

## Associate Pioneer Minister – Hampton and Great Haddon

### Background

Founded in 1997 on the site of an old brickworks, 2 miles south of central Peterborough, Hampton covers more than 2,500 acres. Hampton Center, Hargate, Vale and Hempsted have been largely completed, whilst development began in earnest on the eastern side in early 2018 (Gardens, Water, Beach, Hamlets and eventually, Forest) and on Hampton Heights, south of Vale, in 2019. See Appendices 1, 2 & 3 for further information.

The estimated occupation figures are as follows:

	Houses	Est. population (x2.8)	Date started
<b>Existing areas: Centre, Hargate, Vale, Hempsted</b>	5,200	14,560	1997 - still under construction in parts (Vale and Hempsted)
<b>Under construction: Gardens, Water, Beach, Heights</b>	3,400	9,520	2018
<b>Not yet started: Hamlets, Forest</b>	1000?	2,800?	2020?
<b>Hampton TOTAL</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>26,880</b>	
<b>Great Haddon development on neighbouring site</b>	5,300 (statement on website)	14,840	?

### Key areas of need

- - Hampton has the highest proportion of under-18s in the Peterborough area (44% higher than the national average), due to the comparative affordability of larger homes.
- - Detached homes in several areas of beauty and a prosperous, verdant exterior belie areas of significant social need and up to 40% social housing, which (depending on the stage of building) has not always been well dispersed throughout the community.
- - Larger centers have a cluster of small shops, e.g. takeaways and convenience stores, but there is no central high street anywhere to facilitate chance meetings, or community events. The vast majority of streets are housing and despite good

paths and cycleways, most people drive to the one huge shopping center (Serpentine Green) with its 2,150 parking spaces.

- - Hampton has an unusual balance of service provision. Some are present in abundance - to date, there are two residential homes, three assisted living homes for the elderly and two assisted living homes for younger adults with learning needs. However, there is only one post-office counter in a convenience store, no police station (it closed in 2015) and only two pubs. Fast-food outlets and mid-/low-end chains abound.
- - Beyond known organisations, e.g. Scouts, Guides etc. and specific interest groups, e.g. the allotments committee, there is very little community activity or engagement with the arts (Hampton has twice received Arts Council England funding due to its low engagement), other than that which CSK has initiated.
- - It is noteworthy that there is currently no other permanent Christian community on Hampton, of any denomination, despite its size. A Nigerian pentecostal church has met periodically in one of the community centers, and Kingsgate (a non-denominational megachurch) has a number of home groups among its Hampton-resident members, with whom CSK works to host a summer picnic together. Very recently, a part-time Baptist pioneer has been appointed, shortly to be based in a house in Hampton Water.

### **CSK Church (building)**

Opened in 2014 in Hampton Centre, behind Serpentine Green, the church building provides considerably more for the community than just a space for Sunday worship. Its integrated coffee shop with toddler play area, open six days a week, and its large and small rooms for hire mean that its doors are open to the community all year round. In addition, Romsey Mill (the Cambridge-based Christian youth charity) uses the church's upper floor meeting room and office for their own community work.

Five years later, the main worship space on a Sunday is frequently at capacity, as is the space for children's and youth work, and storage for community outreach, such as Foodbank (on one night in August, we gave out 243 meals). Autumn 2019 saw the opening of two new portacabins in the garden, to provide additional meeting space for the children's groups.

### **CSK Church (people)**

We wholeheartedly rejoice in the fact that we have an unusual bell-curve in our church demographics. An 'average' congregation member is in his/her 30s/40s, has two or more children, and is in full-time work, as is their partner. Three out of our four ALM/LLMs work in secular employment. Hampton and CSK have very few early-retired seniors, or students, meaning weekday, or even evening, availability is much less than in most Anglican congregations. In addition, consideration must be given to the site marked out for the Great Haddon development, to the west of Hampton. This is expected to join the mix over the next five years, and before its c.15,000 inhabitants move in, there is much to prepare and much for which we should pray (infrastructure is scheduled to begin in Spring 2020).

## **Objectives for the Pioneer Associate post**

At least half of this job would involve pioneering in many different ways and locations, but there is also a huge need for the post to serve existing growth, before it plateaus from lack of resources.

To be first and foremost a seeker after, and builder of, God's kingdom, in all its forms.

- To learn from and build on existing opportunities to serve the community with the Gospel.
- To grow wide-ranging new and authentic Christian communities across Hampton, both geographically and demographically.
- To serve the poor.
- To model a Spirit-filled Christian life and make disciples.
- To continue to work for growth in the existing church, in partnership with the vicar, staff and lay teams.
- To empower existing church members to know that they do not go to church, but are the church.
- To develop local lay leaders who can sustain and grow the mission and ministry of the church.
- To model what it means to be family within a diverse church, that honours and celebrates the work of others, always working for unity.
- To explore collaboration with the Baptist pioneer in Hampton Water and work ecumenically for a coherent Christian witness.
- To work with other partners to help residents celebrate community and experience life in all its fullness.
- To care for the pastoral and spiritual needs of Hampton residents and those who work in its industries.
- To engage particularly with the needs of a modern, social-media-driven generation.
- To work with neighbouring Yaxley parish as the Great Haddon development begins, investing in building community and demonstrating God's kingdom from the very beginning.

## **Pioneering vision**

Any pioneer must spend at least six months learning and listening, before ploughing ahead with any form of plant or Fresh Expression. Additionally, in a new-build area, the lines between pioneering and 'normal' church done well are particularly blurred; are our new weekday small groups that are specifically designed to build community in Hampton (where it is hugely lacking) and start a faith journey among non-Christians 'pioneer' work or 'normal' church work? We are breaking new ground with nearly everything that we do. With the caveat that it would be unwise to state too specifically how things might look in five years' time, we would be looking for these broad objectives to be achieved:

- A way of doing church independent from the main CSK building in the eastern side of the Hampton development, most probably in the form of a monthly or bi-monthly Saturday or Sunday afternoon gathering. A possible venue would be Hampton Lakes Primary, currently being constructed, although it should be noted that if this school follows the hiring policy of its sister academies in the Hampton Academies Trust, the cost of regular room hire would almost certainly become too burdensome. If this were to be the case, since no other community buildings are planned for at least five years, efforts could be put towards a (weather-dependent!) expression of church in one of the many green areas of Hampton Beach and Water.
- In like manner, a similar form of church on a Sunday afternoon in the CSK building, or its environs, for the existing Hampton settlements, building on the networks formed from our current programme of termly family activities (in partnership with our children's leader). Or, following conversations with schools, an after-school Fresh Expression may prove a better time.
- A monthly youth-specific Fresh Expression (in partnership with our youth leader), such as an evening café, for which it has hitherto proved very difficult to find adequate volunteers.
- Further coffee-shop-based activity/special interest groups, reaching out to an ever broader cross-section of society, providing safe spaces for connection and growth.
- A more holistic way of serving the poor; we have long wanted to do a sit-down, family style meal in addition to the standard Foodbank provision, but we do not currently have the space or facilities. With the building expansion, this would become a possibility and is a much-needed area of pioneering service in Hampton for people who would rarely cross the threshold for a standard church service.
- If Great Haddon is built on schedule over the next decade, the pioneer associate would be involved with conversations with developers from the outset, providing welcome packs and hosting events for the first residents, celebrating milestones like their first Christmas as a new town. In time, the vision would be for this community to have its own form of congregation meeting in the school or other local center.

### **CSK-wide vision**

Our vision is: *Connecting with Jesus, Making Him Known*. It is our prayer that all of CSK comes to realise that those words are the calling on every single life, not just the job of the clergy. Yet it needs enough people to carry the vision, so that it can be caught in the first place. To use a cliché, it must be caught not taught. Enough people need to model it, for a whole congregation to see how a family should live, move and have its being in God's kingdom. Therefore we are seeking a Pioneer Associate who will share in this vision, join us on this journey and enable us to continue serving the people of Hampton and grow God's kingdom here.