

Parish Profile

Christ Church Anglican Mission

Hanford/Lemoore, California
2021



*The mission of Christ Church Anglican Mission
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ,
teach obedience to all that He commands,
and share the richness of life
within the Anglican tradition.*

Welcome to Christ Church

Welcome to our Parish Profile. In this document we set out a description of our church. We hope this will form a good basis for helping you to discern if we are the right church for you to lead. This profile was developed to aid in our search, and it outlines the character of our parish and community, our concerns, our structure, our goals and what we seek in a rector. All of us at Christ Church Anglican Mission (CCAM) prayerfully seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in calling a rector God chooses for us.

Our goal is to call a suitable pastor for this faithful congregation.

Who we are:

- We are a family-like group who know and love each other—at church and outside the church. We do things together, and we pray together.
- We are grounded in the Authoritative Word of God.
- We are financially dedicated and faithful givers.
- We have a core group of members who step up to the task—whatever that may be.
- We have a dependable Altar Guild, a team of Children’s Church teachers, and a congenial Vestry.

Our hopes are:

- To grow with youth and young adults.
- To overflow with children in Sunday school.
- To become a dynamic intergenerational truly disciplined church.
- To become self-replicating.
- To better serve our members who are hard of hearing by establishing an area or purchasing a device to help them participate more fully in worship.



Who We Are

Christ Church currently has 29 families from Hanford, Lemoore, Coalinga, Kingsburg and Armona. We consider ourselves to be Valley Anglicans.

In the first ten months after we moved in May 2019 and until COVID essentially closed our doors in March 2020, our Average Sunday Attendance was 32. Our Sunday service was held each week at 10:00. This included a children’s worship time (Children’s Church) during the first part of each service; they were brought back into the church during the Passing of the Peace and remained for Holy Communion.



Janet Plata—Ava Jordan

From March until the present, we have continued to reach out with on-line services of Morning Prayer with our minister reading and preaching from his office. Then we were allowed to open slowly with 10 people attending Holy Communion services



Fr. Richard Menees
Interim Rector

recorded and posted to YouTube. Currently we are fully open but have continued to Live Stream services for parishioners who are not yet comfortable being around others. Children’s Church is available.

The make-up of our congregation is varied. We are aging, with few men, children who attend most often with grandparents or relatives other than parents, a few in the middle generation, and one military family. But, all are part of our family-like group of faithful Christians eager to fulfill the tasks outlined in our Mission Statement.

We are the People

Town	Number of Families	Adults (18 and over)	Children (under 18)	Males Adult/Children	Females Adult/Children
Hanford	12	15	3	3/1	11/2
Lemoore	11	14	5	4/2	10/3
Coalinga	4	5	1	1/1	4/0
Armona	1	2	0	1/0	1/0
Kingsburg	1	1	0	0/0	1/0
Total of 5 Valley Towns	Total = 29 Singles = 20	Total = 37 Over 60 = 25	Total = 10 Under 12 = 8	Adult = 9 Child = 4	Adult = 27 Child = 5

Central San Joaquin: A Community Overview

Christ Church is in the heart of the agricultural San Joaquin Valley. In 2020, Kings County, CA had a population of 151,000 people with a median age of 32, and a median household income of \$47,000. The average sale price for homes is \$222,000. Typical California weather is the norm with mild winters (foggy) and warm (hot) summers.

Nearby Places

One can reach the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range or the Pacific Ocean within two hours. China Peak Ski Resort is very popular with skiers and snowboarders. Pismo Beach is a great getaway with shops, restaurants and fishing. It is easy to reach the Bay Area and the Greater Los Angeles area by Amtrak or car in three or four hours in either direction—North or South. The largest nearby cities are Fresno—35 miles north, and Visalia 25 miles east. Naval Air Station Lemoore with around 6,000 naval personnel lies just west of Lemoore.

Places of Interest and Recreational Opportunities

The city of Hanford (population 58,000) is “one of California’s hidden treasures” with landscaped streetscapes and preserved historic buildings. A favorite and historic place to visit is the centrally located Civic Auditorium in a park-like setting. It is surrounded by Superior Dairy, the public library, the Hanford Police Department and the Hanford Theater with live stage shows and community events. Lemoore hosts a public 18-hole golf course and is home to Kelly Slater’s Surf Ranch. Five miles south of Lemoore, the Tachi Palace Casino and Entertainment Center has a bowling alley, an 8-screen movie theater, and an arcade.

Educational Facilities

In addition to many elementary and high schools, both public and private, in Hanford and Lemoore, there are several opportunities for adult education. College of the Sequoias and West Hills Community College are two junior colleges with branches in Hanford and Lemoore allowing students to complete AA degrees. Limited bachelor and masters programs are offered in both cities through partnerships with California State University Fresno, Chapman University, Fresno Pacific College, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Medical and Healthcare Facilities

Adventist Health in the Central Valley maintains a hospital with an adjoining birthing center in Hanford. Medical and dental services are plentiful. There are health clinics in Hanford and Lemoore along with numerous private primary care physicians and specialists. Some physicians are also affiliated with Valley Children’s Hospital in nearby Madera.

About Our Diocese

The Rt. Rev. Eric V. Menees is the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin, having arrived in 2011.

The Diocese of San Joaquin is made up of thirty-two congregations throughout the San Joaquin Valley, the eastern slope of the Sierras, and the San Francisco Bay area.



Theologically, we are orthodox, supporting the authority of Scripture and the lordship of Jesus Christ. We ascribe to the Jerusalem Declaration and maintain the ancient practice of an all-male priesthood. All three streams of Anglicanism are active and supported in the Diocese of San Joaquin. Anyone receiving a call to the diocese would need to affirm the Jerusalem Declaration without reservation.

Demographically, the diocese is very diverse with ministries in Lao, Spanish and English. Most of our congregations are English speaking, although Spanish is the primary language for a large segment of the general population. In addition, we have large numbers of people from various parts of Southeast Asia.

More information about the diocese can be found at dioceseofsanjoaquin.net. Information about how to apply for the position of Rector of Christ Church Anglican Mission can be found on the diocesan website at: <https://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/open-positions.html>.

Mission Statement of the Anglican Church in North America
Reaching North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ

Diocesan Vision

To be an Apostolic Community, Under Authority,
That brings people to Jesus Christ

Diocesan Mission

As the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin we will call and equip laity and clergy to bring people to, and disciple them in, a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Diocesan Core Values

Accountability, Collegiality, Transparency

Our Beginnings—Looking Forward

Christ Church was established in Lemoore, holding its first service February 24, 1957 in the Alpha Clubhouse, a 100 year old building, originally the Santa Fe Railroad Station House.

Since its organization, the mission experienced a steady growth, consistent with the growth of Lemoore, the nearest community to the sprawling Naval Air Station established in 1961.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the church building at the corner of 19th and Cinnamon were held July 13, 1966, and the first service there was May 27, 1967.

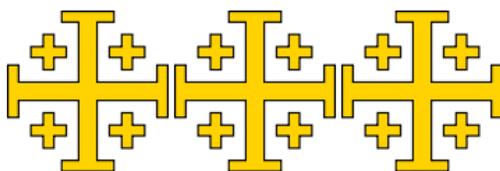
From then on we worshipped at the Lemoore location until our move to the current rental property in May 2019 after losing a court battle with The Episcopal Church concerning legal ownership of the property. We found a suitable and comfortable building at the corner of Grangeville Blvd. and 14th Ave. midway between Hanford and Lemoore, and it became our new home.

Understanding that this rental space is not our permanent home, we plan to outgrow it and build a new building with ample worship space, office space, classroom space, fellowship space, and outdoor space—lots of space for lots of people!

Who We Seek

We seek a rector who:

- Has a confident faith in Jesus Christ and an ability to joyfully share that relationship with others.
- Is ordained, or is prepared for ordination.
- Is a “people person,” a “team builder” and a “self-starter” with a good work ethic.
- Has a positive personality and the ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Is administratively organized and possesses strong computer skills.
- Has a vision for growth.
- Is willing to learn Spanish or is fluent in that language.
- Will get involved with the community.



Fulfilling Our Mission

The Search Committee and Vestry have been praying and moving forward with the search for our New Rector. We have completed the SWOT (Strengths-Weakness-Opportunities-Threats) challenge guided by Bishop Eric Menees. With our dedicated parishioners' daily prayers and the commitment of the Search Committee and Vestry we have learned who Christ Church Anglican Mission (CCAM) is and how we can call the perfect Rector for us.

First, we have updated our Vision Statement to be action driven, reading:

“The mission of Christ Church Anglican Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, teach obedience to all that He commands, and share the richness of life within the Anglican tradition.”

And secondly, we have finalized our One-Year Goals, Three-Year Goals, and Five-Year Goals keeping with our mission's three sections. Here is a condensed version:

	Making Disciples	Teaching the Word	Sharing the Anglican Way
One Year	Catechism Course completed. Formation of 3 Prayer Groups Trained Eucharistic Servers	Rector/Active lay-led Bible Study	Short-term mission trip Instructional Eucharist Classes to use BCP 2019
Three Year	Trained Lay readers Trained Sunday School Teachers	Every Family equipped to facilitate Bible study	History Class on Anglican History
Five Year	CCAM will be a community that discipless others	Biblically literate congregation	Weekly Eucharist in Spanish

We are praying that with this new knowledge we will, as CCAM, be able to grow our church family and prosper, disciplining others in keeping within our Mission Statement. CCAM Vestry is well aware of the investment needed to accomplish these goals.

However, these are long and short term goals, and we are eager and determined to make disciples of each parishioner. Doing so will allow us to grow in our love for Jesus Christ.



Making Disciples

Offering Christian Education is one of the ways in which we seek to make disciples. We provide Sunday school to the children, grandchildren and relatives of several of our members. We also offer both daytime and evening Bible studies that are open to women in the church. Catechism classes are held Sundays after church to those preparing for confirmation, and others wishing to attend.

Hospitality is a strong value of CCAM and is another avenue in which we seek to make disciples. Under normal circumstances we nurture each other weekly with fellowship and food following Sunday morning worship. Historically we have hosted an annual pancake supper for the community on Shrove Tuesday. We have also enjoyed Lenten soup suppers on Wednesday evenings following a service of Stations of the Cross. On every 5th Sunday in a month we held potlucks following worship with good participation. We would like to resume all of these activities as soon as it has been deemed safe to do so.

Ministry to needs in the community is also an opportunity to practice discipleship. Annually we provide Christmas gifts for families in the community who are experiencing challenges. This past year we joined with another area church to provide Christmas gifts to women and children in domestic violence shelters. Whenever we hear about a need, we look to see what we can do to assist with meeting the need. We also reach out to each other to assist in meeting needs through prayer, physical support, and/or the offer of friendship. We have established a program in which young children related to church members are assigned to a volunteer prayer warrior who makes a commitment to pray for their prayer buddy daily and occasionally offer a word of support or encouragement.

We are hampered by:

- Having no outside activities or play area for children and youth.
- Our location – There is no foot traffic and we are not in a neighborhood.
- Health issues in our congregation.

We fall short in our:

- Number of Baptisms.
- Number of Confirmations.
- Outreach to the Hispanic community / social ministry and evangelization.
- Outreach to the Navy community.

Recruiting new disciples is our weakest skill and one in which we need training and mentoring. We pray for a rector who can help us in this area.

Teaching Obedience

Sunday Services:

Holy Eucharist is celebrated at our 10:00 service each Sunday. Children's Church is held during the reading of the Lessons and preaching of the sermon. The children rejoin us during the Passing of the Peace.

Acolytes:

Currently we have no trained acolytes; however, we have three children soon to be nine years old who could begin their training. We want to provide a greater opportunity for our students to participate in the worship service.

Altar Guild:

The Altar Guild prepares for all services including celebration of Holy Communion, holy days, and special feasts. We have an active Altar Guild of four women.

Music Ministry:

Currently we are searching for an organist to fill the position vacated by our long-time organist who retired. We are utilizing prerecorded music by way of a computer and Blue Tooth speaker.

Lay Leaders: Volunteers are assigned to read the lessons and offer Prayers of the People each Sunday and at holiday services.

Children's Church:

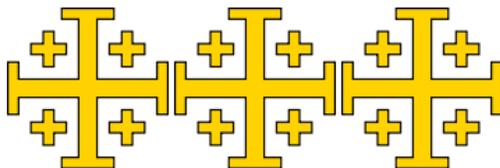
After the Collect of the Day, the children process to the altar for a short children's sermon by the Rector, after which they are joined by a teacher and assistant who lead them in classroom activities. Our new curriculum coordinates with the scripture lessons being read.

Bible Study:

The women of the church hold two or three women's Bible studies of 10 -11 weeks in length every year. Each series comes with a video and individual study book.

Catechism:

A Catechism class is being offered each Sunday directly after service. Eight to 10 parishioners are actively participating at this time.



Sharing the Richness of Life

Organizations:

The Anglican Church Women (ACW) meets the 2nd Monday of each month throughout the year excluding summer months. Our recent outreach programs included providing personal clothing items and toiletries and making Covid masks and adult clothing protectors for women's shelters and assisted living homes in Kings County. We also monetarily supported the local high school Sober Graduation programs and the community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Communications:

The church publishes a quarterly newsletter, "Tidings", mailed to all parishioners and posted on our website. CCAM can be located at www.valleyanglicans.org. We communicate through Facebook and email. In the past year we have used ZOOM for church meetings, ACW and virtual coffee hours during the pandemic.

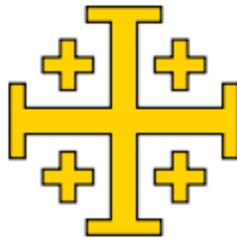
Events:

- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Flowering the Cross and children's Easter Egg Hunt
- 5th Sunday Potluck
- Weekly coffee hour after services

Outreach:

- CCAM supports Steve Vaselsky, a SAMS missionary, annually from the church budget and also from the ACW.
- God's Bread Box, a food pantry, originated from an ecumenical women's bible study which included members of CCAM and two other churches. They distribute food items monthly to residents of Lemoore. Both the church and ACW monetarily support God's Bread Box.
- Herb's Kitchen provides a weekly hot meal to anyone who is in need in the Coalinga area. Members from CCAM have committed one day each month to assist in preparing the food. We also support them monetarily to provide this ministry.
- Christmas Angel Tree – ACW organizes the church-wide gifting for 12-15 children in the Lemoore area at Christmas.

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Church Leadership

Diocesan Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Eric V. Menees

Interim Rector: The Rev. Richard A. Menees

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Senior Warden: Laura Gillespie

Junior Warden: Clay Massey

Vestry: Deborah Cotterman

Kelly DaFonte

Cathy Siegel

Altar Guild Director: Nancy Stebbins

Contact Us

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