

Partnering with Cornerstone Elim Church



Cornerstone Elim Church, High Street, Silverdale,
Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 6LY.
Email: hello@elim.family
Website: www.elim.family

Welcome message

Hello, and thank you for your interest in discovering more about partnership at Cornerstone Elim. We do hope that the following material will give you the necessary information to assist you to make the right decision.

The Bible says that Jesus is building His Church. We believe that for this to happen, strong healthy churches need to be established which express the love and power of Jesus to their community. God has called us to be a church which serves North Staffordshire and the nations of the world.

A strong Church is only built when people come together to commit themselves to Jesus and to one another with all their heart and soul. This is what Cornerstone Elim is all about.

Becoming a partner is more than a formality, but rather a spiritual decision. Although every person who receives salvation through Jesus Christ becomes a member of the family of God, the partnership process is designed to lead individuals from church attenders to participating partners, wherein they become actively involved in building the body of Christ at Cornerstone Elim.

New member's evenings are held regularly when Pastors and Leaders will explain all that is involved in membership at Cornerstone Elim, and time will be given to ask questions. There is no pressure on you. We are pleased that you are giving time to ask God if Cornerstone Elim should be your home.

Hopefully as you read through this booklet, you'll get the answers you need about Partnering with us.

1. What is Elim?

Founded in the county of Monaghan, Ireland, in 1915, the ELIM Pentecostal Church, the legal name "Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance", grew with amazing rapidity as a result of the great evangelistic crusades of George Jeffries, its Founder. Elim has approximately 600 churches in the UK and Ireland and is in over 60 countries worldwide. The Elim Pentecostal Church is part of that unique worldwide Pentecostal Movement which at the beginning of the century numbered a few thousand, but now has, including the charismatic movement, some 600,000,000 adherents (Annual statistical table on global missions 1997). Pentecostal Christians believe that, because of its spontaneous uprising in every country in the world, the Pentecostal Movement is the fulfilment of the Bible prophecies that God would pour out in the last days His Holy Spirit on all mankind.

The name ELIM is taken from the book of Exodus where we read that the Israelites "came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water, and three score and ten palm trees; and they encamped there by the water" Exodus 15:27. This oasis in the wilderness is a fitting symbol for a church which preached a message of rest and refreshing, salvation and healing for body, soul and spirit in the wilderness of this world.

To find out more about Elim check out www.elim.org

2. What we do believe? Elim's Foundational Truths

1. **The Bible:** We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error, the fully inspired and infallible Word of God and the supreme final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
2. **The Trinity:** We believe that the Godhead exists co-equally and co-eternally in three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and that these three are one God, sovereign in creation, providence and redemption.
3. **The Saviour:** We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His real and complete humanity, in His sinless life, in His authoritative teaching, in His substitutionary and atoning sacrifice through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and in His second advent to receive His church.
4. **The Holy Spirit:** We believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son and the necessity of His work in conviction of sin, repentance, regeneration and sanctification, and that the believer is also promised an enduement of power as the gift of Christ through the baptism in the Holy Spirit with signs following. Through this enduement the believer is empowered for fuller participation in the ministry of the Church, its worship, evangelism and service.
5. **Mankind:** We believe in the universal sinfulness of all men since the Fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
6. **Salvation:** We believe in the necessity for salvation of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by which the sinner is pardoned and accepted as righteous in God's sight. This justification is imputed by the grace of God because of the atoning work of Christ, is received by faith alone and is evidenced by the Fruit of the Spirit and a holy life.
7. **The Church:** We believe in the spiritual unity and the priesthood of all believers in Christ and that these comprise the universal Church, the Body of Christ.
8. **The Ministry:** We believe in the ministries that Christ has set in His Church, namely, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers and in the present operation of the manifold Gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the New Testament.
9. **The Ordinances:** We believe in the baptism of believers in water in obedience to the command of Christ and the commemoration of Christ's death by the observance of the Lord's Supper (communion) until His return.
10. **The Commission:** We believe that the Gospel embraces the needs of the whole man and that the Church is therefore commissioned to preach the Gospel to the world and to fulfil a ministry of healing and deliverance to the spiritual and physical needs of mankind.
11. **The Coming King:** We believe in the personal, physical and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in power and glory.
12. **The Future State:** We believe in the resurrection of the dead and in the final judgement of the world, the eternal conscious bliss of the righteous and the eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.

3. What is our Story?

Cornerstone Elim Church was established in the village in 1937. Over the last 70 years the congregation has grown considerably in size and impact. The Church was moved to its current location in 1979. We currently have 3 congregations based in Silverdale. Our Sunday Morning Congregation, 4 p.m. Congregation (with is conducted in Malayalam, Tamil and English) and our Chinese Fellowship (which conducts it's service in Mandarin) In September 2022, Burslem Elim Church will also come under the Cornerstone Elim umbrella.

The Church also has a strong community focus. In 2010, the church purchased The Cornerstone Community Centre with the aim of impacting and transforming our community. Then in 2016, it took on ownership of Cornerstone Knutton, another former youth centre in the next village.

Between the three sites, the church currently provides or hosts a parent and toddlers group, luncheon club, Slimming World classes, dance classes, older people's exercise group, youthwork, children's work, community café, computer clubs, Brownies, craft groups and other community groups. The two-community centres are also rented each Sunday by two independent church congregations. The church is also activity involved in four local schools.

Although the Church is based in Silverdale our catchment area is much larger and covers Silverdale, Parksite, Madeley, Keele, Westlands, Clayton, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, Penkhull, Hartshill, Wolstanton, Milehouse, Cross Heath, Knutton, Market Drayton and Chesterton.

4. Why do we exist?

'To raise up passionate and devoted followers of Jesus, who bring Jesus' hope and life to North Staffordshire and beyond.'

5. What is our Vision?

Make Disciples

At the heart of everything we do is our shared mission to plant the gospel of Jesus Christ: in a relevant way; in individual lives and communities; making life-long disciples in the North Staffordshire and beyond.

A disciple is more than just a church attender; disciples are prepared to submit their lives to the call and cause of Christ. Embedded in every sphere of society, they seek to live out their commitment in a real way within their communities.

Raise Leaders

We are committed to training, developing, and supporting leaders across our church and beyond, seeking to develop servant leaders who are committed to working on behalf of others and have a positive contribution to make in wider community life.

We are excited when we see men and women serving God to their fullest potential, and individual growth is always in the stretch; it is rarely comfortable, but always retrospectively satisfying.

We want to raise leaders who shape the future that God desires to see in our church, community and world.

Transform Communities

We want to see God's hope and light shining into the darkest and broken parts of our communities.

We desire to see our local communities and neighbourhoods transformed, flourishing and with renewed hope. We aim to do this practically by meeting the needs that we are equipped to and also partnering with other community groups, churches and authorities wherever we can.

Grow and Plant Churches

We are fully committed to our shared task of making the gospel of Jesus Christ known in individual lives and communities.

We aim to facilitate the Elim movement's ever-increasing and effective planting of churches worldwide.

As a local church, we aim to do this by partnering with other churches to launch fresh expressions of church in the towns and communities around North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent and beyond that do not have a Pentecostal witness.

Reach Nations

The Elim Movement aims to be an international disciple-making movement with strategies for church planting and leadership development in every nation.

We will support this through our continued focus on supporting (and eventually sending) missionaries and the promotion of the Church in the UK and overseas.

As a local church in North Staffordshire, we aim to continue to develop ways to reach out and connect with the diverse nationalities that reside in our area.

6. What are our values

At Cornerstone Elim we are building a culture that is built on these values:

Following Jesus – We are all on journey at different places with Jesus, seeking to become more like Him and do what He did.

Holy Spirit Empowered – seeking The Holy Spirit’s presence, gifts, holiness and transformation power.

Family Centred – we are a family, not an organisation or religion.

Visionary – daring to dream; never limiting God; raising aspirations.

Generous – with time, money and forgiveness

Torch Carriers – running our race and passing on the fire to our generation and those to come.

Committed – we seek to be committed to God, each other and our community.

7. Who’s Who?

1) Leadership Team

The Cornerstone Leadership team oversee Vision, Strategy, Governance, Accountability, Budgeting and Church Discipline

Our current Leadership Team is Ps. Jim Lowe (Lead Pastor), Ps. Praveen Jose (Associate Pastor), Malcolm Salt (Church Secretary), Christopher Moss (leader responsible for Safeguarding and policies), Chima Mordi, Brighton Mumvuri and Min He (Chinse Fellowship)

Our 4 p.m. Congregation, Chinese Fellowship and Burslem Congregation, also have a local leadership team.

2) Staff Team

The staff team oversee the day today running of the church along with volunteers:

Ps. Jim Lowe – Lead Pastor

Ps. Praveen Jose – Associate Pastor

Michelle Fahey - Children's and Families Coordinator

Kym Stewart – Admin and Finance Manager

Pauline Simpson – Luncheon Club Cook and Coordinator

Jeanette Kelly – Cleaner

Craig Hill - Cleaner

3) Key Leaders

We are currently in a process of setting up our Key Leaders Team. Each Key Leader will oversee department and ministries in the church.

7. How do we resource our mission?

Giving to the Lord and His work.

It is obvious from even quick reading of the Scriptures that God has a lot to say about money. Money itself is not evil. It is the LOVE of money that is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Jesus said that the way a man handled his money was an indication of whether he could be trusted with true spiritual riches (Luke 16: 10,11).

It is evident that in the Kingdom of God, money is important. God's servants need to be released from spending all their time in secular employment so that they can devote themselves fully to the work of ministry. Needs among the people of God are to be met. Those on low income are to be cared for. Church buildings need to be heated, maintained, etc. God's way of meeting those needs is through the giving of His people – it has been so in both the old and new testaments.

Let us look at some general New Testament principles.

“They gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own”
2 Corinthians 8:3

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves the cheerful giver”
2 Corinthians 9:7

“On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...”
1 Corinthians 16:2

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, press down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you”

Luke 6:38

We encourage our partners to give:

1. In proportion to our means
2. With willingness and cheerfulness
3. Systematically rather than haphazardly.
4. With faith, believing God will supply our needs as we give

In the Old Testament the Israelites gave a ‘tithe’ (a tenth) of their income for the support of religious leaders, the Levites, so that they could be free to concentrate on their Spiritual ministries in the tabernacle and in teaching the people of God.

Whilst tithing is not specifically commended in the New Testament, it does serve as a guide to the general level of giving that we should be considering. In days of financial difficulty, one may be tempted to not give, but God has established a principle of faith. “Give and it shall be given to you”

If you have any questions about giving or the use of money, please feel free to ask.

Tax Refunds- Gift Aid Scheme.

We have a gift aid scheme whereby the Church is able to recover tax paid by the donor on their gift (every £1 given is worth £1.28 to the Church).

Details of this may be obtained from the treasurer. If you are a tax payer, we would strongly encourage you to take advantage of these schemes. You can simply and privately make more cash available to the Church with the Tax Mans blessing.

In the Church here, the giving of the Lord’s people is used to:

- Pay the salaries of the employed pastors and staff
- Finance evangelistic and apostolic outreach at home and abroad
- Minister to those who have financial needs
- Maintain the church buildings and pay our mortgage
- Cover the cost of items such as stationary, postage heating, lighting, etc

From time to time we take up a special offering for specific purposes.

8. Why become a partner?

Being a Partner of Cornerstone Elim Church is a way of identifying yourself with our church and community where the church is situated, a local body of Christian, building of Christ's church. We use the term partner rather member. As partner means you share and take ownership of the mission. We all have membership cards for groups and organisation we signed up for but don't use.

Matthew 16:18 says: And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (New King James Version)

Becoming a partner indicates to us that God has placed you for the foreseeable future within the family we call church. It indicates that your intention in being a responsible and supportive part of the church family, helping others to achieve their potential.

Church partnership is open to those who have received Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord, been baptised in water by full immersion and are earnestly following Christ and who seek to live a Spirit-filled life, in acceptance of the Leadership and submission to the discipline of the local church.

As an Elim Pentecostal Church there are certain expectations of those applying for Partnership. These are:

- Be a born-again Christian
- Be aged 16 or over
- Have been in regular attendance at corporate worship for 3 months or more
- Not be a member of another church
- Not be involved in another religion or alternative spirituality
- Subscribe to and practice the truths outlined in the doctrinal basis of the Elim Pentecostal Churches of Great Britain
- Being fully supportive of the mission, objectives and vision of our church
- Being willing to submit to the godly counsel, instruction and discipline of our church, as expressed through our Senior Pastor and his leadership team
- Being committed to growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Being committed to regular attendance at our main Sunday service.
- Having a desire to live and uphold the values of Scripture by committing to a life that glorifies Jesus, avoiding any wilful sinful practices, as the Bible and our conscience forbid
- Committing time, talents and treasure, including regular financial giving of tithes and offerings and participation in voluntary service (ideally through involvement in one or more church teams).

9. Church and Leaderships Commitment to Our Church Partners

Leadership is not position, title or prestige, it is commitment to you in the following ways:

- Commitment to teach you the ways of the Lord
- Commitment to pray for you.
- Commitment to lovingly correct you, if necessary.
- Commitment to stand with you in times of need
- Commitment to love you.
- Commitment to help you find your place in the Body of Christ.

If you would like to become an official Partner of Cornerstone Elim Church, please fill in the Partners Cover on the back and return it to one of the Pastor or staff team. Or fill in the form online at www.elim.family/partnership

10. Partnership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Saviour and been baptised, and being in agreement with Elim's foundational Truths and the Cornerstone Elim Church Mission, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to partner with the Cornerstone Elim Church family. In doing so I commit myself to God and to the other Cornerstone Elim partners to do the following;

1. **I will protect the unity of my Church by**
 - a. acting in love toward other members
 - b. refusing to gossip
 - c. following leaders

"Live in complete harmony with each other- each with the attitude of Christ towards each other".

Romans 15:5

2. **I will Share the responsibility of the Church by**
 - a. praying for its growth
 - b. inviting the un-churched to attend
 - c. warmly welcoming those who visit

"To the church.. we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly".

1 Thessalonians 1:2

3. **I will serve the ministry of my Church by**
 - a. discovering my gifts and talents
 - b. being equipped to serve by my pastors
 - c. developing a servants heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..."

1 Peter 4:10

4. **I will support the testimony of my Church by**
 - a. attending faithfully
 - b. living a godly life
 - c. giving regularly

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together ... but let us encourage one another".

Hebrews 10:25

Signed _____

Print Name _____

Date _____