



# Partnership at Maybridge

## HOW TO BE CHURCH

2024-2025



Partnership at Maybridge

# Partnering with Jesus and His people

*Partnership is how we define belonging at Maybridge.*

For us, being a Partner is not like being a member of the gym or signing up for a TV subscription; it's an ongoing *partnership* that we all commit to for the long term..

Each year, we create an opportunity to review *how* we partner with God in our own lives and with our church family.

Partnership is not about how much money you give, or spending every hour serving in different roles. It's about reflecting on God's goodness

and prayerfully inviting all of Jesus, into all who you are, into all that you do.

It's about playing an active part in God's Kingdom, and taking responsibility through your prayers, finances, gifts and time.

And, of course, it means that the rest of us partner with you and commit to helping you on your journey of faith



# Partnership at a glance

## Partnership is not:

- About how much money you give
- About how many hours you serve in different roles
- Agreeing on absolutely every issue
- Expecting the church to meet all your needs

## Partnership is:

- Committing to Maybridge Community Church and its vision and values
- Saying, 'I need other people to do the Christian life' and putting time into relationships
- Being willing to graciously put smaller issues to one side for the good of everyone
- Giving to the church with your time, money and even your attitude.
- Participating in the life of the church – even when it's not convenient
- Forgiving anyone who lets you down, and seeking to repair relationships in the right way.

## Our part in Partnership

Partnership is not a one-sided thing. As a wider church we commit to:

- Encourage and challenge your spiritual growth
- Pray for you as an individual
- Build a wider community of partners that offers support and guidance
- Give you a voice in the direction of the church, by inviting you to prayerfully consider and vote on key decisions and leadership appointments.

**WE DO  
LIFE  
TOGETHER**

BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH COMMUNITY

**WE GET  
STUCK IN**

THAT RESOLUTELY FOLLOWS JESUS

**WE'RE HERE  
FOR YOU**

AND

**WE'RE ALL  
ABOUT  
JESUS**

EXTRAVAGANTLY SHARES THE GOODNESS OF GOD

When we sign up to Partnership at Maybridge we say 'yes'  
to being a part of the vision of the church:

# To build a vibrant church community that resolutely follows Jesus and extravagantly shares the goodness of God

*Our vision shows what we're all about – our hopes for  
the future and where we're heading. Everything we do is  
underpinned by our values – they share the kind of church we  
want to build and become, how we act and our focus.*

## **We do life together**

For us, church is so much more than a Sunday service; it's a whole-life, life-long family. We pursue authentic relationships, sharing good times and bad and supporting and challenging one another in love.

## **We get stuck in**

We're not content to sit on the sidelines. We believe in going the extra mile to make a difference in our local communities and help empower projects around the world. We take initiative in our own spiritual growth and get involved in the life of the church.

## **We're here for you**

We believe in doing everything with compassion; focusing our resources on the transformation of our wider community, and being as open and approachable as possible. Whatever life throws your way, Maybridge is a safe place where you can find help and support.

Because...

## **We're all about Jesus**

Jesus is at the heart of everything we do. We seek to draw from various Christian expressions as we deepen our relationship with Him, prayerfully follow where He leads us, and passionately communicate why He's good news for everyone.

# What we believe

*We long to embrace within the church all those who are seeking to follow Christ. These are the central beliefs of the church handed down through generations that shape the way we see everything today. As members of the Evangelical Alliance, we adopt their statement of faith:*

## **We believe in...**

The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.

The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.

The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image, to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.

The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the Virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.

The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.

The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; His ascension to the Father, and His reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.

The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.

The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.

The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers – given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the Gospel, promoting justice and love.

The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

# Giving and serving

*Giving is part of our worship to God and we want to be disciples that give freely and joyfully, in a considered way using our time, talents and money.*

Maybridge Community Church is almost entirely dependent on gifts from Partners, and we couldn't be here for our community without the time given by those in our church family.

We follow a generous God who gave everything for us and we choose to respond in generosity ourselves, giving as an act of worship and trusting that He will meet our needs.

We know that our available time and financial giving will vary according to circumstances and season of life. Committing to a local church is about being open to how God wants to use our time, talents and finances to make a positive impact on one another, our community and the world. We believe that when God's people work together for His purposes, amazing things can happen.

## How can I get stuck in?

You can ask us for a list of volunteering opportunities and someone will chat through what's right for you or help you pray and explore giftings.

## How can I give?

There are several ways: regular giving by Standing Order or Direct Debit/ card online is best for us. All the forms and online giving information can be found at [maybridge.org.uk/give](https://www.maybridge.org.uk/give).

If you're not sure where to start when thinking about giving, chat to a staff member or elder. If you've questions about getting started email [finance@maybridge.org.uk](mailto:finance@maybridge.org.uk).

*When we talk about giving our time or finances, we don't do so to make anyone who is struggling feel guilty. If you are finding it difficult financially, there are trusted people in our church who can support you if you need friendly and confidential advice. If you'd like to talk to someone, get in touch at [info@maybridge.org.uk](mailto:info@maybridge.org.uk).*





# Becoming a Partner for 2024-2025

*Whether you're new to Maybridge, you would like to become a Partner for the first time, or you're reaffirming your Partnership from last year – you can find out more and complete a Partnership form online.*

After filling in your details, you'll be asked to affirm the following:

- I am an active follower of Jesus Christ.
- I choose to participate in this community as we together look to grow as disciples of Jesus.
- I want to belong here, to grow in faith here and to be a disciple who helps make disciples of others.
- I choose to demonstrate my responsibility as a Partner through my prayers, my finances, my gifts and my service.

There's options to speak to someone if you want to review your giving, your serving or if you're interested in joining a Partnership Group.

If you're new to Maybridge, we'll invite you to our Connect Course.

**Scan the QR code to complete the a Partnership form online, request a paper version from the church office or head to:**

**MAYBRIDGE.ORG.UK/  
PARTNERSHIP**



# Partnering with Jesus and his people

*Pausing at the start of each Partnership year pushes us to think about our church's vision and values, but it's also an opportunity to reflect on what following Jesus looks like for the next season of our lives.*

We've provided some questions to help you to think through your Partnership with Jesus, His people and the church.

We hope they are prompts and resources to help you consider 'how do I grow as a follower of Jesus?' 'How do I live to intentionally develop areas of my spiritual formation in partnership with God?'

## Looking back

*Reflecting over the last year or so...*

What are you thankful to God for?

What pleased you or saddened you in these areas...

- The way you used your money
- Your work
- Your friends and family relationships
- Your growth?

What are the key themes God has been speaking to you about over this year?

What are some of the spiritual disciplines that have helped you stay committed to Jesus over the last year?

Where do you sense God wants to grow you?

Who are you accountable to, and who are the people that can speak into you life and help you follow Jesus?

What do your rhythms look like and what might need to change? What habits and rhythms are in place to help you learn from God's word?

What are the biggest obstacles to you thriving right now?

What deep stuff do you need to deal with? Healing, forgiveness, anger etc.

Where are you leaving space for God to speak?

What will you commit to read or learn to help you grow in my faith?

## Reflecting on my partnership with Jesus and his people

How can you actively do life together with others in the church family?

What relationships with people in and out of the church family can you develop over the next season?

How will you participate in church community over the year ahead?

Have you had any disappointments or conflicts over the past year? Is there anyone you need to forgive?

If you are in a Partnership Group, is it helping you to grow as a disciple?

Where is God calling you to serve and use your gifts? Are there opportunities to use them?

How do you partner with Jesus and Maybridge through my time and finances? What does it look like to view financial decisions as an act of worship?

Where are you supporting others? What can you do? Eg. Praying for people in my workplace for opportunities to begin faith conversations.

Who can you commit to pray for in the year ahead?

Who are the people you are specifically making time for to share my faith with?

For who and what are you praying to see God's power break in?

## Resources

### PRAYER

#### Lectio 365 App

A free daily devotional app that helps you pray the Bible every day.  
[24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365](https://24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365)

#### Inner Room App

Turn your phone into an 'Inner Room' to help you pray.

[innerroom.app](https://innerroom.app)

### DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

#### Spiritual Health Checker

Thoughtfully examine your own life and identify next steps in your discipleship to Jesus.

[practictheway.org/reflection](https://practictheway.org/reflection)

#### Follow Course

A video-based discipleship course.

[jubilee-plus.org/follow](https://jubilee-plus.org/follow)

#### Practicing the Way (Book)

John Mark Comer

#### Emotionally Healthy (Book) Spirituality

Pete Scazzero

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS & FINANCE

#### Spiritual Gifts Survey

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts with a survey from LifeWay [maybridge.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Spiritual\\_Gifts\\_List-Assessment.pdf](https://maybridge.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Spiritual_Gifts_List-Assessment.pdf)

#### CAP Life Skills

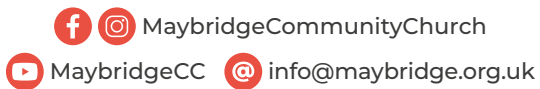
Join the next course.

[maybridge.org.uk/cap](https://maybridge.org.uk/cap)

#### Guide to Giving

Guide from Stewardship

[stewardship.org.uk/resource/guide-to-giving-18-30s](https://stewardship.org.uk/resource/guide-to-giving-18-30s)



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