

WHY JOIN THE BCF?

You will be joining an ever-growing group of like-minded Christians who share an interest in the Inland Waterways. Regardless of whether or not you own your own boat, you will be able to share fellowship with other members whilst out and about on the Inland Waterways, at rallies & festivals, regional events, and at the AGM.

Your subscription includes:

- Four issues of our BCF magazine "The Word"
- Comprehensive Directory of Members
- Online access to our Directory of Churches
- Two BCF logo stickers for your boat, car, etc
- Membership of the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs (AWCC)

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The current annual membership subscription is stated in the Membership Application Form, and on our website (see back page). If you can afford more than this, then we are grateful for any additional contributions, as this will further the work of the BCF.

If you are a tax-payer, then please consider signing a Gift Aid form, as this will increase the value of your contribution by 25% **at no extra cost to yourself!**

If a Gift Aid form was not given to you with this form, then one will be sent out with your membership welcome pack.

REGISTERED CHARITY

The BCF is a Registered Charity No 1101100.

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INTERESTED?

Want to Join?

We would be delighted to welcome you to our growing number of members.

Personal/Family Membership

This is our standard membership, which includes all family members resident at one address.

Corporate Membership

Covers any business, church or statutory body sympathetic to the aims of the BCF that wishes to support our work.

Please complete a Membership Application Form and send to the Membership Secretary, along with a cheque for your first year's contribution.

If you did not receive a Membership Application Form with this leaflet, then please download one from our website (address below).

We will be glad to welcome you to our ever growing number!

Want to know more?

For further information, please contact:

Jan Halford (**Chair**)
Telephone: 07478 337188

Or

Tim Clarke (**Publicity Officer**)
Telephone: 07803 197954

Website:

www.boaterschristianfellowship.org.uk

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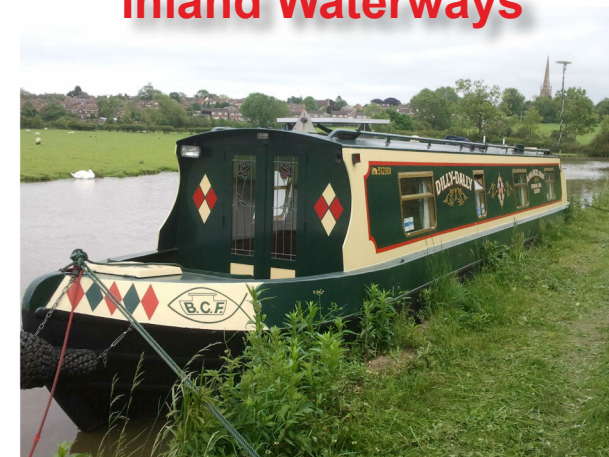


If you are a Christian and enjoy the inland waterways, whether or not you own a boat, then the BCF is for you!

Join an active and growing inter-denominational band of several hundred like minded Christians.

Fellowship
Worship &
Witness

On the
Inland Waterways



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HISTORY

The Boaters' Christian Fellowship was founded in 1995, following the publication of a letter by Alan & Hazel Dilnot in *Waterways World*. Whilst out boating, the thought occurred to them that it would be good to be able to meet fellow Christians out on the inland waterways. The initial response was encouraging, and, at the inaugural meeting held at a church in Nottinghamshire, the BCF was born with some 50 founder members, many of whom are still active members.

From this promising beginning, the BCF has grown into a respected organisation with well over 650 members across the country - and even abroad! Between them, they own in excess of 250 boats (some are boat shares), but boat ownership is by no means a condition of membership. Many members are aspiring owners or hirers, some have given up their boats, and others simply enjoy the other aspects that our Inland Waterways offer. However, we all share in our faith in God and our love of the Inland Waterways.

THE BCF TODAY

The BCF has a diverse membership. Some mainly enjoy the Fellowship, others will get more involved and represent the BCF at rallies, festivals and shows. Our full colour magazine, the *BCF Word*, is produced quarterly, enabling members to share with each other. We produce literature that members can hand out as and when appropriate, and we support evangelistic and other Christian support groups connected with the Inland Waterways.



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FELLOWSHIP

Our main aim is to encourage fellowship. This can be through planned or chance meetings around the waterways. BCF boat stickers make members instantly identifiable, and our comprehensive Members' Directory helps you to locate fellow members who may be in the same area as you. Also, many canalside members offer hospitality and facilities to passing boaters.



Our magazine "The BCF Word" is published four times a year. Written by members, for members, it is full of interesting information that is relevant to the Inland Waterways. Members are encouraged to share stories and anecdotes, problems and triumphs - and even recipes!

Through our "Crew Connections" we can bring members together moving boats or just helping out for a crew shortage, etc.

We organise a number of regional events throughout the year, but for many the highlight of the year is our AGM, where there is plenty of opportunity to meet and catch up with other members over a bring and shared lunch and tea.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that God exists as creator of the heavens and earth, revealed to us as the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit; that the Old and New Testament scriptures are the inspired word of God; that Jesus Christ is both fully God and man; and that His death and resurrection is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world.

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WORSHIP

The Inland Waterways seem to be a great leveller across all walks of life, and this is matched in our Inter-Denominational membership. Many churches are represented, but our faith in God brings us together. We are committed to finding our members a suitable place of Worship wherever they are, and we are continually updating our online directory of churches that are accessible from the network.



We hold a celebration of praise and worship as part of our AGM, where we can all praise our God together regardless of our backgrounds.

WITNESS

We are all witnesses to our Lord and Saviour as we go about our daily lives. Whether on a boat with BCF logos, or just sitting on the towpath, we can get an opportunity to spread the gospel. The BCF attends rallies and events across the Waterways. We also run missions - usually in conjunction with local churches. We support the work of Canal Ministries and the Waterways Chaplains, who work among those who are connected with the Inland Waterways.



The BCF publishes and provides a variety of useful leaflets and tracts which members can use to help spread the word.



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