



# St GILES

## CHURCH

*Where lives are being changed*

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**Parish Profile**



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## Who we are

St Giles is a lively Anglican Church in the centre of Northampton.

Our vision is ***“To see lives being changed by the power of Jesus, one person at a time”***.

We believe that God is calling us as a fellowship to be a community of people who live out His great commission in such a way that we **“worship God, make disciples & transform lives”**.

We also aspire to be a congregation in which everyone has an opportunity to be involved in worship and ministry.

We feel called to embrace the opportunities we have as a town centre church to reach out to the community around us – particularly our university with around 12,000 students and a new campus within half a mile and our 800 bedded general hospital situated just 300 yards from our building.

To do this, we want to build upon strong foundations of biblical teaching & be led by the Holy Spirit to go deeper in both understanding, relationship and action. We also want to grow our Children’s and youth work as this is the future of our church!



We look forward to welcoming a new leader who will:

Recognise that prayer is at the heart of everything that we do.

Understand the opportunities and challenges before us and feels called, ready and able to lead this strategically placed town centre church fellowship ‘out of the building’!

Recognise individual’s gifts and passions and lead, inspire & empower us to use these gifts to both build up the body and to meet the needs of our community.

Prioritise and encourage our work with children and young people to play an active part in our worship and ministry.



## Our History

For over 900 years, St Giles has provided faithful worship and witness to Northampton. During this time, there have been variations in leadership styles, congregation size and direction of mission, but there has always been a people who have a heart to love God, love others and to do his will.

The past couple of years have been particularly challenging for the church, as it has been for everyone across the country. The Corona-virus Pandemic provided both a challenge and opportunity to dramatically re-think how we did church. The congregation stepped up in many ways, using technological and pastoral gifting to bless the church.

Our pastoral care team went above and beyond to ensure that no one was left isolated and without support. We transitioned to on-line church and meetings, including a bible zoom after the service to explore the passage in more detail and regular online prayer meetings.

During 2020 we started to explore a sense of calling to be a 'House of Prayer'. We linked-with and into support from the 24/7 prayer movement and a group of passionate prayers have developed and led us into a rhythm of daily, weekly and monthly prayer meetings which happen both on zoom and in person. We have felt it so important to really cover everything we do in prayer and there has been much fruitfulness from this focus.

Whilst all our services are now back 'in person' we have also invested in live-streaming equipment so that allows us to share our morning services and special occasions with those unable to join us in the building.

*'St. Giles has a huge amount of history that has brought us to where we are today. Over the past couple of years there have been a lot of changes, adapting to Covid, welcoming a new Curate & saying goodbye to our Vicar. This has meant we have seen the shape of the Church change, some pruning & some new things growing. We are watching & praying and looking forward with hope for what God has planned next. He has been faithful in the past and we believe He will be faithful in the future. We pray as you read this profile it will give you an insight into what life is like here at St. Giles and that God will be clearly calling who He has planned to be our next leader.'*

- Jess Newlove & Jacqueline Wienkamp - Church Wardens

## Our Current Strengths & Challenges

**We rejoice in the way God has blessed us with many positive aspects to our church life.**

St Giles is an active church, with well attended Sunday services and multiple midweek activities for discipleship & outreach. We have an average congregation of 150 people across 2 Sunday Services

At least once a month we have a pastoral prayer team who focus on individual prayer & healing ministry.

We are blessed with a number of talented musicians, preachers & leaders.

Our Young adult & student ministry (18-30's) is growing, building a welcoming community engaged in serving the church, currently with 15+ active members.

We have seen some young families starting to attend church that have accessed our weekly 'Toddle-in' group and our Guides group is also growing.

Our members are encouraged to explore and use their gifts to serve the people of Northampton and demonstrate Christ's love for the town. More examples can be seen in "A week in the life of St.Giles".

We are thankful for the close connections we have with the elderly in our community, particularly local care homes. We have in the past been welcomed in to lead regular services, unfortunately this had to stop during Covid and we have been slow to restart. However we hope to revisit how we go about our outreach ministry to the elderly in the near future.

### **There are areas of our ministry that we would love to see grow & improve**

**Children and youth work:** The numbers of under 18s engaged in our programme of teaching and discipleship has diminished in recent years and this is something we believe is real priority for the future of the church. We currently have a vacancy for a full time Children's & family worker and wish to recruit into this as soon as possible.



**'Everyone can be on the team'** Building a community where everyone is engaged and involved; being a contributor to rather than a consumer of church.

**Home groups:** We have recently started re-looking at how we organise our home-groups to encourage more of the church congregation to be part of it and to enable us to welcome newcomers into the church family. Being a larger church home groups are key for making sure individuals get connected.

**'Resourcing the opportunities':** Identifying, enabling, and encouraging those within our fellowship to step up and the opportunities for building relationships with and outreach to out community



## **Our Vision for the Future – Where is God Calling St Giles?**

With a change in incumbent there is always an opportunity to review and refresh our current vision which we believe has given us a strong foundation. Feedback from the congregation and the PCC Prayer day has identified some key areas that we feel God is calling us to. These include:

Community - building a community within the fellowship but also reaching out to our community; the town, university & hospital nearby

Inter-generational church – where everyone is encouraged to be involved in worship and ministry.

Going deeper in Biblical teaching & following the leading of the Holy Spirit

## **What kind of person do we believe God is calling here?**

A person who displays a deep love for Jesus and his people and who is passionate to embrace and promote all that our Saviour taught and demonstrated about His Kingdom

### **Someone who can**

*Recognise that prayer is at the heart of everything we do*

*Understand the opportunities and challenges before us and feels called, ready and able to lead this strategically placed town centre church fellowship ‘out of the building’!*

*Prioritise and encourage our work with children and young people to play an active part in our worship and ministry.*

*Lead and inspire others - We want to see others empowered & encouraged to use their gifts to both build up the body and to meet the needs of our community.*

*Be bold & courageous - the world we live in presents many challenges & cultural pressures, wisdom on how to lovingly approach these challenges*

*Build relationships & community – someone who is good at uniting people to a common goal/ unity of vision*

## **What our children & youth said they hoped for!**

*‘Friendly, not irritating or patronising’*

*‘Someone who wants to get to know the young people, who is willing to come into their space’*

*‘More inclusive & relaxed style of service with shorter sermons’*

*‘It doesn’t matter if a man or a women, but a change would be good’ (St. Giles has never had a female vicar)*

*‘Someone young so they are not ready to retire!’*

## Our Team

We have a lovely staff team.

Currently consisting of Ali our training Curate. Serena and Helen, our Office, and Parish Administrators. Beth our Youth & Childrens Leader, and Ruth our Student and Young Adults Missions leader. We have recently had our Childrens & Families worker retire, and are about to begin the process of finding a new one. James the House for duty Vicar at St Columba Collingtree, is an associate Vicar at St.Giles



Our PCC, Lay Readers, and Church Wardens Jess & Jacqueline, help with the staff team and oversee a wide range of ministries and groups. This ranges from two services on a Sunday, to a wide variety of Children's, Youth, and Adults groups, ministries and outreach.

None of what we do at St.Giles would be possible without the congregation coming together to volunteer their time and gifts to serve the church. We believe in encouraging every member to get engaged and involved in church life. You can see more about what a week in the life of St.Giles entails on the next page.



*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

-Corinthians 12: 12, 26 27



## A Week in the Life of St. Giles Northampton

### WORSHIPPING GOD

WE EXPRESS THIS PERSONALLY AND WHEN WE COME TOGETHER! WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD AND TO ENJOY HIS PRESENCE.



Sunday Worship AM & PM

Music Ministry

Audio Visual Ministry

Welcome and Hospitality

Morning Prayer Zoom

Midweek Communion

Service Thursday  
Prayer Gathering

24-7 Prayer Weeks  
Lectio 365

House of prayer weekly  
and monthly

### MAKING DISCIPLES

THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, COURSES AND GATHERINGS WE AIM TO MAKE NEW DISCIPLES AND TO HELP ONE ANOTHER TO GROW IN MATURITY AS WE WALK TOGETHER.

Student & Young Adults  
Ministry

Seniors Ministry

The Prayer Course

Home Groups

Fruitfulness on the  
FrontLine

Big Church Read

Children's & Youth  
Ministry

Women's Ministry

Men's Ministry

Scouts & Guides



### TRANSFORMING LIVES

WE SEEK TO BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT TRANSFORMATION WHICH BEGINS WITH US AS WE INVITE GOD INTO OUR LIVES.



The Wellbeing Hub  
ALPHA

The Bereavement  
Course

The Wellbeing Café  
Toddle In

Ministry in Schools

Support for Parents

Pastoral & Prayer

Mission on our

Doorstep

Mission Overseas

Creation Care



## Home Mission - Mission on our Doorstep

St Giles sets aside 5% of non-restricted giving for the support of Home Mission in the UK. Through our support of a number of local and national organisations we seek to resource God’s mission in the UK. Locally we help support a women’s refuge (EVE), work among ex-prisoners (C2C Social Action), outreach to international students at the university (FISH) and our local Christian bookshop and counselling service (Manna House). Nationally we support the work of the Bible Society, CPAS and the Evangelical Alliance.

We also support a number of people in our congregation who are training for lay ministry.



Friendship International Students and Hosts



## World Mission

St Giles aims to set aside 10% of non-restricted giving for the support of World Mission.

We are a mission focused church and over many years we have provided support of world mission through linked mission partners some of whom were originally from our own congregation.

Currently our long term Mission Partners are with Latin Link in Brazil, CMS in Chile, AIM International, Scripture Union, YWAM in Thailand, and a financially self-supporting couple involved in outreach in Hungary. We have recently started supporting Serve Asia UK through two members in our congregation.



We support Tearfund through being a partner church with a project in Uganda. We invite our mission partners to share and minister in the Sunday services and encourage them to take a full part in church life when they are on furlough.

Our linked partners are supported by regular monthly payments plus occasional donations as needs are identified.

We support the persecuted church through regular prayer and giving through Open Doors. [opendoorsuk.org](http://opendoorsuk.org)

We give our support to other one off worldwide mission initiatives and appeals as and when they arise.

Each year we usually raise money during Lent for a specific tangible project often linked to one of our mission partners. In recent years we have supported areas of need where Christians are living in poverty or are suffering persecution for their Christian faith. We offer our support through Christian agencies. These projects usually raise in excess of £5,000 in addition to our church’s tithed giving.

## Well being Cafe

Our Wellbeing Café is a place of community, hospitality, and support, open to all but with a particular emphasis on those affected by mental health issues. The café operates every Monday and provides a quiet, friendly environment to meet and talk with others over tea and coffee with the added option of engaging in practical activities such as crafts and board games.

We have worked closely with Renew Wellbeing to develop the Wellbeing Cafe space and it has been highly praised, even visited by the Archbishop of Canterbury as a wonderful example of what a Wellbeing space could look like. Our Wellbeing Cafe is rooted in the Christian practices of prayer and contemplation. There is always a prayer space, where a simple pattern of reflective prayer is led by one of the team members. All visitors are welcome to engage with these short times of prayer, but are under no compulsion to do so. The Wellbeing Café welcomes people of all faith backgrounds and of none.



## Finances

St Giles has benefited from the generosity of its members over past years. Substantial projects have been enabled through the sacrificial giving of many of our fellowship.

Each year St Giles has continued to pay its parish share in full & maintain a reserves fund for 5 months of running costs, while maintaining a wide range of ministries and two church buildings.

It is a challenge in the current climate to maintain the same level of giving as we have seen in recent years, but we are balancing being good stewards with trusting in faith that God will provide for the work he has called us to do.

See below, shows the split of our 2022 budgeted income & expenditure.

### Income

<b>Tax reclaim</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Other Giving</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Gift Aided</b>	<b>57%</b>

### Expenses

<b>5%</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
<b>32%</b>	<b>Parish Share</b>
<b>35%</b>	<b>Salaries</b>
<b>10%</b>	<b>Property</b>
<b>14%</b>	<b>Mission</b>
<b>4%</b>	<b>Admin/Office</b>

## Our Diocese & Deanery

Our diocese is was led by The Right Rev Donald Allister and his senior staff team until he retired in January. They are committed to supporting churches, groups and individuals in their mission and to share in the Good News of God's love with the whole world.

The Rt Revd John Holbrook was installed as Bishop of Brixworth on 29 June 2011. The Bishop of Brixworth is the suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough (in effect the assistant bishop of Peterborough).

The Ven Richard Ormston, Archdeacon of Northampton

The Deanery of Greater Northampton covers the whole of the town and the outlying growth areas.

Supported by the diocese, we have enabled a number of church plants, by commissioning members of our congregation to ministry in these new areas. We subsequently maintain close pastoral, spiritual and financial support until these ministries become established.

Examples include Grange Park Church [grangeparkchurch.com](http://grangeparkchurch.com), The Church on the Heath [achurchnearyou.com/king-heath-church-on-heath](http://achurchnearyou.com/king-heath-church-on-heath) and St Columba, Collingtree [stcolumbacollingtree.org.uk](http://stcolumbacollingtree.org.uk)

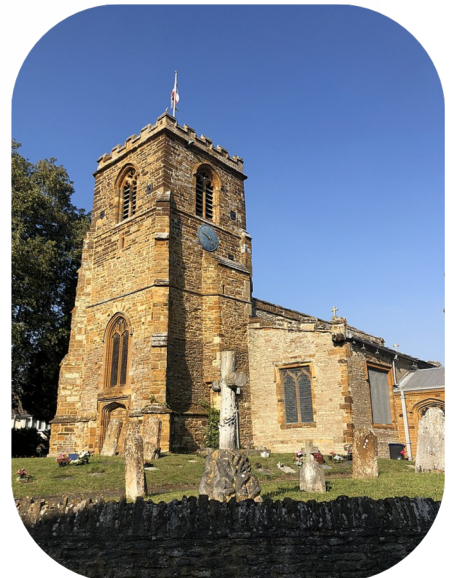
The first of these is now fully independent while we still maintain support for King's Heath and Collingtree.

We have an informal and creative relationship with the church at Collingtree. The (House for Duty) minister is a member of our leadership team and a number of our members actively support the church.

The church is relatively small numerically and our aim has been to enable growth through a range of initiatives. There is an open invitation into the Church of England Primary School and potential for further links with the community.

A new AV system is being fitted into the church, and toilet/ kitchen provision is planned to make the church a more usable space.

The new incumbent of St Giles, the House for Duty Minister and the two PCCs will be invited to enter discussions with the Archdeacon of Northampton about the future of this relationship between St Giles and Collingtree.



## The Parish and Town

### Town

Northampton, the county town of Northamptonshire is located in the East Midlands and is situated in the south of the Peterborough Diocese. The town continues to expand and is currently one of the largest in England with a population in excess of 245,000 with 15% of that being minority groups from South East Asia and Eastern Europe. The University of Northampton with its recently built riverside campus has around 12,000 students from all over the world.



Historically, Northampton was a market town famous for its shoe and leather trade but today only a few worldwide shoe brands remain. However, having good transport links by motorway and rail to London, Birmingham and beyond makes the town popular for commuters and a key location for logistics centres and food and drink manufacturing. With Silverstone only 20 minutes away, Northampton also hosts a number of specialist suppliers to the motor-sport industry including Mahle Powertrain and Cosworth.

Northampton provides a combination of urban life with plenty of green spaces within the town and is also surrounded by pretty villages and lovely countryside. The Market Square is one of the oldest and biggest in Britain and the town centre has plenty of cafes and restaurants, a theatre and film-house as well as the offices of West Northamptonshire Council. Currently, as with many other towns, the retail outlets are struggling, but whilst many big brand stores have closed down, a number of smaller, shops survive in the cultural quarter of town, including St Giles Street itself. Plans for renewal for the town centre are in the pipeline. There is a pedestrianised shopping zone and a shopping centre, with a number of 'out of town' Retail Parks also nearby. For leisure there is a swimming pool, theatre, cinemas and museums. Northampton offers many primary and secondary schools, a Further Education College and the purpose built campus of University of Northampton. Further useful details about the town and wider community can be found on via [northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://northamptonshire.gov.uk)

### The Parish

St Giles, a Church of England church is a small town centre Anglican Parish Church adjacent to, and including part of the main shopping area. The parish has a population of 1,100. The electoral roll of St Giles is currently 202 of whom 7 are resident in the parish.

There are some small housing areas within the parish. A few of the old terraces are still residential, now mainly rented, but many others are now used for town centre businesses with most of the larger houses being used as offices.

We have close links with St Thomas', a small sheltered housing unit, and the Age UK 'Venton' Day Centre' both of which are situated close to St Giles church.

Northampton General Hospital lies within the parish and is served by its own chaplaincy with which St Giles has a close relationship.

South of the parish, Becket's Park stretches down to the River Nene and it's Marina. Northampton University Campus is also located here. [northampton.ac.uk](http://northampton.ac.uk)



## Our Buildings

### The Church

St Giles was founded in the 12th century and celebrated its 900th year in 2020. It is an impressive structure with a large, central bell tower housing 10 bells. The church is set in a large open access churchyard which has been in the care of the local authority since 1875. Recently our churchyard has received a Bronze award from the Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme thanks to hard work from passionate individuals in our congregation in collaboration with the council & local community. New trees have been planted and a wildflower strip created to encourage wildlife.

The church was reordered in 1996/7 when the pews were removed and replaced with comfortable chairs to seat up to 350.

A baptistery was also constructed and new heating, lighting, sound systems and audio-visual provision were also incorporated. A refreshment area and two toilets were installed and part of one of the chapels was converted to a crèche with a TV link to the main worship area. In 2020, a new dais was constructed to give greater floor space, improved disabled access and facilitate the wiring of an updated sound system.

External stone work repairs continue on a regular basis as and when finance is available. We regularly review Quinquennial work and aim to keep on top of it to honour the care of previous generations in maintaining the building.

### The Parish Centre

This is located opposite the west door, in St Giles Terrace and was formerly the church primary school. It was purchased by the church in 1987 and has been redeveloped behind the original Victorian façade. The Parish and staff offices are housed here and there are also 2 large halls, a kitchen and several smaller rooms including one with a kitchenette attached, all of which have been updated fairly recently. There is a small car park to the rear. The rooms are let both to church and outside groups and are in regular use throughout the week.



### The Vicarage

This is a modern detached 6 bedroom house, built in 1983. The house is built on 3 storeys. It has gas central heating, a secluded rear garden and a single garage. The house is situated in a small lane opposite the south entrance of the church.

### The Curate's House

This is a modern executive-style 3 to 4 bedroom detached property. The house is situated approximately 15 minutes' walk from St Giles and is owned by the diocese.

