

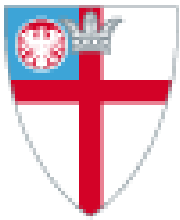
# WELCOME TO FRANKFURT



**Anglican  
Episcopal  
Church**

**Christ the King**





# ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

FRANKFURT AM MAIN/GERMANY

## Christ the King – Who are we?

Welcome to Christ the King! Whoever you are and wherever you're from, we're glad you are taking an interest in our congregation. May God bless you as you read this profile.

The Church of Christ the King, 'CTK', is a diverse community of Christians located in [Frankfurt am Main, Germany](#). The stories of some of our members, which you will find interspersed in the document, give you a sense of what has drawn people to CTK. Let's begin by describing where we are, where we've come from, and who we are today.

## The City

The city has a population of about 750,000 and is at the center of the Rhine-Main region which, in addition to Frankfurt, includes the cities of Wiesbaden and Mainz to the West, Offenbach and Hanau to the East, Darmstadt to the South, and a large number of [mid-sized towns and villages](#) in the surrounding area. Frankfurt is a modern, dynamic city with international banks, international trade fairs and Germany's largest airport, a rich variety of museums, an excellent university in CTK's immediate vicinity, a conservatory, an opera house, concert hall, several theatres, and its own football team named Eintracht Frankfurt.

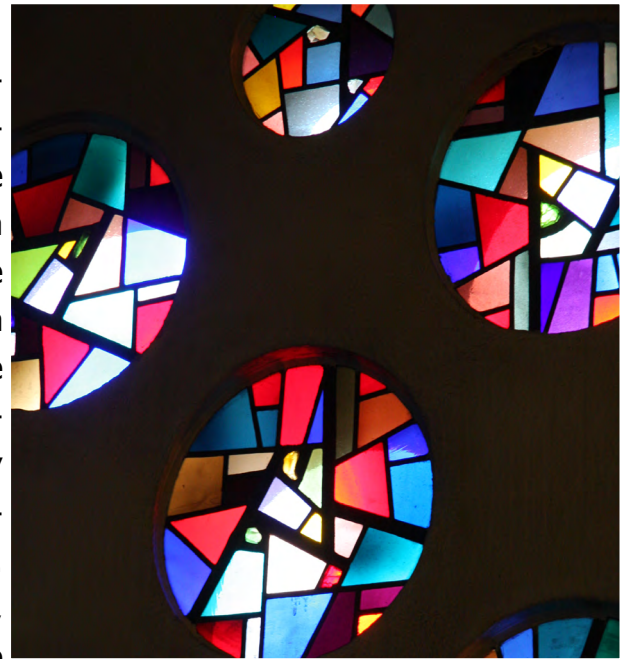
## The History of CTK

The history of our congregation goes back to the presence of the American military in Frankfurt following the Second World War. In 1949, the U.S. military loaned our church a site at the corner of Hansaallee and Miquelallee, and built a Nissen hut, which was consecrated under the name of St. Christopher. Seven years later, our present church building was built. The name was changed later to Christ the King.



## And Now?

Over the years, our membership has changed significantly from the largely military ex-pat community it used to be. Many of our parishioners have settled in the region for work-related reasons on a temporary or permanent basis. Others have come as immigrants and refugees. Today, we have a membership of around 220 and weekly attendance of around 120, drawn from the whole of the Rhine-Main region. Our members are Christians from many different backgrounds, nationalities and socio-economic groups who wish to worship in English. This includes members of the LGBTQ+ community, whom we openly welcome at CtK. CTK puts one to ease immediately. There always is at least one person who will talk to a newcomer.



Approximately half of our members are from Europe (predominantly the UK and Germany), a third are from North America, and the remainder come from Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Our designation as an “Anglican / Episcopal Church” reflects the fact that, even though we belong to the American Episcopal Church, many of our worshippers come from other member churches of the Anglican Communion, or from different denominations and traditions altogether. This diversity defines us, and we wish to continue to grow in our cultural and spiritual inclusiveness.

Our membership includes people of all age groups – fewer retirees than many church communities, as many who are with us for some time return to their home countries when their career commitments end. While fluctuation in our membership is high (reflecting the Frankfurt community in general), there is a sizeable group of long-term parishioners who have worshipped at CTK for ten years or more. The function of the parish as a place to meet and worship with other English-speaking Christians is particularly important. Due to the geographic spread of our membership, our parish life comes together on Sunday when, in addition to the worship service, people participate in various other activities.







*I'm Kay, and I've been coming to Christ the King since birth. When my father moved from England to Germany, he looked for an Anglican church and found CTK. My mother joined him after they met. Growing up at CTK, so much has happened in my life that the church and people from church have been a part of, and without the church I'm sure I would not be the person I am today. Throughout the years I've been an acolyte, later also a chalice bearer and lector, and now I'm mostly in the crèche, because I have two young children. I fondly remember growing up at CTK; especially going to junior and senior youth group as a teenager. I made great friends at church and really enjoyed my teenage years here. The experiences with my confirmation class and youth group have been influential and memorable. I have experienced a certain closeness with this group of friends when sad things have happened and continue to feel so comfortable with them.*

*When my father died in 2012, people from church were so supportive and helpful; they brought food, were there for my family, they were absolutely kind and generous in every way possible. And although it was full of grief, I remember the time after my father's passing as a happy time, because people from church were there for us.*

*The first time my Muslim boyfriend from Tanzania came to Christ the King, people were supportive, asked friendly questions and didn't treat him any differently than they would a Christian. He felt very welcome, and when he moved to Germany, many church members donated things for our new flat. We got married at Christ the King and were able to change some of the traditional wording to make the whole service fitting for Basheer's belief. I felt very supported and I appreciate the church for its willingness to do anything to include aspects that are not the norm. Now we have two children together, two boys. Otto is a toddler and Ntimmy is an infant in arms.*

*Many of my life events have happened at Christ the King. As an infant, I was baptized at CTK and was confirmed here as well. My wedding took place in this church and my first son was baptized here. In the coming year we're looking forward to our younger son's baptism and my brother's wedding. Although he's moved to Hanover, he's coming back to be married at Christ the King.*

*CTK is a place I go pretty much every Sunday. It's a place you know whole families, you get to know your friends' parents, see new faces and can spend fun times together, like our annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. I really enjoy the fact that people look out for each other here and I'd go so far as to call Christ the King 'home'.*

# Worship at CTK

## Worship on Sunday

Worship at CTK is centered on the weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 11am each Sunday. The worship follows the order provided by the Book of Common Prayer. CTK tries to balance solemnity and dignity on the one hand and a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with room for informality, on the other.

### *Who's involved on Sunday?*

Our worship is very visibly offered by priest and people together. The Prayers of the People are led by lay intercessors. Our Altar Guild prepares everything at the altar each Sunday so that we can truly worship God in the beauty of holiness. The Word of God is read to us each Sunday by our team of lectors.

What has kept you coming to CTK?

♥ *My church family the people*

♥ *Our beautiful liturgy*

♥ *Great music; a parish that likes to sing*

♥ *The blessings of so many kids and teens in our church*

Lay people enhance our worship around the altar by acting as (robed) acolytes and crucifers and by sharing in the administration of Holy Communion. Our welcome team ensures that all who come through our doors, even if they arrive as strangers, leave us as friends whose presence among us we value. Before the Peace is exchanged newcomers are given the opportunity to introduce themselves to the congregation. After the Eucharist is finished, all are invited to deepen their friendship in Christ Jesus over a cup of coffee or tea prepared by our coffee hosts.

### *Beyond Sunday*

Aside from our regular Sunday worship, we come together to worship at special moments in the Church's year. Lent begins with an ecumenical celebration of Ash Wednesday. During Holy Week, we observe the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Great Vigil of Easter. Christmas is marked with great joy on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day itself.



## Music

“Joyful and effective” music – an integral and vital element of worship at CTK.

Music has a very special place in our worship. The adult choir is a group of 15-20 singers from all walks of life and ages who are united in their love of singing. They are trained and directed by a professional, paid musician who has specialised in voice and keyboard backed up with extensive choir experience. The choir rehearses for at least three hours



a week in order to provide a high standard of music for Sunday worship and external events. Each week a new anthem, a new motet a new psalm (sung to Anglican chant) and descants to the hymns are learnt and [performed](#). The choir has use of an extensive library of music from the Middle Ages to the present day, and often draws on the riches of African church music and black spirituals.

### Music as outreach

The choir reaches out into the local community and beyond. [Choral Evensong](#) has been sung in many local churches in the Frankfurt area. Carols are sung every Christmas at Frankfurt’s Weihnachtsmarkt, an essential venue for any local resident or tourist. Here the strains of “O come all ye faithful” can be heard through the scents of Glühwein and Bratwürste – everyone loves it. Other highlights of the year are the Service of Lessons and Carols during Advent and the Christmas Eve and Easter liturgies. Special weekend rehearsals are arranged once a year, and tours have included visits to Hamburg and Berlin, and in 2018 a very successful tour to Ireland, where Choral Eucharist and Evensong were sung in St. Patrick’s cathedral, Dublin, and an appreciative audience welcomed them for a concert in St. Brigid’s Cathedral, Kildare.

CTK is also blessed to have many talented instrumentalists who often contribute to the worship. The choir itself is usually accompanied by the organ, but also occasionally by brass or strings.

### Young Singers

A small but lively choir of children aged between 6 and 16. They rehearse after the service on Sunday mornings with the Director of Music, assisted by parents. They have great fun working on special projects (such as Michael Hurd’s musical Adam-in-Eden in 2018), which they perform at children’s services. They also sing occasionally in the Sunday morning services, often accompanied by the adult choir. Their annual highlight is singing at the Liebfrauenkirche in the city centre every Advent.



## Our Ministries

### Education & Youth

#### *Crèche*

Parents with infants in arms and toddlers can spend time in the crèche or leave their children with our caregivers during the Sunday church service. Equipped with a carpeted floor and many toys, infants can play, interact with each other and are looked after by two volunteers. The children join their families in time for Eucharist when the crèche closes. For a few years, we couldn't provide our crèche's services. Now, with a sizable team of volunteers, the rotation of caregivers has become manageable and the growth and development of our smallest members has been brought back to life.

#### *Godly Play*

From the age of 3, children participate in Godly Play, a visual and interactive telling of Bible stories. After the singing circle with guitar or piano accompaniment on a Sunday morning, children hear a story of faith and have a 'feast' (snack). With the visual aids and objects of the stories, our young ones have the freedom and support to digest and respond to the stories in individual and creative ways. With the goal of instilling a sense of wonder and supporting their spiritual development, there are always two adult volunteers present to help and make sure the Safe Church requirements are met. After Godly Play, the group joins the service in the church. The growth and responses of the children are inspiring to watch and more volunteers would be welcome in the future.

#### *Sunday School*

Around the time children start school or become independent readers, they move up to Sunday School. After the singing circle with the younger children, the 6-10-year-olds attend Sunday School. Here the children listen to a Bible story taken from the "Kid Connection" curriculum, followed by age-differentiated activities. We then have discussion, and response time in form of games, activities and drawing after the story. The group joins the church service for communion. Sunday School also contributes to the life of the church - preparing Christmas boxes for Romania, taking part in the Christmas

pageant, preparing stories for the church service and learning relevant Bible passages and prayers. Our focus is on strengthening friendships among the children and supporting their growing awareness of the relation between Biblical stories and their daily lives.



We're Sammy and Izzy, and we've been coming to Christ the King for about four years. We came for three years before moving to Zimbabwe, then we came back about a year ago. We started coming when our parents found CTK online and brought us with them. We were going to look at a few different churches, but we came here and decided this was the one. It was the first church we looked at in the area and we stayed right away.

It was the people that helped us decide to stay at CTK. Everyone was really nice. They were very welcoming, and it felt good here. We're glad we stayed. Because of our dad's job we move a lot and when we left a couple of years ago it was because of his work. And when it came time to move again, we had a couple of other choices. We could have gone to Madrid or Paris, but we chose to come back to Frankfurt. Besides already knowing the city and international school, we really liked it here and the church was one of the reasons for our decision. So, it all fitted together.

We're in the Junior and Senior Youth Groups and we sometimes also serve as Acolytes during the church service. Our dad is a Chalice Bearer and our mom does Sunday School and Godly Play sometimes. She's on the finance committee and going to be the Church Treasurer. She also helped with the Christmas packages organized by the Sunday School. A general feeling here is warmth. People are open at CTK, it's super-fun and happy here and everyone's really nice and inclusive.

All in all Christ the King is welcoming and inviting, and we're glad we returned.





## *Junior Youth*

The 10-13-year-olds attend Junior Youth on Sunday mornings. Often a few of the youth serve as acolytes, so they join the group in the undercroft after the procession at the beginning of the service. Engaging in Bible stories, current events and teen discussion activities, the youth come together in a friendly and fun atmosphere. As our numbers have decreased in the past years, the Junior and Senior Youth often join for their youth sessions and activities.

Besides our weekly Youth Group, we come together for occasional Saturday afternoons, Christmas parties, picnics and the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, a youth-organized fundraiser to help offset travel costs for the Juniors Across Europe trip. In the future, we hope to increase our youth events with more activities, events and participation in services.

The Junior Youth Group takes part in the annual Juniors Across Europe (JAE) event, a Convocation-wide youth weekend, hosted by a different Episcopal parish throughout Europe each year. For Ascension weekend, the 10-13-year-olds and chaperones meet at one parish to join in Bible study, prayer, singing, reflection and fun. It will be CTK's turn to host JAE in 2025.

## *Senior Youth Group (SYG)*

The 13-18-year-olds of the parish come together every Sunday during the first part of the service in the undercroft. Guided by the motto "Fun, Fellowship, Bible Study and Food" they have a varied programme, combining spiritual discussions and reflections on faith with day to day issues and topics. Instead of following a set curriculum, the leaders meet at the beginning of the school year to set overall topics for each month, such as "Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit", "Who am I?" or "The Jesus Movement". This ensures that each leader can prepare lessons in their own style, offering flexibility to include any questions or current problems the youth have.

In addition to the weekly meetings, the Senior Youth meets on a Saturday afternoon a few times a year, usually joined by the Junior Youth. These extra sessions either focus on the monthly theme, with extra Bible study time, or are simply social events. The rector is always invited to join the Saturdays! We hope to offer more extra events in the future, including sleepovers in the chapel and day trips.

The Senior Youth Group participates in the annual Youth Across Europe (YAE) event, a Convocation-wide youth weekend hosted by a different parish each year. It will be our turn to host in 2023, inviting around 15 to 30 youth members from all the parishes and missions of the Convocation in Europe to share a weekend of prayer, Bible study, reflection and fun.

## Confirmation Classes

In the past, confirmation classes have been offered for the 13–16-year-olds and adults, as well as people who wish to reaffirm their faith. Depending on the Priest and the group size, the material used in these classes was varied, but the youth classes have been based on the [Journey to Adulthood \(J2A\) curriculum](#). Classes have been run every two to three years, taking about a year to work through the program with weekly or monthly meetings. Sessions are led by the Priest with a former youth leader supporting the youth classes. The confirmands are confirmed by the Bishop of the Convocation, usually in May. A highlight is the pilgrimage to Canterbury, often accompanied by the Priest and usually taking place shortly before the confirmation.



### **20s to 30s group (19-29 year olds)**

*Did you know that CTK currently has the youngest vestry in the Convocation?*

CTK is blessed with an active group of young adults, many of whom have grown up in the parish. They hold various responsibilities, such as youth leaders, ministry coordinators and vestry members. There have been different approaches to regular events in the past, and currently the focus is on spontaneous get-togethers on a social level. Meetings on a more regular basis, including Bible study and discussions on faith, are planned for the future.

Similar to Youth Across Europe, the 20s have Convocation-wide 20s weekends. These are not bound to a parish, and have only become a regular event again this past year. The organization has been coordinated by 20s members from CTK, with support from the Youth Commission of the Convocation.

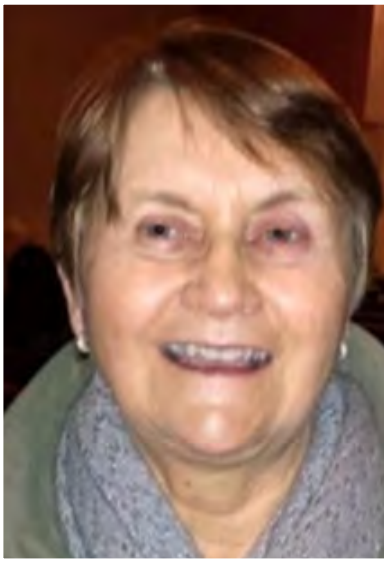


## Adult Education

In the past, there have been various program and sessions focussing on adult education, including Bible study groups, Bible challenges and other focus groups. These have been either led by the Priest before or after the service, or held in parishioners' homes. Some were based on specific curriculums or focused on certain times in the Christian calendar (e.g. Lenten Bible study), whereas others responded more to the current topics in our parishioners' lives. Although there are no groups at the moment, we hope to set up a regular program again in the near future.







My name is Carole and I've been at Christ the King since 1988. Somebody I met through the local British Women's Club told me about this church in Frankfurt, and as my husband was away in Austria at the time and didn't come home very often, I decided to check out this church. My children were eight and eleven years old at the time and we came, and it was good. It was a nice place to go on a Sunday and the children were happy to come and enjoyed being in Youth Group. They'd do things like play softball, go camping and all

sorts of activities. It was also a nice place to go where I could speak English. The children could speak German, but for me coming from England, it was nice having an English-speaking place to go. I stayed here because of the children and because it's a place where you can talk to and listen to people.

I could communicate in my own language and the services were lovely. When my husband came home, we continued attending and it was a good place to be.

Over the years I've done quite a lot of stuff at CTK. Now, I'm on the altar Guild and have been for more years than I can remember. I am also an usher and make the coffee when nobody else is around, and I generally help out where I can.

At CTK, I get a feeling of belonging. There's always somebody who needs somebody, and there's always somebody to talk to here. It's a good place to communicate and connect with others, especially if you're experiencing challenges. It's difficult to describe CTK in one word, but I think the word I'd choose is 'welcoming'.



## **Fellowship & Events**

When asked to identify a core adjective to define CTK, recurring themes included “welcoming” and “family”.

CTK is unique in its congregation of all ages, families, students, expats, German nationals, short-term visitors and members who have been with us for as long as 40 years. Bringing such wide varieties of people together would normally be no easy feat – but we are all united in our love of Christ! A wide variety of regular and ad-hoc activities take place outside of Sundays to bring our congregation together in joy and the service of God.

The fellowship ministry has its own ad-hoc team that organizes and brings the congregation together for events. We have also created a programme known as [IWC](#) – invite, welcome, and connect. This supports us in reaching out to the community and inviting them to join us, welcoming them when they arrive, and helping them feel involved in the community and find their place at CTK.

Every week after the service, we meet in the undercroft for coffee hour and cookies. Once a month, parishioners are invited to head over to the neighbouring university campus café for a relaxed brunch after church. Seasonal events such as Easter, Homecoming and Christmas all have their own annual activities. Each event usually involves a bring & share type lunch, delicious cakes, games, and music.

Though we have no official pastoral care framework (something we’d like to work on), the community is caring and always rallies round when one of the community is in need. During the summer months we often head over to the park directly behind the church for games and food. Regular gardening and “work & fun” days allow for fellowship whilst also improving our buildings and grounds.

## Outreach

Outreach at Christ the King includes many projects and ministries and is expanding. We mainly offer hands-on support by sharing donations, providing for needs or giving our time.

*We are His hands  
We are His feet  
We are His body  
(John Mark Hall)*

### *Heimkehrer/Deportee Ministry*

The Heimkehrer (deportee) Ministry supports German deportees from the U.S. Many of them have no family here and no German language skills and have to build up a new life away from their families. It serves those deportees passing through the social work offices at Frankfurt Airport by offering welcome packages and through continued support helps deportees to get settled here in Frankfurt. The welcome packages contain basic hygiene products, some chocolate and a German phrase book. Over the years a regular group of Heimkehrer have been attending Christ the King and it is encouraging to see them forming a supportive unit and reaching out to others arriving in the temporary shelters with a German passport but American culture and language skills.

We initiated a form of “food pantry” after hearing that our Heimkehrer receive no financial funding until 2 months after their arrival due to the system of social security and rules on how to apply for it. Since its beginning in September 2017, the pantry has given assistance to many deportees in these initial weeks. In 2018 we had 18 Heimkehrer arriving to Frankfurt.

### *Mission Work in Romania*

For the past 7 years our church has supported the work of Rev. Dorothee Hahn, a missionary for the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, in Romania. Our work with Romania has involved the shoebox project, which collected presents and school materials for young children shortly before Christmas, donations towards projects in the community (called Husi), and has also involved a mission trip in 2018. This trip saw two of our parishioners travel alongside six parishioners from our neighboring Episcopal church, St. Augustine’s Wiesbaden, in a joint venture to teach German, participate in building work, and generally participate in the community! This mission project came to an end in 2018 but you can read more about it in the linked [article](#).

### *Support of Weser 5*

Weser 5 is a large day center, offering meals and showers as well as social workers and assistance to homeless people. During the winter, the shelter is also open as an emergency sleeping place. It is located in the basement of a Protestant church in Frankfurt. Every year during the Christmas season a big barrel of socks and packages with basic necessities are donated to the mission to the homeless. We are expanding our cooperation further, also by providing socks throughout the year to respond to the need for basic items when summer is approaching.



With the higher influx of refugees coming to Germany in 2015, many parishioners expressed the wish to become involved in supporting this cause. In cooperation with a local refugee centre and other connections we are able to support various families with donations of clothing and household items. Beyond the material support, we continuously strive to forge more personal connections, through events such as joint cooking meetings with several of the women from a refugee housing complex.

Additionally, we cooperate with a group from the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt supporting refugees, for example by hosting a dinner and wine tasting, organized by the Consulate group, to raise funds.



## **CTK in its Context**

### **Ecumenical Community**

One of the joys of living in such a multicultural city is being part of a vibrant ecumenical community.

Frankfurt is home to many religions and different cultural backgrounds, which allows us to participate in various ecumenical activities.

We are a part of the ACK Frankfurt (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen Frankfurt am Main), the Association of Christian Churches in Frankfurt am Main. Thirteen Christian churches and congregations of different denominations and languages form a working group of Christian churches. The key themes of this group are to promote and deepen the ecumenical understanding and cooperation of the local Christian churches, making the diversity of Christian life visible in Frankfurt, and to also act as a builder of bridges between different denominations and cultures.

We also are members of the “Internationaler Konvent christlicher Gemeinden fremder Sprache und Herkunft”, which is a group of international parishes in Frankfurt, who speak foreign languages and have international backgrounds. The main focus is to offer a place of interaction and interchange, as well as community work and worship. Major highlights are the annual ecumenical celebration of Pentecost, which is held at the Dominikanerkloster (Monastery of the Dominican Order) in the center of Frankfurt, and an ecumenical football (soccer) tournament. Our parish team “Anglicans United” participates almost every year, and is made up of parishioners of all ages.

Additionally, we maintain friendships with the local Swedish and Finnish churches, celebrating Ash Wednesday services together, hosted by a different parish every year, as well as the German Old Catholic parish, with whom we once shared our church building.

Together with other local churches we organize and participate in an annual Charity Walk to raise money for another Frankfurt homeless day centre, the “Franziskus Treff”, run by a Franciscan monastery. Walking a small part of a local pilgrim pathway, the Charity Walk brings together members of many congregations in Frankfurt.



*CTK puts one to ease immediately.  
There always is at least one person who will talk to a newcomer.*

*We arrived at CTK around 5 years ago. Each one of us were soon included in various activities big or small - making us feel part of the CTK family quickly. CTK members were genuinely interested in getting to know us and have helped us in times of need. They were a tremendous support to us in difficult days.*

*CTK has become an important part of our life.*

*Binita Varghese*

## **The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe**

Along with New York, New Jersey, Haiti, Cuba and the Virgin Islands, the Convocation belongs to Province II of the Episcopal Church. We consist of nine parishes in Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium, as well as over 10 missions and affiliated ministries. The recently elected Bishop in charge, Mark David Wheeler Edington, has oversight over all Convocation members and his seat is in Holy Trinity Cathedral in Paris.

Once a year, clergy and lay delegates from all Convocation parishes and mission congregations gather for the Annual Convocation Convention, hosted by a different parish each time. In 2019, it will be held in Geneva. It will be our turn to host in 2024.

More information on the Convocation can be found on their [website](#).



## **Resources**

### **Buildings & grounds**

CTK owns two properties (including the land) in a prime location in Frankfurt, namely the church building (Sebastian-Rinz-Strasse 19) and the parish house on the opposite side of the street (Sebastian-Rinz-Strasse 22). The church consists of the sanctuary, including the organ / choir loft, and the undercroft, that serves as the parish hall, plus a crèche, stage, sacristy, kitchen and the bathrooms. The parish house is built on three levels. The basement is rented out to a bilingual (English/German) kindergarten. On the mezzanine level are the offices of the Priest, the parish secretary and the book-keeper, a small kitchenette, and a former chapel. This space is used for Sunday School classes and Vestry meetings, and it is also rented out to other groups occasionally. On the top floor of the building is the Rectory, a spacious four-bedroomed apartment currently rented to our Priest.

Both the parish house and the church building were built in the late 1950s, and although various improvements have been made over the years – in particular to the Rectory! – the buildings will need to be renovated over the next few years. Our discussions about the scope of these renovation projects have included ideas for changing the use of the parish house, but these discussions have not been conclusive yet, and we would welcome the guidance from our future Priest on these matters.

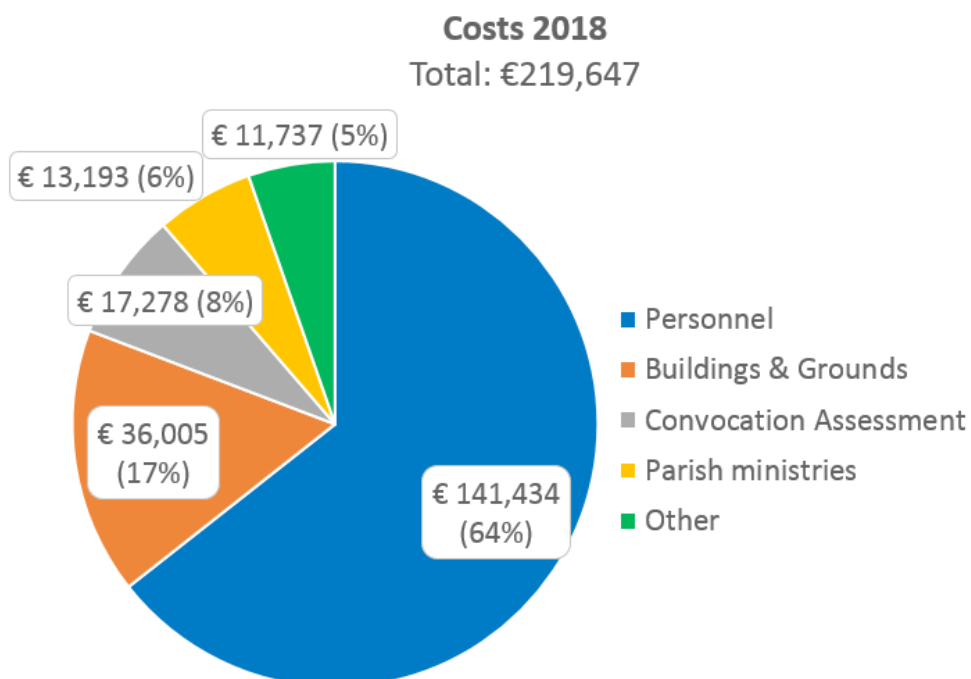
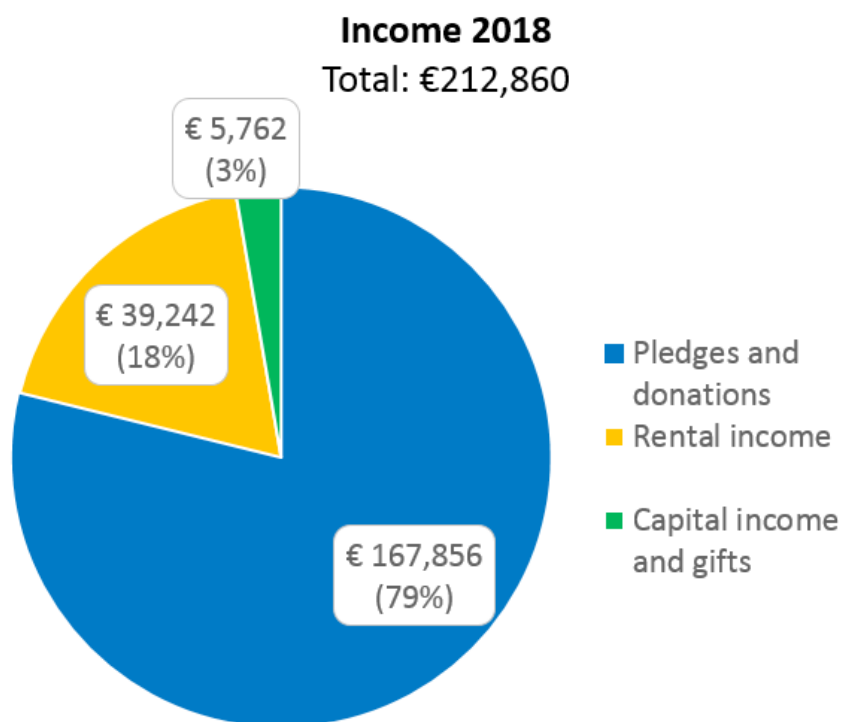
### **Finances**

In terms of our financial resources, CTK has an annual income of just over €200,000. As the graphic shows, the main source of income is contributions from parishioners through pledges, plate contributions or donations. In addition, CTK receives approximately €40,000 p.a. of rental income. Over the last few years, our income has declined slightly, whereas we would like to see it grow in order to enable us to run a broader set of ministries. On the cost side, personnel constitutes the biggest item, followed by the the repair and upkeep of our buildings. Over the years, our income and our costs have largely been balanced, although with the needs of ageing buildings and increased cost of living, we have to introduce tight cost management in order to achieve this objective.



Apart from our real estate, CTK's assets include a fund of just over €400,000, resulting from bequests from former parishioners, which is dedicated to future building work. At present, we also own a car for the Priest's use.

In addition to the Priest, CTK currently has the following part-time employees: parish administrator, bookkeeper, music director, crèche worker, Heimkehrer coordinator and janitor. However, given the reduction in operating income that we have seen, there are discussions about how much support we will be able to afford in future.



## CtK - Strengths and Opportunities

### How we went about it

In preparation for writing this profile, the members of the Profile Committee held eight focus group meetings with members of the congregation and of particular ministries, including the choir, Sunday School, the Junior and Senior Youth Group, and the 20/30s group. Every CTK member was invited. In total, about 100 people participated in this process. Guided by prayer, we shared what we believe are the joys and sorrows of CTK: the strengths in which we would like to grow further with the help of the next Rector, and the weaknesses that, together with our new Priest we would like to work on.



### What do we see as our strengths?

- The characteristic that was mentioned most often in these conversations was CTK's diverse, friendly community. We are an inclusive church that is open to regulars and strangers alike, and we welcome newcomers with open arms, rather than with preconceived expectations as to "who fits in". Over time, a strong community has developed where people care for one another. For many of us, CTK is a "home away from home".
- Although we worship in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition, our parishioners come from very different backgrounds, many of whom have found CTK because we offer Christian worship in the English language. This rich mix of cultural, religious and musical heritages is a clear and vital strength of our community.
- Our services are characterized by the beauty of the liturgy and the importance of Eucharistic worship, but they are not so formal as to turn away others who may come from different worship traditions.
- The richness of the music in worship is of particular importance at Christ the King, and visitors and regular members alike are often drawn in by the musical talent on display here, as represented by the choir and Young Singers, the organ music performed by our music director or by guest organists, and the instrumentalists and soloists who on occasion enrich the service. We noted from our meetings and from our survey that some would prefer a slightly more informal style and more contemporary music being played and sung more often, but many noted too the variety of musical traditions which we already enjoy.

- In keeping with our inclusive nature, many of our members are actively involved in worship. In recent years, we have also had guest preachers (e.g. retired pastors, lay preachers, priests who are visiting) who have offered different preaching styles, and this has been appreciated by the congregation.
- The relatively high proportion of young people in the congregation – who come because they like to, not because their parents have dragged them to church! – is particularly noteworthy.
- We are good at celebrating together and each other. It is fun to be at CTK!
- We have ministries which reflect the nature of the congregation. The Heimkehrer and the refugee ministries are particularly important examples of this. Yet finding and motivating volunteers to help to “carry” these activities on a long-term basis remains a challenge.

Which takes us to...

*My wife and I were invited to attend a mass at Christ the King by a mutual friend and his husband. We had just completed the move from Hawaii to Frankfurt in July 2018. We were motivated to find a church that we could attend and feel included and welcomed. We were impressed with the diversity of the community that was in attendance and quickly observed that regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, and/or age, all were welcomed. We have continued to attend Christ the King because we truly feel the message of Christ during the service. The community continues to show love and compassion to all who attend and those in need. We look forward to continuing to attend service at Christ the King and becoming more involved with the community.*

*María Cuevas & Laura Loya*

### **What are the opportunities we see?**

- Our members are dispersed over a very large geographical area, and commonly see one another only on Sundays. It is often difficult to engage with people on the other six days of the week. This means that it is not always easy to meet people’s longing for spiritual guidance and for regular insights which speak to their daily lives. Meeting people’s needs for pastoral care is for this reason also a challenge.
- Like many other, similar congregations in Germany and indeed Europe, our congregation is in constant flux. This makes continuous development and long-term initiatives difficult. Projects such as the renovation of the church and the parish house, for which we have some (but not all) the resources we are likely to need, have thus remained unfulfilled so far.



- The transient nature of our congregation makes forward financial planning difficult. Much more than is the case in more settled congregations, we cannot be sure that those who are actively supporting the life of the congregation in any one year will be around to do so in succeeding years.
- In a congregation like ours, communication needs are maybe even greater than they are in churches that have a more tightly defined geographical structure. Organizing prayer groups, Bible studies and other such activities can be a challenge.

We hope that you share our sense of joy and excitement about CtK! While there are areas of weakness where we face challenges, we believe God has called us to grow in faith, and in strength as a community, and we are looking forward to a Priest who leads us on this journey.

## **The Priest we are looking for**

In our focus group meetings, we also discussed the qualities we are looking for in our next Priest. We also conducted a short electronic survey, in which 38 members of the parish participated (the graphics visualize the results of this survey).

The key characteristics which have emerged from our discussions are these:

We are looking for...

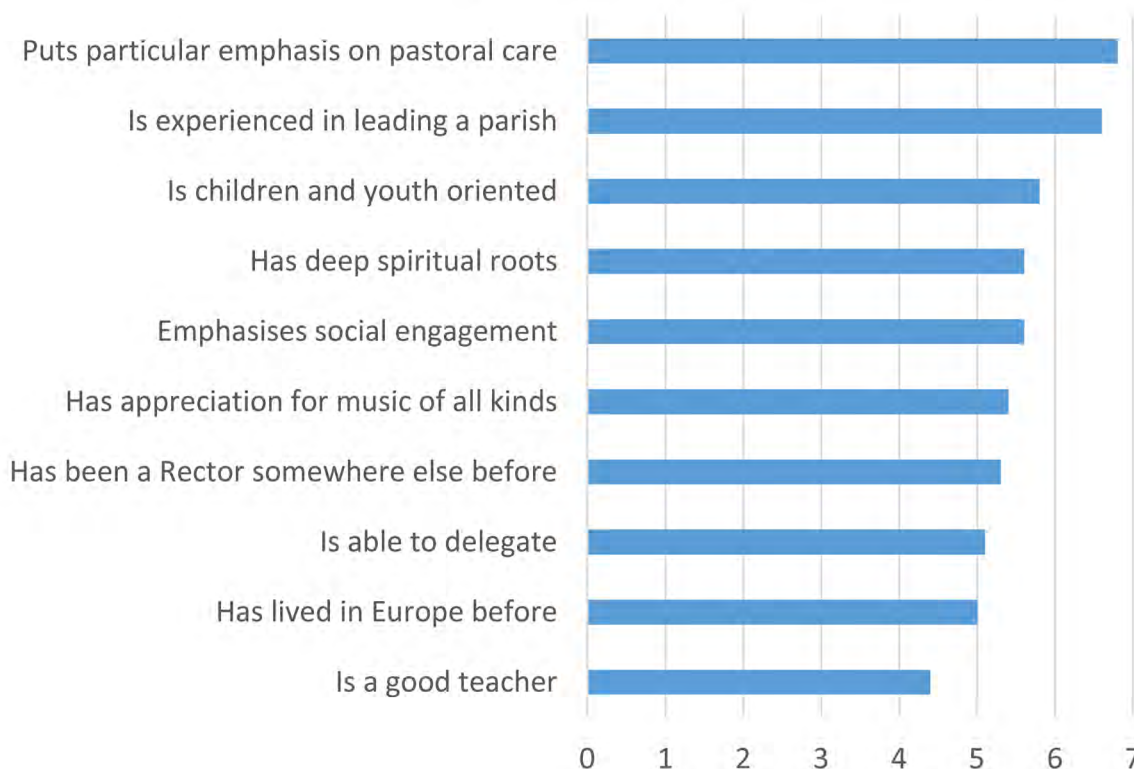
- A Priest who is an ordained priest within the Episcopal Church, within another member church of the Anglican Communion or within a church in Communion with the Episcopal Church.
- A Priest who will care deeply for the people of CTK.
- A Priest whose own personal prayer life is so strong that it will enable you to be in turn an anchor of spirituality and prayer in our community.



- A Priest with a strong and living faith in the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to change lives and communities and who is able to communicate that faith in a lively and engaging way, seeing it as a privilege to share this faith among us.
- A Priest who is approachable, able to relate with ease to people of different backgrounds, age groups, nationalities and socio-economic groups, and communicate well with them.
- Given the importance of children and youth in our parish, a Priest who is fun to be with!
- A Priest who is tech savvy.
- A Priest who listens, who wants to get to know our stories, and helps us to find God in them.
- A Priest who is a good team player. We are not expecting the Rector to be the one who takes care of everything - but you should coordinate and delegate responsibilities, invite others to share the role of leadership, enable different ministries to flourish, and admit when help is needed. There is a huge amount of talent at CTK, but our members lead busy lives. We are thus looking for someone who can bring people together, recognize as God's gifts the skills that our members bring, and energize and empower us to build up the body of Christ the King here.

### Attributes of our new Rector by order of importance

(Source: CTK Survey)



- A Priest who brings experience of leading parish life effectively

As the only employed clergy member in the parish, having several years of “all-round” experience in parish life will be important. We need a Priest with experience in other places, building up the life of the parish, working with other members of the community to build on its strengths and to face up to its challenges.

Over the next few years, we expect significant changes in the congregation. We aim to undertake substantial renovation projects in the church building and the parish house. Our congregation itself is in constant transition. We thus need a Priest who embraces these changes as opportunities, who remains calm and relaxed even when problems occur, and who puts us at ease with ourselves, encouraging us to believe that with the help of God and under your leadership there is nothing we cannot tackle.

Likewise we will need to reflect carefully on our financial position. You will need to be a priest who in your ministry has already given leadership enabling parishes to undertake effective and realistic financial planning.

Above all, our Priest should remind us of God’s presence in our midst, who strengthens our faith and empowers us to do God’s work.

Qualities and attributes our new Rector ought to have:

- *Appreciate the various ministries in the parish*
- *Support the people; serve the people in Christ*
- *Not polarising; diplomatic*



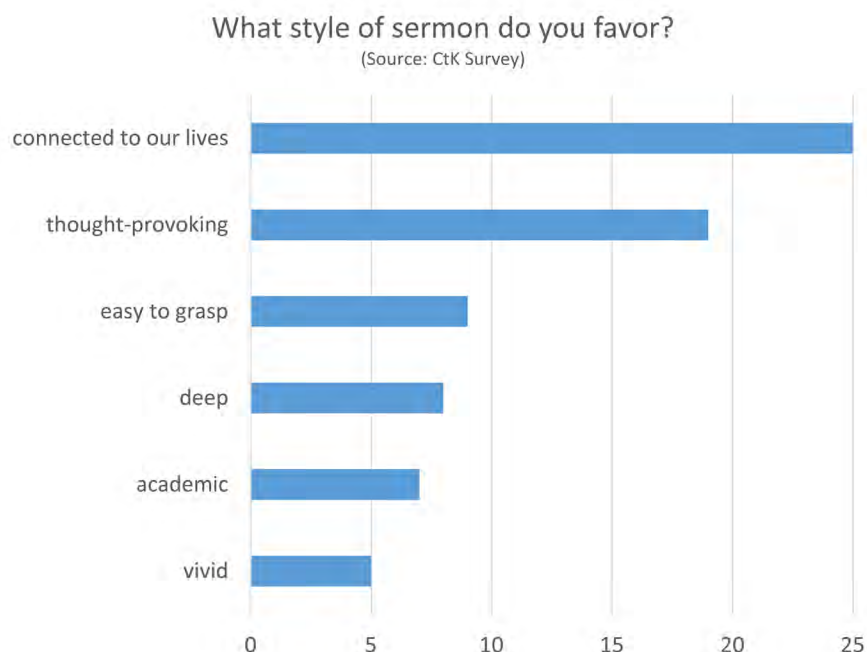


- A Priest who will lead us powerfully in worship

Our worship combines a degree of formality that comes from following the order of the Book of Common Prayer, and the openness that reflects the diverse and inclusive nature of our congregation. You will need to be able to work creatively in this context.

Music is a vital, integral element of our worship, and so we would look to you to demonstrate that you have a clear appreciation of the place of music in worship, of how music both enhances our worship and builds up our Mission.

As the graphic shows, thought-provoking sermons that connect well to our lives are more important to our congregation than academic expositions. Your preaching must reflect this. At the same time, you should be comfortable with sharing the pulpit with other preachers who offer a preaching style that differs from yours.



- A Priest with the requisite linguistic skills. The language of communication at CTK is English, and we therefore expect you to be able to operate and engage effectively in the English language. In addition, in order to be effective in the wider context in which we are set, not least in our relations with our ecumenical partners in Frankfurt, a basic level of German, and the willingness to become more proficient over time, are essential. This will help you to develop ecumenical relationships, relate to other “stakeholders”, and build a support network for yourself.

We are not looking for someone who is after the experience of living in continental Europe as if it was an extended travel adventure, but for someone who feels called to be among us. There is a great job to be done here in the service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that God has already sought out the person who He wants to serve CTK as Priest, and we encourage you to discern whether you are that person!

## *Vestry*

Marlene Greenberg      Senior Warden

Rainer Hoffmann-Alfke      Junior Warden

Izzie Cochrane

Miriam Hunter

Rebecca Hübner

Bert Langys

Erik Leube

Rose Overstreet

Jeremy Rorison

Aaron Schmitt

Liz Hicks, Secretary to the Vestry

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