Artwork inspired by reflections of our congregation

Christ Church
Stamford, Lincolnshire

Telephone 01780 766 446
E-mail admin@christchurchstamford.com
Website www.christchurchstamford.com
Facebook facebook.com/christchurchstamford
Twitter @christchurchpe9

Christ Church
Green Lane
Stamford
Lincolnshire
PE9 1HE
Welcome to Christ Church – a friendly, all-age, committed Christian church family in Stamford, Lincolnshire.

We’re really excited about this new season in our church’s development! We hope to build on encouraging growth in our congregation, children’s work and outreach activities.

We’re looking for a Vicar who will be excited about the way that God has led us so far, and will feel called to lead, teach and equip us into further effective and fruitful discipleship.

We want to be a community of believers where every member understands their value to God and is supported in living out their faith, and which serves the parish. There is a particular need for Bible teaching and discipling as we seek to nurture and encourage new as well as established believers. There is also a specific need for leadership and development of our Outreach Programmes, their staff and volunteers.

So, is God calling you? Are you ready to courageously embark with us on living out God’s vision? If you are innovative and creative in bridging the gap between church and community, keen to teach the Bible to new and established believers, have experience in leading and developing teams, and love Jesus and long to see God’s kingdom grow, we would be thrilled to hear from you!

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor,
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendour.

Isaiah 61:1–3 (NIRV)
OUR VISION

“To be a church that shares Jesus’ love in our community; a beacon of hope where lives are changed.”

OUR CURRENT MISSION STATEMENT

“Through faith and fellowship, to use all the resources and abilities of our church to make the gospel known to everyone of all ages.”

We believe this means:

- always focusing on Jesus;
- being a welcoming church, open to God and one another where everyone is valued;
- constantly reflecting, evaluating and developing to build a sustained ‘home’;
- nurturing faith through worship, prayer and Bible study;
- continuously loving, supporting and understanding everyone with sensitivity according to their own needs;
- welcoming and affirming the gifts that we, of all ages and abilities, have to offer to enable us to serve God together with joy;
- encouraging and enabling the church family to reach out into the wider community with love;
- managing the resources of the church for the good of all by effective leadership;
- encouraging all ages to have fun and work together.

AND OUR DREAM...

Looking to the future, our dream is that Christ Church will build upon the established services and Outreach Programmes in order to spread the gospel wider into the community and deepen the discipleship of the whole church.

‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the fields.’ Matthew 9:37–38 (NIV)
Our Wish List

We are prayerfully seeking a person centred on Jesus who:

PERSONAL

- attends carefully to their own spiritual life as they seek to become an imitator of Christ;
- has a strong sense of calling to Christ Church, to lead us to invest in one another and become more like Jesus as we grow the church, impacting the parish and the town;
- is in an accountable relationship with others who regularly and prayerfully support, encourage and challenge you;
- believes in the authority of Scripture and is open to the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit;
- has a good sense of humour to meld well with a church in which ‘fun’ is a key characteristic!

PREACHING, TEACHING AND PASTORAL CARE

- is a gifted Bible teacher and preacher, able to expound and apply the Bible imaginatively and effectively to ignite in us a passion to know God’s Word and live it out in our lives;
- is an inspirational communicator able to connect and build relationships with the whole community;
- in conjunction with others, will develop an increasingly effective pastoral care ministry for church members;
- shares our passion for church growth and will build on the recent mission work conducted in our community to move us forward under God’s guidance;
- can relate to all ages and build on the ministry among young families and children that has been developed in recent years.

LEADER AND MENTOR

- is an experienced team leader who will encourage, inspire, uphold, support, empower and nurture staff, volunteers and the wider congregation to develop their own faith, gifts and ministry;
- is able to be entrepreneurial, diplomatic and patient – willing to take risks in advancing God’s Kingdom in places so far unreached in the local community;
- is capable of seeing the big picture and prioritising and delegating effectively;
- with the PCC will make strategic decisions, setting clear priorities in order to further our calling to help people become lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ;
- has an awareness of finances, its management and strategic use in order to prayerfully move forwards with the mission and ministry of the church.

“I’d like the new vicar to be happy; to go for it, and to do funny things with children that make the adults laugh!”

Isla, aged 8
What we offer

In return we offer our new incumbent:

- a welcome into our church family as we seek together to become increasingly ‘a place to belong’;
- the love and prayer of the wardens, staff and congregation at Christ Church;
- the support of an office administrator, pastoral coordinator, lay reader, Children & Youth Minister, and three other project leaders;
- a sense of anticipation and excitement as we move forward;
- a willingness to give of our time and talents;
- good relations with other local churches in the town;

- excellent accommodation in a recently-built five-bedroom detached house in a great town;
- a day off per week, six weeks holiday per year (pro rata), plus time for conferences and retreats;
- full reimbursement of costs incurred in carrying out ministry.
SUNDAY SERVICES

We currently have one Sunday service – at 10.00am. At present, this differs from week to week during a month to provide a diverse range of worship styles that are applicable to people of all ages and different preferences:

- on the first Sunday of the month we have a slightly more formal Holy Communion service at which the music is led by the organ;
- on the second Sunday of the month we have an informal all-age café-style service with breakfast, which is accessible to those exploring faith and newcomers to faith;
- on the third and fourth Sundays we currently have a Morning Praise service that sits between the other two services in terms of formality. These use a developing band of musicians to lead the sung element of worship, and a small group of lay members to help lead the service.

Until recently there was also an evening service with a small attendance, but during the current interregnum we have been unable to sustain this service. We are open to all the services being re-imagined.

Vestments are not worn at any of the services. We are open to, but inexperienced in, the practice of charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit in our services. After every service we have a time of extended fellowship with tea/coffee, and at times a bring-and-share lunch or a celebratory meal.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We recognise the importance of investing in our young people’s development of faith, and value their contribution to our Sunday worship. With all the activities we offer, we are seeking to encourage young people and children to develop a personal relationship with Jesus through the Word and the Spirit.

During the majority of services young people can participate in either an ‘Ignite’ (primary school age) or ‘Blaze’ (secondary school age) group for age-appropriate activities based around Bible stories, crafts, music, discussions and games. The groups are led by the Children & Youth Minister, supported by a team of volunteers all of whom have an enhanced DBS check.

The children and youth re-join the rest of the church family towards the end of the service and for Holy Communion. Their active input is embraced and encouraged as they share their learning with the congregation.

‘CC4T’ was a teatime meal served each Tuesday evening typically to 60 people, many being children from the primary school opposite the church and a parent or carer, although this activity has paused during the interregnum. We also hold assemblies in that school – see Outreach Programmes on page 9.
Most of our mission as a worshipping community is carried out during mid-week activities, both in the church and elsewhere. We firmly believe that the Gospel should be proclaimed in word, deed and by example wherever we go.

We have five weekly home Bible study groups and a weekly Saturday morning prayer meeting. We have run Alpha courses and have found them very effective in helping people to explore Christianity and in many cases come to faith in Jesus Christ.

There is also an 11.15am Holy Communion service on the first Wednesday of each month, as well as provision for home communions and pastoral care.
“I’ve made lots of friends and I do lots of fun crafts at Christ Church. I like playing with the babies and have lots of fun. I like learning about God and Jesus and all the people in the Old Testament.”

Isla, aged 8

“Coffee mornings, men’s breakfasts, ladies’ breakfasts, men’s nights out, film evenings, pamper evenings, light parties, children’s Christmas parties, family fun days – you name it, it happens at Christ Church!”

Paul, aged, um, too old to say
Outreach Programmes

Christ Church is the home of a committed church family, as well as being the base for a number of social and outreach activities. There are activities pretty well 24/7 catering for all ages from 0 to 100! Each week a couple of hundred people of all ages visit or participate in activities at the church. We have a relaxed and informal style, evangelising through community action focussed on the immediate parish, but with links to other churches and Christian activities in the town.

We seek to support some of the neediest and most vulnerable people of all ages in the local community, and have a range of programmes aiming to show the love of Christ in practical ways and give people the opportunity to come into a relationship with Christ. They aim to meet people’s pastoral needs where possible, or signpost people to others who can; to draw people into fellowship together; to create opportunities for serving people with love and joy; and potentially to lead people into a relationship with Christ. The programmes comprise:

- **Tots ‘n’ Toast** – a weekly Toddler Group that was established at Christ Church in 1997 and has proved to be a great success in supporting local parents with pre-school children. It is led by the Children & Youth Minister assisted by a team of volunteers. Typical weekly attendance is 22 children plus their carers.

- **The Den** – was established in 2018 and is run by the Children & Youth Minister. It is a weekly outreach to the younger teenagers of the parish, providing them with a safe place to meet. There are approximately 25 registered members and typical weekly attendance is 15.

- **StartaFresh** – this mentoring and befriending activity is led by an employed Programme Manager and provides support for adults who have encountered a crisis in their lives or who find themselves socially disadvantaged or excluded. They meet in the church building weekly and the manager also supports the members individually outside this forum. There are approximately 40 registered members and typical weekly attendance is 30.

- **The Day Centre** – led by a volunteer Programme Manager, this provides the elderly and housebound with regular membership of a club that meets once a week to offer companionship, support, a hot lunch and entertainment. There are approximately 30 registered members and typical weekly attendance is 22.

- **The Transport Scheme** – led by an employed Programme Manager, provides essential door-to-door transport for frail, elderly, vulnerable and disabled members of the community living in Stamford and the surrounding villages. It has its own disability-accessible minibus and car, as well as relying on a large team of willing volunteer drivers. There are about 625 registered members and typically 70 lifts are given each week to 50 different people.

- **Paws for Prayer** – is based around a dog commissioned as Christ Church’s ‘Prayer dog’. He is taken for a weekly walk around the parish with his walker praying for all in our community and engaging with people who are out and about. Often there are great conversations and sometimes prayer upon request – hence ‘Paws for Prayer’!

- **School assemblies** – are taken monthly by our Children & Youth Minister at the primary school across the road – occasionally joined by the Prayer Dog! This builds upon the good relationship we have with staff and pupils alike.

We also have Girl Guide and Brownie packs meeting weekly in Christ Church.
Busy office workers (nothing happens without planning and preparation, you know!)
“StartaFresh helps me a lot. It’s lovely to be a part of a group that is attached to a church. Christ Church has given me a place to belong.”

Chris

“I feel safe at Christ Church.”

Julie

“The work can be hard, but so challenging and rewarding!”

Paul

“Christ Church has made me feel less isolated and more confident.”

Katrina

“StartaFresh has given me the chance to meet new people. Being a volunteer has given me the opportunity to help others by listening and being there for them. I feel proud to be a part of the group.”

Denise

“In Christ Church I have found a lovely family who I feel very comfortable with. I work with a great team to help the church keep ticking over.”

Carole

Have a look at a 3 minute movie of Christ Church’s August 2017 Celebration event at https://youtu.be/F580ewCahHM!
Christ Church Stamford

Page 12

Parish Profile October 2019

The Team & Partnerships

THE TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Wardens</td>
<td>Nigel Garwood &amp; Jason Nicholls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCC Chairperson</td>
<td>Vicar when appointed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Lisa Garwood (employed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Lisa Garwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding Officer</td>
<td>James Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaner</td>
<td>Lesley Oliver (employed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Reader</td>
<td>Paul Darley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Youth Minister</td>
<td>Lel Nicholls (employed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care Coordinator</td>
<td>Carole Rawlinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Centre Manager</td>
<td>Carole Rawlinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Scheme Manager</td>
<td>Tim Crofts (employed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StartaFresh Manager</td>
<td>Geraldine Crowley (employed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanery Synod Representatives</td>
<td>Nigel Garwood &amp; Jessica Randall-Carrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Synod Representative</td>
<td>Nigel Garwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of regular volunteers</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies

Christ Church has affirmed its support of the ordained ministry of women. In recent years we have made marriage available to divorced people in line with the Bishops’ guidelines. We operate a generous and open baptismal policy to all living in our parish, and at the Vicar’s discretion admit children to Holy Communion before Confirmation.

Partnerships

We have informal links with Anglican churches and other denominations in the town through Churches Together. We also have many other partnerships locally and excellent links into our community, not least a primary school opposite the church and a secondary school up the road from the church. We work closely with other churches in the Stamford Deanery and other local community activities such as the Stamford Food Bank and the local Street Pastors programme. Christ Church also has an excellent reputation in the area as a result of our Outreach Programmes, and receives regular and sustained support from local donors, businesses and trusts.

Several members of Christ Church go to Soul Survivor or New Wine, both of which are now held at the East of England Showground in Peterborough which is less than 20 minutes’ drive from Christ Church.
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planned giving</td>
<td>16,478</td>
<td>29,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections and other giving</td>
<td>5,150</td>
<td>11,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other voluntary receipts</td>
<td>34,017</td>
<td>67,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Aid recovered</td>
<td>5,069</td>
<td>12,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities generating funds</td>
<td>1,604</td>
<td>3,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from church activities</td>
<td>59,131</td>
<td>90,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>121,460</strong></td>
<td><strong>217,100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of generating funds</td>
<td>39,184</td>
<td>53,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missionary and charitable giving</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish share</td>
<td>13,547</td>
<td>26,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy and staffing costs</td>
<td>48,376</td>
<td>64,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church running expenses</td>
<td>49,058</td>
<td>65,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>1,972</td>
<td>25,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance costs</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>4,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>153,080</strong></td>
<td><strong>241,346</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outreach Programme income has fallen since the departure of our Operations Manager in January 2018, and general giving has fallen since the start of the interregnum. There is no structural reason why the previous level of giving and other income should not be regained or even increased in future, although Christ Church currently faces a challenge to raise the giving of the congregation to support its ministry.

FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

The Friends of Christ Church group was established to assist the Vicar, support the church’s outreach, work with the PCC for the maintenance and improvement of the Christ Church building, and raise funds for the church. Social and fund-raising events are held annually, e.g. a talk by the Custodian of Burghley House and a ukulele concert respectively.
STAMFORD – WOW!

Stamford is a great place to live! Sir Walter Scott considered it the “finest stone town in England”, and it remains so. In 2013 it was voted by The Sunday Times as Britain’s best place to live! In 2018 it came second in the paper’s list of places that have most frequently been in the top 20 places to live. The paper’s supplement said: “For all the picture-postcard perfection of its 600 listed buildings or the meadows that line the sparkling River Welland, our inaugural winning location remains a genuine and down-to-earth spot.” So idyllic is Stamford that it formed the backdrop for television costume dramas Middlemarch (1994) and Pride & Prejudice (2005).

But Stamford is not stuck in the past. It is a vibrant as well as an ancient town, boasting many boutique shops, supermarkets ranging from Lidl to Waitrose, 11 churches, dozens of coffee shops and pubs, 20 restaurants, about a dozen quality hotels and guest houses, a thriving cinema and theatre, swimming pool, skate park and much more. Near the town there is also Burghley House and Rutland Water, both of which are much enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

SIZE AND LOCATION

Stamford has a population of about 20,000 and is located near the A1, some 10 miles north-west of Peterborough. It is built on the side of a hill above the River Welland, surrounded by beautiful countryside and rural market towns. There is a good local bus service, and a rail service between Birmingham and Stansted Airport passes through and stops at Stamford. Many people are employed in the service sector and small engineering industries. Large numbers commute to Peterborough or further afield to Cambridge and London.

Stamford’s prosperity was built on its position as a coaching station halfway between London and York, and the wool trade. It was Britain’s first town to create a conservation area and, as a result, much of its historical architectural heritage has remained intact over the subsequent half century. After the Second World War a new estate was built to the north of the town. This estate, largely covering the parish of Christ Church which has a population of 4,387, originally comprised mainly council houses, but many have subsequently become privately owned.

SCHOOLS

Stamford had six primary schools – all Ofsted ‘good’ or above – including three church schools. There are two secondary schools in the town, one being an independent school separated into boys’ and girls’ facilities each with boarding accommodation. There are also several other schools near Stamford, many in Peterborough.
Filming Pride & Prejudice in Stamford

Stamford Meadows

Churches picnic at Burghley House, Stamford

It doesn’t often snow in Stamford, but it’s very pretty when it does!
“Christ Church has been my first experience of regular church attendance. At first I simply enjoyed the hospitality, collective humour and natural bonhomie. Later I went on Alpha. I opened up to learning about Jesus, accepting that He was who He said He was, and He did what He did ... for me! I read the Bible now too. My children are learning with me, and I am pleased they are meeting people from different generations and walks of life in Christ Church.”

Lucy
PROSPERITY AND DEPRIVATION

Although there is plenty of prosperity in Stamford and a significant proportion of residents in the Christ Church parish are professional people, there is also much poverty and vulnerability. The latest published IMD figures show that in terms of deprivation, Christ Church parish ranks 5,807 out of 12,508 parishes in England, where 1 is the most deprived parish, which means that the parish is around average on the deprivation scale for parishes in the country.
### Some Stats

#### ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electoral roll</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Sunday attendance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 16 and over</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and young people under 16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total special services attendance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people attending special services</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>225*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### AGE PROFILE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children aged 0 – 10</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people aged 11 – 17</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults aged 18 – 69</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults aged 70 and over</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms (all infants)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In December 2018 there were no additional Christmas services because of the interregnum.
We are very fortunate to have a modern, highly practical church building. The main church space is divided in two by a sliding partition which is open for Sunday worship. The space seats around 250 people with the partition open, or 100 around tables in a café-style format. There is a PA system and a dual projection system. A beautiful cruciform window at the front of the church is much admired by all.

The back half of the church is used for a wide variety of purposes, including the various Outreach Programmes. Leading from the back hall is a large, well-equipped kitchen with a serving hatch through to the main hall.

Off the large entrance hall are three offices and toilets facilities. The offices are used every day.

There is also a fantastic basement hall which is used for children’s work on Sundays and weekdays. There is a second kitchen in the basement with a ‘bar’ serving area in the main hall. Also on the lower level is another office and toilet facilities.
The Vicarage

The vicarage is a 5 bedroom house situated in a small select development of traditionally finished homes, designed with care to reflect the striking stone architecture for which Stamford is famous. It has views over playing fields to the rear, and is just seven minutes’ walk from Christ Church and ten minutes’ walk from the town centre.

The property is versatile for family living and is arranged over three floors, with a spacious kitchen, utility room, lounge, study, conservatory, first floor sitting room, 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. The master bedroom has an en-suite and two fitted wardrobes. The property also has front and rear gardens plus a double garage accessed through an archway.

- **Ground floor**: reception hall, cloakroom/WC, large lounge, study, conservatory, fitted kitchen diner, and utility room.
- **First floor**: landing, master bedroom with en-suite, second double bedroom, and family bathroom.
- **Second floor**: landing, three further bedrooms, shower room, and boiler room.

- **Grounds**: front and back gardens each with a lawn and pathways, and detached double garage.
- **Other features**: porch over front door, wrought iron detailing, gas central heating, and alarm system.
- **Upgrade**: £40,000 is being spent on the property – the work is scheduled to be finished by Christmas 2019.
Stained glass window at the front of Christ Church