



**MONYHULL CHURCH  
FOOTBALL CLUB  
PLAYERS HANDBOOK**



“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline”

The Bible - 2 Timothy 1:7

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# Background

## THE CHURCH

Monyhull Church began life in 1988 when a group of Christians started meeting in a member's home on Wheelers Lane, Kings Heath. The Church believed in following God's Word, the Bible, as the only way to understand God, human nature and the world around us. Word soon spread and we quickly outgrew this house.

The church, which was then known as South Birmingham Evangelical Church, met in several premises before finally making the building on the Monyhull Grange estate our official meeting place.

In 2004, the church changed its name to Monyhull Church to identify with our location on the new Monyhull Grange Estate.


The Church runs lots of activities throughout the week, from youth clubs to men's social events. Of course the one activity you are aware of is the football team.

## THE TEAM

With a joint love for the beautiful game and a desire to play football in a way that pleases Jesus Christ, men from the church started playing regular five-a-side football on a Thursday night (it helps us to keep the dream of making it as a professional footballer alive!). This went on for many years and slowly more and more men joined the ranks of Thursday night football.

In the Spring of 2010 it was decided that, should we have enough interest, we would compete as a team in the West Midlands Christian Football League from the 2011 – 2012 season.

Monyhull Church FC became an officially FA formed and affiliated football club in January 2011.



“A Christian believes that they are imperfect and need a relationship with God, which they can have through faith in Jesus Christ.”

You want to be a Monyhuller and wear the shirt with pride and passion? Of course you do, otherwise you wouldn't be reading this! But are you aware of what Monyhull Church believes? What a Christian believes?

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

What does it mean to be a Christian? A Christian is somebody who loves God, has a personal relationship with him and lives to please him.

### Sounds pretty weird...

Not when you break it down. The Bible says that God made everything, including you and me. He made us with the intention of enjoying sharing life with us – a close, personal relationship. Unfortunately, we decided to get selfish and do things our way. We rebelled against God, decided we wanted nothing to do with him and wanted to take control. So we did. Crime, war, disease, suffering – this is all evidence of a world separated from God.

### So is that it then?

Definitely not! In the Bible we are told that since God loves his creation

he sent his son Jesus Christ (God in human form) to earth. His purpose was to die a painful death and accept the responsibility of our rebellion. This meant that the price of our rebellion had been dealt with and we could once again have a relationship with God.

### I Don't really see the need for a relationship with God...

Maybe not on the surface. But you only have to dig a little to find the truth in your life. There will be times when you question the point of things. Times when life gets painful or doesn't make sense. Maybe you're always striving for something more, but never finding contentment. When you take a look around you and wonder how can people be so terrible? These things are all pointed to in the Bible.

### So you really believe the Bible do you?

Well, yes. Why wouldn't we? It's never been wrong! The Bible is the very words of God. He gave them to us so we could understand and know him; so we could make sense of everything around us and show us how much he loves us by sending his son Jesus to die for us. The Bible has been very accurate with regards to historical events and everything the Bible says about human nature has been spot on.

### Haven't scientists disproved God?

Scientists have many theories and over the years they have changed or been proven false all together. Many can't even agree on an explanation for how we got here and what the point to life is. The only explanation that hasn't changed and still makes sense after all this time is that there is a God, and the Bible is true.

### Aren't you just a bunch of do-gooders then?

Nothing could be further from the truth. A Christian is no different from anybody else, except that they believe they were created by God and that he cares for them dearly. A Christian believes that they are imperfect and need a relationship with God, which they can have through faith in Jesus Christ.

## THE LEAGUE

In 1979 the West Midlands Christian Football League was formed to enable men, who opposed the playing of the game on a Sunday when they would be attending their local church, to have the opportunity to participate in a friendly competition whilst upholding Christian beliefs and ideals.

To this day that concept has been central to the running of the league, it has welcomed non-Christian players into its fold in the hope that, not only will they enjoy the core values it stands for, but their presence will also prevent the League from being inward-looking and exclusive.

As we now move into the third millenium since the birth of Christ and as the League continues to thrive under His hand, the West Midlands Christian Football League sets out a clear, unambiguous mission statement:

To enable Christian and non-Christian men alike to participate in a capably organised league in a manner, both on and off the field of play, that is morally, decently and ethically sound of action and speech and is honouring to the name of Jesus Christ.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

I am delighted that Monyhull FC has come into being! Most of the Monyhull leaders love the game of football, and until age / weight / bad joints / family responsibilities caught up with us many of us played regularly. Some of our younger leaders are still keen players, though us oldies refuse to believe that they are anything like as good as we were!

Football is a great opportunity to build friendships, to keep fit and to demonstrate many of the things that are best about life. The Bible has

many sports references because sport illustrates so many significant things. Yes, there are more important things in life and, like everything else, football can become a god. But treated rightly it is one of God's great gifts to the human race (though why he allowed Man Utd to exist is still a great mystery...) and we are thrilled that our church will have a part to play.

Play well!

**Colin Tamplin**  
(Pastor of Monyhull Church)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Everton, Fulham, Aston Villa, Manchester City...just a few of today's top teams which can trace their roots to a bunch of guys from a church who wanted to play football together.

Now I don't suppose Monyhull Church FC has such high expectations, but I do know that we share the same passion for the game as those founding fathers; that we want to compete well; to work as a team and, who knows, maybe even win some silverware!

But we also know that football isn't a matter of life and death. Despite what the great Bill Shankly said, there are more important things in life.

Our team ethos touches on some of these principles - and, being based firmly on the Christian faith, applies not only to playing football but to the way we should tackle life generally. A game-plan which I trust we will never lose.

So Monyhull Church FC is about to kick-off for proper! And as we do, let's recognise the excellent work which has gone into getting the team this far - to those who first started the Thursday night football and to the management team for their vision... strong work and great respect guys.

**Vince White**  
(Chairman of Monyhull Church FC)

# Team & player information

## TEAM MANAGEMENT

We believe that a team involves everyone and that all members of the football team have a role to play in the life of the club. Monyhull Church FC does, however, have a recognised hierarchal leadership structure.

This is in place so that there is accountability on and off the pitch and also means everyone knows the roles and duties to be fulfilled.

Since the Church front and support the football club, it is a requirement of the Church's leadership that the team be accountable to the Church's leadership for all on and off pitch activities. Therefore, any off-pitch leadership role within the football club should be filled by a member of Monyhull Church. Any changes to the team management will be agreed between the Church leadership, Chairman and team management. Any problems or any activity that the football club is involved in which compromises the name of Monyhull Church will be dealt with between the football club's management team, chairman and Monyhull Church's leadership team.

Below is the current leadership structure:



## HOME GROUND

Monyhull Church FC will establish at the beginning of a season where the home matches should be played. The situation will be reviewed throughout the season and will be decided by the management team. Taking into account cost, availability and accessibility. The team will be informed in plenty of time for the new season.

## MATCH DAY

Games in the West Midlands Christian Football League start 10.30am. All squad members are required to be at the match day ground at 9.45am with the required kit (football boots, shinpads and your game face!). There will be a pre-match warm up to take part in and all members of the team are expected to help prepare the pitch (goalnets, corner flags etc...)

Above all, enjoy the game.

## WEBSITE

The team have its own website, which will contain information on matches and news from the team. This will be the primary source of information for the team and the league.

The website is [www.monyhullchurchfc.co.uk](http://www.monyhullchurchfc.co.uk)

## TEAM SELECTION / TRAINING

Competing in the league means every player needs to be committed. There, of course, will be times when you are unavailable to play, which is why we need a good pool of players to choose from.

Players will primarily be picked on their skill level, form, attitude and commitment to training.

Training takes place on a Thursday night at the West Midlands Travel Ground in Billesley from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. It is expected that all registered players will make every effort to attend as team selection happens primarily through training.

The manager will provisionally decide the team line-up on a Thursday night.

It is expected that squad members should have indicated to the manager by this point, whether they are available or not to play the next game. Failure to do so will cause the manager to start disciplinary action, starting from mild tutting and ending with a shake of the head and the folding of arms, be warned!

There may be times when we actually have more players available for a game than we do team places. Should this happen, it is expected that everybody, as part of the team, behaves like adults and except the decision. A good attitude is a big part of being a member of Monyhull Church FC, encouraging and supporting the team, training harder and remaining committed to the team.

## REGISTRATION & FEES

To play for Monyhull Church FC it is a requirement to register as a squad member. No player can play for the team unless first registering. Players can sign a registration form at any point during the season but can only play once the league has received the signed registration form. If you do not have a registration form please speak to one of the club's leadership team.

Each squad member is required to sign a registration form and pay a registration fee at the start of every season.

Match day fees, which pay for the pitch and officials are to be paid to the treasurer in good time. Substitutes who play more than fifteen minutes will be required to pay a discounted match fee. Should a squad member turn up without sufficient payment, without first

clearing it with the management, then the manager has the right to leave them out of the team.

There is a fee to be paid for training every Thursday, to be handed in before starting training.

Those who are students or unemployed will be able to claim discounted match and Training fees. Squad members falling into either category should indicate so to the Treasurer. Any change in circumstance effecting fees must be communicated to the Treasurer.

Fees payable by squad members will be agreed by the Chairman and Management team at the start of the new season, allowing good time for all Monyhullers to contact the Management team with any queries or problems.

# Team ethos & behaviour

The Leaders of Monyhull Church and the management team of Monyhull Church FC feel it is appropriate for everyone to know the levels of behaviour that are expected from all players and supporters as soon as they join the club.

Should the management feel you are repeatedly behaving in a way that is contrary to what has been outlined below, we would, in the first instance, ask you to check your behaviour. If this does not clear the situation, then we would ask you to leave the team.

## CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES

Monyhull Church FC hold to the same beliefs as Monyhull Church. In registering with the team, you are agreeing to respect the beliefs and practices of the church and team. We don't expect you to take part in anything or believe what the church does, but we ask you to be respectful of the Christian ethos the team promotes. Should you repeatedly behave in a way that is contrary to that, we would, in the first instance, ask you to check your behaviour. If this does not clear the situation, then we would ask you to leave the team.

## SOCIALISING

We would like to promote team spirit and community (and a chance to vent when we lose!). We are hopeful that after home games people will join us for a drink in the team local (yet to be decided!). Partners and children will be very welcome. We will also arrange social activities throughout the season that will include partners and families. We hope you will want to get involved as we feel this is a good time to relax and get to know each other.

## DO'S AND DONT'S

1. Foul language is forbidden at all times. This includes before, during and after games, at training sessions and at all events organised by the club. Players who swear during matches may be substituted if they have not already been sent off.
2. Sporting behaviour is encouraged at all times. The way we play is more important than the result.
3. Bullying is forbidden. Malicious, spiteful talk or indeed action to a teammate is a very serious offence and will not be tolerated. Anything deemed more than 'banter' by team management or the victim will be investigated and dealt with accordingly.
4. Children: Setting the right example to young spectators at games in terms of language and behaviour is very important. All players are role models and will be being watched by young eyes at most matches.
5. We want to be a team of encouragers - so encourage each other!
6. 'Christian things'. We would ask you to respect any Christian thing we do

as a team. For instance, we will usually pray before a game. You don't need to join in or do anything, but you do need to respect the beliefs and practices of the church football team.

We realise that during the course of the game frustration and tempers can rise, but we ask that you do your best to handle yourself in a good manner - if you are wearing the Monyhull shirt you are representing Monyhull Church.

Monyhull Church FC do not plan to be push-overs in the league. We have set the team up to be competitive and we want to win, we take our football very seriously! We want everyone to give 100% every game, we expect everyone to fight firm but fight fair. Our actions and attitude on and off the pitch are more important than the result. We want to win, but not at all costs.

Because we know that not everyone we play against will have the same mentality, we ask that you worry only about your own conduct and let the referee deal with the conduct of the opposition.

## CHILD PROTECTION

It is understood, that all those registering with Monyhull Church FC are of adult age, as classed by the FA and West Midlands Christian Football League (16+), since this is an adult football team. As such, photos and videos may be used, for use on the website and on printed material. A full policy can be found on our website.

## GRIEVANCES

Should you have any problems within the team which cannot be resolved personally you should, in the first instance, talk to the manager. If you are unhappy with the outcome of the manager's actions you should then begin grievance procedures. To begin the procedure, your grievance must be made in writing to the chairman who will then take it beyond the manager and to the leaders of the church.

And finally...



“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline”

The Bible - 2 Timothy 1:7

This team exists because we love football and we want to play it as often as we can. We play to win, we play for each other and we play because we want to be part of something - a team!

Our club motto is taken from the Bible: “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” 2 timothy 1:7. In our club badge it is paraphrased as ‘a spirit of power, respect and discipline’.

What it means is, as a Christian we are not going to have an easy life. We have chosen to believe in the absolute truth of Jesus Christ and sometimes that differs from what we want and like. So we have to be strong, we have to stand up and be counted. We are not to be wimps!

On the pitch, this couldn't be more apt. If you call yourself a Monyhuller then you need to understand what our motto means for you wearing the Monyhull shirt.

There are no easy games and in matches you will not have an easy ride. We should not be weak or timid, we must be ready to fight firmly. At the same time we should be respectful. Respectful of your teammates, opposition and match officials. So we fight firmly, but we fight fairly. Remember to be disciplined also. Disciplined so that you can indeed fight firmly and fairly, but also to be disciplined to believe in yourself. When the opposition are grinding you down, when your back is against the wall, be disciplined enough to believe in yourself and dig in. A Monyhuller must always give 100%.

You are playing for Monyhull Church FC, enjoy playing alongside your teammates, enjoy wearing the Monyhull shirt, enjoy the beautiful game.



