

Benefice Profile

Christ Church, and
St Michael & All Angels, Northampton,



*The parish church
of Christ Church*

*The parish church of
St Michael &
All Angels*



***An exciting new benefice
An exciting opportunity***

Welcome to our Benefice

Hello from the Churchwardens

Thank you for your interest in the position of vicar at our churches.

We hope that you are interested and excited by our profile, and look forward to receiving your application if you feel this is the place where God is calling you to be.

If you are looking for friendly, welcoming churches, which are looking to extend worship opportunities and pastoral care and develop further the way we serve God in our community, this newly created benefice may be just the place for you.

We have included information on the town of Northampton in the profile, as well as on the benefice and the churches of Christ Church, and St Michael and All Angels. We hope this may be useful in considering where your journey may be leading you.

With blessings and best wishes.



**Sheila and Elias
Christ Church**



**Ann and Janice
St Michael and All Angels**

Churchwardens:

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Northampton – our town; your new home?

- Northampton is the county town, with a long historical tradition, and though a large town with a population of approx. 249,000, is surrounded by glorious countryside and many attractive villages. There are also several large parks in the town, including the magnificent Abington Park, which is adjacent to the benefice.
- It is home to a multi-national, multi-faith community.
- Like many towns, Northampton has felt the effects of the pandemic, recession and changes in retail habits but is looking to the future with major investment and new projects, including redeveloping the market square and surrounding area and attracting new retail offerings, in addition to a new bus station and a re-developed railway station in recent years.
- Northampton is a university town, with the vibrancy and energy that brings, has a major theatre in the Royal and Derngate, a recently re-developed museum, a strong music and performing arts tradition, and is the home of professional rugby, cricket and football teams, as well as being close to Silverstone F1 circuit.
- The town has a large general hospital with A&E services. Barratt Maternity Home is situated in the hospital grounds, and there is a separate Neonatal Unit which provides special, high dependence and intensive care for preterm or sick newborn babies.
- Northampton is well situated, adjacent to the M1 motorway and has frequent fast train services to London and Birmingham. There is also a comprehensive network of both local and inter-town bus services serving Northampton.

The Benefice

- The benefice is in the Diocese of Peterborough.
- It has been newly created, following the retirements of the vicar of Christ Church in June 2024 and the vicar of St Michael and All Angels with St Edmund in 2022. Both churches were previously members of the St Crispin Group of Churches, which was dissolved in 2023.
- The new benefice offers many significant opportunities for our new vicar, including developing joint working between the two churches, opportunities for growth and an opportunity to walk in the way of the Lord in new directions, and to invite new people to walk with us.
- There are good working relationships and communication between both churches, and between Christ Church and the adjacent St Peter and St Paul Church in Abington Park.

Church Profile

Christ Church, Northampton



Offering our new vicar exciting opportunities and challenges

Welcome to our Church

We thank you for your interest in our church, which is a welcoming place for all who want to worship God and serve the local community.

Our vicar retired in June 2024 and we are looking for a new vicar to lead us forward in growth, worship and service to God.



*Some members of our Christ Church family
ready to make you welcome*

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Our Vision and Mission

- We are a multi-national community of disciples, each serving Christ and his Church.
- We believe in the importance of discipleship and outreach.
- We wish to involve and engage children and young people more in worship and in following in the way of Christ, our Lord and Saviour.
- We want to look at what we are doing, how we are doing, and ask: *What do we want to be doing?*
- We want to grow our church and church family, in both discipleship and in numbers.
- We ask: *How might we serve God in new ways in our community?* And seek to respond to that challenge.



*Mencap
carol
service*

*Pastoral work at
the Christmas Fayre*



*Fishers of people, with fishing bag,
tackle box – and Bibles*

What we can offer you

- A warm and welcoming church family.
- A church that engages with its community in spiritual, pastoral and social activities.



*Our weekly warm space
coffee mornings outreach ...*

*...run by the church family &
supported by local council grants*

- Enthusiastic volunteers
- A desire to explore and grow in faith
- A church eager to grow and develop new initiatives, e.g. in outreach and children/young people's involvement.



*Several young people have joined our choir, become servers and regularly
give readings at Eucharist services*

- A significant opportunity to lead the development of a newly created benefice.
- A beautiful church that offers, and lives by, the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Character

- The parish is approximately 1 mile east of Northampton town centre, and is adjacent to the parish of St Michaels and All Angels.
- The parish is an urban area, with many closely packed terraced streets, plus the beautiful and spacious Abington Park and its facilities almost adjacent to the church.
- The thin red line on the map indicates the parish boundaries. Christ Church is hatched in blue in approximately the middle of the map.
- The thick red line by the church is the Wellingborough Road, a major traffic route into and out of Northampton Centre.
- There is a wide variety of shops, eating places and other amenities from the church westwards towards the town centre.
- There are a number of offices and businesses in the area around the church.
- There are some rough sleepers in the area and there have been instances of anti-social behaviour at times.



Demographics

- The parish is part of the Abington Ward of Northampton Town Council, which has a population of approximately 13,500. It is in the Abington & Phippsville Ward of the unitary West Northamptonshire Council.
- The Ward is multi-national and multi-faith, with Christianity being the largest religious group.
- There are good public services connections in the parish between the town centre westwards and shopping and leisure facilities eastwards along the Wellingborough Road.

Schools & Education

- There are two schools in the parish - Barry Road Primary Academy and Stimpson Avenue Primary Academy. Neither is a church school. We have good communication links with both schools and 3-4 visits a year are made by classes to the church for activities linked to the National Curriculum.

- Similar visits are made less frequently by the Beehive School for young people with additional needs, which is outside the parish.

Health Care

- There are two residential care homes in the parish, Burlington Court for the elderly, and Christchurch Court for adults with brain injuries, plus the Cube Day Centre for adults with learning disabilities and autism.
- Holy Communion services with hymns are held at Burlington Court monthly, and much enjoyed by the residents and the team leading the service.



A home made visual aid at a recent care home service on the colours of God's love

- There is a medical centre with dental facilities in the parish.
- The Marie Curie office is almost opposite the church. A Nine Lessons and Carol service is held annually in the church to support Marie Curie, with an ensemble of young musicians from Northampton Music and Performance Arts Trust playing.
- The church has links with the Northampton Mencap group and an annual carol service is held at the church.

Telling the Christmas story at carol services and Crib & Christingle



Other Churches

- Many members of other local churches, including St Michaels and All Angels, regularly attend the monthly Evensong service at Christ Church. The services are led in rotation by the incumbent, the Lay Reader and representatives of other churches.
- Several members of St Michaels and All Angels regularly attend midweek special services at Christ Church, and we welcome their attendance with us.
- Strong links remain between Christ Church and the other churches which were part of the St Crispin Group, which was dissolved in 2023.
- There are close links with St Peter & St Paul Church, adjacent in Abington Park, members of which have supported concerts at Christ Church and the organist from that church has held fundraising concerts at Christ Church.
- United Life Church meet in the church hall. We have a good relationship and they have been very supportive of our recently completed wellbeing garden project.

Our Church

The Church

- The church was built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries on the Wellingborough Road with the housing expansion in that area for the then thriving boot and shoe industry employees and is a Grade II Listed Building.
- Local architect Matthew Holding designed the church in the Decorated Style inspired by the Gothic churches of Europe between 1290 and 1350. The church, built in local stone, was consecrated by the Bishop of Peterborough on 31st May 1906. It was never completed as Holding intended, with a temporary brick wall remaining in place at the west end until the modern west front was added in 1985, which makes the church very light and airy.



North elevation, fronting Wellingborough Road

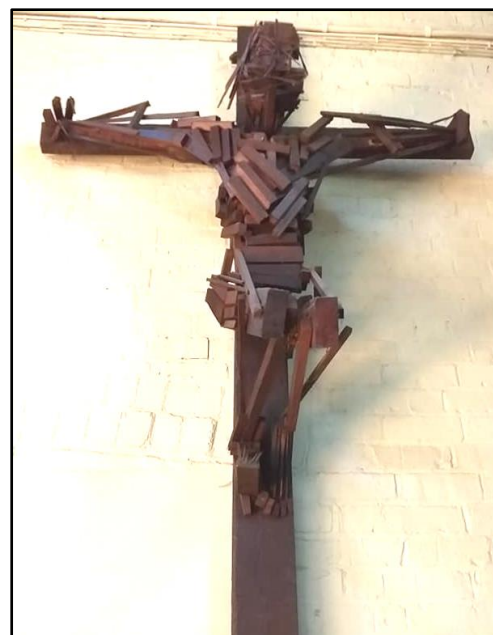


The high altar and nave

- The seating capacity is approximately 260, on linked wooden chairs.
- One of the most striking features is the beautiful East window depicting various saints, which was given as a thanksgiving for peace after the First World War. Another fascinating feature is the crucifix fixed to the west wall, made by a local student.



East window - detail



Crucifix - metal sculpture

- Coffee is served after services at the back of church by volunteers, and there is a lot of socialising and pastoral support amongst the church family.



Volunteers serving coffee



A recent Confirmation

- There is a large grassed area around the church, with trees, shrubs and flowers. A small team of dedicated volunteers undertake planting and gardening duties in the church yard. The grassed area is cut by a local contractor.



Church grounds – western entrance

- A modern digital organ was installed in the last few months, paid for by a generous legacy and focused fundraising. The church has a strong musical tradition, as detailed below.

Music Tradition

- The church benefits from a beautiful acoustic for live music.
- The Director of Music, who is paid, and the choir (with a wide age range, including several young people), support regular worship. Occasionally extra singers are drafted in to provide a larger choir, e.g. for the Marie Curie carol service.
- The church is used for lettings by local music organisations, which raises general funds and increases its community profile. A series of Sunday recitals by local musicians took place through the summer in 2023.



*A concert at the church
by local musicians in
honour of a late friend*

Church Facilities

- The church has a large, high nave, lady chapel and children's area. The sacristy also acts as an office for the vicar to use and has a toilet for use by the vicar and ministry team.

- There are no headstones. A small area of ground is consecrated for the interment of ashes near the north church wall.
- The church hall is adjacent to the church. There is a main hall, side room, kitchen and toilets.
- There is a wellbeing garden adjacent to the church hall, created in June 2024, with grant aid support, which is used by attendees of the welcoming space coffee mornings and hall hirers. We hope to use the garden for church activities and possibly some acts of worship in the future.

*Taking a break
whilst creating
our wellbeing garden*



- There is accessible access to church and hall.
- The vicarage is adjacent to the church land, fronting onto Christchurch Road. More detail is given in the *A place to call Home* section at the end of the profile.
- The church owns the adjoining Esso petrol station site, from which the parish derives an annual rental.

Current State of Repair

- The most recent Quinquennial Inspection was on 31st May 2024, which included an electrical installation inspection. A number of items were identified and have been rectified.
- Other works to be carried out are:
 - Boiler room door to be reinforced to make safe.
 - Supply & fit drain cover to boiler room floor.
 - Quote for work received at £1,158.00.
 - Costs to be met from general funds.
 - The Archdeacon's Notice of Approval of Works has been issued so works can begin.
- A maintenance programme is to be started on all roof gutters and unblocking downpipes.
- Some remedial electrical works needs to be carried out in the church and hall. A quote is awaited from the electrician.

Church Tradition

- The Eucharist is at the heart of our life and worship.
- Vestments are worn by the vicar and altar party who, along with the choir, process from the vestry to the sanctuary and back.
- There is provision for the use of incense at services but it is very rarely used. Sanctus bells are used at Eucharist services.
- The high altar is seldom used, with preference being given to using the modern nave altar.



*A Eucharist service at
the nave altar*

Sunday Worship:

The Eucharist

- A Eucharist service is held each Sunday at 10am. Worship service booklets are used for each season, with provision for inclusion of Baptism. *Hymns Ancient & Modern* is used for services, with organ and choir leading the singing. Some services, such as Mothering Sunday and Harvest, may be interactive, with participation by children and young people.
- There is a dedicated area used on Sundays for children's activity and Children's Church, which is currently run on an infrequent basis. We wish to make Children's Church more frequent and to develop and involve the children more in the worship through all-age activities.

*In our
children's area*



- There are trained lay Eucharistic Assistants, and the laity read lessons and lead intercessions on a rota basis.
- The congregation is multi-national, including Caribbean and African groups, with a wide range of ages, from young children to centenarians and all in between. The number of attendees is usually 40-50 adults and 5-10 under 16s.
- Coffee is served after the service, at the rear of the church, where a small area has been set aside with basic facilities for making teas and coffees.

Evensong

- BCP Evensong is held on the first Sunday of each month in the choir stalls. This is led by the vicar, an assistant priest and invited members of the laity on a rotating basis.
- The service is attended by an average of 13 people, with the congregation being made up of members of Christ Church and other local churches, including St Michael and All Angels, and is much valued.

Weekday worship

- There is currently no regular midweek worship, other than on special occasions, such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Weekly worship was held on Wednesday mornings at 10.00am but stopped during the pandemic. This has not been reinstated but it is an aspiration to do so, and the church family have indicated they would wish a regular weekday service to be resumed.



A time and place for reflection

Electoral roll

- There are currently 53 people on the electoral roll, of whom 8 are resident in the parish.

Monthly Service Structure

Monthly Pattern	Christ Church
Each Sunday	10.00am Eucharist CW – Sung service
First Sunday	5.00pm Evensong BCP – Sung service

Average attendance at Services	Children & Youth (0 – 16 yrs)	Adults	Totals
Sunday Eucharist – Christ Church	10	43	53
Sunday Evensong – Christ Church	0	13	13

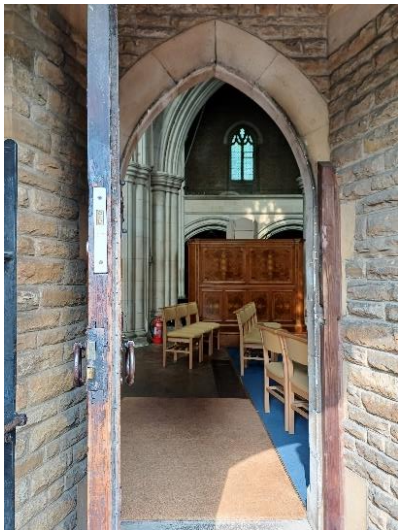
Festival and 'special' services

Service (Christ Church) 01.06.23 – 31.05.24	Children & Youth (0 – 16 yrs)	Adults	Totals
Trinity Sunday (04.06.23)	13	48	61
Harvest (01.10.23)	17	47	64
Bible Sunday (29.10.23)	10	43	53
All Souls (midweek evening service) 02.11.23	0	18	18
Remembrance Sunday (12.11.23)	20	55	75
Christ the King (patronal festival) (26.11.23)	14	84	98
Nine Lessons & Carols (in aid of Marie Curie, with ensemble of young musicians) (17.12.23)	41	122	163
Christmas Day (25.12.23)	6	39	45
Epiphany (07.01.24)	17	39	56
Ash Wednesday (12.02.24)	1	12	13
Mothering Sunday (10.03.24)	11	53	64
Palm Sunday (24.03.24)	17	53	70
Good Friday – Stations of the Cross (29.03.24)	6	25	31

Service (Christ Church) 01.06.23 – 31.05.24	Children & Youth (0 – 16 yrs)	Adults	Totals
Trinity Sunday (04.06.23)	13	48	61
Pentecost (19.05.24)	7	48	55

Plus (over the last 12 months):

- 1 wedding.
- 7 baptisms.
- 5 funerals (all faithful members of Christ Church).
- 3 people confirmed.
- Church family participation in the Walk of Witness on Good Friday morning



*The door is open to all:
and our church family
is very welcoming*

Our Church Community: Congregation

We asked our church family, and they told us:

What do you like about being part of & coming to church?

- *Friendly & welcoming, warmth & diversity; enjoyable services.*
- *Muti-national congregation, sharing stories.*
- *Beautiful building, inside & out.*
- *Personal touches – acknowledging birthdays, family celebrations & achievements.*
- *Getting closer to God’s word and becoming the person God wants me to be.*

What things would you like our Church family to do or change?

- Greater encouragement to youth discipleship & leadership.
- More focus on children – regular children’s church & monthly all-age service.
- Start Bible study & Alpha courses & re-start face-to-face Lent/Advent Courses..
- Visits to places of interest – cathedrals etc?



Worshipping with joy, and serving with love

What can our Church family do to serve the wider community?

- Hold events around the church, engaging with local schools & community.
- Run Alpha courses – would put myself forward as a volunteer.
- Sunday school or similar to interest young people.
- A young people’s questionnaire – different needs to adults.
- Involve children in the upkeep of the wellbeing garden.
- Messy Church after school – volunteer dependant.

What is the best thing about our Church family?

- It’s inclusive, friendly & welcoming.
- All have the same vision – to love one another.
- Dedicated & friendly people running services & the church.
- The volunteers running the excellent welcoming space coffee mornings.
- Coffee and chat after services.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

- Re-instate midweek services and social activities lost during the pandemic.
- Invite schools to perform at fetes and fayres. Need to involve young people.
- Be more ambitious with fundraising.
- Include music & dance performances from other cultures.
- Improve communication about what’s going on at church.
- Improve seating & move closer to the sanctuary.
- The external planting around the church is beautiful.
- Keep up the great work.

Our Children, Young People and Families

- Children's church on an irregular basis during Sunday services, which we would like to make more frequent, and an area for children's activities in the church.
- Children and young people are encouraged and supported to become involved in the worship and several are choir members, servers and readers at services.

*A Christmas card,
produced by our young
people, with help from all
the church family*



- Scouts and Beavers meet weekly in the church hall & take part in Harvest and Remembrance Services.
- Parents are encouraged to bring their children to services – toys are available for them in the children's area, and we are happy for very young children to move about during services. Families watch out for each other's children.
- Young people's Confirmation preparation classes are run on a regular basis.
- There are regular visits from schools in the parish and beyond each year, where we explain the work and role of the church.

Our Activities

- Home Communion are undertaken on a monthly basis, or as requested.
- A Eucharist service is held monthly in a residential care home within the parish.
- Welcoming space coffee mornings are run by our volunteers each week in the hall.
- We have just completed a wellbeing garden adjacent to the church hall for use by welcoming space attendees and hall users, and for church activities.
- Hospital and house visits are made when requested.
- Summer & Christmas fayres are held annually to raise funds, and a prayer table and faith activity are a regular feature.

- Pastoral support is provided by the Lay Reader and church family.
- Lent courses have been held on Zoom in recent years, but not in 2024 due to shortage of resources. We have an aspiration to reinstate face-to-face Lent and Advent courses each year.
- Regular meetings were held between the now retired incumbent and Lay Reader with those exploring vocation or discipleship. This includes supporting a member of the church family who is currently taking part in the St Peter's Stream of discernment and training.
- Church newsletters are produced on a regular basis for the church family to provide information, support and engagement.
- A large number of volunteers are actively involved with, and assisting in, all church activities, including serving, setting up for services, coffee after services, flower arranging, making banners & decorations for special church services, running the welcoming space coffee mornings, and many other activities.



Our church family showing some of their artistic and creative talents



Our Team

- 1 Assistant Priest, licensed to both Christ Church and St Michael and All Angels.
- 1 Licensed Reader, licensed to Christ Church.
- 1 church member currently on the St Peter's Stream of discernment and training.
- 2 Church wardens (plus 4 deputies)
- Servers & Eucharistic assistants.

The Assistant Priest, Licensed Reader and church wardens work with the incumbent on planning services, particularly for special services, e.g. veneration of the cross, or interactive ones, e.g. Harvest.

Our Finances

- We have an excellent Treasurer. A cashier and one volunteer count and bank the collection each week.
- The parish share in 2023 was £29,350 and was paid in full. The parish share for 2024 is £23,722.
- Payment of clergy expenses, with receipts, are expedited by the Treasurer, and there is also an imprest account
- A Parish Giving Scheme, which people sign up to through the Diocese, was set up early in 2024. In addition, we have a card machine for making offerings at services and other events, a number of direct debits set up by members of the church family, and a collection plate at services.
- Missionary giving:
 - We have supported Northampton Ride & Stride for many years, sponsoring a churchwarden to raise funds for Christ Church and Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.
 - At Harvest we supported the Christian Aid appeal and collected for Northampton Food Bank & Baby Basics.
 - During Lent we supported Water Aid and the Northampton Food Bank.
 - Our Nine lessons and Carols Service is always in conjunction with Marie Curie and raises funds for them.

Our Organisation

- We have a PCC of 15 members (1 co-opted), including the incumbent, churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Priest, Lay Reader, safeguarding officer, hall management officers, health & safety representative, Deanery representatives, and several other representatives of the congregation.
- Sub-groups are set up as required, e.g. to progress the digital organ project and to produce a church profile.
- Small teams of volunteers have established themselves for specific tasks, e.g. flower arranging, cleaning the church, gardening, serving coffees after services, running the welcoming space coffee mornings, and developing and maintaining the wellbeing garden.

Safeguarding

We take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults very seriously and we are very vigilant and rigorous in seeking to maintain the safety and security of the Christ Church family under the direction of an excellent Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). The PSO has organised training for the team and PCC members, and ensured that DBS checks and the Safeguarding Audit are carried out. She is currently (July 2024) in the process of handing over her duties to a new Safeguarding Officer, who was formerly the Deputy PSO.

Parish Profile

St. Michael & All Angels. Northampton.

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Parish Church of Saint Michael & All Angels
with Saint Edmund, Northampton.

Our Priest, Father Michael, has retired and we need fresh leadership to move forward.
Thank you for reviewing our Parish Profile.



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Our Vision and Mission

We have a strong tradition and belief in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We welcome all, without prejudice or judgement, into our community.

Our vision is to draw the adults and children of our parish into our Christian community at St Michaels, to grow our congregation.



"The PCC's mission is to expand the Church within the Community".

The PCC would like to encourage the following activities:

- Something for the old folk.
- House groups.
- Messy church.
- Children's church.
- Reinstate the social aspects of the parish community.

What we can offer you

- We have a very loyal congregation and several people have been here at St. Michaels for over 70 years.
- Currently we offer a 9.30am sung communion service every Sunday, throughout the year.



- We enjoy fellowship after the service with tea, coffee, and biscuits served at the back of the Church from our kitchen facility.
- We offer financial stability, predominately through monies received from 5 commercial leased units and single residential house on a short hold tenancy letting.
- We are actively part of the Diocese direct debit Giving Scheme.
- We consistently pay our Parish share in full.
- On site parking.

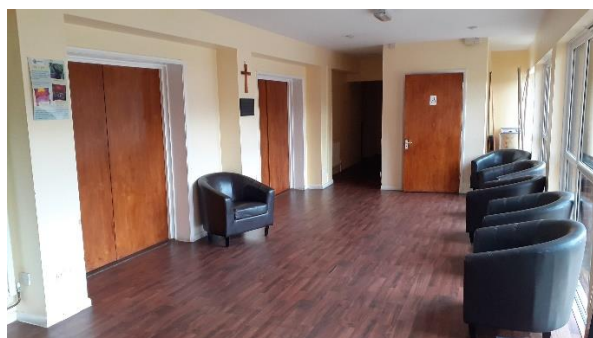


- A modern two storey Church office facility, with Wi-Fi and document/booklet publishing facilities.

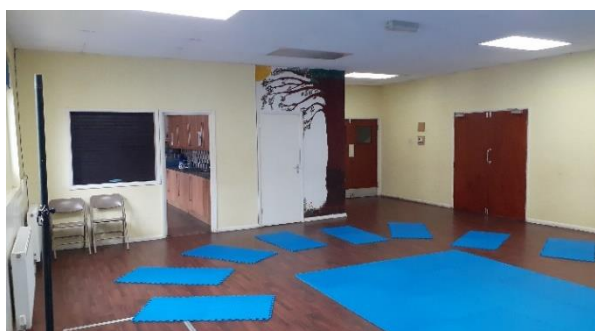


- Parish rooms consisting of 2 community halls, a large modern kitchen and washroom facilities.

Foyer



Hall 1



Hall set out on the day, for a repeat private booking by Baby Sensory.

Hall 2

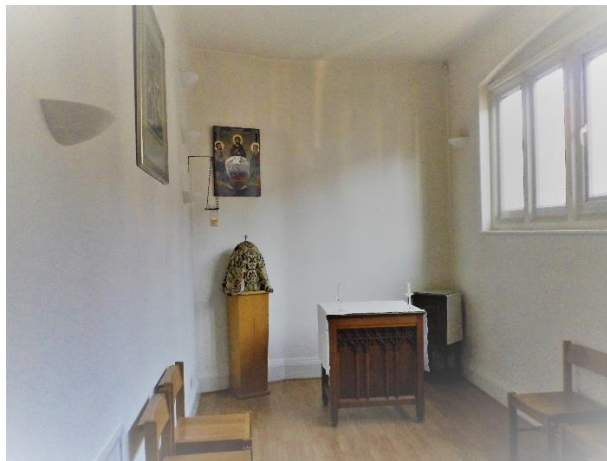


Kitchen



- The Emmaus House of Prayer

Chapel



(House of Prayer continues overleaf)

- The Emmaus House of Prayer

In the year 2002 work began at St. Michael's church to convert several under-used rooms into a modest house to be used as a place of quiet, stillness and prayer.

In December 2003, the Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough consecrated the House to be a House of Prayer, in which God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, would be worshipped daily and where intercessory prayers would be offered for the world and all peoples.

The Reverend Philip Munch was invited to be the Warden of the House of Prayer, offering spiritual hospitality to anyone who would like to spend time in a quiet environment, to ponder and to pray.

Over the years, many people have chosen to use the House of Prayer regularly for quiet days, or to come occasionally for a morning or an afternoon of silence and contemplation.

Fr. Philip as Warden lives in the House of Prayer, welcomes all who would like to make use of this quiet space.

The Deanery Plan sees the House of Prayer and its Priest as being a resource following St Michael's to any new parish arrangements.

Currently, all costs of the House of Prayer and its Priest are funded from within parish resources.

The House of Prayer priest, who is a religious, has a clear brief in his ministry as a spiritual guide within the House of Prayer, and assists in parish work in a very limited way, in the Church building and office, to which the House of Prayer is physically attached.

Does St Michaels give to its New Vicar

“An openness to embrace change, new patterns of worship and new styles of worship?”

Yes, we do.

Our Parish

- The style of housing in the Parish is generally high-density, late 19th century to early 20th century brick terraced with increasing levels of multi occupancy, students, and HMO's.



- We are an Urban Parish. Please review the street map on the next page.
- We have minor social problems in the Church grounds. Evidence of an occasional rough sleeper hidden behind a thick hedge. Drug user needles have very occasionally been found in the car park area. Occurrences of fly-tipping and breaking into cars on the western boundary of the parish.
- We have a full range of shopping and leisure amenities within the parish and the town.
- We have popular support in the Parish for :
Northampton Town Football Club - The Cobblers
Northampton Rugby Football Club - The Saints
Northamptonshire County Cricket Club - The Steelbacks
- Local workplaces in the Parish:
Crockett & Jones Shoe factory, a local industry.
Saxon Blinds. One of St Michaels five Lessees.

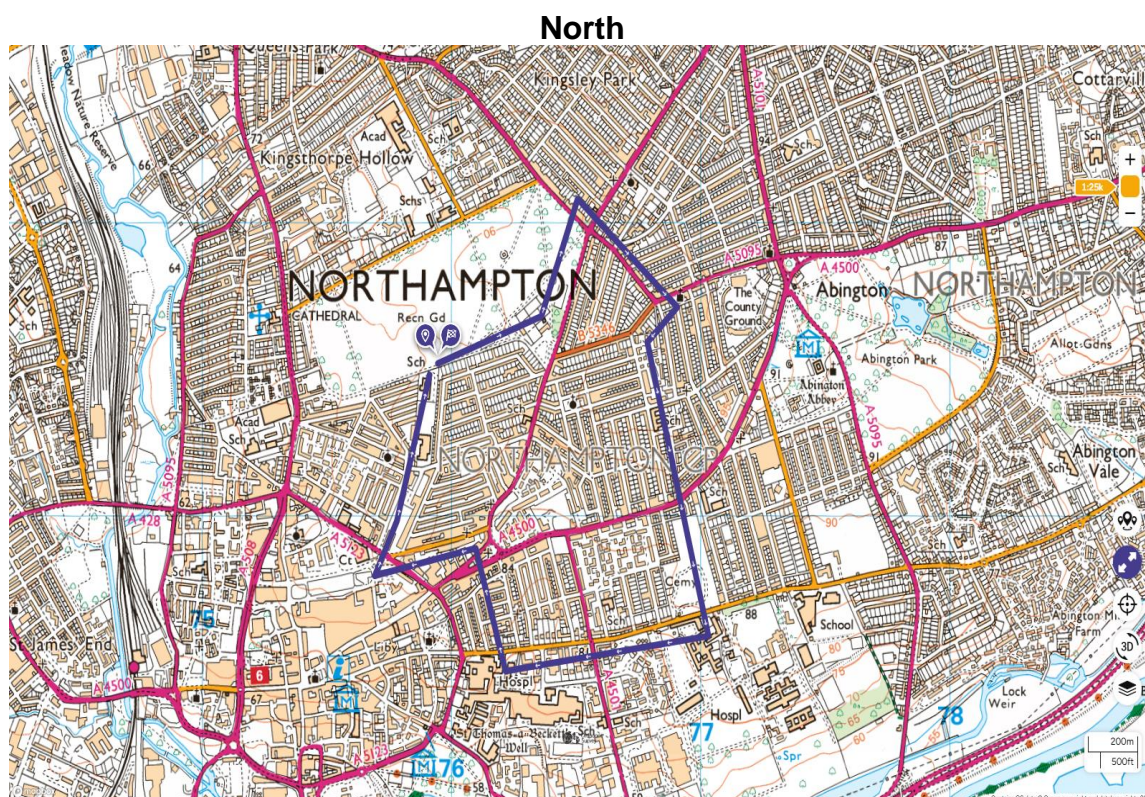


- Schools within the Parish

Vernon Terrace Primary School.



- Health Care within the Parish: - Health Centres, Chemists, Podiatrists & Dentists.
- Parish boundary outlined in **Blue**.



View on Google Maps for increased detail.

Church address: 14 Perry Street, Northampton, NN1 4HL.

Our Church

- Current Quinquennial Inspection April 2023. No outstanding major works.
- St. Michaels can accommodate a congregation of 150 adults.
- Victorian Church building, Grade 2 listed.
- No churchyards.

Our Worship

Monthly Service Structure

Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion CW – Sung service				

Table suitable for use by multi-parish benefices

Monthly Pattern	Parish A	Parish B	Parish C	Parish D

Pattern of our Sunday Service

Worship at St Michael’s may be described as modern catholic in style.

The Sunday Eucharist remains the central act of worship.

Common Worship Liturgical texts are used to reflect the Seasons and Feasts within the Church of England Calendar, and according to the Common Worship Rubrics.

Vestments are always worn by the officiating priest.

Occasionally we use incense (e.g. when possible, at Easter, Christmas, Patronal Festival).

A congregational Eucharist setting, together with hymns and a Responsorial Psalm are usually sung every Sunday.

Service [and location]	Children & Youth (0 – 16 yrs)	Adults	Totals
St Michaels Church. 9.30am Holy Communion	4	20	24

Table suitable for showing festival and ‘special’ services

Service [and location]	Children & Youth (0 – 16 yrs)	Adults	Totals
St. Michaels Church. Christmas Eve.	0	20	20
St. Michaels Church. Christmas Day	0	11	11
St. Michaels Church. Ash Wednesday	0	15	15
St. Michaels Church. Palm Sunday	2	26	28
St. Michaels Church. Holy Saturday	1	24	25
St. Michaels Church. Easter Sunday	1	22	23

Continued on next page.

The Romanian Orthodox Church

In 2007 we invited the Romanian Orthodox Church to worship at St Michaels. They meet every Sunday at 11.30am. They have a considerable congregation drawn from the Midlands area.

A message to you from Fr. Florin Simionca

I first met Fr. Michael in 2007 at Holy Sepulchre.

The small Romanian community, at that time, was looking for a place of worship.

Fr. Michael invited us to use the church of St. Michael & all Angels.

We have been using the church for over 17 years now.

Our worship type is Eastern (Greek) Orthodox Rite, having the same elements as Western Catholic (Anglican) Rite, but in a different order.

We are praying to God for your parish, in getting a new vicar that would excel in the neighbour love and through this, in the love of God!

Best wishes

fr. Florin



Continued on next page.

The Church of God of Prophecy

We at the Church of God of Prophecy in Northampton have worshiped at St Michaels Church in the Guild Hall facility, adjacent to the main church.

We have been at this facility since 1974 when our then pastor had a word from the Lord whilst in Gloucester, to set up a new church in Northampton.

We have now been here for more than 40 years and have coordinated various events with St Michaels over the years.

We have a very solid relationship with St Michaels and the previous Vicar Father Michael and look very much forward to continuing that relationship with the incoming vicar and working together to spread the good news of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ

Many thanks from the Church of God of Prophecy leadership team to the new vicar of St Michaels.



Pastor Pauline and Pastor Gary

Our Church Community: Congregation

What do you love about being part of our Church family?

Being part of a church family.
It has been a second home for me for over 70 years.
It is also a place of security at difficult times of my life.
Such a friendly Church, everyone is welcoming.
The opportunity to take an active part in the services.
The people I have met here.
The relaxed and friendly atmosphere
I like the strong tradition of choral music

What new things would you like our Church family to do?

Encourage more young people and children to attend. Have services specifically for them.

What can our Church family do to serve the wider community

Community fund raising events for National Charities, using our buildings and grounds.
Computer café giving assistance with computing and phones.
Evangelical initiatives.
Outreach programmes to assist the disadvantaged.

What is the best thing about our Church family?

A supportive family in the troubled times and the times of joy.
We keep in contact with people if they are sick and unable to attend.
Friendly & Welcoming.

Our Children, Young People and Families

- Recent support given to a new Nigerian family requesting assistance on schools and healthcare.

Our Groups

Volunteers

The Choir



The Eucharistic Servers



The Healing Prayer Group



“Welcome to St Michaels”



Congregation

Intercession reading team.

After service refreshment team.

Old and New Testament reading team.

Our Team

Clergy

- One SSM (Self Supporting Minister)
- One PTO (Permission to Officiate)
- The Emmaus House of Prayer priest (non-Diocese stipendiary).

Lay Minister

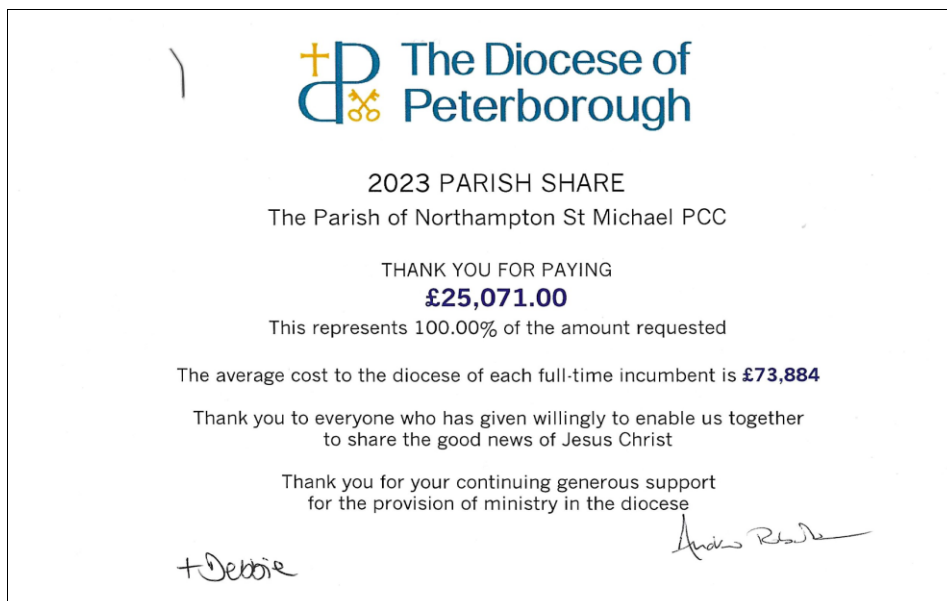
- One Reader (Communion by extension)

Other ministerial support

- Organist (paid) and choir (voluntary)

Our Finances

- PCC Treasurer maintains the Parish financial systems, with external support as needed.
- Parish Share paid in full.
- Clergy Expenses confirmed and paid by the Treasurer.
- Sixteen parishioners are signed up for the Direct Debit, Planned Giving scheme.
- We support charitable giving to Water Aid and USPG.
- St. Michaels supports the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust by sponsoring a participant on the annual Ride & Stride fund raising event.
- Reserves. Of **£422,218.00** held in the Parish General fund.
- Storm damage to the church roof which resulted in considerable damage to the Church pipe organ. Repair costs being progressed with the Insurers.
- Annual Reports and Accounts for the Parish are available on requested.



Our Organisation

Parochial Church Council.

- 2 Church Wardens
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Safeguarding rep
- Deanery Synod rep
- 5 PCC Members
- PCC currently meeting every 6 weeks during the Interregnum.

Standing Committee

- 2 Church Wardens:
- Treasurer:
- Standing Committee meet as required by events.

Northampton, Christ Church and St Michael and All Angels

Our New Vicar

Role Description

We are welcoming churches with multi-national congregations, who are excited about this new phase of mission and ministry, as our two churches come together as a benefice. We wish to grow by increasing attendance and discipleship especially amongst young people. We wish to re-establish midweek services, study courses and social activities which were lost during the pandemic.

We have enthusiastic, loving and caring church families and would welcome a new incumbent who has the skills to:

- provide strong leadership to both churches to achieve a successful unification of Christ Church and St Michael and All Angels as a benefice;
- maintain and further develop the welcoming feel of our churches, in a way that will encourage new members, and values the contribution of lay people;
- introduce new missional initiatives aimed at growing the new benefice both in discipleship and in number of worshippers;
- create pastoral teams which can enhance and strengthen the support we offer to our church families and community in the name of Jesus Christ.

Person specification

We are seeking a vicar who has:

- the wisdom and ability to manage change well as we seek to develop a vision for our new benefice that enables growth;
- enthusiasm, energy and a genuine desire to communicate and connect joyfully with people of all ages and backgrounds;
- excellent listening skills, is approachable, empathetic, with a sense of humour, who can enthuse others with the joy of serving God;
- a heart for mission, able to promote outreach in our communities, particularly with children, young people and their families;
- a clear and compassionate style of leadership, which seeks consensus and can calmly resolve issues of conflict, where they arise;
- a passion for pastoral ministry, willing to develop strong pastoral teams, to enhance the spiritual care and support we offer to those in need.

As Christ's love is all inclusive, we would welcome applications from all who serve in his name, regardless of age, race, gender or sexuality, in line with the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010.

Opportunities and challenges

We have identified a number of areas below where there are opportunities and challenges for moving forward and growing our benefice in the service of God.

- Completing a successful unification of Christ Church and St Michael and All Angels as a benefice;
- Providing regular teaching and ministry for our young people;
- Restoring weekday worship, mid-day prayers and study groups which were suspended during the pandemic;
- Looking to establish a pastoral team to support the church family and community, and assist the incumbent;
- Working towards the target of net zero carbon in historic church buildings.

A place to call Home

- The vicarage is adjacent to the Christ Church grounds, with the church hall beyond the garden, and fronts on to Christchurch Road.
- It is a large, comfortable, four bedroomed detached house, built in the late 1950s.
- The house has its own garage and off-street parking on the driveway.



A position for you?

Is God calling you?

Please use the following link to find out more about our churches:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16475/> (Christ Church, Northampton)

<https://www.stmichaelandallangelsnorthampton.org.uk/> (St Michael & All Angels, Northampton)

Facebook: Christ Church, Northampton

Facebook: St Michael and All Angels, Northampton..

Further information about our communities can be found on the links below:

Newspaper – Chronicle & Echo (weekly)

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk>

Local authorities:

<https://www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/>

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk>

Informal contact can be made with The Rural Dean The Revd Oliver Coss

Email: rector@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

Tel: 01604 270588

Or

The Archdeacon of Northampton The Venerable Richard Ormston

archdeacon.northampton@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Archdeacon's Office:

Cheryl Cullen (PA)

Tel 01733 887019

E pa.archdeacons@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

An application form can be obtained from the Diocesan website, vacancies section,

www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/vacancies2
