

## All Saints' Church – Reports for Annual Church Meeting 2018

### Rector's Report

As we reflect back on a hugely exciting year in our life as a church, you'll all be delighted that I've found another Barbara Streisand quote to kick us off: 'Memories light the corners of my mind'. And what a year it's been, there are so many 'memories' to light our minds: the year began with a call for us to 'build up the walls' i.e. to become a more visible presence in our community. We started with the *MK50/50 challenge* – 50 acts of kindness in this the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the new town of Milton Keynes. Many of us took on that challenge and no doubt much blessing resulted from it – hundreds of little tokens of love scattered like confetti across our community. It continued with *Thy Kingdom Come*, as we all took streets to pray for, and virtually our whole community was covered in prayer.

And of course, in June, after much prayer and planning, we were able to launch *Go4th Sunday*, which has now become a staple part of our worshipping life. In my report last year, I noted that 'the most fruitful [ministries] were those which had a covering of prayer but fundamentally gathered a team of fired-up people ready to take on just the project that God had in mind for them.' That was indeed the case with *Go4th* – we have a great team (named in the Mission report later) and every *Go4th Sunday* our worship covers us in prayer before we 'go forth'.

Along the way we've had many other wonderful things to celebrate: Kim's baptism on Easter Sunday, Keith's licensing as Associate Priest in May, the Week of Guided Prayer in June, daily prayer, Rest, Dorcas, coffee morning, the ministry of baptisms, weddings and funerals and all the families we can support through it, Easter Eggsperience, Summer and Christmas Fairs, 500 people in church on Christmas Eve, growing schools work, new youth group, flourishing Children's Church, the Prayer Chain, Journeys in Prayer, welcoming Pastoral Assistants along with novices Cath and Jeff from the Priory... and the list goes on!

By God's grace we *have* 'built up the walls' – and we give all the glory and praise to Him. Reflecting back on my report last year, I mentioned the importance of 'building the bridge as we walk on it.' Visions evolve. So where next? As I shared in January this year, a new vision for 2018 and beyond is forming around a text from Isaiah 52:

***'Awake, awake, clothe yourselves with strength'***

We are in a season of growth in many ways, with more and more people connecting with us and more and more stuff happening. And this text affirms that: the prophet foresees a new dawn, a new season of God's favour and activity. It's a text for life and growth and hope! But it also calls us to be anchored in three areas:

**Prophecy – seeing rightly.** The word 'prophecy' is much misunderstood, but ultimately is about seeing what God is doing, and aligning ourselves with that. So many opportunities present themselves to us at present. That is true for us as individuals, and also for us as a church. I am particularly excited about *developing links with Oakgrove*, and where that might lead. But this passage calls us to keep seeking God, to be led to do what he calls us – the God things and not just the good things. May God grant us grace to see what He sees, and act accordingly.

**Prayer – speaking rightly.** As Christians we should all beware a prayerless activism. We can never outrun our prayer life. As activities and ministries flourish, we need to keep soaking ourselves in prayer. For all that there is to celebrate, *intercessory prayer* remains a challenge for us at All Saints. Jesus repeatedly encourages his disciples to ask: to vocalise what we long for in spoken prayer. I don't have the answer yet, but sustaining a growing life of intercessory prayer will be key for us in the season to come.

**Power – God's strength.** As the rest of Isaiah 52 makes clear, the strength that is referred to here is very definitely God's and not ours! We need to be *walking in the life of the Spirit*, fuelled by the fruit of the Spirit and exercising the gifts of the Spirit. What might that look like for us at All Saints and beyond?

So as I close, we have much to celebrate and even more to look forward to. We also have some key priorities which will allow God to bless and maximise the impact of the great opportunities which lie before us. I am so grateful to be walking this journey with each one of you! My love, blessings and continued prayers to you all. **Matt, March 2018**

**Churchwardens Report**

Our Church life has continued to thrive this year with encouraging growth and opportunities to reach out in our community.

Firstly the formal areas recorded in the documents below

- the terrier – a list of land belonging to the church
- the inventory – a list of all the items belonging to the church
- the log book – a detailed record of all the alterations, additions and repairs carried out in relation to the church, its land and its contents.

have all been maintained to ensure the day to day functioning of the Church. These are available as hard copies in the church. Further relevant documents have been archived and the filing updated with recently acquired documents.

The appointment in the Spring of Adrian Ringrose, Architect from Stimpson Walton Bond Chartered Architects of Northampton, enabled the Quinquennial review for the Church to be carried out in July 2017 with the resulting report available from August.

**The summary of recommendations states that:**

*'This is a very splendid looking Church with a warm welcoming interior. Urgent Priority 1 repairs only refer to lead flashing/re-pointing repairs. The summary list may look extensive but these can be planned over the next 5 years, elevation by elevation. Priority 2 stone repairs should be dealt with sooner rather than later to prevent further loss. Generally the roof is in good condition and only a few tiles need repairing. Keeping weeds and ivy at bay together with some visual monitoring can all be done by the congregation team. Nothing at all to despair about but a plan of action is recommended. A stitch in time will save money in the long term. Some of the Priority 2 and 2 stone repairs can be grouped together.'*

In response to this broadly positive report the church council have approved the repair to the two urgent priority 1 items - namely lead flashing repointing repairs to the north side of the Tower and lead flashing repair to the Nave north side. Further the preparation of a Schedule of Works that will collect all the priority 2 and 3 items in one document and items of work priced so that a plan for completion can be drawn up has been approved. The church council approved the funding of works from the church restoration funds and this will be progressed during the year in line with the budget available.

Over the year general maintenance has covered the areas that may be accomplished by the maintenance stewards and the congregation team, these include:

- Annual high level cleaning of windows and ledges
- Replacement of sections of worn floor boards, refurbishing wooden storage units
- Maintenance repairs to storage heaters and overhead electric heaters
- Conduit repairs and tile maintenance
- New tables purchased for coffee mornings and other church activities
- Gravel to main path replenished
- Volunteers maintaining the churchyard – clearing, weeding and path maintenance in conjunction with the thorough mowing programme undertaken by the dedicated team of mower volunteers has ensured a high level of care and consistency to enhance the environs
- The Churchyard working party has been revived and a continued programme of work invites future sessions to be scheduled – ivy at high level in yew trees, area in north west corner of churchyard to be cleared, removal of debris by mower shed.
- Plans to clean the clock stage to the Tower will progress in the summer months.
- The gutters and gulleys are scheduled for annual cleaning
- Replacement gate to be positioned on north wall

Much practical work has been accomplished during the year by the able and talented team of maintenance stewards both in the church and churchyard. A special tribute and thank you to the late Richard Peters who though seriously ill for some time had continued to organise and oversee the mowing rota, the annual maintenance of the mowing equipment and introduced new members to the team. Richard was instrumental in the acquisition of a new mower for the churchyard in August 2017 funded by a grant from the Parish Council. Brian Quentin has kindly taken on the task of co-ordinating the team and the equipment and will be pleased to welcome new volunteers and helpers to this vital role. More recently we extend our thanks to Graham Fuller for his many years of commitment mowing as he retires from this position. The continuing support of neighbour David Monk in mowing the outer verge to the church ensures the approach is always welcoming and inviting.

## **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING: Reports for 2017-18**

**Routine health and safety requirements** have been addressed through the year:

Lightning conductor inspection and test completed November 2017, Annual fire equipment check completed January 2018, Health and Safety Policy reviewed July 2017, Fire risk assessment July 2017 and Safeguarding Policy reviewed September 2017.

<b>It is good to also report on the growing range of services and activities from the past year at All Saints Church namely:</b>		
Regular weekly scheduled services – Sunday with Children’s Church alternate weeks. Weekly midday prayers – Monday Monthly midweek communion ‘Rest’ first Wednesday Monthly prayer group – Journeys in Prayer 2017 Services for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas services – afternoon Carol Service and Crib services Weddings – Church of England, Free Church and Roman Catholic, with weekday rehearsals. Baptisms and Thanksgiving services during services and also in afternoons Funerals, Memorial services and ‘Thanksgiving Service for Departed loved ones’	Monthly coffee morning first Friday of the month Weekly bell ringing team practice and occasional visits by other bell ringing teams Dorcas group alternate weeks including Macmillan coffee morning & lent lunch 2017. Children’s Easter Eggs-perience Growing Go 4 <sup>th</sup> projects with the community – garden project, litter picking, service to care home and outreach in Oakgrove Traidcraft sales of fairly traded goods Community events Christmas and Summer fairs held in the village hall.	Visits from schools: MK Prep School, Middleton Primary, Monkston Primary and Headstart Nursery. Oakgrove Secondary School Christmas Concert. World Vision Christmas Celebration Carol Service. Regular term time weekly hiring by ‘Concrete Calves’ for woodwind group and concert in summer. New possibilities for the coming year include welcoming walking groups to our beautiful church and hosting flower-arranging workshops .

In May 2017 we were delighted to welcome the Anglican Bishop of Buckingham (Bishop Alan) to lead the service of Keith’s official licensing to the Archdeaconry of Buckingham and as Associate Priest of the Walton Churches Partnership. It was a special celebration of Keith’s ministry among us, and the life of our team of churches. Refreshments in the church afterwards gave everyone the opportunity to celebrate with Keith and thank him for his ministry. Over the year we have continued to welcome occasional visiting ministers to All Saints who with Matt, Keith and members of the partnership lay team have continued to lead, inspire and enable families and friends seeking to worship together - sharing the good news of the love of Christ.

***Patricia A Sawyer March 2018 (Churchwarden 2011 – 2018)***

**Treasurers’ Report** – Attached separately.

### **Administration & Communications**

Ann has continued to produce a weekly newsletter for All Saints (double issue at Christmas/New Year). Continuing thanks to Brian Quentin for printing the newsletter each week and to Paul North for providing holiday cover. This is all very much appreciated.

The increasing use of Facebook to publicise our services and events to the local community is proving very valuable, especially for Go4th Sunday, which also has its own website and gmail address. The existing website continues to have details of services, church activities and recent sermons. We do now have an (almost ready) new website, which should go live in the near future – huge thanks to Mark Mitro for his time and effort setting this up, and to Paul North as ever for looking after our web hosting.

***March 2018***

**Pastoral Care Report**

We continue to offer pastoral care and practical support to members of the congregation and further afield.

The Dorcas group meets fortnightly in each others' homes, providing fellowship and support. We continue to knit blankets and children's garments for a charity who distribute parcels to families in Syria.

A Thanksgiving Service to remember loved ones was held in church last July. We sent invitations to those who were recently bereaved. We also sent a card at Christmas assuring them of our thoughts and prayers at that difficult time.

Along with the ministry team, we aim to help people, physically, emotionally and spiritually at vulnerable times in their lives.

***Sylvia Bennett & Gill Farrow, March 2018***

**Worship Group Report**

The Worship Group meets with Matt every other month and is able to offer feedback and reflection on our worship as well as engaging in planning ahead as the Church's seasons change. Members are: Dawn, under whose leadership Children's Church continues to thrive, with support from other helpers - more are always welcome; Gloria, steward for weddings, who, with Marina, ensures that our church looks beautiful for worship with their flower arrangements, creating a sense of celebration with special displays at Harvest, Christmas and Easter; Jane Lee; Gill and myself as Worship Steward.

Our regular Sunday congregation continues to grow in numbers, with many occasional attenders or visitors to whom we always try to give a warm welcome. On special occasions - Easter and Christmas in particular, as well as Remembrance Sunday - the church is very full, and the two Crib Services on Christmas Eve continue to attract extremely large numbers.

Since last year's AGM the fourth Sunday of the month has become our regular Go 4th Sunday, and we have all adapted to the change of timings and the shortened liturgy without apparent difficulty. In addition to becoming more visible in the community, we have been able to welcome more people in for coffee and a chat afterwards, and good relationships have developed with members of the local community through the ever-popular litter-picking, and also through our Christmas Eve carol singing.

Our worship continues to be enhanced through the musical accompaniment of Rosie, Jane and Fran, with Susan Noon playing the organ every third Sunday. The Kevin Mayhew CDs continue to earn their keep on the second Sunday and other occasions, and the pool of those able to operate the CD player has widened slightly, thanks to Sandra, although other volunteers would be welcome.

Since his licensing to our parish last May, Keith Straughan continues to lead worship at All Saints as part of the Sunday rota, as well as the monthly Rest service, and on Go 4th Sundays he leads a Communion service at Milton Court Care Home, assisted by a team of helpers.

We continue to be grateful to all those members of the congregation who enable our worship by taking their turn on the rota. Thanks to them, our worship runs smoothly, people are made to feel welcome, and time is provided for fellowship over refreshments at the end of the service. There are, however, times when it is very difficult to find enough people to cover all the duties, and we are always in need of more volunteers. It can be a very rewarding way to engage with other members of the congregation as well as newcomers and visitors.

***Carolyn Sanderson, Worship Steward, March 2018***

**Mission Report**

Our commitment to mission is fundamental to our future existence as a church, and it is encouraging that missional activity continues to grow here at All Saints and across the Partnership. Highlights of the past year include:

- Our major highlight has obviously been the launch of Go4th Sunday! This has been a significant development for us as a church community and I am hugely grateful to many people: to the stewards for agreeing to it in the first place, to the congregation for supporting it (and particular thanks to all who overcame initial reservations and decided to 'have a go') and especially to the amazing team who have made it happen every month: to Cath, Carolyn, Jane, Fran, Andy, Paul, Moira, Keith S, Kim, Trisha, Keith and Catherine W, and others besides who have faithfully given of themselves on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

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- The launch of Go4th is also generating exciting opportunities in Oakgrove and elsewhere. The church is now very much integral to plans for community building there, with a first Spring Fair planned after Easter.
- Our monthly coffee morning, led by Cath and Dawn, has a growing presence and attendance from members of the wider community. We can also give thanks for increasingly regular visits from walking groups whom the church hosts for post-walk coffee – there have been 4 such visits in the last 6 months alone.
- Our fortnightly group for 9-14s – Rock Solid – continues to flourish. We have about 18 regulars, with an average of 12-15 on any given night. About half are from church families, the other half are friends or exploring faith for the first time.
- This year has also seen the launch of a new Youth Cell Group for 13+, which meets in Walnut Tree and includes teenagers from All Saints. Both of these groups for young people are run across the Partnership and testify to the value of working together.
- On that theme, All Saints' support for Ruth's wonderful work in Broughton continues to bear much fruit. Church Without Walls has revamped its Quiet Church this year, and now offers weekly worship throughout the year. It continues to have a major presence working among families with special needs, and is recognised as a model of church planting in new-build estates. We are delighted to announce that in January Ruth's post was extended for a further 5 years, 2018-23. My huge thanks to Carolyn for overseeing this process.
- As outlined last year, I am also delighted to announce that we now have agreement for a second Pioneer Minister to engage in church planting in the new estates in Wavendon, with a planned start date sometime in 2019. Housing and stipend will be provided by the diocese and our Partnership will cover expenses. This will coincide with the opening of the massively-expanded St Mary's CofE school (growing from 100 currently eventually to 700 children) in September 2019.
- Our work among schools continues to grow. Alongside the church visits and services, multiple Christmas and Easter Events, this year we were able to take 8 Harvest assemblies to over 2,000 children (including two new school contacts via Oakgrove Primary and Broughton Prep) and also conduct sessions with 2 cub/beaver groups. We now have at least annual contact with 10 local schools, and great relationships with most of them. And that's leaving aside all the visits from Bridgebuilder!
- Our Easter Eggsperience remains a highlight of our Easter celebrations, attracting about 50 children (plus parents and carers) each year. Overall, we welcomed a record number of visitors to All Saints at Christmas – c.500 on Christmas Eve alone!
- All Saints maintains a strong link with various local charities, including the Winter Night Shelter (which doubled its capacity this year), Help our Homeless, MK Foodbank, Make Lunch and World Vision. We remain committed to serving the wider mission of God in service and blessing to our community.
- We continue to conduct many baptisms and thanksgivings: 33 across the Partnership in 2017, including 14 at All Saints. Some of these families have remained connected with us at All Saints, and others have been drawn towards us via the Go4th initiative – who knew that litter picking was so enjoyable? We also conducted 15 weddings across the churches, including 7 here at All Saints, and I especially want to pass on my thanks to Keith, Gloria and Pat for their hard work in this important ministry.
- As outlined last year, in September Grand Union Vineyard began meeting weekly on Sundays in Monkston School which allowed New Life Church to plant a new site in the rooms which the Vineyard vacated in the World Vision Offices. It is wonderful to see God at work across our parish, allowing us to work alongside many other brothers and sisters to see the kingdom of God come in this area.

Possible new developments this year include:

- Continuing to develop the work in Oakgrove – maybe to include the seeds of a new worshipping community?
- Discussions about creating a multi-church CAP centre, including Christ the King as one of the hubs for this
- Church involvement in plans for a community-led new Community Centre in Wavendon
- Welcome Packs and visits for new residents in Wavendon
- Messy Church in a local school?
- And who knows what else? As our text says: May we 'Awake, awake, and clothe ourselves with (God's) strength!'

**Matt, March 2018**

**Electoral Roll report**

Church membership has increased slightly from 61 in April 2017 to 63 in March 2018. Of these, 54 are also on the Electoral Roll.

Membership by church affiliation is as follows:

Anglican	39
Roman Catholic	5
Methodist	4
URC	2
Baptist	2
Other: Salv Army/Pentecostal/FIEC/Orthodox	9
<i>Non-Anglican</i>	<i>22</i>
Not stated	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

**Deanery Synod, Mission Partnership and Walton Churches Partnership report**

Our relationships with the churches in our team, and the wider community of churches in MK, continues to be very important to us – indeed it becomes ever more important. There is a real sense of growing unity in the team and the city, and this is fuelling many initiatives which we pray will bear much fruit in mission and discipleship.

*Walton Churches Partnership*

There is much to give thanks for around the Partnership. Church Without Walls continues to flourish in Broughton and there is a growing sense of connectedness with the rest of our Partnership. We're delighted that Ruth's post has recently been extended to 2023. All Saints maintained strong attendance in 2017 and also grew in membership, and with the successful launch of 'Go4th Sunday' is increasing its presence in the local community. The same is also true of St Mary's who have formed very strong links with both Wavendon and Walton Community Councils, launched monthly Prayer Walks round the community, and also hosted Milton Keynes' Civic Service in July 2017. Our word for 2017 at both St Mary's and All Saints was to 'build up the walls' i.e. to become more visible in the community – and by God's grace we have done that.

Christ the King Community Church has coped well without a lead minister – now in vacancy for 18 months – and during that time has seen the renovation of the manse, an overhaul of its youth and children's work and a new prayer meeting on Thursday evenings. We continue to pray for the right person to join us soon!

The last couple of years has seen a significant link established with St Michael's Priory in Willen. This has included numerous church members attending their weekday services, Pastoral Assistants and novices joining us on short term placements, and also St Michael's hosting many of our Partnership events, including Quiet Church and the Week of Guided Prayer. We give thanks for this link, and especially for Brother Anthony's generous support for our ministry and mission here in Walton.

Many significant initiatives continue to thrive through our determination to work together for the good of the Kingdom. Prayer remains an important focus, with the Week Of Guided Prayer in June again proving very fruitful, and with Daily Prayer being offered every lunchtime somewhere around the Partnership. We share significant events together, such as Ash Wednesday and also have fun together, with our BBQ in July. Youth work is organised across the Partnership, with Rock Solid (for 9-14s) and the new youth group (for 13+) both thriving. Ruth has also recently launched a similar group in Broughton, too.

Organisationally, the revamped WCP Council is working well. My thanks also to Rachael Jenkins for her huge contribution as Safeguarding Officer, and likewise to David Harbey who is stepping down as WCP Treasurer after 7 years in the role. We are delighted that Julia Davie of All Saints has recently taken on the role.

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### *Mission Partnership and wider MK Christian Community*

Following the launch of its vision – ‘A City Alive to God’ – in 2015, the last couple of years have seen much effort in embedding this vision in the churches and Christians around MK. The termly Assemblies continue to provide an inspiring environment for Christians to meet and seek God’s heart for the city. Recently we have focused on areas which cause us not to be alive to God, and how to overcome those. Likewise a special focus on the issue of loneliness.

The major new initiative in 2017 was ‘Leading for a Change’: a course for developing leadership skills among lay leaders. Two members of our Partnership attended, and the successful pilot of the course means it is set to be extended in 2018.

The coMPass courses continue to challenge and bless us, and I want to give particular thanks to Carolyn Sanderson who has led this important ministry, and also to Rev. Keith who has recently convened a coMPass course on the relationship between science and faith.

The other major development in 2017 was the launch of a city-wide monthly prayer meeting – ‘The Call’ – in September. This has been a truly fantastic event, with Christians from at least 25 churches represented at the launch and frequently thereafter. As God brings us together for the good of his kingdom, may this continue to bear much fruit, both in Walton and across MK.

### *MK Deanery*

2017 saw the beginning of a new 3-year Synod. In the spring, Tim Norwood, our Area Dean, set out his vision for our Deanery over the next 3 years. There are five key areas:

- Church growth
- The Common Good
- Developing leadership
- Being a blessing beyond MK
- Resources for mission

There are common threads the bind many of these together: developing lay leadership to facilitate both church growth and resources for mission; inter-church partnerships on key ministry areas to pool resources and share best practice; an outward looking faith which seeks to bless the city in whatever ways God calls us to.

Tim’s sabbatical in 2017 also led him into further study of Community Organising as a way of gathering momentum to achieve some of what we long for. He is beginning to use the fruits of this study to help us find a few areas on which to focus.

In the meantime, Milton Keynes is now firmly established as one of Bishop Steven’s 6 key priorities for life in the diocese. A group has been formed to shape exactly what that might look like. We all wait expectantly for news!

**Matt**

**Appendix: The Stewards' Council**

Throughout 2017-18 the All Saints Church Council has continued to function through a committee of **Stewards** acting as representatives of the congregation with decision-making powers and responsibilities. The stewards have each take responsibility for an area of Church life and have met regularly through the year. These areas have included worship, pastoral growth, building maintenance and administration/communication. The stewards have, in turn, built teams with church members to encourage more people to be involved in the way we serve the community developing mutual and shared ministry.

We have continued with a Standing Committee which met bi-monthly (alternating with the Stewards' Council) and discussed/dealt with a lot of the 'nitty-gritty' issues, thereby freeing up time for the main Council to prioritise the most important matters of mission and ministry.

**Membership and Structure of the Church Stewards Council**

As an ecumenical body, the Church Council operates as an effective amalgamation of both Free Church and Anglican governance. We have Churchwardens (an Anglican role), however the Council appoints Stewards annually (a Free Church method) electing stewards via the Annual Church Meeting. The Rector is ex officio Chair of the Council.

During the year the following served as members of the Church Council:

**Chair:** Matt Trendall (Rector)

**Church Warden:** Patricia Sawyer

**Treasurer:** Ian Corlett

**Secretary:** Jane Lee

**Mission & Community Steward:** Paul North

**Prayer & Discipleship Steward:** *Unfilled*

**Worship Stewards:** Carolyn Sanderson, Gloria Terrelonge (Weddings)

**Special Events Steward:** Moira North

**Administration / Communication Steward:** *Unfilled*

**Buildings / Maintenance Stewards:** Wayne Webb, Paul Terrelonge

**Pastoral Growth Stewards:** Gill Farrow, Sylvia Bennett

**Families/Children and Young People Steward:** Dawn Bromley

The following roles were also appointed at the Annual Church Meeting in 2017:

**Walton Churches Partnership Representatives:** Catherine Held, *with one post unfilled*

**Deanery Synod Representative:** Carolyn Sanderson (elected until 2020)

**Mission Partnership Assembly Representative:** Ann Harris, Carolyn Sanderson

**Safeguarding Officer:** Rachael Jenkins (for the whole WCP)

The Responsible Adult role (previously Children's Advocate) was not appointed at the ACM in 2017, but Sandra Mills has recently agreed to serve in this capacity.