



Grace Church Guildford History

This is an extract from the church records which demonstrates the sincerity and godly concerns of those who served God in this church before us. It is dated 1744.

"We the church of Christ, baptised upon profession of our faith, meeting in Guildford, Holding the doctrines of personal election, particular redemption and the final perseverance of the saints... For as much as the state of religion is sunk in general and in particular amongst us to our great sorrow; In that the ordinances and order of God's house have been very much neglected amongst us, We therefore come to a resolution to endeavour to revive the Lord's work in this church; As we have been assisted by the Spirit of God... We do therefore renew our church covenant with God and with each other

1. *In a solemn way of fasting and prayer to the Lord our God that we may be blessed in our understanding of this great affair, and first we have given up ourselves to God, we are resolved to make the word of God the rule of our faith and practice, but again as we have given up ourselves to each other in a church covenant, it is with a view to watch over each other in the Lord; for we are persuaded that it is our duty to reprove one another in the spirit of love as occasion may offer; and we are willing to be reprov'd and to be under those good laws of discipline which our Lord Jesus Christ has left us in his word, for his church to govern themselves by; and farther we do resolve not to receive in any members but such who believe the holy scriptures to be of Divine authority and a perfect rule for faith and practice.*
2. *They must be such who believe the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity; viz. That the godhead do consist in Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that these three are one living and true God; the same in substance, equal in power and glory.*
3. *Such who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ did keep the law of God perfectly and that Christ has suffered and did die for our sins; and by virtue of it has made a full atonement for our sins.*
4. *Such who believe the threefold offices of Christ, viz. Prophet, priest and king; for these offices of Christ are of great importance to the church of Christ.*
5. *That the righteousness of Christ is the complete matter of our justification before God; it being imputed to us by the Lord; and that the comfort of it do redound to us by receiving Christ and his righteousness by faith.*
6. *Such who believe the doctrine of regeneration by the Spirit of God whereby all the powers and faculties of the soul are renewed and it is commonly called the new birth.*
7. *Such who are resolved in the strength of grace to live a holy, godly life and conversation; and to deny themselves daily and to be willing to submit to all the laws of discipline as mentioned above.*
8. *Such who hold the final perseverance of the saints by the Spirit and grace of God; moreover we do engage ourselves to give our attendance at all church meetings except sickness or any other just reason can be shewn why we are absent.*
9. *Such who believe the glorious doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust.*
10. *Such who believe the doctrine of eternal judgment.*
11. *Such who believe that a holy, godly life and conversation is the fruit of a saving faith and true gospel repentance, or that which do always accompany it.*
12. *We do engage to keep the church's secrets...and to pray one for another and to the end we may come into gospel order.*

We have chosen our brother Diodat Hoare to the office of being our pastor, to watch over us in the Lord, and to administer the ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ amongst us, and farther we do engage ourselves to encourage and assist our brother Hoare in carrying on this good work amongst us as much as in us lie under the help of the Spirit and grace of God, as witness our hands this 29th day July, 1744."