadership, theology, mission and performing arts.

Elim nationally has departments and initiatives including Limitless (Youth), REACH (evangelism and church planting), International Missions, Elim Prayer, Inspire (women's ministry), M:Power (men's ministry) and Elim Sound (worship).



[www.born-again.org.uk](http://www.born-again.org.uk)

EVERY NATION AND GENERATION





# 06 Truth

## Elim foundational truths

Elim Pentecostal Churches hold certain truths to which all their members are required to subscribe. These are given below.

### The Bible

We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error, the fully inspired and infallible word of God and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

### The Trinity

We believe that the Godhead exists co-equally and co-eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that the three are one God, sovereign in creation, providence and redemption.

### Mankind

We believe in the universal sinfulness of all men since the Fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

### The Saviour

We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His real and complete humanity, in His sinless life, in His authoritative teaching, in His substitutionary and atoning sacrifice through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and in His second advent to receive His Church.

### Salvation

We believe in the necessity for salvation of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by which the sinner is pardoned and accepted as righteous in God's sight. This justification is imputed by the grace of God because of the atoning work of Christ, is received by faith alone and is evidenced by the Fruit of the Spirit and a holy life.

### The Holy Spirit

We believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son and the necessity of His work in conviction of sin, repentance, regeneration and sanctification and that the believer is also promised an endowment of power as the gift of Christ through the baptism in the Holy Spirit with signs following. Through this endowment the believer is empowered for fuller participation in the ministry of the Church, its worship, evangelism and service.

### The Church

We believe in the spiritual unity and priesthood of all believers in Christ and that these comprise the universal Church, the Body of Christ.

# 06 Truth

## Elim foundational truths

### The Ministry

We believe in the ministries that Christ has set in His Church, namely, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and in the present operation of the manifold Gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the New Testament.

### The Ordinances

We believe in the baptism of believers by immersion in water in obedience to the command of Christ and in the commemoration of Christ's death by the observance of the Lord's Supper until His return.

### The Commission

We believe that the gospel embraces the needs of the whole man and that the Church is therefore commissioned to preach the gospel to the world and to fulfil a ministry of healing and deliverance to the spiritual and physical needs of mankind.

### The coming King

We believe in the personal, physical and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in power and glory.

### The Future State

We believe in the resurrection of the dead and in the final judgement of the world, the eternal conscious bliss of the righteous and the eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.

If you would like to talk to a member of the leadership team regarding any of these articles of faith then please ask and they will be more than happy to.



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# 07 Rugby

## Rugby Elim

The Elim church in Rugby has been present in the town for over 80 years. The church has been led by a variety of Elim Ministers, supported by teams of committed lay leaders and sacrificial members. The church was established as a church plant from the Elim church in Coventry in 1934-1937. On 27th November 1937, the Rugby branch of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance officially opened in a mission hall at the top of Windsor Street, Rugby. In this building the church saw incredible salvations and a growth in attendance, forcing the church to look for a bigger building which could house its growing Sunday services and Sunday school.

The church moved into its current premises on Cambridge Street after purchasing the building from the Methodist Church in the late 1980's. This, our current building, has gone through a number of structural changes and additions over the years, with the most recent major building

work undertaken in 2011. The building has served the church and the local community for many years and continues to do so to this day.

We have a real heart for the community and over the years we've seen many lives changed and transformed by Jesus, through our kids and youth work, outreach cafes and toddler groups, summer fun days and community action projects. We know God has so much for us as we journey with him into what's next.

The church we see is a place and people of...

### Welcome:

distinguished by community, family, life, hospitality and encouragement.

### Witness:

sharing the Gospel of Jesus in word and deed, individually and corporately, in community and on our frontlines.

### Worship:

whole life devotion to God through serving, encounter, presence and prayer.

### Word:

strong in Biblical foundations, interacting and growing in understanding.

### Works:

caring for the least and the lost in our community and overseas.

### Wonders:

a commitment to pursue Spiritual gifts and miraculous signs of the Kingdom.

This is the kind of people and place we want to be; this is the story so far. Let's join together and follow God as He continues to write the story in and through our lives...







# 08 You

## Your responsibility

### Follow

To be a church member you must be a follower of Jesus having given your life to God in faith, responding to the grace of Jesus.

The Gospel tells us that we have all messed up and sinned (Romans 3:23) and that this separates us from a loving and Holy God, our Father. Even if we did just one thing wrong it would be enough to need God's help and forgiveness. Jesus has taken our blame and punishment for our sin by dying on the cross in our place (John 3:16). Defeating death he offers us new life (2 Corinthians 5:17), forgiveness, freedom and friendship with the Father, anticipating life eternal with Him when we die.

A disciple is one who has responded to this gospel and fulfils the great commission to share this good news and make disciples. We encourage everyone to reach others with this amazing Good News!

### Grow

A disciple of Jesus is someone committed to living and growing in faith, becoming more like Christ as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. A great example of what it means to grow in faith and be the church is found in Acts 2:42-47:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Key values are devotion to God's word, meeting together, remembering the gift of salvation, prayer, generosity, doing life together, worship and sharing the good news of Jesus. It is easy to fall into the trap of just doing church and putting on the Sunday best! Whether at church, at work, home or play we encourage everyone to live their whole life for the glory of God, being shaped by him. There is grace for us, as we know, this is a life long journey of transformation and maturing in Christ (Hebrews 6:1- 2 Peter 1:3-14).

# 08 You

## Your responsibility

### Give

Part of the commitment of being a disciple is a commitment to giving – time, treasure (money) and talents – as led by God. This leads to serving and giving. Serving: there is an expectation that you will serve according to your callings, passions, strengths and capacity. Paul writes in Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Ephesians of the church as a body, using this metaphor to illustrate we each have a part to play in the church. We don't all have the same gifts but we serve the same Lord.

We are passionate about people serving meaningfully according to the gifting and grace that has been given you. We want to see every person released into purpose and ministry through the church and on their frontlines.

Giving: The giving of our finances back to God as a tithe is a key part of our worship as Christians. It is as important and as spiritual as singing songs of worship and reading our Bible. The Bible encourages generosity, as a recognition that everything we have is given to us by God.

The biblical model is often taken to be a tithe (giving one-tenth) but in the Old Testament there were many offerings as well, such as 'first fruits' (Exodus 23:16), in addition to the tithe. So the tithe is a good spiritual principle, but should not limit what we give back to God. What you decide to give financially is between you and God. The giving of our finances to the local church causes two things to happen.

Firstly, by giving, it frees you from the grip of possessions and self-reliance and focuses your attention on God as the one who provides.

Secondly, it enables us to worship God without holding back. Giving is not about God needing our money; it is about giving to God what is his.



# 08 You

## Your responsibility

### Give

Your giving releases resources; to pay the staff and Ministers; maintain the church building and facilities; resource local and international mission; cover the costs of the church's expenditure (heating, lighting, administration, etc.) and most importantly extend God's Kingdom in Rugby.

It is also right to support other Christian ministries, but there needs to be "food in my house" (Malachi 3:9-10) for the local Church to fulfil God's purpose for it.

The Ministers do not know who gives or what amount, only the names of individuals who give by standing order or who gift aid their giving. This gives the Senior Minister an opportunity to thank those who give faithfully each year, in the form of an annual letter.

As a local church all that we do is funded through the faithful giving of God's people. We practise tithing by giving 10% to Elim nationally to help with its various national ministries, and regularly give above that to global missions.

### Gift and Tax

If you are a UK tax payer we encourage you to sign up to the gift aid scheme which enables us to claim 25p in the pound on any money you give to the church. This is at no extra cost to you – the money from your income tax would otherwise be kept by the Government. Far from just wanting to maintain and 'cover costs', we want to see the finances of the church increase so that together we can do mission to Rugby and beyond, seeing lives transformed by Jesus for the Father's glory.

Please speak to one of the Ministers or Elders who can help advise you on how to sign up for gift aid.



[www.rugby.org.uk](http://www.rugby.org.uk)





# 09

# Leaders

## Church Leadership Team

We believe that the head of the church is Jesus. It is His church, not yours and not ours. He is the one giving vision, direction and opportunity to us to extend his Kingdom and share His good news.

Rugby Elim is led by a local church session. This team gives spiritual oversight to the church and is made up of the Ministers and Elders.

The Ministers are appointed by the Elim movement through consultation with Elim's Ministry Director, Regional Leader and the Elders of the Church. Elders are nominated by the existing Ministers and Elders and approved by the members of the church through a confirmatory vote. This is held when they are first proposed and then approximately every five years.

The Ministers and Elders meet together regularly to discuss the spiritual matters of the life of the church, to pray and seek God together for the future and current needs of the Church and community.

The mission of the Church depends on voluntary departments and ministry leaders who take responsibility for various aspects of Rugby Elim's programmes and teams. The Church Session appoints these leaders for an indefinite period, which is kept under review.

# 09 Leaders

## Responsibility of Ministers and Elders to Members

Leaders' responsibility is summed up in three words: Vision, Instruction and Support.

### Vision

Vision for the future direction of the church by seeking the Father's voice and following the Spirit's guidance into new areas of mission and ministry.

### Instruction

In teaching and obeying God's Word and equipping the church for the work of the ministry and mission.

### Support

Pastorally and prayerfully in times of need or personal crisis, helping you to become all who the Father intended you to become.

### Commitment

- Honour the Word of God providing clear and consistent teaching of Biblical principles.
- Seek God for direction of leadership in the church.
- Set an example of godly character.
- Provide a framework for members to develop and grow in their relationship with God; equipping them for works of ministry.
- Seek to give opportunities and make room for God-given talent.
- Promote biblical standards of personal holiness, speaking specifically into lives to encourage Christlike behaviour.
- Provide the necessary framework for relationships with others so that love, care and concern may be meaningfully expressed to each member.
- Steward responsibly the gifts that are given to the work of God in this place.



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# 10 Next?

## So what now?

We hope you have found this booklet helpful. If you have any questions please speak to one of the Ministers or Elders. If you have prayerfully considered commitment to Rugby Elim Church and would like to proceed in becoming a member, please read the commitment below and fill out the application following. By coming into membership, I...

- Have and will maintain a personal faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour, following Jesus and seeking to grow in Christlikeness.
- Accept the biblical standards of personal holiness and seek to live by them.
- Have been baptised in water or am willing to do so at the next available opportunity.
- Have been baptised in the Holy Spirit or will seek for this baptism, with the New Testament evidence of signs following.
- Will regularly attend Sunday services and special events when able.
- Accept and am committed to the vision and mission of the Church, serving willingly in accordance with my callings, gifts and passions.
- Will seek involvement in a life group or otherwise make the most of regular opportunities to connect outside services.
- Will regularly give to the Church according to scriptural standards.
- Be prepared to accept and support the leadership and submit to the discipline of the local church, working through the biblical procedure for conflict and reconciliation if the need arises.
- Am committed to doing my best to make the leadership aware of particular problems or situations of ill health to enable pastoral support.
- Am willing and committed to discuss any area of frustration or disappointment concerning the church with the Senior Minister or one of the appointed leaders.
- Be praying for members of the Church, especially those in leadership.
- Be continuing to think about my faith and how it relates to my home, work, recreation.
- Be seeking to share my faith with others (by praying for them, looking for opportunities to talk to them and bringing them into the fellowship).





# 11 Form

## Membership Application Form

If you wish to become a member of this church you need to complete this form and hand it in to one of the Ministers. Once we've received your form, one of the Elders of the church will make contact with you to arrange a visit. This is a good opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have and to get to know one of our lay leaders. After this, your application will be considered by the leadership of the Church at their next meeting.

The contents you provide are confidential to the leadership of the Church.

I have carefully read this booklet.

I fully accept the beliefs and practices of the Elim Pentecostal Church and I am willing to accept the expectations of me as a member as outlined.

YES  NO

Title: .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Post Code: .....

Telephone: .....

Mobile: .....

Email:.....

Nationality: .....

Have you attended a 'Welcome to Elim' session? YES  NO

When and where did you become a Christian? .....

Have you been baptised in water? YES  NO

When and where was your baptism? .....

Have you been baptised in the Holy Spirit? YES  NO

If no, are you seeking this experience? YES  NO

Are you currently attending a Life Group? YES  NO

If yes, which one are you attending?.....

If no, would you like to know more about one? YES  NO

Do you have any particular skills which you would like to make available to the church?  
For example IT and Media, Administration, DIY, Children's/Youth work, Hospitality, Music

.....

I would like information on tithing to the Church? YES  NO

I would like more information on Standing Order or Gift Aid for Giving? YES  NO

I have been a member of a previous church? YES  NO

Have you resigned your membership? YES  NO

Did you leave in good relationship? YES  NO

Name of Previous Church: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Name of Minister/Leader: .....

Reason for Leaving? .....

.....

.....

It is customary for us to follow up references, as membership of the Church is important.

Thank you for filling out this form. One of the leaders of the church will be in contact with you soon, to arrange a meeting with you.

Name:.....

Sign:..... Date: .....

Please return this form to the church office on completion.