

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting – Monday 20th March 2023, 7.30pm in Church

Reports and other paperwork on website: <https://www.allsaintschurchmkvillage.co.uk/printable-leaflets/>

Present: Matt Trendall (Chair), Pat Sawyer and Barny Daley (Churchwardens), Ian Corlett, Amanda Kingston, Gloria Terrelonge, Paul Terrelonge, Carolyn Sanderson, Dawn Bromley, Nick Mills, Niki Mitro, Sylvia Bennett, Rev. Philip Derbyshire, Joy Derbyshire, Wayne Webb, Rachel Morse and Charles Robertson.

Apologies: Jane Lee, Joan Ellis, Sandra Mills, Jane Charman, David Sawyer, Alise Trendall, Rosie & Paul Neale.

1. **Opening devotions:** the meeting opened with a reading from John 10 'the Good Shepherd': the passage helps remind us as we gather tonight, that Jesus' call to us is to live life. We should look to giving the congregation more than just a church life, but help to finding a fullness of life.
2. **Election of churchwardens:** Matt was delighted to report that Pat (14th year of service) and Barny (2nd year of service) are willing to stand again. Matt thanked them both for their work, and the extra work Pat does to support the church. Carolyn proposed and Sylvia seconded and unanimously approved by all.
3. **Apologies:** see above.
4. **Minutes of 2022 ACM:** proposed by Ian, seconded by Barny and these minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting nem. con..
5. **Matters arising:** : (a) LEP Review and update on Walton LEP's registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Financially we are in a healthy position. Churches Together in Milton Keynes was established in the autumn of 2022, and our Mission Partnership subs will now go to Churches Together. We are currently conducting an LEP Review – initial assessment is that our structures are in a good state with only minor things to address; a new Area Dean will be appointed for MK, and work is underway to scope out the role.
(b) Walton Staff news – Ruth G came back to work one day a week in January after her injury, but has been signed off until the end of April, at which point she will begin a new phased return. Ruth M will be on sabbatical July-October, and her contract is due to end by the summer of 2025. Philip and Joy have joined us in the last year and we are very grateful for Philip's support too. John Robertson has also joined us and now has permission to officiate. We also have Carolyn, who is able to take services as well. Matt formally thanked Keith for his work supporting our church.
(c) Status of current practical projects: step-free access into church is out to tender, which we're hoping to complete in the summer. Garden of Rest has successfully been introduced. Wifi and card reader are now in place.
6. **Reports:** (a) Pat thanked Sylvia for her continued support and Barny for his technical skills which has provided a huge compliment to the Team. Lots of focus on the Jubilee last year, and then sadly by the death of the Queen, but meant the church was open more and saw lots of new people in church. There will be more help needed with the mowing team Pat explained that the servery may not need to be as elaborate as first thought. Barny also thanked the mowing team. The church yard is kept in such good condition and a tribute to the people who put so much work into it. He would like to create another garden of rest. Barny is concerned that the sound system is not very good quality and would like to look into that. Card reader has worked well. See Churchwardens Report for full details. (on the church website).

(b) Ian gave a **summary of the 2022 accounts**. He was initially nervous that the card reader was going to take away from cash donations, but it certainly appears to be for donations that wouldn't have been made otherwise. Overall, it was a very good year! He had thought there would be a deficit but actually we had a surplus of money. Voluntary Income fell, but Gift Aid and planned giving went up. Fundraising events were back too. Christmas Fayre brought in just over £1000 as well as other activities. Maintenance costs have been kept to a minimum, with a lot being done by volunteers, and there was a very good response to pledge day at the end of November. The biggest worries were fuel costs. Last year we paid 12.6p per unit to September, but we paid 31.5p from October to December. Although we've tried to reduce our electric costs, it's still very challenging. There were a number of one-off expenditure costs such as the card reader etc. Thanks to Pat for her help with the money donations etc. Matt thanked Ian for his hard work and support.

(c) Matt reported that church membership stands at 71 adults and 22 u18s – this compares to 68 and 21 last year. The adults identify as 43 Anglican and 26 non-Anglican (2 ‘not stated’). Our reported Electoral Roll is 47 (vs 44 In 2022 and 40 in 2021) – this is calculated in a fairly esoteric but consistent way, to avoid double counting church members with our parent denominations. More detail relating to these figures is on the church website.

Brief summary of other church life in MK: see Matters Arising 5 (a).

7. **Elections and Appointments:**

The Stewards Council is comprised of: Matt (Chair), Barny and Pat (Wardens), plus the following:

Virginia Kagunda (Prayer Steward)

Ayokunnu Otunla (WCP Council Rep)

Carolyn Sanderson (Worship and WCP Council Rep)

Gloria Terrelonge (Worship & Weddings)

Niki Mitro (Community)

Amanda Kingston (Secretary & Special Events)

Wayne Webb & Paul Terrelonge (Building & Maintenance)

Dawn Bromley (Families/Children & Young People)

Ian Corlett (Treasurer)

Matt thanked them for their work and support. Nick proposed all roles and Sylvia seconded. Everyone was in favour, so the council was re-elected unanimously.

8. **Safeguarding and re-appointment of Safeguarding Officer and Responsible Adult** (previously known as Children’s Advocate).

Rachael Jenkins from Christ the King is our Safeguarding Officer, representing the whole Partnership. She has performed the role for eight years and keeps us up-to-date with everything. Ayokunnu Otunla looks after All Saints DBS checks, Sandra Mills is our Responsible Adult, and Matt thanked them all for the good work they do. The Policy, and all roles, were re-appointed unanimously.

9. **Rector’s Report:** available separately on the church website. Matt gave a summary to the meeting.

10. **‘Deeper, closer and further’** – group discussions.

Deeper – Small groups, with about 6 people – could be Zoom or in-person. To allow people to have a discussion. Although the church is getting bigger we don’t want to lose the small family feel.

Closer – Bring back the Quiz! Small group events are needed so that we can get to know people better. Can we restart Café Church again – even at a different time, e.g. midweek summer evenings, or Sunday afternoons. Harvest lunch. Communion, is there a way of making it more sharing? Maybe dip wafers, or kneel as we did before and be handed a plate with bread and wine. Summer picnics was another idea, and easy to set up.

Further – The amazing work being done on the Tuesday sessions at the Village Hall. They are looking at getting more volunteering from attendees. There are a lot of people who enjoy playing Rummikub, maybe have a little Rummikub competition. It’s worked well as a collaboration between the Church with the Village Hall Committee. Could try ‘Messy Breakfast’ that would allow breakfast before the service, especially with families on Communion Sundays (and therefore Children’s Church).

11. **Questions/Feedback** – Sylvia said a huge thanks to everyone that helps with refreshments after church. All present thanked Sylvia for running the rota. Philip said how warmly he and Joy had been welcomed to the church. He stated the welcome at All Saints was second to none and how they felt they had come home.

12. **Any other business** – none

13. **Closing Devotions** – we concluded by saying the Grace together at 9.20pm.