



Ashford Baptist Church

Music Group

Information

Updated Nov 2010

Ashford Baptist Church Music Group provides a pool of worshipping singers and musicians who make up worship bands for corporate worship in Sunday morning and evening services. From time to time, the group supports other events and organisations.

Our **Motivation** for being part of the Music Group team

We love to worship God. He is the Lord! He is worthy of all praise! He is amazing in his greatness, love, faithfulness and acts of power, grace and mercy to us. We feel compelled to respond selflessly in worship and service with our whole life, our whole heart. This is what we were created for!

God has blessed us with gifts, musical talents and a love of using music and song to express our praise and worship and to help us develop our relationship with Him.

We believe God wants us to serve Him to the best of our ability in the Music Group so that, with the Holy Spirit's leading, we can encourage others in their worship and discipleship.

Our **Aim** as a Music Group

Our aim is to bring glory and honour to the Lord. We serve Him and His church by providing music to encourage the church in Christ-centred praise, worship and adoration. Together, we sing of His amazing character and actions. As we worship, we want to be open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. In response, we express our love and commitment to Him through song and through our whole lives.

How do we set out to achieve this?

From the pool of Music Group members, the music group co-ordinator puts together a worship band for each service. This includes a worship leader (sometimes a minister), an organiser, a band of musicians, a lead singer and backing singers. The roles are summarised here. More details are available on request. Note that Music Group members sometimes combine roles or take on different roles at different services. All can be considered to be 'lead worshippers' and have a responsibility to prepare well both musically and spiritually.

Worship Leader

- ❖ *Encourage the congregation to draw near to God by sensitively combining biblical truth, prayer and music, empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit.*

Organiser

- ❖ *Support the worship leader by prayerfully picking songs for a service that will encourage the congregation to worship and meet with God.*
- ❖ *Consider the needs of the congregation, what the worship leader wants to emphasise and, most importantly, where the Holy Spirit wants to take people's hearts and minds.*
- ❖ *Lead the preparation time on Thursday evening and before the service.*
- ❖ *Liaise with the worship leader, SongPro planner, SongPro operator, church administrator, PA operator and band*

Musician

- ❖ *Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you use the gifts and musical skills and understanding he has given you by sensitively adding harmony, rhythm, texture and dynamics to create music that expresses your own worship and encourages corporate worship*
- ❖ *Develop an awareness of your own role in different arrangements of songs and of how your contribution adds to the overall effect, with direction from the organiser*

Lead Singer

- ❖ *Provide a strong vocal lead for the congregation to follow by singing the melody clearly as you worship God in song*
- ❖ *Communicate with musicians and the worship leader and follow directions of the organiser*

Backing Singer

- ❖ *Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you use the gifts and musical skills and understanding he has given you, with direction from the organiser, by sensitively adding vocal harmonies, textures and dynamics that blend with the other singers to create music that expresses your own worship and encourages corporate worship*
- ❖ *Develop an awareness of your role in different arrangements of songs and of how your contribution adds depth and emphasis at various points - worship continually, sing into the microphone when needed!*

Preparing for leading corporate worship

We prepare for the Sunday services on Thursday evenings from 8pm.

We value this time of rehearsal, worship and prayer and consider it essential for playing or singing on the Sunday. Those not in the worship band that week, are still encouraged to come along to sing as a mini-congregation.

On Sunday mornings we practise from 9.45am until 10.10am and pray together before the 10.30 service.

On Sunday evenings we practise from 5.45pm until 6.10pm and pray together before the 6.30 service.

Once a month we set aside an hour of a Thursday evening for the music group to pray and worship together. All members are encouraged to attend.

When it is not possible to rehearse on a Thursday evening, the organiser is encouraged to email the order of service to the worship band as soon as possible. We then meet on Sunday at 9.30am and 5.30pm to practise.

Members of the group are encouraged to prepare themselves spiritually for leading worship and to pray for the Sunday services.

As we are in full view of the congregation, we need to set an example in dress and demeanour that is encouraging to worship – not false smiles but ‘smiling on the inside’ as this affects the atmosphere and a gloomy disposition arouses enquiries. If you are struggling with bad news or illness please ask the group to pray for you before the service. Casual dress is acceptable but not scruffy and unkempt.

We need to acknowledge that we won't please everyone all the time! We need to take any criticism with a gentle and listening spirit, knowing that we have the full support and appreciation of the ministers and congregation as a whole, who value what we do and who we are.

Band members are encouraged to develop their singing/instrumental skills and attend training, such as the 'Worship Central' events in London.

Information regarding rotas, events, training, song lists and videos of many of the newer songs we use can be found on our website, www.abcworship.org

Joining the group

We would love more Christian singers and musicians who share our motivation and aim to join us.

If you feel that God is calling you to serve in this way, please speak to the music group co-ordinator.

You will be encouraged to pray further and to come along on Thursday evenings on a trial basis. Here, you'll have the opportunity to join in as far as possible (although with some instruments this may only be at specific points during the practice). Usually, during this time the person will not play or sing as part of the band during the Sunday services. This process gives time to discover whether serving in the music group is right for you at the moment and to find your role in the group. It may be that you would appreciate further training or help with certain aspects, such as singing harmonies or transposing music. The minister or music group co-ordinator might want to chat further with you before you join a Sunday worship band.

We realise that people are able to commit varying amounts of time. You may opt to play/sing for as little or as much time as you are able to offer. The music group co-ordinator draws up a worship band rota each month, based on information received regarding preferences and any holiday dates. We aim for all singers and musicians have three or more services off a month.

For further information, please speak to or email phil@abcworship.org