



SHREWSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH – CENTRAL

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:
Ministry of Defence

Signed on behalf of:
Shrewsbury Baptist Church - Central

Position: Station Commander RAF Shawbury

Position: Central Manager

Date: 16/12/2019

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The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles Of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, Shrewsbury Baptist Church - Central, will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 Shrewsbury Baptist Church - Central recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *looking favourably upon employee requests for leave and flexible working by spouses with partners on deployment and compassionate leave for any bereaved spouses – including attendance at an inquest;*
- *seeking to support our employees and volunteers who choose to be members of the Reserve Forces, for instance, by seeking as far as possible to accommodate their training and deployment;*
- *recognising and remembering the sacrifices made by others by marking Remembrance Sunday and other such occasions;*
- *ensuring that wherever possible our building and facilities are accessible to all in the Armed Forces community, including veterans with disabilities;*
- *welcoming families requesting Dedication who feel that they have a connection to Shrewsbury Baptist Church – Central, regardless of where they might be posted;*
- *supporting military families by making it clear that Supporters need not be present at a Dedication Service thus allowing those on deployment to continue their family commitments;*
- *adopting a flexible approach to meeting families for Dedication Services, Weddings and Funerals, understanding that deployment or postings may make attendance at Shrewsbury Baptist Church – Central difficult;*
- *Encouraging all those who would like a life remembered (from whatever conflict) to come or submit names to be included in our prayers.*
- *Support the Shrewsbury Outreach Project*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or social media, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.