

Church Terms Of Reference, Constitution and Policy

Name: The name of the Church will continue as **“Thundersley Christian Spiritualist Church”**

Terms of Reference

The Church is established to promote the teachings of Christian Spiritualism demonstrated by Jesus Christ during his earthly mission. In furtherance of this objective the Church accepts the Principles of the Christian Spiritualist Society International as follows:-

We believe in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of all Life.

We teach that each individual is personally responsible for all actions, deeds, be they good or bad.

That any wrong doing can only be corrected by the individual concerned.

That eternal progress is open to every soul.

We accept the teachings and example, which was demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

That we will at all times try to live by that example.

We believe that communion with the Spirit World is possible, that Spirit Teachers and Healers return to the earth conditions, to provide help for those who stand in need.

The Church will at all times seek to achieve its objectives by:-

- (i) Holding Divine Services of Worship on Sundays and other such days, which will be from time to time determined. At each Divine Service the officers of the church committee will cause a text from the Bible to be read.
- (ii) Providing a Spiritual environment for those seeking enlightenment.
- (iii) Further the work of the Healing Ministry of Jesus Christ by providing Spiritual Healing by Healers appointed by officers of the Church Committee and Trustees.
- (iv) Providing a safe and caring environment with teaching of the highest standard for those seeking to develop their Spiritual gifts towards serving humanity.
- (v) Promoting the work and beliefs of the Church through papers, Internet content and events.

The Constitution

1. Appointment of the Church Committee

The Trustees, having regard for the spiritual welfare of all concerned, will appoint a Committee of the Church who will be responsible to the said Trustees for the running of the Church in keeping with the points mentioned above. If at any time the Trustees have grounds for reservations with regard to the way in which the Committee discharge their duties, they may, if they consider it necessary for the benefit of the Church, cancel their appointment.

2. Appointment of the Church Officers

The Trustees will appoint members of the Church to serve on the Committee. These positions will be known as ‘Officers of the Church’ and will be separate to the Trustees. Meetings will be arranged between Committee and Trustees from time to time to ensure good communication.

3. The Church Committee

The Committee will be equally responsible for managing the running of the Church, with the agreement and support of the Trustees. They may by agreement take specific jobs within the Committee, but all positions will be equal in status.

New Committee/ replacements to the Committee will be nominated by the Committee Members by democratic vote and recommended to the Trustees for appointment.

The Committee Members will serve for two years before review by the trustees.

A minimum of four members of the Committee will be needed to form a quorum.

The names of the Trustees and Committee Members will be displayed in Church.

The Trustees will meet at least twice a year, and a copy of the minutes of the meetings will be given to the Committee.

4. Membership of the Church

Any person who enters the Church may consider themselves a member of the family of Thundersley Christian Spiritualist Church. This will not entitle voting rights. However, their comments and or concerns they may desire to put forward will be reviewed by the Committee at their next meeting.

5. Meeting of the Church Committee

Quarterly meetings of the Church Committee will be arranged by the Church Secretary in order to discuss the business of the Church. Members of the Church Committee who wish to call an extraordinary or special meeting for a specific purpose and in addition to the Committee's current business should address this need through the Church Secretary in the first instance.

Minutes of the Committee will be formally recorded, with copies to the Committee members, to the Trustees and a copy placed on the notice board for at least two consecutive Sundays.

6. Annual General Meetings

The Church Committee will cause an Annual General Meeting to be held with a formal agenda in November of each year to offer their report and whatever topic it considers necessary to be raised for discussion and the Trustees approval.

7. Alterations to the Constitution.

Any alterations to this constitution may only be made following approval by the Trustees and presented at an extraordinary meeting of the Committee.

THE CHURCH POLICY

The Thundersley Christian Spiritualist Church holds regular Christian Spiritual meetings attended by visiting mediums, who make the opening address and demonstrate evidence of continued spiritual life after physical death.

The Divine Sunday Service will also include prayers, hymns and a reading from The Bible. All services will be opened and closed in prayer.

Four of these meetings per year are family participating services. There is no clairvoyance at these meetings and willing participants are welcome to volunteer to take part, with music, reading a poem, a scripture or sharing a spiritual experience, appropriate to the theme of the occasion.

A short service of Holy Communion will be held once a month.

Conducting Services.

The Church is available by prior consent of the Trustees, after review by the Committee, to perform Weddings, Christenings, Funerals and other religious services. It is a requirement for conducting weddings at all times to have present an authorised person or additional authorised person from the Church to meet the Church's legal commitments.

Normally, services are planned and conducted by the Committee members. Trustees may be permitted to chair a service.

Requests by Non-committee members or trustees to perform services will be reviewed by Committee and Trustees, after details of the service to be performed have been considered. A full member of the Committee or Trustees should be in attendance at all times during these services.

The Church may also by agreement from the Church Committee endorsed by the Trustees, be used for: - groups for personal development in line with the Christian Spiritual beliefs of the Thundersley Christian Spiritualist Church. That includes development circles, special community "Christian Spiritual" activities and talks. A full member of the Committee or Trustees should be in attendance at all times.

Fees and Donations

The Church Policy requires no membership fees.

As set out in objective (i) above, the Church will hold a free-of-charge Divine service on a weekly basis during which donations may be given as a free will offering.

All fees and donations, obtained within the Church building, excluding reasonable expenses, must be used only for the running of the Church Organisation.

All events and activities within the Church building must be in accordance with the beliefs and objectives stated above.

Whilst donated items to the Church are gratefully accepted, items cannot be placed or replaced without Committee and Trustee agreement. This also applies to the Church gardens and grounds. Any form of memorial has to be agreed by the Committee and Trustees.

For Weddings and other special services held within the church, the building and the celebrant is provided by the Church, and request a minimum donation of £100 to the Church funds. Flower arrangements and other special arrangements, when agreed by the Church, must be paid for by those requesting the service. Some recorded music is available. If the requesters prefer to hire an Organist, this will be a private arrangement, to be agreed with the Church beforehand, that they must pay for independently. However, it should be noted that the Church does not own any musical instruments.

Training of Healers and Insurance

The Church has a policy of People Development and will provide funding (subject to Committee agreement endorsed by the Trustees) for Church members who wish to develop their healing abilities for work in the Church. However, Training can only be undertaken following their successful application to H.P.A.I, membership confirmation to proceed, and training manuals received.

The Church, if required, on application to The Treasurer may fund insurance of healers approved to work in the Church.

Funding by the Church for training and insurance strictly applies to carrying out healing practice authorised at the Church or under the Church's pre- agreed authority. Healers working outside the Church must arrange and fund their own registration, training costs and personal protection insurance.

The Committee

The Committee members are those members of the Church appointed by the board of Trustees.

New Members of the Committee.

Applications or invitees are considered by the Committee Members and on agreement are recommended to the Trustees to join the committee.

New members will serve a probationary period of one year to become a full member of the Committee

Committee Decisions

The Committee work as a team to manage the Church business. Individual members do not have the authority to make decisions without it being put to the team, and endorsed by the Trustees when appropriate (to the policy and rules of the Church).

For decisions required between Committee Meetings or of an important nature, a Quorate Meeting should be arranged. (Consisting of enough people to make a quorum, four full members of Committee) Communication by email is also encouraged to ensure that all Committee Members and Trustees are kept fully informed of all issues relevant to the Church. Those without email should receive printed copies to keep them updated.

Trustees

Trustees under the Constitution and Terms of reference have the authority to appoint or dismiss Committee members, where their actions, activities or conduct is prejudiced to the principles or codes of the Christian Spiritual Church.

The Trustees will be kept informed in a timely manner of Committee "Church Management" decisions, to receive copies of Committee minutes or changes in Church routine.

Access to Trustees.

The Committee members must be afforded access to the Trustees, within a reasonable time to discuss and obtain approval of Committee issues, which should rightfully involve the Trustees, according to the policy and codes of the Christian Spiritualist Church.

Church Workers.

The Trustees are responsible for the building maintenance and grounds (garden, driveway access etc.) The Committee are responsible for the running of the Church, cleaning, flower arrangements and reporting incidents to the Trustees.

For safety reasons, anyone wishing to work in the Church alone must telephone one of the other Church members to say they are in the building and telephone to say they have left the building. The only exception is if it is immediately before a service.

Key holders.

Church keys will only be issued to trustees and Committee members, where necessary.