



Ashford Baptist Church



Joining the Worship Band

Updated July 2006

Statement of Purpose



The music ministry at Ashford Baptist Church has this statement of purpose:

To serve the church, using our gifts under the guidance of the Holy Spirit:

- by encouraging people to draw near to God and worship Him
- by helping to deepen their understanding of God
- by helping to prepare them to listen to God

Criteria for joining the Worship Band



Spiritual and Personal

As a member you should

- be an enthusiastic worshipper
- view your membership as an opportunity to serve God and the church
- be willing to discover your role in the band
- be sensitive to the congregation and to other singers and musicians

Musical

Singers should

- be able to sing in tune!
- be able to maintain a melody line unaccompanied
- have a vocal quality that will blend with the other singers
- be able to sing syncopated rhythms
- be able to learn songs quickly

Musicians should

- be 'competent' on their instrument
- be able to play well from music or by ear or both
- be able to learn songs quickly

Additional skills, such as improvising, singing harmonies and leading worship could be developed within the worship band.

Musicians will usually need to supply their own instruments.

Expectations of Worship Band Members



Worship Band members are expected to

- attend Thursday music practices when playing or singing on the following Sunday. You are also welcome to come along to a practice to sing as a mini-congregation even if you are not singing or playing on Sunday.
- inform the worship band leader as soon as possible if you cannot attend a Thursday practice or a Sunday service you are on the rota to play or sing at. Please try to organise a replacement if possible. Please let the worship band leader know your preferences regarding morning/evening services, how many you are available to do each month and advance notice of holiday dates.
- be ready to start playing or singing (i.e. set up and tuned up) in good time before practices and services. Current times are:
 - 7.45pm Thursdays
 - 9.45am Sunday mornings
 - 5.45pm Sunday evenings
- pray – about your own music ministry, the worship band and the Sunday services
- be willing, from time to time, to play or sing at special services and events

Band members are also encouraged to develop their singing/instrumental skills and attend training, such as the 'Worship Experience' conferences in Eastbourne.

Guidelines for joining the Worship Band



Note: These are intended as *guidelines* to be used *flexibly*.

Stage One – Initial Contact

Before being considered for joining the worship band, potential members should regularly attend services, worshipping as part of the congregation. After this, the initial contact is made either by recommendation to the worship band leader by church members or members of the worship band, or by direct approach by a member of the congregation.

Stage Two – Discussions with Worship Band Leader

The worship band leader meets the potential member to discuss his/her musical experience and ability, the aims (statement of purpose) of the music ministry, the induction process and the criteria for joining. During this discussion the worship team leader begins to ascertain the motives for wanting to join the group and whether the criteria listed earlier are likely to be met.

The potential member is given this booklet to read and pray about. The worship band leader talks to the minister and to those who made the recommendation, if applicable, to build up a clearer understanding.

Stage Three - Induction

The potential member discusses how he/she feels about the statement of purpose, the criteria and any issues that have arisen. If it has become clear at this stage that any of the criteria have not been met, alternatives suggested at Stage Four are discussed. Otherwise, the musician/singer is invited along to Thursday evening practices for a trial period. He/she can join in as far as possible (although with some instruments this may only be at specific points during the practice). Usually, during this time the person will not play or sing as part of the band during the Sunday services. It is expected that existing musicians and singers will help the person where needed – such as in finding music and deciphering the notes on the orders of service. This induction time

gives both the musician/singer and the worship band leader an opportunity to discover the appropriateness of becoming a regular member.

Stage Four – Review

After the trial period (which will vary in length from person to person), the potential member meets the worship band leader again to review how he/she has got on in relation to the listed criteria and whether serving in the worship band is right for him/her at the moment.

Possible outcomes include:

A Join the worship band

Discuss how the rota can be adapted to include the new musician/singer and check awareness of expectations. Once in the band, musicians/singers should continue to review their musical ministry regularly. God does not necessarily require you to remain a member for life! He may call you to a different ministry/service at a later date.

B Continue to attend Thursday practices for a while to improve on specific skills that need just a little brushing up. Then review again with the worship band leader.

C Alternatives

The worship band leader tells the musician/singer that, although he/she is not yet ready to join the group on a regular basis, there may be alternative opportunities for his/her musical gifts to be used. These may include the youth band and special events or services. If training would help, advice is given where possible.