

CHRIST CHURCH WILLESBOROUGH

Christ Church was built in the 19th century by committed Anglicans who felt that the local parishes were becoming too 'high Church' and embracing distinctively Roman Catholic practices and teaching.

It has always maintained a formal, dignified, simple and reverent form of worship using, as required by the Trust Deed, services solely according to the Book of Common Prayer with its traditional language as also in the use of Scripture readings.

The role of the Trustees is to appoint and thereafter support the work of the minister within the terms of the Trust Deed and to work with the church in maintaining the buildings and (where trustees are also members) developing witness to Christ locally. Subject to the Trust Deed the day to day running of the church follows the Canons of the Free Church of England where, broadly, matters spiritual and the conduct of services are assigned to the minister and practical matters to the two Wardens and Church Council.

Members come from a variety of backgrounds not necessarily Anglican. All value the quiet dignity of our worship and Christ Church is one of few local churches that offer this. Much valued by the membership is preaching and the church has for years enjoyed a high quality of preaching in a variety of styles, both expository and thematic. Holy Communion is ideally celebrated twice a month where an episcopally ordained presbyter is available.

Traditional Anglican robes ('Choir habit') are worn at all liturgical services according to the custom of the Free Church of England.

In the 19th century the church would have been described as 'evangelical' to distinguish it from 'Anglo Catholic' but it could equally have been described as 'low church'. It is thus very different from many churches which call themselves 'Evangelical' today. Knowing that the Church is evangelical Christ Church understands its evangelical character is lived out by following the great commission to make disciples for Christ.

The congregation is locally drawn, with a preponderance of senior citizens and is known for its friendliness to visitors (tea and coffee are served after the main service) and warm fellowship between the members who support each other in prayer and practice. Much value is set on pastoral work and the

congregation cherishes the richness of meeting for regular prayer and Bible study. The church welcomes use of its hall by appropriate community groups.

The church participates with other churches in various activities locally. It does not wish to be an isolationist group.

Christ Church has an all member ministry and its members seek leadership of this coherent group of Christians. The church has been without a minister for some years. This has both helped members to develop their talents and restricted it in other ways. One of the things missing at present is sadly a Sunday School and youth work.

The church buildings have been maintained in a good state of repair and have recently been improved. This is also true of Christ Church house which is a compact three bedroom house almost opposite the church itself.

The church has a tradition of giving to such organisations as the minister and church council approve such as the Gideons.

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