

## AIPM at Ringstead Baptist Church in Northamptonshire - 2016

AIPM served at Ringstead Baptist Church for 1-year in 2016. The church vetted several candidates and interviewed via long-distance Rev. Robert Shehane and Mrs. Carel Shehane from Dallas Texas. They invited the Shehanes to serve the first 6-months of 2016 starting in early January. Not long after the Shehanes arrived, the Ringstead congregation sensed that God was blessing the ministry there and asked the Shehanes to stay the full year. Since the Shehane's visas allowed a 12-month stay and their circumstances would permit a full year's service in the UK, the Shehanes stayed until late December 2016.



At the end of the Shehane's full year at Ringstead, the church decided to call a local retired British pastor to lead the church as Moderator, a common arrangement in British Baptist churches when the pulpit is vacant.

The flyer on the page below was used in 2015 to let possible candidates for service at Ringstead know of the opportunity.



A highlight for every ministry assignment is the baptism of a new believer in Jesus Christ. Robert was blessed the opportunity to baptize Lindsey during his service at Ringstead.

The photo below shows the Ringstead Leadership Team. Church Secretary and Treasurer seems standard the world around. British churches take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults very seriously as right and legally required. Therefore, most UK churches have a designated "go-to" person that is available for anyone that needs advice or that wishes to report an incident. Janet is the photo below is Ringstead's "go-to" person for safeguarding.

Ringstead does a yeoman's job at reaching out to their community as evidenced by such regular activities as "Messy Church," their "Thursday Club" and their "Lunch Club." The Lord is surely pleased!



**Ringstead Leaders: Tall Man - Patrick, Church Secreary; on his rt. wife, Janet - designated "go-to person for safeguarding;" in red top - Angela - Treasurer; far left Angela's husband, Peter - music team**



**Ringstead Worship Center**



**Ringstead "Lunch Club."**

**MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN RETIREES:  
VOLUNTEER INTERIM PASTOR  
RINGSTEAD BAPTIST CHURCH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, ENGLAND**

Retirees will volunteer on six-month assignments as Ringstead Baptist Church (RBC) transitions from a series of part-time student pastors and prepares for a full time pastor, hopefully in the not too distant future. The church provides housing and a car and will reimburse for airline tickets and visa expenses.



**RBC—far left; Offices—middle; Manse—gray bldg.  
RBC owned rented cottage—far right.**

RBC has 23 members and about 50 others attend group meetings and services. They have a few children, but no one age 11 to 25. That lack of younger people is a burden on their hearts.

Two of their initiatives to grow their church are “Messy Church” one Sun. afternoon per month and “Tea Time Talk” one Sun. evening per month.



**“Messy Church” Family Photo**

Other outreach activities include Men’s Night out and Family Film Mornings each 3 times per yr.; 2 monthly Seekers Group meetings; weekly Thursday Club and Life Transformation Groups weekly.



**RBC Congregation—Easter 2014**

In the days ahead, RBC wishes to empathize prayer for God’s direction, especially in considering fresh expressions of being church, identifying and using the spiritual gifts of members and developing leaders. Ideal characteristics of an interim pastor include; solid Bible preaching and teaching, leadership and encouragement, a desire for personal and church involvement in the community and emphasis on networking to advance the Gospel.



**RBC’s “Thursday Club”**

Ringstead is a rural village in east Northamptonshire with a population of 1700. Peterborough is 20 miles NNE and Cambridge is 35 miles SSE. RBC participates in the Central Baptist Association and the Kettering group of 16 churches. RBC also has a good relationship with the local Anglican Church with occasional shared services. Many years ago Baptists and Methodists were combined thus the reference to “Shared Church.” When numbers declined, RBC reverted back to a Baptist Church.

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