



The Bridge Church

Why Belonging?

Overview

Coming to a new church is a big thing! Whether you have been in church all your life or not for a while, it can be daunting to try and work out how it works, how to join and how to serve. We believe joining a church should not happen via osmosis but rather a conscious informed decision. That's why we run the Belonging course.

The Belonging course is a 3 week course that allows you to know the Pastors, vision, beliefs, culture and distinctives of our Church. It's also a great way to get to know other new people who are considering joining too.

Aims

There are 2 main reasons why we run the course.

1. **So YOU can get to know US.** We want you know what you are getting involved in. That's why put everything out on the table. Our beliefs, our motivations, our practice and our vision. There is also an opportunity to meet our various staff and hear the testimonies of our Senior Pastor Paul Dale and his wife Rachel.
2. **So WE can get to know YOU.** Following the Belonging course, the Membership Pastor will meet with you to hear your story, answer any questions you have and help you take next steps in joining a Connect Group, Serving and Giving. This is helpful step in making sure that you are on the way to truly belonging at our church.

"It took me 10 years at my old church to understand why we did things the way we did. In doing the Belonging course, it took me a month"

- Nina



Common Questions

I have been a Christian a while, why do I need to do Belonging?

Every church is different. We don't want you to get involved and then realise The Bridge Church believes or does something, you really object to. Better to know early on. Also, we cover in the course our 5 'distinctives' that are different from your typical Evangelical Anglican Church. We want you to be on board with them.

Why can't I join a Bible Study/Connect Group straight away?

We get everyone to do the Belonging Course before joining a Connect Group. See the Belonging course as your first 3 weeks of joining a small group at church. You will get to know other new people and be reminded as well about core beliefs of Christianity – belonging to Jesus and belonging one another. Note: All new staff, interns and student ministers complete the Belonging course too.

Are many churches running a course like this? Yes. More and more churches are running 'introduction-to-church' style courses. As more and more people see the benefit of them, they are being offered. We are not unique in running one.

What Next?

The Belonging course at Church has been running since 2011 and we have had hundreds of people attend. All who've completed it, found it really beneficial to making their decision to join church. We hope you find Belonging just as helpful.

