

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING KETTERING

PARISH PROFILE

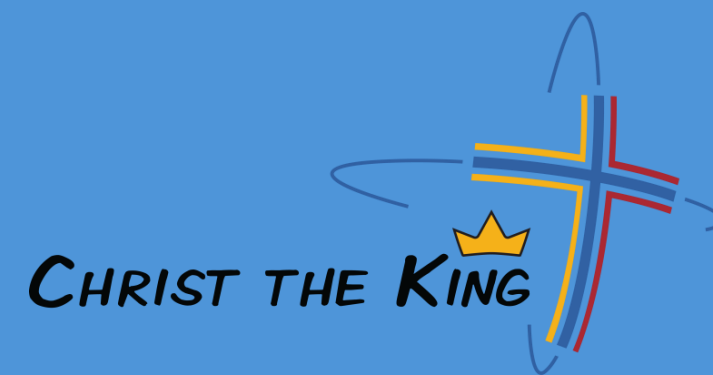
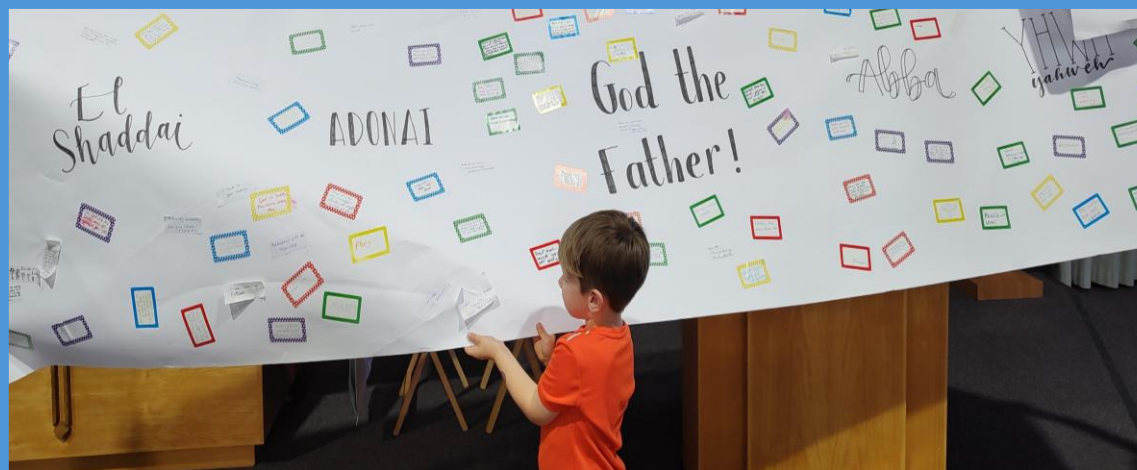
... we are committed to living out the Gospel in ways that are relevant, relational, and transformative ...

We are a church that is hopeful.
Ready to be renewed. Ready to grow.



CHRIST THE KING





OVERVIEW

Welcome to Christ the King Church in Kettering and thank you for considering prayerfully if God is calling you to serve here. Our congregation is warm and welcoming, representing the full spectrum of the community within the Parish, as well as drawing in worshippers more widely from the surrounding areas.

As a congregation we are realistic about the challenges that our church has faced in the recent past and are looking for someone to pastor and shepherd us into an exciting future following ever closer in Jesus' footsteps.

We seek and pray that our interim incumbent will help us to flourish and grow more as a Spirit-filled, disciplined community. We look forward to working with them; we do not expect them to be perfect nor to have the answer to every challenge, but for them to be someone who will work with us to engage fully with our community.



OUR CHURCH



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

This expression of our mission has been prayed over and refined over many years and is set out here.

Who are we?

A community of disciples on an adventure together of becoming more like Jesus and helping others do the same.

Why do we exist?

We exist to go:

Deeper in our Devotion to God
Closer in our Connections with One Another
Further on our Frontlines with the Good News



WHO WE ARE

The church has journeyed through a challenging period of pastoral breakdown which has spanned the past two years or more. It was a time when many of the congregation needed to press in and trust Jesus more than ever before, but also a period when some of the congregation stepped away for a time or moved to worship elsewhere.

We have been without an active incumbent since April 2023, entering vacancy in May 2025. Many reconsidered their role within CtK and with heavy hearts we said goodbye to all our employed staff team and to some volunteers; as a consequence, we have paused many of our outreach groups and activities.

Whilst this was a painful and stressful time, we are continually aware that God's love for us never pauses or stops. Throughout this time, we have been encouraged by having new people join our church family and seeing people come to faith - with several baptism services as a result. We have many testimonies to God's faithfulness to us during this time.

As we emerge from the last two years, we are ready to put that season behind us, although for some, healing may take more time. We are excited to move forward to follow God's leading and to play our part in growing His Kingdom here.



WHERE WE ARE NOW

As a church we had a sermon series on Ephesians 4 last year – a passage which goes a long way to map the ongoing journey we need to travel as church.

Our church stands at a crossroads, rooted in a confident evangelical tradition and Bible-based teaching, earnestly seeking renewal, unity, and deeper spiritual connection.

We are a multi-ethnic community known for being welcoming, caring, and outward-looking, with a strong desire to reclaim and deepen these values as we move forward.



word cloud from church-wide survey July 2025

WHERE WE ARE NOW



what our children think

We recognise and value the vital role of the laity in shaping our future. We believe that all are called into the priesthood of believers, to discipleship, to service, and to leadership. This conviction is central to our vision and our hope for a more empowered, collaborative church.

We recognise the mood of the congregation is mixed; many feel lost or searching. There is a sense of disorientation and identity crisis, with people looking in different directions and longing for clarity. Yet, within this confusion lies a resilient hope, a desire to be fully reliant on God, to rediscover our purpose, and to build a strong foundation for the future.

This interim period is seen as an opportunity. There is a strong sense of community and a willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit.

CHURCH LIFE: SUNDAY

The Sunday 10am service has a gently charismatic feel, including prayer ministry and opportunity to respond to the teaching. Singing is led by a contemporary band every week. There is a pool of around 20 musicians and singers of various ages who contribute to the band. The clergy do not robe.

We have a service of Holy Communion once a month as part of the 10am service.

The Sunday congregation includes many young families and groups for children age 3 to year school year 7 take place in parallel with the service. Once every half-term adults and children worship together in an all-age service. There is also a creche for the under-3s where parents can take their little ones and watch the live stream however, we encourage and welcome families to remain within the church.



CHURCH LIFE: SUNDAY

We aim to provide activities and opportunities to participate for those of all ages and abilities, so that families and those who come with disabilities can truly be a part of our church family and worship together. This includes banners for use during sung worship, and a sensory resource box for those who may benefit from fidgets, ear defenders etc.

All service content is projected onto two large screens, and we use PowerPoint slides and other visual aids to enhance the teaching.

Until recently we had a regular **6pm service**. The PCC, and our Associate Vicar, are currently reviewing when we might re-start this service and what shape it might take. The youth currently still meet for an hour on Sunday evenings each week.

MishMash: A monthly service (2nd Sunday of the month) from 2.30-4.30pm for children and young people with additional needs, and their families. It takes place on Sunday afternoon and is a place where families can experience God's love, acceptance and grace through worship, prayers, crafts, fun, food and fellowship.



CHURCH LIFE: WEEKDAYS

Prayer: Integral to the entire life of the church. In March 2020 as we entered lockdown a weekly corporate prayer group began, praying for people to be saved, and for the life of our church. This continued through lockdown and the events of the last two years, and still takes place each Monday evening. We also hold occasional half nights of prayer.

Our **Prayer Ministry Team** is ready to minister to people both during services and during the week as required.

Love in Action: Providing practical, loving support for those inside and outside the church in the form of meals, lifts to hospital, help in the home, advice and visits. The support is intended to be temporary and operates alongside pastoral care activity. The team runs the Wellbeing Café which meets weekly in the afternoon in church as a fellowship group of around 20 people for friendship, crafts, conversation and fun.



LOVE IN ACTION

CHURCH LIFE: WEEKDAYS

Wednesday Communion: A Communion Service every Wednesday morning is attended by around 30 mainly older members. It is greatly valued as a time for quiet reflection and fellowship.

Women: *WEFT* (Women Enjoying Fellowship Together) is a weekly women's craft and fellowship group which meets in the church and has a faithful membership.

Haven is a weekly women's lifegroup which meets in members homes.

Men: Men meet in church monthly for a Saturday morning breakfast. There is also a monthly snooker evening.

HOPE (ministry to older people):

Friendship Club meets on Tuesday afternoon for fellowship, tea and cakes. This has a faithful membership of around 10 people.

Luncheon Club meets monthly on Tuesday for a four-course meal and entertainment. This also has an enthusiastic following of around 45 elderly people most of whom live in the Parish but do not attend church.



CHURCH LIFE: WEEKDAYS

Lifegroups (homegroups):

Lifegroups have always been at the heart of the life of CtK. Many members identify their lifegroup as their “church” and are places where they grow in faith and fellowship through Bible study, prayer, friendship and pastoral support.

A principle of lifegroups has been that they should also be outward looking, aiming to multiply while growing leaders from within.

Eight lifegroups are operating with a combined regular membership of 80 members. They meet in people’s homes either weekly or fortnightly.

DEEPER
IN DEVOTION

CLOSER
IN CONNECTION

FURTHER
ON OUR
FRONTLINES

CHURCH LIFE: WEEKDAYS

EDGE and WELL: EDGE for men and WELL for women are lifegroups that began as a next step for those completing Alpha. Today, they also welcome men or women who are exploring faith, new to church life, or simply seeking a smaller community for Christian fellowship and teaching.

Alpha: We aim to run two Alpha courses per year and another is currently underway. Many members of the church have come to faith or had their faith renewed through Alpha. In recent years a significant number of people from Cocaine Anonymous (which meets in the church building) have come to faith through Alpha.

Mission: Christ the King has a tradition of equipping and sending members to the mission field and into ordained ministry. We donate 10% of our annual budget to supporting mission partners in Brazil, Moldova, France, Tanzania and Chad and we support Open Doors and Tear Fund.

Kettering Churches Together: We are active members, and our Associate Vicar is currently the co-ordinator for youth ministry. We have long established links with schools in the Parish and in the wider town and a reputation as a resource for youth chaplaincy.



OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We all benefit from the contribution of our children and young people to our church life together as they volunteer across our church in worship bands, as part of our tech team, or help with MishMash – and generally share their cheerfulness and energy with us!

Children: Provision for children age 3 to school year 7 runs in parallel with the service on a Sunday morning. There is generally also an “intergenerational” item included in each Sunday service which aims to be accessible to all ages before the children leave for their lifegroups under the direction of a dedicated group of volunteers.

Youth: A lively Friday evening Youth Group is attended by 30 to 40 teenagers mostly from families who do not attend church. A Sunday evening Bible-based lifegroup is attracting a steady number of teenagers. Prayerful consideration of the reinstatement of a Sunday evening service will be with young people in mind.

Our children’s and youth ministries are currently under-resourced. Members of the wider church family have stepped up to support and maintain the provision within the church and in some of our local schools where we deliver assemblies.



OUR FUTURE BECKONS



Our recently elected Churchwardens, our Associate Vicar and our PCC (which includes some re-elected members) see exciting opportunities to rebuild and restructure a church fit for the challenges of the current times.

We are eagerly seeking God's plans for the future, aware that we have a substantial experienced membership, funds, the support of the Diocese and an "uncluttered site" on which to build.

With an Electoral Roll of 176 and average Sunday and midweek attendance of around 130 adults we are encouraged that 80 people regularly attend lifegroups.

Our mission remains clear: to be a visible expression of Christian love and discipleship. We seek to restore and unify, to serve with compassion, and to be a beacon of welcome and grace, revealing the Father's love through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Whether through pastoral care, outreach, or spiritual formation, we are committed to living out the Gospel in ways that are relevant, relational, and transformative.

This is a church that is hopeful. Ready to be renewed. Ready to grow.

OUR FUTURE BECKONS

Rebuilding the community within the Church:

Our church family has known joy and hardship, growth and loss. We seek a pastor who can help us rediscover our shared vision and identity in Christ - someone who nurtures healing, rebuilds trust, and rekindles our commitment to Christ and His church as a spiritual home. This task calls for a pastor who listens deeply, leads gently, and fosters spaces where vulnerability is met with compassion and hope.

Discipleship that equips and empowers:

We long to grow, not in numbers alone, but in depth of faith and courage in service. The person God is calling will enable and equip the whole body of Christ, encouraging lay ministry and creating room for people to try, stumble, and grow. We seek someone who leads with grace, who sees discipleship as organic, relational, and rooted in everyday life. We are keen to respond to the Spirit's movement rather than recreate past ministry patterns.



Belonging and beacon-like outreach:

Our church is called to be a place of welcome, a community where newcomers are not just greeted but woven into the fabric of our life together. We are seeking an individual who will help us extend that welcome beyond our walls, engaging actively with our wider community and becoming a living example of the body of Christ through love, service, and presence. This is a task of integration, invitation, and imagination.

OUR INTERIM INCUMBENT

What we seek in our interim incumbent

We believe God is calling a faithful, Spirit and grace-filled pastor to walk with us through a season of repentance, rebuilding and renewal. We are ready to be guided by someone who is approachable, caring, and spiritually grounded, someone who can unite us, empower lay leadership, and walk with us in humility and wisdom.

We long for someone who sees our wounds and still sees our worth, who will meet us with compassion, guide us with wisdom, and help us grow in faith, unity, and hope.



what our children think

OUR INTERIM INCUMBENT

A Pastoral Presence

We need a shepherd who is:

- Supportive, compassionate, and approachable
- A unifier, and instrument of God's healing
- Able to rebuild trust and foster belonging
- Engaged with laity, welcoming all, and nurturing a loving church culture

This is a community that values presence over performance, and healing over haste.



word cloud from church-wide survey July 2025

Word and Spirit-Led

- Grounds us in Scripture and discipleship
- Deepens our prayer life and spiritual rhythms
- Carries humility and stability, while cultivating the fruits of the Spirit

A word cloud of 100 adjectives describing a pastor. The central, largest word is 'Pastor'. Other prominent words include 'Spirit-filled', 'Bible-based', 'Visionary', 'Faithful', 'Energetic', 'Approachable', 'Inclusive', 'Supportive', 'Practical', 'Joyful', 'Disciplined', 'Encouraging', 'Bold', 'Enthusiastic', 'Firm', 'Teacher', 'Compassionate', 'Kind', 'Innovative', 'Organised', 'Professional', 'Engaging', 'Dedicated', 'Humble', 'Inspirational', 'Authentic', 'Prayerful', 'Listening', 'Patient', 'Experienced', 'Motivated', 'Friendly', 'Focused', 'Persistent', 'Nurturing', 'Relational', 'Collaborative', 'Flexible', 'Genuine', 'Loving', 'Strategic', 'Creative', 'Generous', 'Leader', 'Trustworthy', 'Open', 'Wise', 'Forgiving', 'Proactive', 'Resilient'.

word cloud from church-wide survey July 2025

OUR INTERIM INCUMBENT

Resilient and Experienced

We hope for someone who:

- Is confident yet collaborative, able to navigate complexity and conflict
- Is confident in working creatively and supportively alongside an established ordained colleague
- Brings emotional strength and wisdom to diverse personalities and situations
- Builds unity without imposing hierarchy
- Has a sense of humour!

We are not looking for perfection, but for someone who can hold space for our imperfections and help us move forward together.



word cloud from church-wide survey July 2025

OUR PRAYER

As a PCC we are clear we want someone who will work well with Sarah, our Associate Vicar who has journeyed with us over the last three years with courage, strength, humility and grace.

We pray for someone who will walk with us in faith, not as a fixer or hero, but as a fellow pilgrim, attuned to God's voice, rooted in Scripture, and open to the Spirit's leading. Someone who will help us become more fully the church God is calling us to be.

Our prayer is for an interim incumbent who is visionary and keen to walk with us into new territory: someone who welcomes a challenge, who is not averse to taking risks and is passionate about sharing the Gospel with the whole of the community.

We seek a role model who will show us how to continue to put Bible-centred teaching into practice through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are also aware that we have not yet undertaken the Living in Love and Faith journey, and we would like our incumbent to guide us through this process as a PCC and wider church.

We have a lot to give in terms of support and energy and are eager to learn.

**the
prayer
of
the
PCC**

OUR TEAM

In recent years, the church had a staff team which included the Incumbent, Associate Vicar, an employed Children's Minister, Youth Minister, and Administrator as well as a contracted Facilities Manager.

At various points over the years, we have also had curates, ordinands and interns placed with us. Following the difficult season we have been through, we found ourselves at the end of 2024 with no employed staff and we are not in a position to employ new staff to these positions in the immediate future.

In August 2025 we were able to employ a new Administrator, and so the current staff team consists of the Associate Vicar, Administrator and a contracted Facilities Manager. We are pleased to have been able to start to rebuild the team and hope to continue to do so in the future.

One of the wonderful things about CtK is that alongside staff, we have always had an actively involved congregation. Most ministry areas are lay-led and particularly in the past couple of years we have seen people willing to step up and humbly serve across ministries. We have two licensed lay ministers, a full PCC including two wardens and treasurer, Parish Safeguarding Officer and two retired clergy who have PTO.

OUR TEAM: A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE VICAR

Rev'd Sarah Bennett, Associate Vicar and Lead Pastor

"I've been the Associate Vicar at Christ the King since September 2022 having moved here from Tamworth in Lichfield Diocese where I served my curacy. My background is in Children and Youth Ministry, and I continue to have a passion for intergenerational ministry.

Although it has been a challenging few years, it has and continues to be an absolute privilege to serve God's people here at CtK. It is a warm and welcoming church that seeks to put Jesus first in all that we do. We have many testimonies of God's faithfulness to us and I'm excited for all that God has for us in this continued season of healing, forming and rebuilding.

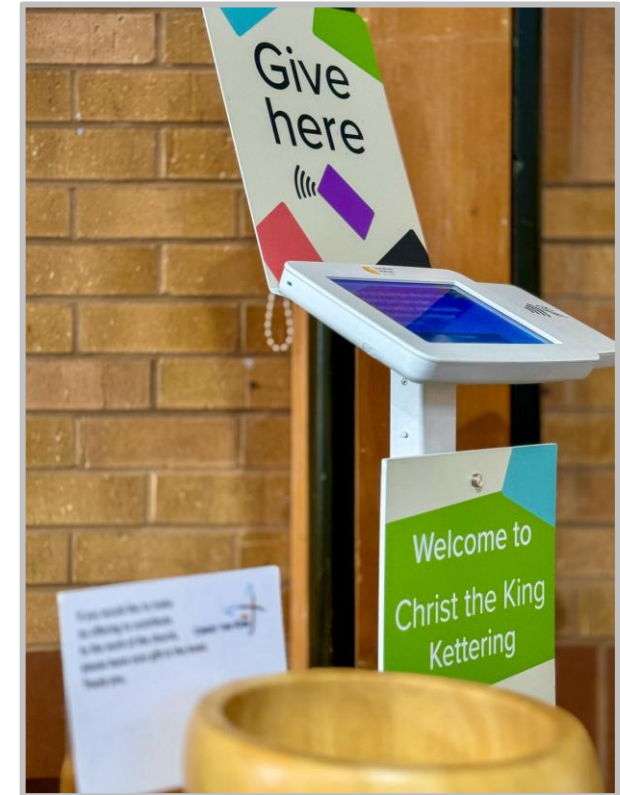
Please be assured of my personal prayers, as well as those of the whole church, as we seek to discern God's will for CtK and who He is calling to lead the church over the next few years."

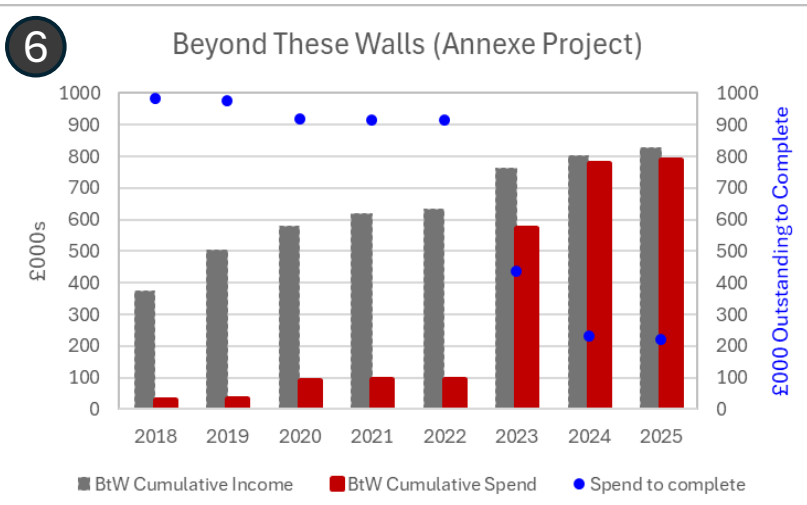
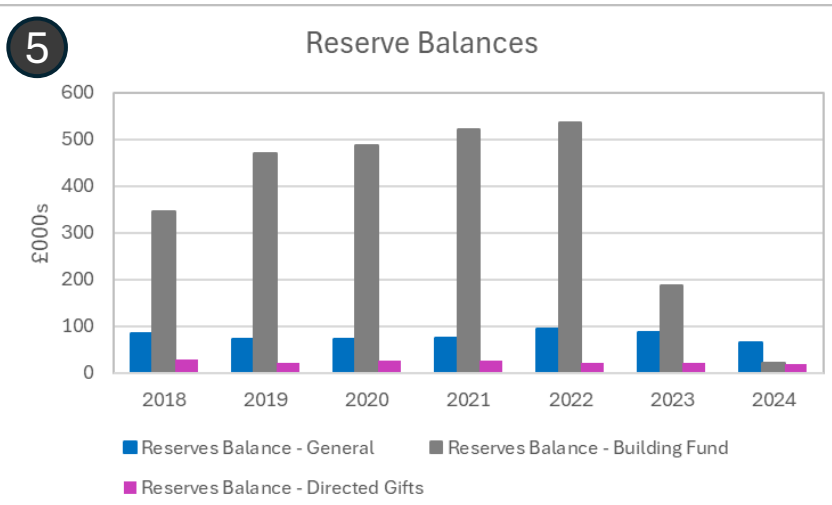
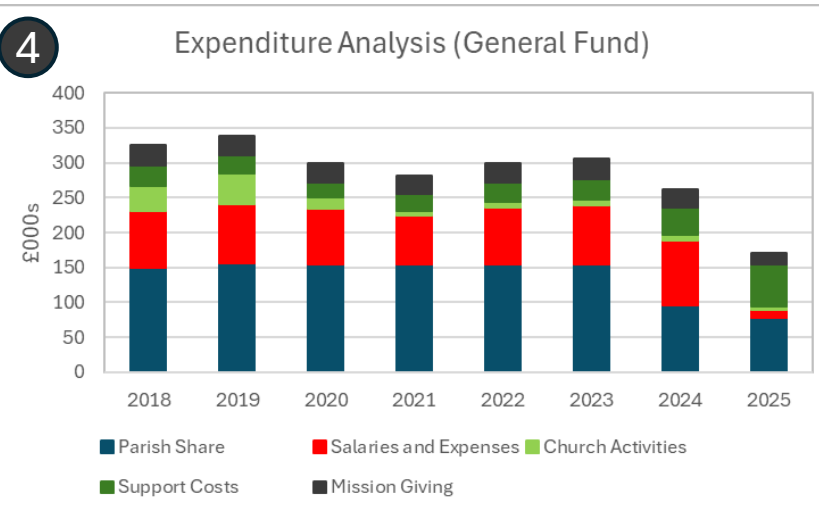
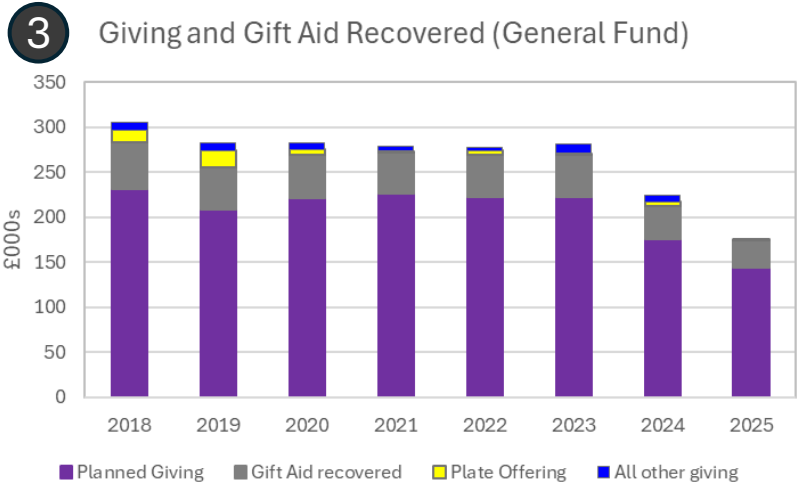
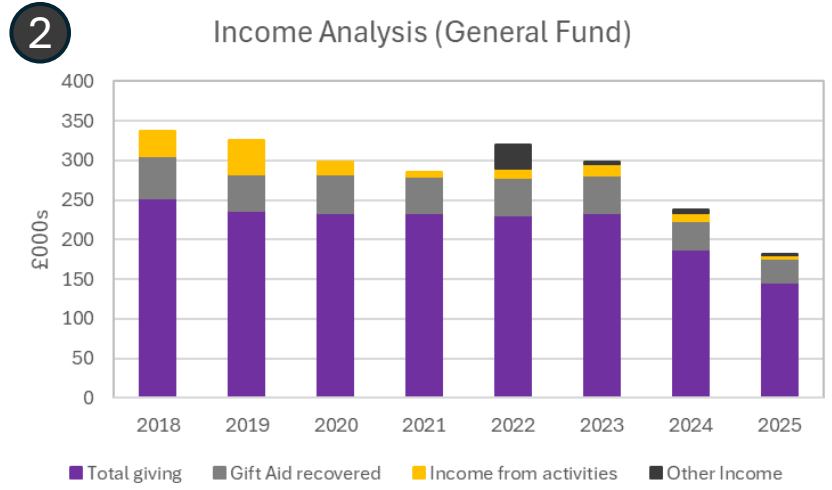
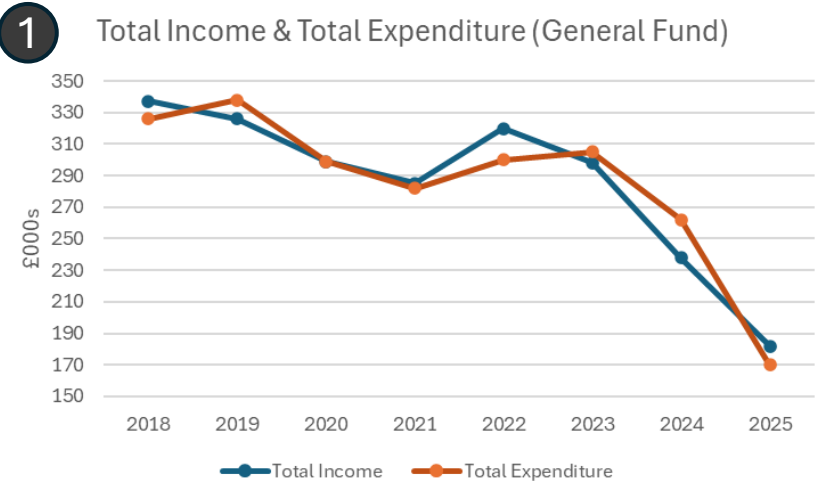


CHURCH LIFE: FINANCES

The budget during the last 5 years was fairly static at around £320,000 pa. Also during this period, we raised from the congregation £800,000 for construction of the annexe.

The budget for the current year is £168,000 and we expect to exceed this figure. With the agreement of Peterborough Diocese, we are currently meeting approximately half of our Parish share.





Notes

- Graph 2 – One off payment from Western Power for crossing Church land with new utilities
- Graph 4 – 2024 and 2025 Underpayment of Parish Share due to drop in giving
- Graph 4 – 2025 Church paid staff left at the end of 2024
- Graph 5 – Annexe build, fundraising from 2018 launch, build started in 2023
- Graph 6 – Spend to complete has two elements, approx. £150K to bring building into use, then approximately £50K discretionary for solar and communications fit out

THE VICARAGE



The Vicarage is a modern 4-bedroom detached house with double garage on the same site as our church.

Access is via the main church drive.

Downstairs there are two reception rooms, a kitchen and utility room with access to the garage, a study, and a toilet.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bathroom. The master bedroom has an ensuite.

There is a large garden which is mainly lawn with some shrubs and trees.

THE CHURCH BUILDINGS

The church building was constructed in 1987. It has a worship area with a capacity of 250 people and several meeting rooms, a kitchen and staff offices around the perimeter. The building has no organ. There is no churchyard.

The building is in good condition and during the next 6 months we will redecorate the exterior woodwork, the interior and replace a boiler, all within the current and future budgets. We have a 10-year programme of repair and renewal which comfortably falls within anticipated budgets. The quinquennial is due in 2026.

The annexe is almost completed. It will provide a large hall for church and community activities, a welcome area, kitchen, meeting rooms and storage.



THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Our Parish is the Ise Lodge Estate, a housing estate built in the late 1960s and 1970s on the eastern edge of Kettering, bordering Barton Seagrave which is the Parish of St Botolph's. The church is located on the western edge of the Ise Lodge Estate.

The Ise Lodge Estate is home to around 7,000 people. Most homes are owner occupied. There are three schools; an infant, a junior and a school catering for special and additional needs. There is also a large secondary school just outside the Parish, also on Deeble Road.

The Ise lodge is served by two parades of shops, a pub, a doctor's surgery and dentist and a community centre. Around 40% of church members are resident in the Parish, the remainder living elsewhere in Kettering and surrounding villages.

Adjacent to the Parish is Hanwood Park, a new development under construction which, when complete will have 5,500 homes, four primary schools, a secondary school, shops and other facilities. Hanwood Park has no church, but it does have a church school built with provision to accommodate a new worshipping community when the time is right.



OUR STORY PRE-2023

The Church began as a church plant in 1969 on the Ise Lodge housing estate as it was being built on the eastern edge of Kettering. At the time it was the largest new housing estate in Europe and the neighbouring Parish of St Botolph's realised that eventually the Ise Lodge would require its own church. A curate from St Botolph's led the first service of our fledgling church in 1969 with 11 adults and 9 children in a nearby primary school.

In 1975 Peterborough Diocese provided a "Portakabin" style building to be used as a church and as a resource for the Ise Lodge community. As we continued to grow in numbers and in our ministry and mission to the people of the Ise Lodge we met in various venues on the estate until in 1987 the current church building was dedicated.

Growth in numbers and ministry continued and in 1993 it became necessary to split the congregation to two similar morning services each of which almost filled the worship area, which has a capacity of 250 people. In 1995 CtK became the Parish of Christ the King, Kettering.

During the next period, the full-time non-clergy staff team grew to include a children's minister and an over 50s minister as well as the existing youth minister. The ministry of the church developed in scope, the budget increased, and Sunday attendance remained broadly level. Post-covid we established single morning and evening services.

In 2018 we decided to add to the church facilities by building an annexe with a hall and other facilities. This was delayed by various factors and then by the Covid lockdown. The annexe was constructed in 2023/4 and requires approximately £100,000 to complete it.



THE TOWN OF KETTERING

Kettering is a market town in Northamptonshire with a population of 63,000. Kettering's origins date to Roman times when it was one of Britain's three main iron smelting centres. Kettering developed as a market town with cattle, boot making and iron and steel production as the main industries. In the late nineteenth century the town prospered, reflected in many fine Victorian houses, and streets of smaller terraced housing for workers.

In the late 18th Century Kettering became a centre for spreading the gospel and for missionary activity. William Carey spent his early life here before leaving for India. Andrew Fuller helped establish the Baptist Missionary Society and local man William Knibb became a missionary and emancipator of slaves.

The town's traditional industries declined in the twentieth century, and Kettering's location on the A14 between the A1 and the M1/M6 has made it a hub for warehousing and distribution. The A43 provides direct routes north to Corby and south to Northampton. Cambridge is a 40-minute drive to the east, Silverstone is 50 minutes away, and the city of Oxford is a 90-minute drive to the west.



THE TOWN OF KETTERING

The city of Peterborough – where Diocesan offices are located - is a 50-minute drive to the east. There are other Diocesan offices located 16 miles away on the outskirts of Northampton.

The main-line train station is a 5-minute drive or 20-minute walk away from the parish, offering direct access to London St Pancras in under an hour and Leicester in less than 30 minutes.

Kettering has a general hospital with A&E department, and there are 7 GP practices in and around the town. There is also a large private hospital on the outskirts of the town.

There are 6 secondary schools and 25 primary within the town boundary. There is also a college of further education and 4 special schools.

There are 5 large supermarkets scattered through Kettering, and there is a large retail park within 20 minutes drive.

Kettering is well known locally for Wicksteed Park which has a combination of play equipment, paid-for rides, and countryside walks. There are also other parks and woodlands within very easy reach of the town.

THE NUMBERS

Electoral Roll – 176

Average Sunday attendance – 100

Children's lifegroup (Sunday morning) – 25

Average Wednesday Communion attendance – 30

Average MishMash attendance – 40

Average livestream views per week (2025) - 76

Friday Youth Club - 35

Sunday Youth lifegroup – 15

Easter Sunday Morning – 137

Christmas Day - 98

Weddings (2025) – 2

Church funerals (2025) – 1

SPECIAL EVENTS



The Source – Ladies Day



Care for the Family evening





Thank you for your interest in our
Parish of Christ the King, Kettering.
May God guide you as you seek His
will and follow His path.