

All Saints' Church – Reports for Annual Church Meeting 2020

Rector's Report

'As we stand at this moment in 2019, I sense we are at something of a crossroads. We are a good church, and we celebrate this. The question I believe God is now asking of us is this: do we want to be a great church? This is not a "life or death" question – we can stay where we are and God will bless us. But I sense that God is calling us onwards, to something bigger, even more exciting – and the next couple of years will determine which path we choose.'

That was the key paragraph from my report last year, and inevitably I've turned back to it as I prepare for our annual meeting in 2020. I've also been reading 'The Principle of the Path' by Andy Stanley, which makes the very simple, but profound, point that direction, not intention, determines our destination. In other words, we reap what we sow: words are useful, but it is *actions* – concrete direction – that matters. And we can certainly point to some real highlights as we assess the direction of our journey of our last year:

- The launch of Cafe Church
- The Plastic Exhibition in October
- The Global 6k run/walk for World Vision
- The many simple highlights of our normal rhythm of life – coffee mornings, weddings, Children's Church...

In short: **our reach into the community is bigger than it's ever been** – whether through Go4th, schools work, relationships with other groups and bodies (like Care Homes, Uniformed Organisations, Walking Groups and Community Music), attendance at Christmas... all of which suggests strongly that we *are* moving onwards to something bigger and more exciting. This is our journey! All of which has prompted 3 simple reflections:

Live our name. I first floated this idea a couple of years ago, but it has struck me again recently with renewed force. We are All Saints – and both words matter. We are a church for ALL i.e. everyone. In MK there are dozens of churches reaching 'MK' and people drive across the city to find their particular preferred flavour. Our uniqueness is that we are a local church for *this* community – Middleton, Monkston, Oakgrove, Atterbury, Broughton, Brooklands, as well as MK Village itself. 93% of our membership live in the parish or within 1 ½ miles of the church. This is *our* home, *our* community: we love it, we serve it, we bless it. But we are also SAINTS i.e. distinctive. We are not just another social club: we are offering the life of Jesus – to all, and for all. Part of what makes us a uniquely inclusive community is a unique message – the unconditional embrace of God's love. That will always remain the heart of who we are and we must continue to recommit ourselves to dwelling in that life and love, and offering it unashamedly to others.

Reflect our vision. 'Seeking, sharing and celebrating the abundant life of God.' That's what we're about, and we're doing pretty well on two of our three pillars: the power of small initiatives and generous hospitality. But the third is our key for this year: involving everyone. We need you! We need your skills, your energies, and a bit of your time! I want many of us to fill in a 'Personal Discipleship Plan' this year – sounds scary but really it's just a simple way of reflecting on where you are and making one or two commitments to nurture your own faith and keep growing. I will happily spend time with anyone to chat that through.

Stay the course. William Carey, the father of modern overseas mission once summarised his key quality as: 'I can plod.' I love that – unglamorous as it sounds, consistent plodding is very much my approach to ministry, but I also believe it is the key for us too. God is taking us on a journey to be a church which serves our whole community – a community which reflects modern MK. We are more diverse than ever: culturally, ethnically, maybe even theologically – and whilst this brings its challenges, we celebrate this. It is the sort of church Jesus longs for, but of which there are very few. So let's embrace our diversity and be God's community for our community.

*Postscript: the rapid changes being forced by Covid-19 will test us over the coming months. But it is a true chance for us to practice being this community – being **All Saints**. To offer hope, peace and practical help. We will also need everyone to pitch in like never before: phone calls, shopping, online resources, whatever you can offer: we need it!*

Matt, March 2020

Churchwardens Report

Much has been accomplished over the year with the maintenance and repair works to the building and to the way the Church is used to share the Christian message with the community.

Firstly a confirmation of the maintenance of 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.

These have all been maintained to ensure the day to day functioning of the Church and are available as hard copies in the church. The Church Deanery Inspection of these documents, registers, policies, certificates, churchyard records, and church contents plus review of issues in the parish including the current Parish Mission Action Plan and various other papers relating to church life is scheduled for later this month.

Progress on the works for the Quinquennial Repairs can be summarised as follows:

Work commenced in March 2019 continuing through to December 2019 and included all areas of Priority 2 and 3 issues listed in the Quinquennial Report 2017. (The two Priority 1 items had already been addressed; potential areas for water ingress in bell tower and gulleys.)

The programme of work started with the repair to external stonework, brushing back and repointing, progressed to replacement and repair of identified worn mullions. The pinnacle, mid-south elevation, was found to be more seriously in need of rebuilding. This work is almost complete. Work included securing roof tiles, cleaning north face of vestry roof, repair and repainting of all rainwater goods, together with thorough clearing and cleaning of gulleys and gutters. The broken quarries to a number of windows have been repaired, window stanchions and saddle bars replaced and ferramenta redecorated. Windows have been cleaned and stained glass window areas assessed for future work. Internal stonework repairs have also been completed. This comprehensive programme of repair works successfully addresses the issues in the latest Quinquennial report and has been made possible by the steady accumulation of restricted building funds over 10 years and the recent very successful fundraising for the building works combined with a generous grant from the Bucks Historic Churches Trust. We are extremely grateful to all the generous giving enabling the success of this £24000 project.

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

Lightning conductor inspection and test completed December 2019, Annual fire equipment check and portable appliance testing completed October 2019, Fire and safety assessment, and Safeguarding Policy reviewed. Most importantly the 5 year fixed wire electrical inspection was completed in November 2019 and necessary repair works for continued use and compliance were carried out in January 2020.

Much additional practical work has been accomplished during the year by the able and talented team of maintenance stewards both in the church and churchyard. Brian Quentin has skilfully continued his role of co-ordinating the mowing team and equipment and has welcomed new volunteers and helpers to this vital task ensuring that a thorough mowing programme is undertaken by the dedicated team of mower volunteers. The continuing support of neighbour David Monk in mowing the outer verge to the church ensures the approach is always welcoming and inviting. In addition there have been a number of volunteers maintaining the churchyard – clearing, weeding and maintaining the path. In April and September Churchyard working parties have continued a programme of work to remove ivy at high level in yew trees, lower yew tree growth to lighten path area, remove ivy from church and churchyard walls and clear weeds from graves.

The general maintenance accomplished by the maintenance stewards – Paul Terrelonge and Wayne Webb and congregation team through the year includes:

- Annual high level cleaning of windows and ledges by team in August

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- Replacement of bulbs and the time maintenance of church clock
- New sets of altar linen sewn by Sylvia Bennett to replace the worn linen and a programme of refurbishment and replacement for altar frontals initiated
- Plans to clean the clock stage to the Tower will progress in the summer months.

The growth and maintenance of the range of services and activities in Church has flourished over the year with the weekly pattern of services developing to encompass more opportunities for discussion, teaching, outreach and creative talents. Fifteen couples were married at All Saints between April and September. Baptisms, Funeral and Thanksgiving services continue to feature in the Church diary over the year. Importantly we have been delighted to welcome Rev. Ruth Gookey, as the newly appointed minister for Christ the King, to the Walton Churches Clergy Team and we value her time with All Saints and associated services. We look forward to maintaining and growing our church as Matt, Keith and members of the partnership lay team continue to reach out with the good news of the love of Christ to our rapidly growing parish.

Patricia A Sawyer March 2020 (Churchwarden 2011 – 2020)

Treasurers' Report – Attached separately.

Mission Report

There is much to celebrate this year, as there has been in recent years. Go4th continues to channel our energies into positive impact in the community. Whilst finding new projects have been challenging, there have been notable highlights this year:

- The Global 6k for water sponsored run/walk was a phenomenal success in April with 50 runners from church and community and over £1,000 raised.
- In August we packed 60 food boxes for Make Lunch Meals, a brilliant local charity supporting hungry MK families
- The community Carol Singing at Christmas was well attended and is now a 'fixture' in our diaries. Likewise the Christmas and Remembrance services at Milton Court are always packed.
- A new focus on craft activities is connecting new families with church and pointing us in a new direction for the future – who knows 'Creative Church' may be just around the corner!

Go4th has also impacted us in unexpected ways. Two very significant developments in 2019 would probably not have happened without its influence:

- In September we re-launched the flagging 'All Age' service as Cafe Church, which has made a fantastic start. Numbers are immediately up, our regulars love it (even those who hadn't expected to enjoy it!) and significantly a lot of new people have connected with our church via Cafe Church. We get a very different congregation to this service and this has very exciting possibilities for the future.
- In October we hosted an amazing 'Plastic Exhibition', partnering with 3 of our local primary schools – Oakgrove, Middleton and Monkston. The event was a stunning success: 1,500 schoolchildren engaged in a week of learning about the environment (including a Harvest Assembly led by the church), and 300 people attended the exhibition at the weekend which showcased the work of hundreds of the children. MK Recycling Centre lent us material, and the whole event was an inspiration both to our church and the local community. Since that time we have redoubled our efforts to reflect on our own environmental stewardship as a church and the schools have made some changes to their practices too.

The other major initiative of 2019 was a Partnership-wide Alpha course. We welcomed 13 guests, 9 of whom chose to mark their journey of faith by getting baptised or confirmed. At All Saints we were delighted that 3 people did do.

Our regular mission activity continues, too, and it is easy to forget the numerous access points we have with the community: the monthly coffee morning, our Rock Solid Group for 9-14s, our strong links with various charities (especially World Vision, Make Lunch Meals and the Winter Night Shelter), our many baptisms and weddings, and our Advent and Christmas events – more than 500 people attended church at All Saints on Christmas Eve alone!

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As a Partnership the new school building for St Mary's CofE School is open on Eagle Farm and our community building work has begun, as promised, with a weekly coffee morning, 2 open community discussions and a carol event at Christmas attended by over 40. We are still hopeful that a Pioneer Minister will join our team for the end of 2020. Likewise there are many exciting mission initiatives at our sister congregations of Church Without Walls, St. Mary's and Christ the King – too numerous to mention here, but you can find out about from their websites and reports.

March 2020

Administration & Communications

Huge thanks to Brian Quentin for taking on the monthly Sunday Link newsletter – he has faithfully printed this for many years but from mid-2019 he also took on the responsibility of drafting it. Alongside the worship rota, we are very grateful for his efforts co-ordinating these key components of our communications.

Thanks too to Sandy Grey for her hard work looking after our social media, to Jane Lee for advertising Go4th events, to Carolyn Sanderson for keeping the duties contact list up-to-date, to Mark Mitro for updating our website, and to Paul North for hosting it. In this day and age the elements of the church's life are ever more important – and perhaps especially so in the uncertain months that lie ahead.

March 2020

Pastoral Care Report

The aim of pastoral care is to offer people emotional, spiritual and practical support at difficult and critical times in their lives. At All Saints we continue to do this: much of it in simple, unheralded ways – Christian friends supporting each other practically and spiritually. Through our funerals, weddings and baptisms we meet many families during the year, in both happy times and sad. We also offer care at Milton Court Care Home, an area of our ministry which has grown noticeably in the last couple of years. Thanks to all who give of their time and energy to this important ministry: especially Rev. Keith, Christine, Pat, Gill, Sylvia, Gloria and Cynthia – as well as many others who make a positive difference through offering lifts, gardening, shopping and other practical help.

March 2020

Children's Church Report

Children's Church is a precious time. We have a great bunch of children attend: usually 10-12 come along to learn about their faith through bible stories, craft activities and other fun activities.

This year we have been delighted to welcome several new helpers, who have made a real difference. We are grateful too to our older young people who help out. Special thanks to Dawn for leading this ministry in a wonderful way, and also to Tiahani, Daisy, Emily, Niki, Brenda, Gloria, Besi, Sandra and Pauline. Thanks too to our Safeguarding Officer Rachael Jenkins who keeps an eye on all the things we have to do to be safe.

March 2020

Electoral Roll report

Church membership in March 2020 stands at 62 adults (vs 63 in 2018 and 59 in 2019). Membership by church affiliation is as follows:

Anglican	35
Methodist	4
URC	4
Baptist	2
Roman Catholic	9
Other: Salv Army/Pentecostal/FIEC/Orthodox	6
<i>Non-Anglican</i>	25
Not stated	2
Total	62

We now calculate Electoral Roll Membership differently – counting all Anglicans, no URC/Baptists/Methodists (to avoid double counting) and ¼ of 'Others' – this means that Electoral Roll membership currently totals 39.

March 2020

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. Some brief highlights of the last year:

Walton Churches Partnership

There is much to give thanks for around the Partnership. Adult church membership across the Partnership has grown from 186 to 226 (or 22%) in the last 3 years. Whilst numbers aren't everything, it is great to know that we are growing across the team, and that the many exciting initiatives are bearing fruit in making and growing disciples of Jesus. Every congregation now runs Cafe Church regularly and every church has new forms of community based mission – whether Go4th (All Saints), Language Cafe and Relax Teens (CWW), the work on Eagle Farm, community talks and Quiz Nights (St. Mary's) or work with Slated Row school and on the new estate of Walton Grange (CtK).

We were delighted to welcome Rev. Ruth Gookey as our new Baptist Minister and to celebrate with Ope Ayileye as he was accepted to train for ordination.

Many significant initiatives continue to thrive through our determination to work together for the good of the Kingdom. We ran a joint Alpha course in 2019, continue to share our youth work across the Partnership, and prayer remains an important focus, including Daily Prayer, Thy Kingdom Come, and the Week Of Guided Prayer (returning 2020). We share significant events together, such as the party for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and also have fun together, with our very popular BBQ in July.

Organisationally, the revamped WCP Council continues to work well. We have a full contingent of reps all of whom do sterling work engaging the vision of the Partnership with our local congregations. Particular thanks too to Emma Tyler, our Treasurer, who has recently taken on the role and keeps us watertight financially!

Mission Partnership and wider MK Christian Community

There remains much to praise God for, as we seek for our city to become 'A City Alive to God'. There is a new focus on developing learning and discipleship – watch this space for more details. In the meantime, Compass courses continue to run termly and the Mission Partnership Assemblies continue to provide an inspiring environment for Christians to meet and seek God's heart for the city.

MK Deanery

The major preoccupation for the Deanery since 2017 is the Diocese's stated commitment to investing in MK, a major initiative which is called 'Celebrate and Bless'. This has proved very challenging for the deanery, as the vast effort expended by the Deanery in preparing for this has not yet been matched by actual, real investment. We continue to wait and pray...

On a brighter note, the Deanery remains committed to growing in mission – most parishes (including ourselves) are now making additional voluntary contributions to further this cause, and we are very grateful for their strong support – both financial and emotional – for our proposed new pioneer minister.

March 2020

Appendix: The Stewards' Council

Throughout 2019-20 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 previously used a Standing Committee which alternated with the bi-monthly Stewards' Council meetings, but this has not been needed this year, so we took the decision to reduce unnecessary meetings!

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: *Unfilled*

Worship Stewards: Carolyn Sanderson, Gloria Terrelonge (Weddings)

Families/Children and Young People Steward: Dawn Bromley

Buildings / Maintenance Stewards: Wayne Webb, Paul Terrelonge

Special Events Steward: Moira North

Mission & Community Steward: Paul North

Walton Churches Partnership Rep (Steward): Ayokunnu Otunla

Prayer & Discipleship Steward: *Unfilled*

Pastoral Growth Stewards: *Unfilled*

Administration / Communication Steward: *Unfilled*

The following roles were also appointed at the Annual Church Meeting in 2019:

Walton Churches Partnership Representatives: Carolyn Sanderson, Ayokunnu Otunla

Deanery Synod Representative: Carolyn Sanderson (elected until 2020)

Mission Partnership Assembly Representatives: Ann Harris, Sandy Grey

Safeguarding Officer: Rachael Jenkins (for the whole WCP)

Responsible Adult (previously Children's Advocate): Sandra Mills