

Profile of Hebron Evangelical Church, Long Ashton, Bristol

Our Basis of belief

1. The full inspiration of the Bible
2. The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. His miraculous virgin birth, spotless life, vicarious death, bodily resurrection and ascension, and personal return
4. That Man, by nature, is a fallen being, and there is no salvation apart from propitiatory sacrifice of Christ on the Cross
5. That those who truly believe in our Lord Jesus experience a new birth, being quickened into new and eternal life by the operation of the Holy Spirit through the Divine Word, while those who finally reject Him will be lost eternally.

The Church and its location

Hebron Evangelical Church, or simply “Hebron”, is an independent church which is affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance and enjoys fellowship with all Evangelicals of whatever denominational label and with other local churches. Long Ashton is a popular and expanding village close to Bristol and currently has approximately 6000 residents. Some are life-long residents while over recent years there has been an influx of newcomers who occupy newly developed estates of privately owned homes. There are also older council properties. There is one other church, the Anglican Parish church of All Saints with whom we have a good and developing relationship.

Membership currently stands at 36 and an average Sunday morning congregation is around 50. Evening services are less well attended with an average of 15 attendees. Hebron is an exciting mixture of people from varied backgrounds:- Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Salvation Army, Anglican and Roman Catholic. Ages range from the cradle to the 90s. For several years some members have attended Spring Harvest and Soul Survivor. The older young people join in with city-wide events such as The Mix and various Christian camps attract others throughout the year.

Our aims

To know God and to make God known

We are a church made up of people who mostly live in the village. Life these days is fragmented: we live in one place, work in another and worship God in yet another. At Hebron we choose to worship and serve God together in the village where we live and be “community in the community” rather than commute to church. Consequently, Christians at Hebron are from many different church backgrounds and denominations – held together by the basic beliefs of the Christian faith and by a commitment to the local community.

Many things separate people in our society – gender, race, age gaps, employed and unemployed, well educated and less well educated and so on. We believe that the love of God is able to overcome

these divisions. Hebron is a place where we are all learning to appreciate our diversity and differences while not allowing them to divide us. This is both exciting and challenging. The love and strength of our Lord Jesus Christ is what holds us together and together we want to serve the people of the village and help them discover Jesus for themselves.

Praise

We believe that when we praise God together, His presence among us is made real and we encounter the living God. We affirm that the Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it and want to say clearly that the Lord is God in all places, at all times, over all peoples and in all circumstances.

Prayer

We believe that God wants to give us His very best for our lives, families and community. He has invited us to pray and work with Him so that the blessings of Heaven are made real in the everyday experience of people here in our village. We pray that God's values will be established in Long Ashton, and that His will may be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Proclamation

We believe it is right to say clearly what the Christian faith teaches – that it is God's message for everyone and is "Good News". Jesus Christ came into the world to reconcile all of us to the God who made us and cares about us. He has told us to go into the world and invite all who will listen, to know and experience the love of God.

Positive Action

We believe that we should be actively involved in the life of the community as a whole. The Bible describes how to live rightly with each other; in compassion and fairness. Jesus told us to be the light that overcomes darkness in society and we want to show His love for others in practical ways.

Where are we coming from?

In the later 1920s a young Christian, Ernest Dyer, and his sister came out from Bristol every Sunday and held a Sunday School for the children of Long Ashton. He built a meeting place on Providence Lane which also doubled as his home. Hebron was officially established as a church in 1934, with Ernest Dyer as the Pastor, a position he occupied until his death in 1967. The church was named "Hebron" because an aim was for it to be a "place of refuge". Since then much has changed but Hebron has remained a thriving church.

What goes on at Hebron?

Sunday Services:

- Main Service at 10.30 am.
Includes: Crusader classes for children (ages 3 to 14 yrs).
"All age" service, approximately quarterly.
- Evening Service at 6.00 pm.
- Holy Communion is celebrated twice per month, once in the morning and once in the evening.

Weekly Events:

- Bright Hour (meeting at the Church, 2pm on Tuesday)
- House Group (meeting on Thursday)

Fortnightly Events:

- Kids Club:
Crusaders (7 to 11 yrs)
NRG (11 to 14 yrs)
Cell (15+ yrs)
- Womens' Social/Bible Study
- School Assemblies

Monthly Events:

- Church Prayer Meeting
- Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (Saturday morning).

Yearly Events:

- Childrens' Holiday Club (1 week, annually)
- Christmas Village Carol Service (in the Village Hall)

Jointly with the Parish Church (these held jointly for the first time in 2006):

- Good Friday Procession and Service
- Village Easter-Egg Hunt
- Songs of Praise Service
- Harvest Festival
- National Prayer Week (in Village Hall)

We practise believers' baptism by total immersion upon a person's confession of faith in Jesus Christ as saviour and lord.