



Church Profile

as at October 2015

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1. The essentials

a) Our identity

i) We are Christians

We are people who believe that everything, (life, death and the universe!) revolves around Jesus Christ. We *believe* in Jesus Christ, in the sense of personally trusting Him as our one true ruler and rescuer. The Bible helpfully summarises Christian belief as saying, 'Jesus Christ is Lord.' Christians are thoroughly committed to who Jesus is, what He came to do and what it means to follow Him and they are concerned for that in their own lives as well as the lives of those around them.

ii) We are evangelical Christians

The adjective 'evangelical' simply refers to those who believe that the Bible has absolute authority in deciding all matters of belief and behaviour. The Bible therefore takes centre stage in all our main Sunday meetings and all our midweek activities. We want not just to be Bible-based, but Bible-driven.

We are a conservative evangelical church, emphasising, as well as the supremacy of Scripture, the centrality of the gospel, the seriousness of sin and judgement, the penal substitutionary death of Christ, the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit and the urgency of evangelism.

iii) We are Anglican, evangelical Christians

We are part of the Church of England (Anglican) and within the diocese of Winchester. We hold to the Reformation teachings contained in the Anglican *39 Articles of Religion* and *The Book of Common Prayer*. As a consecrated chapel - a nonparochial Anglican church - CCW has maintained a continuous evangelical ministry since it was opened in 1914. It is in the parish of St Ambrose and the Deanery of Bournemouth. The Vicar is licensed by the Bishop of Winchester. In 1922 Christ Church was designated a conventional district without an area assigned to it, and this arrangement was intended to be perpetual.

The Vicar attends the Deanery chapter meetings of local Anglican clergy.

The church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and Reform and a supporter of Anglican Mission in England (AMiE) and the ReNew network.

Resolution on complementarian position to follow (as at Oct 2015).

b) Our vision

i) Knowing Christ

The foundation of all that we do at Christ Church is a living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are committed to growing in our knowledge and love of Him as we learn from the Bible together and we are committed to encouraging one another in lives that serve Him.

ii) Making Christ known

We are concerned to make the message of Jesus Christ clear to all people. We are committed, both individually and as a church, to do all we can so that people may hear about, understand and respond to Jesus Christ. We make Christ known in order to make disciples of Christ who in turn will also make disciples of Christ and all to the glory of God.

c) Our strategy

i) Prayer

We know that unless the Lord works, nothing of spiritual and lasting value will be built (*Psalm 127*). We know that apart from Christ, we can do nothing (*John 15:4*). God, in his sovereign grace, chooses to use the prayers of his people to bring about his gospel work.

The main church prayer meeting happens once a month on a Monday evening; all members are encouraged to come because we see this as our most important mid-week meeting of the month. Prayer meetings are also held every Wednesday (9.00am) and Friday (7.30am - for local outreach) for those who are able to attend.

ii) The Ministry of the Word

New life in Christ and growth in Christ comes by the Word of God (*1 Peter 1:22-25*). The Bible is all that is needed for the gospel minister to establish the health of the church (*2 Timothy 3:14-17*) as it teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains people in righteousness. Our ministry is Bible-driven with a strong emphasis on expository preaching and teaching.

d) Our current details

The current Christ Church Directory lists 207 households where at least one person is a member of the congregation. In April 2015 there were 230 names on the Electoral Roll. Recent Sunday morning congregations average 275 adults and 40 under 14's; Sunday evening averages 73 people.

2. The ministry priorities

a) Corporate worship

There are 3 Sunday meetings (9.30am, 11.15am & 6.30pm) which are relatively informal and reflect a range of denominational backgrounds in the congregation. While we seek to maintain a blend of music styles our aim is always to sing songs that are faithful to Scripture, honouring to God, and encouraging to each other. We draw liturgy for elements of our services from our own Christ Church Service Book, based on *Common Worship* and Church Society's *An English Prayer Book*. All-age services take place on average twice a term. Visitors and newcomers often say that Christ Church is remarkably welcoming.

b) Evangelism

We believe in the NT gift of evangelism (Eph. 4:11), and encourage those with particular gifts of initiating conversations about Christ. We employ a 'Community Minister', effectively as an evangelist, who seeks to train, equip and encourage the church family in evangelism.

We also believe evangelism will be a concern of every Christian, whatever part they play in that. We believe that a large part of that gospeling will take place in everyday life in the places where we live and work.

To assist the church with their evangelism, we run a number of activities designed to connect unbelievers with the gospel.

We run regular Christianity Explored groups. There are ministries for older people through coffee, lunch and crafts. There is 'International Connection' for students and workers from overseas. There are ministries to reach young families in parent & toddlers groups (Pebbles). We also run a Boys Brigade ministry in the church and a Bible study group for those working in Westbourne (Digging Deeper).

For men and women there are specific events through the year in the form of breakfasts, speaker and other meal events.

We aim to have a heightened period of evangelistic activity once every two years in a week of mission. These usually take the form of specific interest events and 'Taster' Sundays (which also run regularly throughout the year).

c) Discipleship

The mainstay of our discipleship is our Home Groups which meet fortnightly for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. There are other discipleship small groups aimed at particular people at particular stages of life including TnT (20's & 30's) and Mum Friday (currently for mums of younger children).

Other courses, open to all, take place through the year such as Bible overview courses, Firm Foundations and Discipleship Explored.

About twice a year we encourage men and women each to get together to think through the Bible's teaching on a pertinent topic (Men for Christ, Women for Christ) and encourage people towards wider gatherings such as the Men's and Women's Conventions. We currently have an annual Church Day away together for extended friendship building and fun together, as well as Bible teaching.

Once or twice a year, we aim to hold a 'Marriage Enrichment' evening.

d) Pastoral Care

Our intention is that much pastoral care will take place through existing small groups. Home Group leaders are therefore crucial to much of our practical care of church members.

We have an appointed co-ordinator of pastoral care who acts as a contact point for those with more acute issues (emotional, physical or practical). Various members of the staff team and church family can then be called upon to provide specific help.

There are times when serious issues are beyond the scope of our ability to help and in those situations we seek assistance from Christian agencies outside the church.

3. The people priorities

a) Families, youth & children

We see the need to reach and grow families, youth and children with the gospel of Christ as a constant and urgent priority. There is no natural link with a local school, but many young families live in the area.

There are Sunday Bible teaching groups for all ages from 0-18 years and regular midweek groups for years 3-6 (Explorer Club) and years 7-10 (Friday Night Club).

We also run Boys Brigade and Toddlers groups.

We are closely involved with summer camps for young people, including a Pathfinder camp (Romsey 2) and CYFA camps (Oswestry 2).

b) International students

We are in close proximity to two language schools which provide a great ministry opportunity. We run a weekly international café (International Connection) where there is great scope for English conversation and Christian conversation as they discuss a 'word of the week'. Ultimately we want our main Sunday gatherings to reflect the huge range of nationalities in our area.

c) Seniors

Bournemouth has a large number of older people or seniors (both 60-75 and 75-90+ year olds). We want to serve this generation as well as we can with the gospel; encouraging believers to persevere and reach out and urging unbelievers to come to Christ. The most effective way to reach the thousands of seniors without Christ is through seniors who know Christ, so we want to equip all our seniors with confidence and zeal through all their days.

d) Young adults (20's & 30's)

Westbourne is increasingly popular with young professionals and first time buyers and, whilst not always apparent, there are a growing number of young adults in the area. We need to think creatively and boldly about the best ways to reach them with the gospel. We need to pray for more workers in their 20's and 30's who will move to Westbourne and commit to that harvest field with commitment and perseverance.

4. Staff and organisation

The Vicar - as overall leader, the vicar is responsible for preaching, praying, overseeing staff, training leaders and church direction.

The Assistant Minister - assists the vicar with the regular ministry of the church, including preaching, praying, personal work, training small group leaders, pastoral visiting and the twenties and thirties group.

The Community Minister - responsible for building bridges with and evangelising the local community and for training the whole congregation in evangelism to all.

Families, Youth and Children's Minister - overseeing all aspects of evangelism, discipleship and training of leaders for the work amongst 0-18's.

Administrator/Women's Minister - part-time administrator in the church office and part-time involved in ministry to women, overseeing the events for outreach and Women for Christ.

Internationals/Seniors Minister - overseeing ministry to Internationals, namely International Connection, training people in ministry to internationals and also encouraging the congregation to be welcoming and internationals-aware at our main Sunday meetings. In the work amongst seniors, discipling and encouraging older people to know and grow in Christ.

Ministry Apprentices - involved in all aspects of church life as required, but including Bible-teaching children, relevant training courses and practical/administrative tasks.

The church elects two churchwardens and a PCC. One third of the PCC members retire annually by rotation but are eligible for re-election. The PCC appoints a treasurer and secretary, and a standing committee to handle any emergencies. It also has a Finance Committee, a Buildings Committee, a Personnel Committee and a Mission Beyond Christ Church Westbourne (MbCCW) Committee.

5. Finance and buildings

Christ Church is financially independent, meeting all its financial requirements mainly through income from members, with some contributions from other sources such as hall rents. We pay no parish share to the Diocese. The PCC has overall responsibility for financial management and delegates the detail to the Finance Committee.

About 60% of income goes to meet the salaries, accommodation and other costs of the eight supported staff. Other areas of expenditure include the maintenance of buildings, youth work, outreach, mission support and other normal church administrative costs. A 'Robin Hood Fund' is maintained for the confidential relief of individual needs, and is administered by the Vicar.

The church, constructed in 1913-14, is a stone building in the Gothic style. It is structurally sound. The interior is well lit, warm, attractive and inviting, with comfortable upholstered chairs throughout.

In 2011/2012, a new church hall was built and includes a large main hall, additional accommodation for our growing youth work, a modern and well-equipped kitchen, and administrative offices. It is linked directly to the church building, allowing both structures to work as a single unified space.

The Vicarage is in Alumhurst Road, just under a mile from the church. It is owned by the church and is free of any mortgage. The Assistant Minister's house in Parkstone, about 2 miles away, is also owned by the church and mortgage-free. Both houses are regularly maintained by the church and are in sound condition. The church also owns a flat in Westbourne, currently housing the Community Minister and Administrator/Women's minister.

6. The local area

a) Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch

The Bournemouth and Poole conurbation has been described as the largest non-industrial conurbation in Europe. Strategically placed at its centre is Westbourne, the western suburb of Bournemouth and the point where it joins with Poole. It has its own community feeling, with many shops (ranging from charity shops to clothing boutiques) coffee houses, takeaways and restaurants. LV= (formerly Liverpool Victoria Insurance Company) has its head office in Westbourne. The largest population groups are retired people, some elderly and others who are still physically and mentally able, young educated workers (individuals and families) and international students (mainly attending English language schools). Housing varies from purpose-built flats and multiple-occupancy converted houses, to large houses still occupied by single families. In addition to holiday flats, hotels and B&Bs there are social housing units, nursing and residential care homes, and houses for those with mental health issues. University students tend to live elsewhere in Bournemouth, closer to the facilities of Bournemouth University and the Arts University College.

b) Westbourne

Westbourne has no schools, and the nearest schools, St Michael's C of E Primary School in the town centre, and Talbot Heath, have formal associations with other churches. Next door to the church is a Day Centre for people with mobility problems, but there is no other local authority community centre or youth work.

7. Mission & Ministry beyond Westbourne

Christ Church has a long tradition of support for missionaries and other full-time Christian work. Individual mission partners supported by the church are regularly prayed for both in church and at prayer meetings, and our aim is that 20% of the church's annual income from giving is distributed to them and other gospel ministries in the UK and overseas. The Mission beyond CCW Committee makes recommendation to the PCC about this, following agreed criteria, and they also oversee the support of our mission partners and their visits. Home Groups are also assigned a mission partner whom they will pray for and contact regularly.

Our hope is to grow the number of supported mission partners and we would love to be growing them from within the church so that we can train, send and support individuals and families long-term. Gospel ministry we currently support includes local church ministry in Belgium and Canterbury, the training of church leaders and pastors in Jordan and Brazil and student work in Southampton and Portsmouth.

8. Challenges for the future

- Reaching young adults in the area of Westbourne with the gospel.
- Keeping and growing our children and young people so that they are mature disciples when they start work/university.
- Making the most of the resource of the seniors within the church and the opportunity of the seniors currently outside the church.
- Growing the congregation in a disciple-making mind-set.
- Growing more leaders for the evangelistic and discipleship small groups in the church.
- Growing more people for full-time Christian ministry in the UK and overseas (growing our own mission partners).

9. Person Profile

For any new vicar of Christ Church, we want to distinguish between

a) Essentials

and

b) Desirables