

# Connect



Connect

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Third Edition

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# WELCOME

**H**ello and welcome to The King's Church, Wisbech. Thank you for showing an interest in our church and for wanting to find out more about us.

When writing this booklet we asked ourselves the question 'What would I want to know about a church before joining them?' and we hope that we have answered most of your questions within these pages. However, if you do have additional questions that we may have not thought of, please do ask us as we are more than happy to help. Contact details can be found in the back of this book.

Church should be a safe place where we can be encouraged and challenged to help us grow to become more like Jesus. We need each other and the Holy Spirit to be able to do this well.

We hope you will come to find that our church is your 'home' and that you will be able to call us 'family'. However, if our church is not the right fit for you for whatever reason, we understand and will take no offence if you feel better suited in a different part of the body of Christ.

## OUR HISTORY

**T**he King's Church, Wisbech started in 1984 from a small gathering in a private house and has steadily grown to the gathering of lively Christians you meet today. The church has no 'building' but is made up of the people who attend it.

The members of our church come from many backgrounds and have a vast range of work experiences and expressions of family life. We doubt if your situation will be unique - someone may well be like you!

Wherever we have come from and whatever we have been, what we are now is a gathering of Christians who have experienced

meeting with Jesus Christ and have committed our lives to Him. It is this that builds us together as a church - in relation to God and to each other.

We want to love and serve our Lord Jesus and for all of our life, throughout the whole week, to be a pleasure to Him. Monday is as important as Sunday and our worship isn't confined to a building but expressed in faithful obedient service to God, wherever we are.

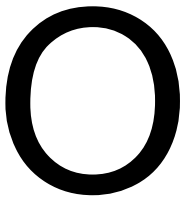
In that way we may have the opportunity of bringing others to know God as their Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and of seeing the presence of God transform lives.



# OUR VISION

*'That we may present everyone mature in Christ'*

*Colossians 1:28*



ur vision is based upon Colossians 1:9-2:5 (NIV) :

*“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious*

*might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— if you*

*continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

*Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

*He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.*

*I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order*

*that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.”*

In essence this can be summarised by Colossians 1:28: *“That we may present everyone mature in Christ”.*

## **What is a Mature Christian?**

A mature Christian is someone who is:

- Moving on with Jesus
- Outward looking
- Operating in their ministry and gifts
- Building others up

## **How do we Get There?**

We aim to do this by:

- Loving Jesus
- Building Relationships
- Serving our Community

These form the three main pillars of our vision and are all important parts in helping us as individuals and as a church to become mature in Christ.

We recognise that we are all at different places on our journey in our relationship with Jesus (and some may not have started yet). We acknowledge that maturity will look different for different people, although there will be some common features.

## **The Three Pillars**

The three pillars of our vision are just as important as each other. Without one in place, the whole structure becomes unstable. Each relies upon the other and works in conjunction with the other to help us 'become mature in Christ'.

### **1. Loving Jesus**

This pillar is all about our personal relationship with Jesus. As a church we will do everything we can to help you develop and grow in your relationship with Jesus. The more we know and love Jesus, the more like Him we become.

We help you to 'Love Jesus' more through Bible teaching and worship at a Sunday Service or at Messy Church once a month, or at our weekly Service in Bulgarian on a Saturday.

We also have a monthly communion service.

There may also be opportunity to join in with a course that may happen from time to time or to travel to Christian conferences or festivals which will also help in the growth and development of your relationship with Jesus.

## **2. Building Relationships**

This pillar is all about getting to know one another better so that we can pray together, support and care for each other (mutual care). As we share our lives together and encourage one another in our faith the church will be strengthened. We come to realise we are not in it alone.

We help you to 'Build Relationships' with each other by encouraging everyone to be part of a small group. These groups meet mid-week and take on a variety of forms. Some meet weekly, others meet less often. The important thing is that

you are part of a small group and that you are relating to and getting to know others within the church on a deeper level.

Every now and then we also host social activities such as bring-and-share meals or church picnics in the park. These are also important opportunities for you to get to know a wider group of people from within the church who are not part of your small group or regular event that you normally attend (eg. Messy Church or Sunday Services).

### **3. Serving our Community**

This pillar is twofold. The first way of looking at ‘our community’ is to recognise that we all have a part to play in serving and helping within our local church context. Volunteers are the wheels and cogs of our church. Virtually nothing can be achieved without the help, support and cooperation of our volunteer teams. Involvement in helping the running of the church is important. This can range from setting out chairs and making cups of tea, playing a musical instrument or singing, to the design and production of websites and videos. Everyone has a part to play.

The second, and perhaps the more important way of viewing 'our community' is about moving beyond the walls of the church. We have the good news of Jesus to share with others. We also have opportunities to practically demonstrate His love by serving or helping others. We need to take Jesus' love out into the dying and hurting world around us – only then will they know that Jesus really does love them!

We help you to 'Serve our Community' by creating events and opportunities where you can get involved, or invite people you know along to where they can be gently introduced to Jesus. On a wider level we hope to equip and support you to be able to shine the light of Jesus wherever you work and play.

The Bible says, "whatever you do...do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17 and 23) so we aim to think in terms of 'full-time Christians'. This means there is no separate category of 'Christian' work, rather we are all Christians *who* work. If in employment, or in the home, or on social occasions, or in voluntary work we are servants to others and primarily to the Lord. More importantly that is where our faith and the outworking of our faith needs to be expressed. Being witnesses into all the world – not only the world of nations but the world



we live in day by day. To continue the quotation “whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” as we serve the Lord in our local community.

## **Growth Path**

In order to help you mature in your faith and to help you put the three pillars of the vision in place in your life, we have created a ‘Growth Path’. Our Growth Path guides you to find a place to belong and take the next step into God’s purpose for your life.

The Growth Path is made up of five steps:

### **Step 1: Connect**

Understand our values and find your place at The King’s Church, Wisbech by coming to one of our ‘Connect Events’ especially for newcomers to the church. (The good news is if you are reading this you will have already taken this first step as we give this out at our ‘Connect Events’).

### **Step 2: Foundations**

Establish a firm foundation for your faith by attending a Christianity Explored course that will help you to learn more

about who Jesus is and give you a better understanding of what it means to follow Him. Even if you have been a Christian for a long time, it can be beneficial to revisit the basics from time to time and the Christianity Explored course will help with this.

### **Step 3: Build**

Build strong and healthy relationships with others in the church. This can be done by going to a small group or church services; however, we also recognise the importance of friendships that grow and develop organically – so please don't *just* rely on church events to build your friendships.

### **Step 4: Grow**

Nurture and grow your personal relationship with God by reading the Bible and praying yourself as well as coming to our church services and engaging with times of Bible teaching, worship and prayer. You can also attend courses that we offer from time to time that will help your spiritual growth.

### **Step 5: Serve**

Deepen your discipleship and your gifts by taking opportunities to serve our church as well as our local community through outreach as well as everyday interactions.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**E**veryone needs a new start in life by having God as their Father, Jesus as their Saviour the Holy Spirit as their helper.

The Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit together are the one true God yet three distinct persons in God.

When Jesus was born on earth, grew up as a man, died on a cross and rose from the dead - He opened up God's only way of rescuing people from both the power and the consequences of sin.

Through the Bible God has told us what we need to know about Himself and how to live in a way that pleases Him.

God knows us and wants us to know Him. The Holy Spirit brings us into that relationship and guides us in it, also using other Christian believers to help us so that our faith grows and affects every part of us and our daily life.

Knowing God this way means we have a life that will never end - it goes on after death. After Jesus comes to earth again, all Christian believers will live in a brand new creation of earth and heaven.

### **In Brief this Means We Believe:**

- There is only one God who is Father Son and Holy Spirit.
- God in love created, rules and maintains the world.
- The Bible was written under God's inspiration and we can rely on the truth it teaches.
- People are precious to God, even though sin has marred all of our lives.
- Jesus is both fully man and fully God.

- When Jesus died on the cross he gave his life to pay the cost of our sin.
- Jesus bodily came back to life and eventually went back to be with God in heaven. He lives for ever, giving help to those who believe in him.
- When Jesus returns we too will be resurrected in new bodies.
- Jesus is the only person who can bring us into complete relationship with God.
- The Holy Spirit is God who brings us to faith and gives the ability to live as a Christian.
- The Church is the community of believers, both local and universal. God lives with His people and enjoys their company and receives their worship. The church is used by God to do his work.
- Jesus will return to earth from heaven, he will be the judge of everyone, separating the lost and the saved. He will bring justice and peace and create a new heaven and a new earth

As you journey with us and begin to move more towards the centre of the 'Ragged-Edged' membership model, as described in the next chapter, we do seek agreement on the unchanging foundational faith issues of what we believe and on those matters which govern our life together.

However, there may be secondary areas where our understanding does change in the light of revelation from Scripture. Whilst the truth cannot change, our understanding of what is true can and does change.

There are also some areas of life which are not addressed in scripture which must be governed by the conscience.

As a guide we would say:

We are Biblical in our faith and practice.

Un-Biblical teaching we reject.

Non-Biblical issues must be governed by our conscience.

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**W**e use the 'ragged edged' model of church membership which means you decide how much of a 'member' you are and how much you want to get involved. There is no membership form to fill in or swearing in ceremony. You simply decide to what extent you want to be involved.

# Belonging then Believing

With the ragged-edge model of church membership it implies the following:





- Membership is less defined
- There is no distinction between 'members' and 'congregation'. No one is an outsider.
- All who want to belong can belong.
- All who belong are welcomed wherever they are in their journey of faith.
- In practice there will be different levels of involvement by those who are part of the church
  - A recognised leadership
  - A main core of those who are seeking to serve and are committed to the church fellowship
  - Those in transition to a lesser or greater commitment
  - Interested visitors
- Church is experienced as:
  - Where I belong

- Where I find acceptance and feel at home with Christians
- Where I can learn about a faith that saves me from sin and condemnation and gives me a new life in Christ
- Where it is safe for me to be challenged and changed
- Where I can serve and give
- Church is expressed as:
  - Being who I am
  - Receiving from the Lord and His people what I am willing to receive
  - Giving to the Lord and His people what I am willing to give

## **As a Church We:**

- Are certain of the faith we proclaim. We hold fast to the teaching of the Bible in life, doctrine and conduct.
- Believe in The Bible, God's Word to us. It is central to all we teach and do
- Respect the God-appointed leaders in the church. They oversee the life of the church, holding people to account, as they themselves are accountable to one another and ultimately to God Himself.
- Are a registered charity in the UK; receive peer support from Churches in Communities International; are members of the Evangelical Alliance and locally belong to Wisbech Churches Together.
- See the necessity for order and discipline to operate in the church
- Understand that any who are asked by the appointed leadership to take on any specific leadership role in the church would need to adhere to the following commitments and requirements:
  - o Testimony and evidence of a saving faith in Jesus

- o Believing the foundational teaching in the church  
(see 'What We Believe')
- o Have been baptised in water as a believer in Jesus
- o Committed to genuine Christian fellowship,  
interacting with others in a God-honouring way,  
sharing life, learning and growing together
- o Taking appropriate responsibility for the work and  
witness of the church
- o Finding a ministry role in the fellowship
- o Supporting the church financially
- o Attends the Sunday morning meeting
- o Involvement with a small group within the church

## MUTUAL CARE

**W**e have the biblical view of the church being like a body, each person playing a different part yet all being a vital element of the whole. With this in mind, we recognise the importance of helping and caring for each other as if one part suffers, we all suffer. Likewise if one part excels, we all celebrate our mutual success.

We see mutual care as coming under one of our three core pillars of our church vision: building relationships. In order to aid and enhance the care being given and received throughout the church we have set up the 'Barnabas Team'.

## **What is the Barnabas Team?**

The Barnabas Team consists of volunteers from within our church. Each team member is prayerfully matched up with someone in the church who has requested it. They then intentionally make regular contact with that person and commit to pray for them.

## **Who can benefit from structured mutual care from the Barnabas Team?**

Anyone in our church who would like someone to regularly pray for them and ask how they are can do so.

It is not intended to be reciprocal. If you are on the Barnabas team, the person you are supporting would not be supporting you in the same way. You may, however, request support and be matched with another member of the Barnabas Team.

## **How Does It Work?**

At most of our regular church events and meetings there is a Barnabas Team request form that is available. If there is no form

available, please just ask someone and we will make sure we connect you with a Deacon who will be able to help.

Your will then be prayerfully matched with someone on the Barnabas Team. The method of communication and frequency can be agreed individually but should be no more than once a week and no less than once a month.

## **What is it not?**

We realise that deeper friendships may develop along the way, but this is not to be expected as a given. Each member of the Barnabas Team will be committed to praying for the person they are matched with and asking how they are regularly – nothing more.

For matters of deeper more personal need, please speak to one of the Overseers.

## **Isn't this already happening?**

Yes! We fully acknowledge that many people in the church are already serving in this way and we encourage it to continue. The idea of establishing the Barnabas Team is to further organise

mutual care and extend it to those who are not yet involved but would like to be. This could also be an opportunity for those who regularly support others to request support for themselves.



## SMALL GROUPS

**B**eing part of a small group is a vital part of your Christian growth and discipleship. We believe you cannot live an effective and growing Christian life in isolation. It is also relatively easy to come to a larger church event, such as a Sunday service, and not really have the time or opportunity to develop relationships with others.

Small groups exist to facilitate and enable the building of deeper and more meaningful relationships between the people who come to our church. Share a laugh together. Share life together. Share faith together.

Our small groups happen at various places and times throughout the week and take on a variety of forms.

The main aim of most of these groups is to 'build relationships' although there may be a spiritual element as well.

If you have been to church before, you will soon notice that our small groups are a little different to those you may have experienced before elsewhere.

Our small groups are structured around a specific focus or interest, such as: Bible study, knitting, book club, a particular course (such as Christianity Explored), board games - or whatever.

These groups are also intended to run for a limited time (e.g. 3 months). The reason for this is so that people do not feel 'stuck' in any particular group and will also encourage everyone to mix with different people at different times, thus encouraging relationships to be built across the congregation and not just with a select few.

The types of small groups on offer differ and there are times when more is happening than at others.

The best way to find out what small groups are available is to ask. If you have subscribed to our email newsletter, information about what is happening and how you can get involved can be found there. You can also find information on the calendar page of the church website [www.kinsgwisbech.org.uk](http://www.kinsgwisbech.org.uk).

If you have an idea for a small group that is not currently being offered, please speak to an Overseer or Deacon.

# COMMUNICATION

**W**e communicate with those who wish to keep in touch and informed about our ministry in a variety of ways.

## **Weekly Newsletter**

We publish a newsletter one a week which contains current information and events for our church as well as other dates that are coming up in the near future. This is mainly in an electronic format and is sent out to our general church emailing list.

However, there are a few paper copies that are printed out and are available at our Sunday meetings.

Messy Church also sends out a newsletter but does so once a month due to the different nature of this event.

## Email

Email is our main way of communicating with the vast majority of our congregation. However, if you do not have access to email, don't worry, we still use more traditional methods of communication such as phone calls and the postal service too if you prefer.

## Websites

Our main church website **[www.KingsWisbech.org.uk](http://www.KingsWisbech.org.uk)** serves as a 'window' into our church, showcasing our ministry to our community as well as to people who are interested in wanting to find out more and coming along.

It is also a hub for those already coming to church as you can access the church calendar of events, sermon audio and video, sign up for courses, view volunteer rotas and much more with a

church website login. This will allow you to access extra parts of the site that visitors cannot. If you would like to request a website login, please ask.

Our Messy Church webpage is part of our main website but has its own unique address to help people who are looking for it to get there more easily **[www.MessyWisbech.org.uk](http://www.MessyWisbech.org.uk)** .

## **Social Media**

We have a variety of Social Media profiles and pages.

If you are on Facebook or Twitter, please do look us up and Follow us. This will help to enrich your experience of church life and will aid in communication and sharing of life together even when we are away from 'church'.

Most of our Facebook Pages also have Groups linked to them. These are 'closed' and only open to those who actually attend our church and is a place where community can grow and be encouraged as well as a space where faith can be explored together. If you would like to join a Facebook Group please click on the 'Request to Join' button.

## **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/kingswisbech>

<https://www.facebook.com/messywisbech>

## **Instagram:**

@KingsWisbech

## **Church Directory**

We publish a church directory to help church members keep in touch. Including your details in the church directory is completely optional and includes only the contact information you wish it to include. Often this is: Name, address, phone number and email.

The publication of our church directory is done in adherence to our Privacy and Data Protection Policy and only with the expressed permission of those who are happy for their information to be included and distributed to other church members.

Those receiving a Church Directory are made aware of their responsibility to help keep the information it contains secure and

not to share that information without first asking the person's permission to do so.

There is also a section of our website that is an online version of our Church Directory called the 'Address Book'. This is only accessible via secure login so it is not accessible to the public, and again, you are completely in control of what information, if any, is displayed. You can control your information and update it at any time on your 'My Area' page of the site.

## **Mobile Phone App**

We also have church app that you can download onto your mobile phone. This app connects to certain sections of the church website that are particularly relevant to regular attenders and volunteers. Get rota reminders, events calendar, recent sermons, the ability to give financially on your phone as well as access to your account on the website where you can update contact details and more.

Type: **[kingswisbech.org.uk/hubb](https://kingswisbech.org.uk/hubb)** into your phone's internet browser and click 'Enter'.



It will take you to a login page. If you have an account on the church website, type in your username and password. If not, please ask and we can set this up for you.

You can still download the app without logging in but won't have access to some of the features mentioned above.

To download the app, click on the home icon at the bottom of the screen (it looks like a little house). Make sure you have scrolled to the top of the page and then click the green button to install the app.

Once installed the church app can be accessed by tapping on the church logo on your phone's screen or in the phone's app gallery.

## **Data Protection**

Our Data Protection Policy is written in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (EU). A summary of this document is available at all large church meetings and is available upon request at any other time. You are also more than welcome to view the whole document and other related policies.

## Use of your information

If you allow us to store and use your contact details they will only be used for the expressed purposes as stated on the sign-up forms, which is to communicate with you about our church's events and activities. If you have requested a personal communication or follow up, your information will be used for this purpose too.

## Sharing your information

We are absolutely committed to protecting your privacy. Our policy can be summarised in one sentence: *we will not share your information with others without your consent, or if we are required by law to do so.*

## What information we collect

Primarily we collect your name, address, email and phone number. Date of birth is optional (but required for children when registering for Messy Church).

## **Unsubscribing**

You are welcome to ask for your email address and other information to be removed from our database at any time. You may unsubscribe from our emailing list at any time by clicking on the 'Unsubscribe' link at the bottom of the email.

If you are a registered user of our website, you have control over your information and who can view it. By default this is set to only being accessible by other authenticated users of the site who have a login. However, you can change this at any time.

If you wish to remove or update other information on our database, please contact us and we will assist as soon as possible.

## **Notification of Changes**

If we decide to make changes to our privacy policy, the changes will be posted on the 'Privacy Policy' page of our website. We will also notify you by email and have some printed copies of the changes available at church for two weeks after the changes have been announced.

# VOLUNTEERING

**A**n organisation such as ours relies upon volunteers. We recognise that we are all partners in building God's Kingdom together. We are a body, each person fulfilling a crucial role within the overall structure, depending upon and relying on each other. As such, we know we need **your** help in order to achieve our vision.

As you move towards the centre of our 'ragged-edged' membership model (see the chapter on Church Membership) and as you look to include all three of the pillars of our vision in your

life to help you grow in maturity in Christ, we hope you begin to volunteer to help our church.

There are a wide variety of areas where you could be involved. We would strongly encourage you to volunteer for at least one thing, but it is not limited to just one. We are confident there will be something that you will be able to help with. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Serving Tea / Coffee
- The 'Welcoming Team'
- Arriving early to help set up chairs and sound equipment
- Multi-Media Team - Using computer skills to display the words on the screen, playing videos and music
- The Band – singing or playing a musical instrument
- Sound Team – operating the sound desk at church (some heavy lifting involved)
- Computer skills helping with running the website or social media accounts
- Barnabas Team
- Arts and Crafts helping at Messy Church
- Cooking – helping at Messy Church or Fellowship Meals

- Planning and organising – helping with planning Messy Church or other outreach events / church weekends etc.
- Graphic Design – helping with websites, creating banners, invitations, T-shirts etc.
- Camcorder (video) operator
- Photographer
- Administration – office related jobs

If there is another area or skill you have that you think will benefit the church that is not included here, please speak to us.

Training will be given where necessary.

Volunteer role descriptions will also be provided to help you know what is expected and how certain things work best.

Due to the nature of some of the roles an interview may be necessary. A DBS check may be undertaken if you are working alongside children or vulnerable adults.

If you are willing to volunteer for at least one thing, please speak to a Deacon. They will be able to put you in contact with the person who is leading that particular team of volunteers.

# MINISTRIES

**W**hoever you are, we have a place for you! Explore the ministries we run.

## **Sunday Celebration**

We love to gather together as a church on a Sunday morning. We sing and pray together as well as receive some Bible teaching that is relevant to our lives today. There is often a fun illustration or interactive element to the celebration. About once a

month we also share Communion together. There are often lots of people contributing to the meeting in some way.

Everyone is welcome at our Celebrations.

### **King's Kids:**

Children are more than welcome - we love worshipping Jesus as one 'big family'. Just before the Bible teaching, the children will be invited to go with some of our wonderful 'King's Kids Team' (fully DBS checked) to an adjoining room where they can take part in activities and have Bible teaching relevant for their age group (4 -11 years old).

If your child would prefer to stay with you in the main meeting, that is fine. Likewise, if you would like to go with your child to the kids meeting for the first time whilst they get used to it, that is also fine.

### **Ministry & Refreshments:**

We have come to recognise how important building relationships is in our discipleship. We also want to encourage response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as well as give opportunity for us to



exercise our spiritual gifts and to enable the whole church to minister to each other.

To facilitate this, we have a time of ministry right after the Bible Teaching whilst at the same time we incorporate our refreshments break as an integral part of our gathering.

After this time, we sing a final song and say The Grace together before scattering to wherever we live, work and play - carrying the power and love of Jesus with us out into our community.

## **Messy Church**

Messy Church is our monthly all-age gathering designed to be fun, interactive and friendly. There is a registration time shortly before the fun begins for those who are coming for the first time. Then it's '3-2-1 blast off!' with messy fun crafts and games that link to a biblical theme. Everyone can join in the messy fun - yes even the mum's and dads! Then we have a 20 minute 'Celebration' that includes songs, prayer and a Bible story. Everyone is then invited to enjoy a delicious meal together before going home.

Messy Church happens on a Saturday afternoon from 3:30pm-5:30pm at the Queen Mary Centre. Please visit our website to find out exact dates **[www.MessyWisbech.org.uk](http://www.MessyWisbech.org.uk)**

## **Friday Conversations**

Friday Conversations is an online event that happens every Friday evening at 7:30pm on our YouTube Channel. There is a live feed from the Church Rooms where a couple of people are discussing a biblical topic or theme on camera. However, this is intended to be fully interactive and those who are watching are encouraged to type in the live chat and contribute to the conversation with statements, observations, and questions.

## **Men's Breakfast**

On the first Saturday of every month a group of men from a variety of churches within the town meet at 8am at Weatherspoon's Pub in the Centre of Wisbech to eat, have fellowship and pray together. This is an open group, and you would be more than welcome to join in. You are also not committing yourself to meeting every single month – just come when you are able to.

## **Prayer Chain**

The prayer chain is a group of volunteers from the church who have committed to pray for the needs of others upon request. Prayer requests are submitted either by using the prayer board at church on Sunday, or by sending in a prayer request via the church website.

## **Barnabas Team**

The Barnabas Team helps to coordinate and structure the Mutual Care within the church. Please read more about the Barnabas Team in the 'Mutual Care' chapter on page 29.

## **Bulgarian Service**

We have a gathering every Sunday evening in the Bulgarian language from 6:00pm until 7:00pm in the Queen Mary Centre.

The service begins with prayer and praise (Christian songs), with which we express our love, respect and admiration for God. It continues with a sermon and ends with a prayer.

This service is in the Bulgarian language, English translation is mostly available upon request.

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

**J**esus is our ultimate leader. We look to Him in all we do in order to follow His leading and direction for our ministry towards each other, our community and our world. We are called 'The King's Church' as this acknowledges that our church belongs to The King of kings, Jesus.

## **Overseers**

The Overseers have overall oversight of church affairs. They have

the big picture and ensure everything is happening as it should, providing guidance, correction and vision as necessary.

### **Our Overseers are:**

Clive Butcher

Fiona Butcher

Jane Gathercole

Matt McChlery (Safeguarding Lead)

Keith Smith

### **Deacons**

The Deacons are the facilitators of our church ministry. They have been appointed as servants of the church and as such they serve in certain areas where their strengths and spiritual gifts have been recognised. This leadership role means they take on the responsibility and help to coordinate the work for that area of church life to which they have been assigned.

### **Our Deacons Are:**

Lesley McChlery – Facilitating Mutual Care

Becky Smith – Facilitating worship in its various forms

Jackie Nurney – Facilitating responding to the Holy Spirit and development of Spiritual Gifts

Verity McChlery - Administration

## **Trustees**

Our church is a charity and has registered charity status in the UK. One of the requirements of being a charity is that a board of trustees be appointed to help oversee the financial affairs of the charity.

### **Our Trustees Are:**

Keith Smith (Chair)

Matt McChlery

Lynn Monaghan

Alan Hammond

Clerk to the Trustees – Verity McChlery

### **Treasurer:**

Anna Smith

You can see photographs of the people mentioned in this chapter on our website [www.kingswisbech.org.uk](http://www.kingswisbech.org.uk) on the 'About' page.

# SAFEGUARDING

**T**he Kings Church understands that we have a moral duty before God to ensure that we function with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. We are committed to fulfilling the requirements of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and other relevant legislation aimed at the protection of vulnerable adults.

## **Commitment**

The Overseers of The King's Church are committed to ensuring that The King's Church:

- Provides a safe environment for vulnerable persons.
- Identifies vulnerable persons who are suffering.
- Takes appropriate action to see that such vulnerable people are kept safe from harm.

In pursuit of these aims, the Overseers will approve and annually review policies and procedures with the aim of:

- Raising awareness of issues relating to the welfare of vulnerable people and the promotion of a safe environment for them.
- Providing procedures for staff and members of the congregation to report concerns



- Establishing procedures for reporting and dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and the congregation of The King's Church
- The safe recruitment of staff and volunteers

## **Safeguarding Lead**

Our Safeguarding Lead is Matt McChlery.

Please contact him for any further information, or if you have any concerns. You can find contact details for everyone on the church leadership team at the back of this booklet.

## AFFILIATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

**A**lthough we are not part of any of the main-stream church denominations, we do not exist in isolation and have a number of affiliations and associations with other Christian organisations.

## **Churches in Communities International (CiC)**

We are a member of 'Churches in Communities International' or CiC.

Churches in Communities brings together independent churches, Christian ministries and apostolically-centred networks nation-by-nation around the world.

CiC began in 1997 in response to a need expressed by independent church ministers in the UK. They wanted to have some means of accountability, accreditation and representation.

Today CiC meets these needs for its members across the world, providing recognition, mutual encouragement and shared expertise for thousands.

## **Evangelical Alliance UK**

We are a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

The Evangelical Alliance is the largest and oldest body that represents the UK's two million evangelical Christians. They help

to bring Christians together to help them listen to, and be heard by, the government, media and society.

## **Wisbech Churches Together**

We are a member of Wisbech Churches Together.

Wisbech Churches Together is a fellowship of churches that worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour according to the Scriptures.

Their aims are:

- To enable the Churches in the Wisbech area to explore the Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to seek a common mind, and to make decisions together.
- To encourage Churches to worship, pray and reflect together on the nature and purpose of the Church in the light of its mission - each church sharing with others the treasures of its tradition.
- To enable the Churches to live and share the Gospel, to respond to the needs of society, and to share a common witness.

# FINANCES

**T**he King's Church, Wisbech is a self-funded organisation. We rely solely upon the faithful giving of our members to finance our work and ministry.

The work of God needs money. For us doing the will of God is not determined by the lack or presence of money but it will determine the extent and effectiveness of our ministry.

Our church expects this financial support to be provided by those who attend and benefit from it. That is our primary source of income and there is an expectation that church members will be financially committed to the work.

Our established policy is that we do not have ‘fund raising events’. Following Biblical principles we teach that it is a joy to give to the work of God. This is easy to manage if our giving is planned and regular.

Many choose to use a tithe as a useful model; a tithe is a proportion of my income (a tenth is a useful figure) that is set aside, before other deductions, as a ‘first-fruit’ offering to the Lord. Tithing is usually planned and regular. Malachi 3:6-12 teaches that we dishonour God and hinder His blessing if we are faithless in our responsibility. We do not legislate on tithing (for God loves a cheerful giver!) but the practice of tithing pre-dates the law (Hebrews 7:1-2) and springs from a grateful heart in acknowledgement of all God’s blessings to us.

## **How we use our money**

We use our money in the church to

- Support people in their ministry in the church
- Support other Christian work
- Alleviate the needs of the poor
- Engage in witness and outreach

- Meet our operational costs (overheads)

## **Charity Status and Gift Aid**

The King's Church, Wisbech is a registered charity in the UK (Charity Number 1000160). This means that financial decisions are made by our Trustees.

The UK government is also generous and offers charities the ability to 'Gift Aid' any donations they may receive. This means that if you are a UK taxpayer you can fill in our Gift Aid form, which asks the government to give an extra 25p for every £1 that you give to us. This does not cost you any extra and makes the money you do give go a lot further and do more. You only need to fill in the Gift Aid form once. Thank you.

## **Ways to Give**

One of the most common ways we receive regular giving is through the setting up of a Standing Order with your bank. This means you don't have to remember to bring your wallet or purse to church every week and it also means you are in full control of the amount you give and when you give it. A Standing Order can be stopped by you at any time.

There is a basket on the table at church. You can use the envelopes provided, or simply place your money in the basket. If you have signed a Gift Aid form it is really helpful to us if you do use an envelope and simply write your name and the words 'Gift Aid' on it to indicate that we can claim gift aid from that donation.

Once a month during the Sunday service we incorporate our financial giving to God as part of our worship. On these occasions there will be attention drawn to the fact that as we give, we are worshipping God with our whole lives. The basket may be at the front or passed around.

You can also give online. There is a page on our website that explains how to do this. There is also a link to our online giving page on our weekly e-newsletter that is emailed to mailing list subscribers. We use Charity Choice to process our online donations which is safe and secure. If you wish to gift aid your online donation please do not make your donation anonymous as we need to link the name associated with the donation to the name on your gift aid form.

Bank charges apply to online donations. You are given the option to pay these charges on behalf of the church during the donation



process. Please will you consider adding these bank charges to your donation as they will help your money to go a lot further and enable us to do even more with it?

## **Charities We Support**

We really do believe in giving. This is why as a church we also give. We support a number of charities whom we believe are important for the furthering of the gospel on the earth including:

- Armenian Ministries
- Good News for Everyone
- Tearfund
- IJM (International Justice Mission)
- Christian Concern
- Wisbech Foodbank
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide
- Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer

# COMMUNION

**C**ommunion is celebrated in most Christian churches. It is a symbolic act that remembers the last supper Jesus had with his followers before being crucified.

*"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you"*

*Luke 22:19-20*

We celebrate communion at our church, although this does not happen every week. Everyone who has committed their life to Jesus, in other words: who is a Christian, is invited to take part in communion with us.

Children are welcome to participate with their parent's permission.

During a time of communion, you are under no obligation to take part. In fact it may be more beneficial for you not to take part if you have not yet made a commitment to Jesus. At times like these you are welcome to simply pass the cup or the bread along.

We do not use wine for communion, rather we use grape juice. The bread we use is the usual variety that you can purchase from any supermarket. If you have allergies or intolerances, please ask us about its ingredients before eating it.

If you have questions about what it means to commit your life to Jesus and to follow Him please speak to a Deacon or Overseer or email **[hello@kingswisbech.org.uk](mailto:hello@kingswisbech.org.uk)** and we will be happy to help and have a chat. You may also benefit from attending our Foundations course.

# BAPTISM

**T**he first step of becoming a believer and follower of Jesus is to enter into a relationship with Him (otherwise known as becoming 'saved' from your wrongdoing or sin). This is a simple process and if you have not yet asked Jesus to be in charge of your life, to live your life with Jesus as your friend you can do so today! Please speak to a Deacon or Overseer who can help explain a few things about it and help you.

If you are at this stage in your journey of faith, it would be very helpful for you to attend one of our Christianity Explored courses and / or one of our Foundations courses.

We recognise water baptism as being part of the salvation process which happens after the first step of committing your life to Jesus.

## **What is Water Baptism?**

Water baptism is a symbolic act that a Christian takes part in as a public sign of their belief in Jesus. It involves the person being totally submerged underneath the water. A declaration of faith in Jesus is made by the person being baptised and prayers are said.

Full submersion imitates the baptism Jesus received by John the Baptist in The Bible and the symbolism is powerful and poignant. As we die to our old pre-Jesus selves we are buried underneath the water. Then we rise up again into a new life in Jesus, having our sins washed away both inside out!

*“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

*Mark 16:16*

*“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

*Acts 2:38*

One thing to point out is that it is never too late! If you have decided to live your life in a relationship with Jesus, you should be baptised.

If you would like to be baptised, or would like to find out more, please speak to a Deacon or Overseer.

## CONTACT DETAILS

**O**ur church offices are located at Octavia View, whilst we conduct most of our larger public meetings at the Queen Mary Centre.

### **Church Offices & Rooms**

The King's Church, Wisbech

Octavia View

10a-14 South Brink

Wisbech

Cambridgeshire, PE13 1JQ

**Phone:**

01945 467413

**Office Email:**

hello@kingswisbech.org.uk

**Messy Church Email:**

messy@kingswisbech.org.uk

**Queen Mary Centre**

Queen's Road

Wisbech

Cambridgeshire

PE13 2PE



## **Overseers**

Clive Butcher – [clive.butcher@kingswisbech.org.uk](mailto:clive.butcher@kingswisbech.org.uk)

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Keith Smith – [keith.smith@kingswisbech.org.uk](mailto:keith.smith@kingswisbech.org.uk)

## **Trustees**

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## Deacons

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## Notes