

## Following Jesus, at Widcombe, means growing together as disciples who are.....

**Parts of the body:** we are to live out the reality that as a church we are the body of Christ; which is not something we merely attend but, by the grace of God, something that we are a living part of! We will seek to grow together in love as we use the gifts God has given us for the benefit of our fellowship and the extension of Christ's kingdom (as he draws others to him and as he draws us to be more like him). We will seek to identify and use our gifts to serve others in the fellowship, honouring the gifts of others regardless of their prominence in the life of the church

*(Ephesians 4:15-16; Mark 9:35; Philippians 2:5-7; 1 Corinthians 12:7)*

**Worshippers:** we worship the Lord with the whole of our lives, when the church is together on Sundays and when it is apart in the week. We take seriously the need to gather together on Sundays. Whilst age, infirmity and so on can prevent us from doing so the Lord's design is that he meets us with blessing as we meet together as his beloved people. The church gathering is a vital way in which we support one another and fulfil our responsibility to encourage one another to remain confident in Christ. We seek to live lives of thankful dependence on our creator God.

*(Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 3:12-13; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thess 5:16-18)*

**Learners:** we are committed to the lifelong task of learning of the Lord through His word, which will involve reading the scriptures on our own as well as through the services and other ministries of the church. As we hear the word of Christ our faith will grow We understand learning is not an end in itself but should be always be accompanied with obedience, prayer and worship. We affirm that Christ welcomes us into his kingdom as we are – helpless sinners with many different areas of struggle and disobedience. However, he calls us to serve him as king and submit without reserve to his commands.

*(Proverbs 1:5; Psalm 1; Romans 10:17; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 12:14)*

**Witnesses:** we recognise that together and individually we have a responsibility to preserve and to proclaim the gospel in a world that is hostile to the Lordship of Christ. Together we will encourage one another to stand against the cultural tide against the exclusive claims of Christ for salvation, worship and obedience. We rejoice that in his sovereign providence God has set us down exactly where we are in order that we might know Christ there and make him known – we are all hands working for the harvest! We view our church as a “bridgehead” for the gospel into the world, not a “bunker” in which to hide from it. We go out to our family, friends, neighbours and colleagues as ambassadors of Christ calling them to be reconciled to him. We support one another as we seek to share the gospel. This can be a difficult and at times discouraging responsibility, particularly with those closest to us, and we want to stand together.

*(1 Timothy 6:20; Acts 1:8; Colossians 4:5-6; 2 Cor 5:19b-20)*

**World Christians:** We believe that the gospel is for the whole world, crossing all barriers of race, religion and culture. We affirm that Christ is the unique Son of God and the only way of salvation. We are committed to mission in Bath and Britain and to the ends of the earth. We support mission partners who enable us to fulfil this mission.

*(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; John 20:19-23)*

**Works in Progress:** we take heart from the gospel of grace, the power that God gives through his Spirit and the guidance he gives from His word which mean that real change and increased obedience are possible. We treat others in the fellowship and beyond with the grace that God has shown us; as God's people we are called to be unfailingly kind, gentle and patient and repentant when we are not. We remember that we are all trophies of grace; works in progress, in need of daily grace.

*(Romans 6:14; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 4:32)*

**Welcomers:** we welcome those we don't know on Sundays; this is everyone's responsibility – we are a family and we want church to feel like a family! In all the busyness of life, we want to take opportunities to welcome folk into our homes. We want to be counter cultural and not see the things the Lord has blessed us with as only for our enjoyment. But instead view our homes as the provision of the Lord to bless others; our brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as those who, as yet, don't know the Lord.

*(Romans 12:13; 15:7; 1 Peter 4:9)*

**Givers:** We give of our time and talents to the work of the Lord. We give generously financially, whether we are someone who has less or has more, as commanded in the scriptures. We give to both the fellowship, which depends upon our support, and wider ministries which serve the kingdom of Christ.

*(Proverbs 3:19; Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 John 3:16-18)*

**Intercessors:** from the oldest to the youngest, individually and corporately, we pray to the Lord with gratitude and thanksgiving, seeking his guidance, his strength, his provision, his protection and his blessing. Through prayer we exhibit our believing dependence on the Lord for without him we can do nothing. We will lay our requests before him and wait in expectation.

*(Psalm 5:3; Luke 18:1; John 15:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*