



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 21, 2020)

Christ Church, Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

42 avenue Albert et Elisabeth, Clermont-Ferrand, France

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)

archdeacon@tec-europe.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

32

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

1

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

Healthcare Options

Dental

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget

Sabbatical Provision

Travel/Auto Account

Other Professional Account

We are able to make available for this position a total of 20,000€ per annum.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

We are lucky in that we struggled to choose just one moment to describe; however, our carol service was chosen as it fills the church with families and visitors year after year and those involved in organizing this service are able to share our love for this church and Jesus Christ with so many people. It is a happy place. Our most well attended service is one which is completely led and organized by lay members. The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service held at 5:30 pm in mid-December is popular with our congregation and the wider English speaking community. We make a special effort to form a choir; although, many of those who sing live some distance away. We involve as many as we can in the readings. The candle lit chapel is a special place for this service and there are many families who join us to sing familiar carols. It is a joy to see the chapel full to the brim. At fellowship afterwards, all stay for a considerable time to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine. Those involved in creating this service enjoy it immensely and are uplifted by the sharing of God's grace in music, word, and fellowship.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

In the past five years, we have been focusing on surviving financially; however, in the last year we have been able to prepare more for the future. When our Bishop came to visit us recently, he told us that we are an example of a "research and development church" for the convocation. We are adaptable to change and open to all because we are an expat community. We have people attend our church from all over the world, different age groups, and economic incomes, yet we have one thing in common to worship together and belong in the love of Christ. We also are preparing for the future by welcoming more children to our church through our new children's service Christkidz. This service is held once a month, and we see families from our Lunch Bunch program that we wouldn't see otherwise. We believe strongly in including children into our liturgy because children are our future and also important members of our parish. We are aware of environmental issues facing our world today and in the future. We try to be more of a green parish by using email and social media to communicate, using less disposable products, and recycling as much as possible.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

open minded, inclusive, welcoming, collaborative, has initiative, accountable

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Our services are traditional Rite 2. Our responses are enthusiastic and heartfelt, and we pass the peace actively with everyone present. Services are led and treated with reverence and dignity, but usually with a touch of informality. We do not mind when there is the occasional hiccup in the proceedings. In the last year, we have incorporated a regular children's talk in the service which is presently taken by the Lunch Bunch leaders. The talks are varied sometimes ending with a children's song and a repeat after me prayer. The adults join in all these activities enthusiastically with the children being treated very much a part of our church. We have recently introduced a monthly family service ChristKidz where the children take a more active part. We are fortunate to have two keyboard players and a guitarist who are able to cover a wide spectrum of worship music. Most of our hymns and songs are taken from Mission Praise books 1, 2 and 3 and occasionally from a more traditional hymn book. We rely on photo copied sheets for more recent songs.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Simply stated, we would have no church without lay involvement. In our worship, laity regularly participate as worship leaders, leading the Prayers of the People, reading scripture, and giving homilies when we are without a priest. Our musicians are essential to our Sunday services. The Altar Guild consistently prepares the altar for the season and sees to Eucharist preparation. Youth serve as acolytes and offering stewards. Members volunteer to lead our successful Friday Lunch Bunch program providing weekly Christian education for children. We encourage participation in ministry outside our chapel walls, such as food collection for Les Restos du Coeur. As a small congregation, we strive to be inclusive knowing that participation in the life of the church is important in Christian growth and a sense of belonging.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

We have a close-knit, small parish family that provides for each other. When the need is known, a few dive in and help, sometimes with the knowledge of vestry, sometimes not. When, for example, regulars have not attended church for a while, someone may contact them to ascertain that they are okay. Many individuals also provide rides for people back to town after the service. A parishioner recently hand made a wooden cross for the gravesite of a premature baby when the parents could not afford to provide it for themselves. However, we do not have a formal pastoral care team, so it is possible that people fall through the cracks at times. Vestry has recently included this topic within their monthly meetings. We recognize that this needs more work, but as a worshipping community we also provide: Spiritually: By our liturgy, our music, encouraging our children and youth to love Jesus and sharing that love in our worship with them. Emotionally: By our shared fellowship time each Sunday and other fellowship events where we support each other and have fun. Physically: By having regular church cleaning days and garden maintenance days when all the congregation participates.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Christ Church is always at the forefront of caring for our fellow Anglo-speakers; regardless of whether they attend our church or not. For example, every year our parish hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for our community. Since Thanksgiving is not a national holiday in France, this yearly celebration fills the void for so many Americans in the Auvergne who are away from home on this big family holiday and brings joy to many that would feel homesick otherwise. Our Thanksgiving service also gives others, of many nationalities, an opportunity to feel community and fellowship by meeting others from all over the Auvergne.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Christ Church Clermont-Ferrand has been particularly active in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. Members have recently served on the Finance Committee, Commission on Ministry to the Baptized, Youth Commission, and Bishop Transition Committee, among others. Our younger members are regular participants in Juniors Across Europe (JAE) and Youth Across Europe (YAE). We currently have a young member serving on the planning committee for the international Episcopal Youth Event (EYE). Members have recently participated in many Convocation events:- Young Adult Conference, Spiritual Discernment Conference, and Parish Leadership Conference. It is our belief that we benefit by involvement in a diverse Convocation which offers experiences in numerous countries. Our eyes are opened beyond our immediate location to different perspectives while embracing our common Christian beliefs and values.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

We have always had a welcome back picnic for the church community after the long summer break. For the last three years, we have extended this fellowship opportunity to all new expat families of all nationalities whose children attend the local school. French families who are returning from an expat assignment overseas are also invited. This not only provides an outreach opportunity but crucially allows those new families and children to get to know some faces before they start their new school. Held in a local park on a hill, the logistics are difficult, but the feedback is always positive. In a new city and country, knowing few people can be daunting for many, and this opportunity to mix and socialize in a relaxed environment is much appreciated by these new families to Clermont-Ferrand. Those attending from the church provide all the picnic food and the organizer, sometimes with one or two others, sets up shade, tables, name tags with children's grade information to be ready for the newcomers and those coming from church. Nick Mahoney, our fellowship vestry member is the driving force behind this initiative, and he would be your point of contact, nickgamahoney@icloud.com.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Each year we are encouraged to assess our time, talents and treasure in order to review our pledges and consider what we can do for God's Kingdom. We have faithful people who give generously and do what they say they will do. People give of their time and talent working to lead services, music, prayers, readings, spring cleaning and gardening, decorating of the church for important seasons in the church calendar, hospitality for guests, plan for the future, and more. The bulk of administrative work is looked after very effectively by our secretary and treasurer. Around 90% of our income is from members' pledges and, with a transient membership, these factors make long term budgeting difficult. On any given Sunday, you may be introduced to a refugee or a business executive. The generosity of all is humbling, and our congregation is cognizant of our needs. It has been encouraging that, for the first time in a while, we have been able to look beyond the immediate financial demands.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

This is a difficult question. Several years ago we had someone who said hurtful, untrue things about the church and individuals. He left for another church and those he hurt found it in their hearts to forgive and stayed in touch with him. The same people helped him in difficult times during his severe depression. The conflict was resolved reasonably well; although, he never really acknowledged the hurt he inflicted. There are tensions (a softer word than conflict) over how to approach music, and we are slow to adopt a wider spectrum of music. We address it by doing our best to tread gently with each other. We have had tensions with a previous rector, especially over issues of accountability. This was difficult and never resolved. There have been times when frustration has spilled over and deeply hurtful and untrue things have been said leaving some to dig deep in their hearts and minds to forgive, hoping it won't happen again. One could say this is part of forgiving seventy times seven and turning the other cheek.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

We are an example of a church that continues to thrive and walk in Christ without an ordained leader. In the past year without a permanent priest, we have lead our worship services, created ChristKidz in order to include children in our service, and continued to help those in our community. Regardless of the hardships we've faced, we are a strong community that has stayed close and have managed to pick up the slack. We have to face and manage change because of our ever fluctuating congregation and this past year is no exception. In fact, our parish is seeing slight signs of growth with a few new families joining our parish. In the past year, we have learned, that having a priest is important to our parish, yet we have not just survived but thrived. We have had quite a bit of financial hardships the past five years. We called a priest, and then the composition of our congregation changed, resulting in decreased income. This caused us to drain our savings in order to meet the financial commitments. We have learned from this to be more financially conscious. This is also the reason why we are searching for a part-time priest-in-charge who has supplemental income.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Robert Warren	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2012-07	2019-02

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Dr. Luk DeVolder	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2005-07	2011-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Karl Bell	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2003-01	2004-07

Lunch Bunch 'Sunday School', meets Friday lunchtimes with three leaders

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	3	20

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Contact:
archdeacon@tec-europe.orgWorshipping Community Web site: <http://christchurchclermont.org/en/>

Media Links:

Online References:

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

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Mark Edington

mark.edington@tec-europe.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Venerable Dr. Walter
Baer**

archdeacon@tec-europe.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Mr. Andrew Laurie

drewlawrie@hotmail.co.uk

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Mrs. Sheryl Praktish

Sheryl.praktish@gmail.com

Search Chair

**Mrs. Kaitlynn Wright
Henslee**

kwhenslee@gmail.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader