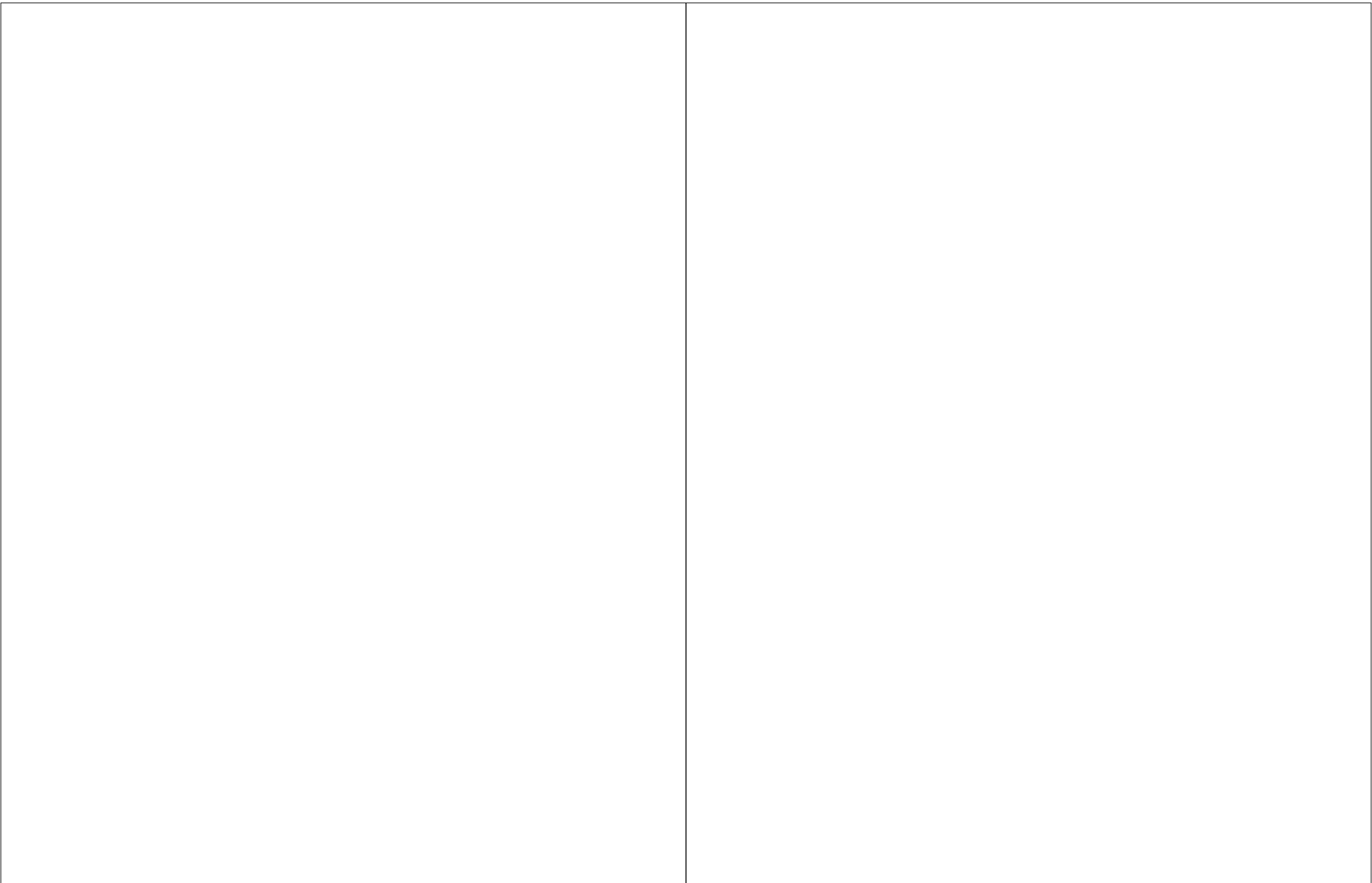


Welcome

to

Bryn Independent Methodist  
Church



## Nice to Meet You

Whether this is your first time with us or if you have visited us before, we extend to you a very warm welcome to our church.

The aim of this booklet is to introduce ourselves and to help you feel at ease while you are worshipping with us.

You'll find plenty of information about our church, what we believe, how we organise ourselves and how we aim to help others in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask any member of the congregation. If they don't have the answer they will know somebody who does and introduce you.

Please don't be shy in introducing yourself. We are here to help and encourage one another in every way we can.

We hope your time with us is enjoyable and spiritually uplifting.

If you feel you have benefited from your visit, please come again and tell a friend. If there is anything you feel could be improved, then please tell us.

May God bless you richly.

## Couple of Important Points

### Meaning of the Cross

As you pass through the church gates, and in many places around the building you will see a cross. The reason is that it was on a Roman cross of crucifixion that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died to pay the penalty for all the wrongdoing in the world.

Of course that was not the end. Jesus Christ returned from the dead, a fact we remember on Easter Sunday. His death and resurrection are the embodiment of God's love for all men and they are at the core of what we believe.

### Authority of the Bible

Inside the church, many of the walls are adorned with banners carrying Bible quotations and Christian truths. We call them Banners of Truth and they demonstrate our commitment to the Bible as the only source of knowledge about God and the right way we should worship and serve Him.

## In the Rest of this Booklet

What we Believe .....	4
Statement of Belief.....	5
Vision Statement.....	6
Simple Way of Salvation.....	7
How We Organise Ourselves.....	9
Baptism.....	9
Communion.....	10
Membership.....	11
Opportunities for Service.....	11
Leadership.....	12
Regular Meetings of the Church.....	13
Sunday - Worship Services.....	14
Monday - Banner Team.....	15
Tuesday - Mother and Toddler Group.....	15
Wednesday - Ladies Meeting.....	15
Thursday - Kingdom Kids Club.....	15
Friday - Bible Study / Prayer Meeting.....	16
Saturday - Men's Prayer Meeting.....	16
Saturday - Monthly Men's Meeting.....	16
Further Information.....	17
Notes.....	18

## What we Believe

When it comes to who or what you worship or where you may spend the rest of eternity, it is important to know what you believe and the basis on which you are building your life.

As an Independent Methodist Church, we are part of a mainline Christian denomination and have close relationships with churches of other traditions in the immediate area such as Baptist, Church of England, Free Evangelical and others.

In common with these other churches, we believe that a right relationship with God is essential for living life to the full and that includes having right relationships with everyone else.

Whilst we cannot detail everything we believe about God in these few pages, the following is a list of the teachings we hold to be true.

## Statement of Belief

- We believe in One God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that salvation from the power and penalty of sin is possible only through the death of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay the price for our sins and bring us back to God.
- We believe that all people need to be “born again” by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that individuals avail themselves of salvation by putting their trust in Jesus Christ alone so that their lives become a continuous act of faith in God’s grace and mercy.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, from where we look forward to His return in power and glory.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of a godly life in Christians and that He equips individuals with gifts for building up the church.
- We believe in the divine inspiration and authority of the Bible, which is God's unchanging word to all generations.

## Vision Statement

As a church, we are not content to merely sit and allow life to “happen” to us or, even worse, to pass us by.

We believe there is a purpose behind everyone’s life as an individual, which is linked to the corporate purpose for our local church.

We have attempted to formulate our vision for the church and, although we often fall short, it is the aim of all our activities.

Our vision is for Bryn Independent Methodist Church to be:

- A place where people gather together to worship God in a truly meaningful way that can be described as worship in Spirit and truth
- A place where people come to trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and grow to maturity in Him
- A place where every believer demonstrates a deep personal commitment and strong desire for fellowship with the Lord and His people, through prayer and studying God’s Word.
- A warm, loving fellowship where everyone is welcome and befriended, and where there is a spirit of peace, unity and pulling together
- A place where all believers are aware of their spiritual gifts and are encouraged to use their gifts for the Lord’s glory and strengthening of fellow believers
- A positive influence in the local community resulting in a deep impact on society

## Simple Way of Salvation

There are many voices telling you what you need to do to be “saved”. It is not our purpose here to refute any of those voices but only to present the simple statements from the Bible on this important subject.

- **Salvation is vital for everyone – the alternative is unthinkable**

*For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18)*

- **The root of man’s problem is Sin – essentially disobeying God’s commands**

*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)*

*Even as through one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed on all men inasmuch as all sinned (Romans 5:12)*

- **The process of salvation starts when you are concerned about your sin – the Bible calls it Conviction**

*He (God's Holy Spirit) will convict the world concerning sin, and concerning righteousness, and concerning judgment (John 16:8)*

- **You may try to reform yourself - but all your efforts will be futile**

*By the works of the Law none of all flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20)*

- **God offers Salvation as a free gift – that’s Grace at work on an immense scale**

*By grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)*

- **First we need to renounce sin – hate our disobedience and accept that God knows best**

*The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God draws near. Repent, and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15)*

- **Then we need to own up to God – We need to confess our faults to Him**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)*

- **We must then trust God for His grace – ask Him to forgive us – and He will**

*We had the sentence of death in ourselves, so that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead (2 Corinthians 1:9)*

- **But we must be sincere in our turnaround – accepting God’s ways means making Him Lord of our lives**

*You call Me Teacher, and Lord, and you say well, for I am (John 13:13)*

*Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philemon 2:11)*

That is the start of something big – really big. Think about it – free from guilt, related to God, completely new direction for your life. Life is altogether new and you can expect some major changes to take place.

This is the briefest of explanations of how you can know God’s salvation – essentially how you become a Christian – a disciple of Jesus Christ. If you would like to talk this through with someone then please ask to speak with one of our leaders who will be only too happy to spend time helping to explain things better.

## How We organise ourselves

In practice, many of the Bible's teachings can be expressed in a variety of ways, which can sometimes result in confusion for visitors.

Although the approaches described here are by no means absolutes, they represent our "normal" practice, which we believe to be in keeping with truth, to the extent it is revealed in God's Word – the Bible.

### Baptism

We believe in practising the mode of baptism often described as "believer's baptism" by total immersion in water.

We do not believe that anyone becomes a Christian through baptism. The only way of salvation is by repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. However, once we are saved, the Bible teaches that the act of baptism symbolises our association with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

It was by the will of God that Jesus Christ was crucified (and thereby paid the penalty for our sin). It was by the power of God that Jesus Christ was resurrected to new life. In effect, when we are saved God works a similar miracle in our lives - the change is that profound. Baptism represents that death and miraculous new life. We believe baptism is an outward sign of an inward commitment of the heart. By being baptised we are giving witness to our testimony of what God has done for us - we give witness to the death of our old life and the start of a new life in Jesus Christ.

We do not practise infant baptism. However, parents who request that their child be "Christened" are offered a service of dedication at which they are able to express promises that accord with their own Christian commitment.

## Communion

We regularly celebrate Communion (sometimes referred to as 'Breaking of Bread', the 'Lord's Table' or the 'Sacrament') each month and at various other times throughout the year.

This celebration is of particular significance as a time when we remember the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ as the supreme demonstration of God's love for us and the means by which the penalty for our sins has been paid.

We regularly celebrate Communion during the evening service on the last Sunday of each month.

We also have dedicated Communion services before the Sunday morning service on the first Sunday of the year, Easter Sunday, Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday and Church Anniversary Sunday.

Members of the church who are unable to attend our normal services can also request that Communion be celebrated in their homes.

Anyone who professes salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is welcome to join with us in these celebratory services. However, everyone is reminded of the importance of having a clear conscience before God and men, so that they can participate in the service in a "worthy" manner.

## Membership

It is not necessary to become a member of the church in order to share in worship or most other church activities. However, we believe that only those who are clearly committed to the work of the church should be able to participate in Members' Meetings at which issues concerning the church and its ministry are discussed and decisions made.

Anyone desiring membership should have been in regular fellowship with us for at least a year and have demonstrated their commitment to Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord, their commitment to the vision and beliefs of this church and their commitment to its members and leadership.

In line with these principles of commitment, requests for membership are prayerfully considered by the leaders before being brought to a Church Members' meeting for confirmation.

## Opportunities for Service

We believe that the Holy Spirit guides and equips all those who are born again to serve God in the place to which they are led to worship and fellowship.

There are some activities (e.g. musical) that need specific skills, and others that call for more than usual devotion, care or humility. Some ministries are continuous, whereas others may only be called upon under particular circumstances. In all cases, work that is undertaken out of love and devotion to God and His people never goes unrewarded.

Whatever your gifting there is always an opportunity to use it in the service of the Lord. If you would like to discuss your particular circumstances then please ask to speak with one of the leaders.

## Leadership

As an Independent Methodist Church we do not believe in a paid ministry or any distinction between leadership and laity. We encourage every member to minister in the church according to the spiritual gifts that are distributed by the Holy Spirit to all believers, as He determines.

In accordance with these principles, we have a small leadership team who are appointed from the church's membership and they are supported by other church members who are appointed to specific offices in the church.

Issues concerning the church and its ministry are brought to monthly Members' Meetings for prayerful consideration and decision.

For convenience you will find the names of our current leaders on the back cover of this booklet.

## Regular Meetings of the Church

For the most part, the life of the church is built around regular meetings, when those who are seeking to know more about God gather together.

The times of most meetings and services are published on the notice board and in the church weekly bulletin. You are encouraged to arrive on time if at all possible, and preferably a few minutes early so that you have an opportunity to quieten your spirit before the start of the meeting.

Children are a great blessing to families and to the church. There are meetings that are designed specifically for children, the most notable being:

- Sunday - Morning Service
- Tuesday - Mother and Toddler Group
- Thursday - Kingdom Kids Club

Children are also welcome at our other meetings and we encourage them to attend from an early age, though we understand that sometimes it is difficult for younger children to understand what is going on and for them to maintain concentration.

On the following pages we have listed the meetings that generally occur at the same time each week. Where there are variations or additional events, they are usually included in the weekly bulletin or are announced at the Sunday services.

More detailed information is available on our website about all occasions when the church meets together:

[www.bryn-im.org](http://www.bryn-im.org)

## Sunday - Worship Services

Our main Sunday Services are:

- Morning - 11:00 am
- Evening - 6:00 pm

The morning service specifically caters for the whole family and everyone is welcome, regardless of age. We start with a time of corporate worship, after which the children leave the main service to attend their own groups, whilst the main congregation remains for the sermon.

For those with very young children there is a crèche facility available.

The evening service follows a similar pattern to the morning. There are no special facilities for the children in the evening service, although all ages are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Following the evening service, there is a further opportunity for young adults to meet together for supper, followed by a time of discussion around biblical passages and themes.

On the last Sunday in each month, we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Communion) after the regular evening service and occasionally prior to the morning service. All true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are invited to join us in this celebration.

After the meeting, if you have to get away promptly that's just fine. If you have a few minutes to spare, however, you won't find a warmer or friendlier group of people anywhere.

It's a great time to make new friends and to cement older friendships.

## Monday - Banner Team

A small team of men and women meet on an occasional basis to produce the banners that hang from the walls in various parts of the building.

Apart from their obvious decorative appearance, they have an important spiritual purpose in that they have a unique ability to draw the attention of church visitors to important biblical truths.

Please ask if you would like further information about this ministry.

## Tuesday - Mother and Toddler Group

During term time, we have a Mother and Toddler Group that meets in the church at 10:30am. This is a happy social occasion for parents and very young children. We have another group that meets on a Friday morning. Parents and children are welcome at either or both Groups.

## Wednesday - Ladies Meeting

The ladies meet every other Wednesday afternoon at 2:00pm.

Meetings are devotional, usually with a visiting speaker.

## Thursday - Kingdom Kids Club

During term time at 6:00pm, Kingdom Kids Club is for younger children and often attracts those who are unable to join us on a Sunday morning.

## Friday - Bible Study / Prayer Meeting

Friday evening at 7:30pm is a time for everyone who delights in studying the Bible and prayer. Alternate weeks are usually devoted to either study or prayer, though we sometimes vary this arrangement.

We consider these meetings to be of vital importance to the spiritual wellbeing of the church as a whole and the individual believers who worship and serve in this place.

## Saturday - Men's Prayer Meeting

Every Saturday morning at 8:00am is when the men gather in prayer to uphold the people and work of the church.

## Saturday - Monthly Men's Meeting

The men from the churches at Bryn Cross meet together on a monthly basis.

The format of meetings alternates between:

- A morning of ministry and fellowship, starting with breakfast
- A time of fellowship together in leisure pursuits such as walks.

## Further Information

If you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to ask anyone. If they don't know the answer, they almost certainly know somebody else who does.

You can also find times of our services on the notice board at the front of the church building.

Information about what is planned for the current week is published in our weekly bulletin sheet. If you haven't received one, then please ask as you are leaving.

Finally, more detailed information is available on-line at our website at [www.bryn-im.org](http://www.bryn-im.org)

## Notes



LEADERS:

Brenda Dykes  
Norma Benson  
Alan Bridge

More information on our website - [www.bryn-im.org](http://www.bryn-im.org)