

# IMMANUEL CHURCH BRENTWOOD

## OUR MISSION AS A CHURCH

*“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ” (Colossians 1:28).*

### YOUR MISSION

God **sends out individual Christian people** into the world. And He calls each one of us to serve Him each day in different places and in different relationships. We’re to serve Him in our work or study, in marriage and family life, in the local community and elsewhere. We’re to serve him as we go about ordinary activities or as we respond to special needs and opportunities that the Lord sends our way.

We can think of this as our personal mission. It takes in the whole of life. What it looks like in practice will vary from person to person. And it matters greatly to God.

### THE MISSION OF IMMANUEL CHURCH BRENTWOOD

The Lord also **gathers individual Christians together as members of local churches**. A local church is simply a gathering together of Christian people where God’s Word is taught and believed, and where the Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are offered according to Jesus’ command.

And to each local church the Lord gives this special task: to be “the pillar and foundation of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Here at Immanuel we can’t do everything – and nor should we try. But our core business to which God calls us is to hold up and to hold out the good news of Jesus. We’ve tried to sum up what God wants us to do and how he wants us to do it. As a church we have:

<b>ONE AIM:</b>	<b>TO BRING GLORY TO GOD</b>
<b>TWO TOOLS:</b>	<b>THE BIBLE AND PRAYER</b>
<b>THREE TASKS:</b>	<b>TO REACH, TO BUILD AND TO TRAIN</b>

We trust that this short mission statement is faithful to Scripture, simple and memorable (it’s as easy to remember as 1-2-3). But what does it mean?

### ONE AIM

- **To bring glory to God**

*“Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness” (Psalm 115:1).*

Above all we desire to bring glory to God and not to ourselves. Our God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is utterly glorious in who He is and in what He has done. So, we want to be a church that makes much of Him and little of ourselves. We want to be God-centred in our meetings and ministries and in the way we relate to one another. And we want to spur one another on to live God-centred lives in the world.

### TWO TOOLS

- **The Bible**

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16).*

We want to faithfully teach God’s Word, through which the Spirit works. We believe that God works in power through His word the Bible, both to save people and to build them up as followers of Jesus. So, as a church we are committed to Bible-teaching and Bible-believing. We want to be Bible-centred in our meetings and ministries and in the way we encourage one another. And we want to help church members to be Bible-driven people in everyday life.

- **Prayer**

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful” (Colossians 4:2).*

We want to pray persistently because we depend on God for all things. We are weak and sinful, yet our all-powerful heavenly Father graciously works in response to his children’s prayers. So, we want to pray for one another, for the wider world, and for our church. We want to be prayerful in our meetings and ministries and in our relationships with one another. And we want to encourage church members to be praying people in everyday life.

### **THREE TASKS**

- **Reach**

*“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Romans 10:14).*

We want to tell as many people as possible the glorious news of Jesus. So, we want to give ourselves as a church to preaching Christ and reaching out to the lost, not just in Brentwood but elsewhere in the UK and overseas. In our meetings and ministries we want to help outsiders understand why the gospel is both good and true. And we want to equip church members to live godly lives out in the world and to speak of their eternal hope in Jesus.

- **Build**

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).*

We want to make progress as disciples of Jesus. So, through Bible-teaching, prayer and mutual encouragement we try to build one another up. In our meetings and ministries we pursue spiritual maturity. In our relationships we aim to speak the truth in love, provide practical care and pray for one another. And we want to help members think Biblically about the whole of life (e.g. work, education, marriage, family, mission), making use of help from likeminded partner-churches and organisations where appropriate.

- **Train**

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2).*

We want to train church members to be useful servants of Jesus. We want to play our part in the work of multiplying Bible-teachers and churches. So, in our meetings and ministries we want to equip Christians to understand and teach the Bible, deploying godly and gifted people within Immanuel and sending out some to serve Christ further afield.

### **HOW CAN I PLAY MY PART?**

When a Christian receives God’s grace in Christ he or she is brought individually into a relationship with the Lord. They are also drawn together with other Christians in the church.

Together we need everyone who belongs to this local church of Immanuel to understand the blessings and commitments of being active, cheerful and maturing followers of Christ. It means a lot to us that we are part of God’s family. By his grace we are a team – a band of pilgrims and workers, not tourists and spectators. How might you play your part?