



Christ Church, Ipswich

PROFILE 2018



Tacket Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1AU
www.christchurch-ipswich.org.uk

Christ Church, Ipswich is a town centre church set in the heart of East Anglia. Christ Church was formed in 1978 by the coming together of existing URC and Baptist congregations, now with a church community of 120. Extensive premises provide a traditional worship area, together with meeting places for church, community and youth activities every weekday. Two Sunday services offer worship with a strong preaching tradition, which had been provided over the years by both denominations.



Sunday Morning Service

Ipswich is the county town of Suffolk and the largest centre of population (133,000) in the county. It is surrounded by agricultural land - a characteristic of much of rural East Anglia.

Christ Church itself is situated in the centre of this thriving, ethnically varied, commercial town. It is close to the waterfront which provides leisure facilities, hotels and the new University of Suffolk. Residential housing has developed within the area to satisfy the diverse requirements of students and those with special needs, and to provide affordable accommodation.

The congregation of Christ Church, and those who use the premises throughout the week, come from all parts of Ipswich and the surrounding villages. A relatively small number live within walking distance of the church.

The History of the Church

Christ Church comprises Turret Green Baptist Church (founded 1848) and Tacket Street Congregational Church (founded 1686), becoming United Reformed in 1972. They came together in January 1978 under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act (1969). Thus we are not legally a United Church (which would require an Act of Parliament) but are united in that we share buildings, finances, officers, deacons / trustees, church meeting and a church roll. We have facilities for adult baptism, and for infant baptism.



The Baptistry

Membership

The membership of Christ Church is currently 80 with an additional 40 regular church attenders. There are 120 children between the ages of 0 and 18 years using the church premises, but the majority of these are members of uniformed organisations, which include Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. There is a Junior Church on Sunday mornings.

Theology

The church is generally mainstream in theology with a liberal rather than evangelical bias, and is committed to ecumenical relations with nearby Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Muslim communities. There is interest in overseas work in both denominations and through Christian Aid and other charities.

Worship

Sunday morning worship is largely traditional in style; the minister leads the worship with members of the congregation undertaking the Bible readings and sometimes leading prayers. The Church is well known for its long-held emphasis on music in worship, enjoying the benefits of having an excellent three manual pipe organ, a choir and a grand piano for use when appropriate. Currently the Church is planning to widen the range of hymns and songs within its regular worship.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month in the mornings and the third Sunday in the evenings. Sunday evening services are varied in format, exploring new avenues.

Four Youth Services during the year are conducted by the minister or church members using an instrumental group and piano to play more contemporary music. The Youth organisations and their parents are particularly invited to attend these services.

We currently use the Rejoice and Sing, Glory to God and Baptist Praise and Worship hymn books. We pay for a CCLI licence, enabling us to use hymns and songs from other sources to vary the style and age of the hymns.



Organ Console

Children and Young People

The church operates a Safe to Grow policy and has two Children's Advocates. Activities available are:

Tots+	Weekly time of social and mutual support for carers and pre-school children. Activities for children are provided, as well as help and "listening ear" for the adults, provided by church members. The aim is to show Christian love and care, and attenders are invited to special services, such as festivals.
Junior Church	Nurtures our children in the Christian faith.
Coffee Talk	Meets early evening in a local cafe monthly, to encourage our small number of young people to bring their friends to an informal discussion and Bible study meeting. For ages 14 to 25.
Guiding UK	Activities, badges and challenges, developing skills and confidence needed to reach their true potential.
Scouts	Fun, challenges and adventure. The chance to help others and make a positive impact on communities.

What We Celebrate About Our Church

We are active in responding to the social needs of our neighbourhood.

We host the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter project once a week, in partnership with other town centre churches.

We have links with charities nearby, including:

- **Iceni** - recovering drug addicts.
- **Papworth Trust** - for adults with physical and mental disabilities.
- **Talitha Koum** - for vulnerable women.
- **Lighthouse Trust** - women and families having suffered abuse.
- **FIND** – Families in Need, the local food bank.
- **TWAM** - Tools with a Mission, whose headquarters are in Ipswich.
- Christmas parcels to vulnerable families known to social services in the wider community.
- There are a number of residential and sheltered homes and social housing nearby, and we seek to engage with them.

- Every year we put on Holiday at Home, a 3-day entertainment for the elderly and lonely.
- We host a toddler group run by a church member with support and pastoral care from church folk.
- Our church premises are let out to a number of charities.
- Thursday Forum provides lunches and a 40 minute talk open to church folk and the wider community. This is very successful and attracts capacity audiences.
- We are a Fairtrade church (and Ipswich is a Fairtrade Town).



Thursday Forum in the Langston Hall

Our church is strong in its pastoral care for each other. Each member and adherent is allocated a Visitor and this team brings concerns to the church fellowship via the Visitors' coordinator.

Monthly lunches are served on a Friday for our elderly and lonely, and this is run in conjunction with the Civic Church St Mary-le-Tower.

We value our weekly worship which is at the core of our fellowship. We appreciate the challenging, thought-provoking preaching that inspires us for daily life.

Our facilities and premises are extensive enabling us to host a wide range of activities.



Coffee in the Turret Hall

Our Aims for Christ Church

- To be a beacon in the town-centre community representing Christ in the world.
- To be an open, welcoming, accepting and vibrant church, full of activity.
- To become fired by new energy and the Holy Spirit moving in us.
- To grow in faith and deepen our understanding through worship, prayer and Bible study.
- For members of the fellowship to be empowered to sensitively use their God-given gifts.
- To be open to varied styles of worship.
- To explore opportunities for change in order to further the work of God's kingdom.
- To share ecumenical relationships with other churches in the town.
- To be a hub from which to go out into the community.

Appendix

Church website: christchurch-ipswich.org.uk

Ipswich tourist office: ipswich.gov.uk/touristinfo

Ipswich Winter Night Shelter: iwns.org.uk

Charities nearby

Iceni: iceniipswich.org

Papworth Trust: papworthtrust.org.uk/locations/ipswich-centre-foundation-street

Talitha Koum: talithakoum.org.uk

Lighthouse Trust: lighthousewa.org.uk/lighthouse/about-us

FIND: findipswich.org.uk

TWAM: twam.uk

Contacts

Minister:
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Secretary:
Mrs Ann Fox annfox02@hotmail.com

Treasurer:
Mr John Durnford durnfordj@tiscali.co.uk

