

## DOCTRINAL BASIS

The London School of Theology accepts and proclaims the historic truths of Christian faith and conduct, including the following:

### a) God and the human race

We believe that the Lord our God is eternally one God:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
and that he fulfils the sovereign purposes of his providence  
- in creation, revelation, redemption, judgement,  
and the coming of his kingdom -  
calling out from the world a people,  
united to himself and to each other in love.

We acknowledge that though God made humanity

in his own likeness and image,  
conferring on us dignity and worth  
and enabling us to respond to himself,  
we are now members of a fallen race,  
who have sinned and come short of his glory.

We believe that the Father's holy love is shown supremely

in that he gave Jesus Christ, his only Son, for us  
when, through our sinfulness and guilt, we were subject  
to his wrath and condemnation;  
and that his grace is shown supremely  
by his putting sinners right with himself  
when they place their trust in his Son.

We confess Jesus Christ

as Lord and God, the eternal Son of the Father;  
as truly human, born of the virgin Mary;  
as Servant, sinless, full of grace and truth;  
as the only Mediator and Saviour of the whole world,  
dying on the cross in our place,  
representing us to God,  
redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin;  
as the Second Adam, the head of a new humanity,  
living a life of perfect obedience,  
overcoming death and decay,  
rising from the dead with a glorious body,  
being taken up to be with the Father,  
one day returning personally in glory and judgement  
to bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal death to the lost  
to establish a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness,  
where there will be no more evil, suffering or death.  
as Victor over Satan and all his forces,

rescuing us from the dominion of darkness, and  
bringing us into his own kingdom;  
as the Word who makes God known.

We believe in the Holy Spirit

who with the Father and the Son is worthy of our worship,  
who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgement,  
who makes the death of Christ effective to sinners,  
enabling them to turn to God in repentance  
and directing their trust towards the Lord Jesus Christ;  
who through the new birth unites us with Christ,  
who is present within all believers;  
and makes us partake in Christ's risen life,  
pointing us to Jesus,  
freeing us from slavery to sin,  
producing in us his fruit,  
granting to us his gifts, and  
empowering us for service in the world.

### **b) The Scriptures**

We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures

are God-breathed since their writers spoke from God  
as they were moved by the Holy Spirit;  
hence, they are fully trustworthy in all that they affirm;  
and as the written Word of God they are our supreme authority for faith and conduct.

We acknowledge the need for the Scriptures to be rightly interpreted

under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and  
using the gifts of understanding and scholarship that God has given to his people.

### **c) The Church and its Mission**

We recognise the Church

as the body of Christ, of which he is the head,  
held together and growing up in him through the one Spirit; both  
as a total fellowship throughout the world, and  
as local congregations in which believers gather to worship God,  
growing in grace through Word, prayer and sacrament.

We acknowledge the commission of Christ

to proclaim the Good News to all people,  
making them disciples, baptising them, and  
teaching them to obey him.

We acknowledge the command of Christ

to love our neighbours,  
resulting in service to the Church and to society,  
in seeking reconciliation for all with God and their fellows,  
in proclaiming liberty from every kind of oppression; and  
in spreading Christ's justice in an unjust world  
... until he comes again.