Taunton Baptist Church

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Taunton Baptist Church Ethos Statement

1. Our Christian identity

We are a community of Christians who seek to worship God, grow in our understanding and experience of God, share the good news about Jesus Christ and work for the common good. Our Christian identity, our Baptist commitment, and our agreed beliefs and values shape all that we do.

2. Our Baptist foundation

We affirm the Baptist Union of Great Britain's Declaration of Principle.

1. That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.

2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who 'died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried and rose again the third day'.

3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

3. Our vision and values

Our purpose is to preach the Gospel, equip people and strengthen the Church, helping disciples to live out a Gospel-centred faith, hope and love, to the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

Faith – preaching the Gospel: We proclaim Jesus Christ faithfully and invite people to discover living faith in Him, hope in His Kingdom and the transforming love of God shown through the cross and resurrection.

Hope – equipping people: We help believers grow through Scripture, prayer and discipleship, and seek to express God's love through service, holiness, courage and everyday Christian witness.

Love – strengthening the Church: We encourage churches to stand firm in faith, live with hope and express Christ's love through fellowship, mission and evangelism.

4. Our theological convictions

Marriage. We believe that sexual intimacy belongs within marriage and that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Women in leadership. We believe that women and men are equal in personhood and that God calls and affirms both women and men to a wide range of roles, including church leadership.

Sex and gender. We understand the Bible to teach that God created man and woman and that a person's gender identity is God-given and assigned at birth.

Sexual orientation and same-sex marriage. We believe that sexual orientation, in itself, is not a barrier to full participation in church life. However, we believe that sexual relationships are to be expressed within marriage, which we recognise as being between a man and a woman. Consistently with this theological position, people who are not celibate outside marriage or who are in a same-sex marriage are not appointed to leadership positions in the church.

Marriage and divorce. We believe that divorce or remarriage is not necessarily a barrier to church leadership or full participation in church life.

Our welcome is for everyone, including those who may struggle with our theological convictions, as we are called to live graciously in the community of Christ regardless of our differences.

August 2026