

## Financial Support for the Work of our Community

We also encourage members to consider making a regular payment to the church, either through a standing order, the Gift Aid envelope scheme, or by contributing to the weekly cash collection during the Sunday service. The financial commitment of members is vitally important for the ongoing well-being of this congregation. Regular donations help us to pay our staff, maintain the building, and budget to plan for future community projects.

### Standing Order

Please fill in the information below if you would like to set up a donation by standing order.

I would like to donate by Standing Order to Essex Church.

<b>Name of your bank:</b>
<b>Address of your bank:</b>
<b>Name(s) of account holder(s):</b>
<b>Your sort code number:</b>
<b>Your bank account number:</b>

**My monthly/quarterly/annual gift is:** £ \_\_\_\_\_ **Start date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Instructions to bank/building society:*

*Church account name: Essex Church (Congregation) Account number: 00004217 Sort code: 40-52-40*

*Bank address: CAFCASH Ltd., Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA.*

### Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer please complete the section below as it enables us to reclaim tax on all donations that you make to Essex Church. We need to have a record of the donation. Coins dropped into the collection cannot be traced as having been given by you but if a subscription envelope is used they can. Cheques and standing orders are also very welcome.

*I would like my contributions to Essex Church from the date of this declaration to be treated as Gift Aid and confirm that I am a UK tax payer. I understand that I must have paid an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax you reclaim on my donations.*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for your generosity and your commitment to Essex Church!

# Kensington Unitarians

## Becoming a Member of Essex Church: 2010



*We are here to share our experiences, to learn from each other, to explore our diverse faiths, to welcome spiritual seekers and offer companionship on life's journey.*

[www.kensington-unitarians.org.uk](http://www.kensington-unitarians.org.uk)

Are you considering membership of our church? This guide can help you decide if membership is right for you...

## We Welcome New Members!

When you feel that this is your spiritual home, and you no longer view yourself as a visitor, we invite you to think about becoming a member of Essex Church. New members bring new ideas, new skills, and new energy to our congregation, further strengthening our diverse community.

## First Steps

Before applying for membership of our congregation, we request that you attend our services and other events over a period of three months. There are several small groups that meet on a regular basis to connect on a more personal level than at coffee hour or during the Sunday service. Please come and visit us as often as you can so that you get to know us, participate in various church activities, and determine if this community is right for you.

## The Meaning of Membership

Membership indicates that you are in agreement with the community's Unitarian ethos. Ours is a non-creedal religion. This does not mean that members are without religious belief but that each person is free to define their own faith. This view of religion is founded in our Unitarian principles, which emphasize free inquiry and respect for the beliefs of others. We do not ask our members to accept a particular doctrine: our diverse community brings together theists, humanists, agnostics and those who have come from many different paths. We support and encourage each individual's religious and spiritual growth as we share in life's journey together.

## Benefits of Membership:

- Members get support from our minister and free access to rites of passage.
- Members are entitled to influence decision-making in our community by:
  - Voting at the church Annual General Meeting.
  - Standing for office on the management committee.
- Members are also entitled to vote in the Unitarian GA Executive Committee elections.
- Members create the foundation of all of the work of the church: enjoy the warm glow which comes from knowing you are supporting our many activities in the community!

## Responsibilities of Membership:

- Attend and participate in church activities as often as you are able.
- Contribute financially, as you are able, to support the work of our community.
- Get involved in the life of the congregation, as you are able, for example by:
  - Helping with stewarding/coffee/flowers on Sunday morning.
  - Taking part in the planning and leading of worship.
  - Participating in small groups and religious education workshops.
  - Helping with maintenance of the church garden and building.
  - Attending district and denominational events in the wider Unitarian movement.

## How to Join Us/Renew Your Membership

In order to become a member, we ask you to fill in this application form, and to return it to the minister along with your membership subscription. We also ask all members to re-affirm their membership annually by filling in this form. Applications go to the church committee for approval prior to a formal welcome into the congregation at a simple membership ceremony. We hold a special membership service once a year at which the commitment of both new and long-standing members to the community is celebrated.

The membership subscription of **£40** covers the quota payment that we make to the central Unitarian GA organisation on behalf of each registered member of the congregation and the cost of producing and posting the church newsletter, which is normally sent out 10 times a year. If you would like to receive our newsletter, and support our congregation without becoming a full member, consider becoming a "Friend of Kensington Unitarians" for a subscription of £16.

*Please do contact our minister if you have any difficulty with the membership subscription.  
We welcome new members and intend that financial considerations should not prevent anybody from joining.*

<b>Name:</b>
<b>Address:</b>
<b>Telephone (daytime):</b>
<b>Telephone (evening):</b>
<b>Telephone (mobile):</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>

<b>I would like to be a member/friend of Kensington Unitarians</b> <i>(delete as applicable).</i>	
<b>I enclose a cheque for £40 / £16 / other amount</b> _____ <i>(made payable to "Essex Church").</i>	
<b>I give permission for my contact details to be held on a church database</b> <i>(please tick).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>I give permission for my details to be circulated on a members' contact list</b> <i>(please tick).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>I would like to receive occasional emails notifying me of church news/events</b> <i>(please tick).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>I am interested in further information about getting more involved in</b> <i>(circle as applicable):</i>
Stewarding and coffee – Worship – Small group activities – Children's/ youth activities Gardening and building maintenance – Management – Unitarian denomination

<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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*Please return this form to our minister, Rev. Sarah Tinker.  
Kensington Unitarians, Essex Church, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace, Notting Hill Gate, London W8 4RT.*