

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting – Monday 18th March 2024, 7.30pm in Church

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

Present: Matt Trendall (Chair), Ian Corlett, Barny Daley, Amanda Kingston, Gloria Terrelonge, Paul Terrelonge, Carolyn Sanderson, Dawn Bromley, Sylvia Bennett, Jane Charman, Pat Sawyer, Rachel Morse, Ron Codrington, Sue Robertson and Brian Quentin.

Apologies: Philip Derbyshire and Joy Derbyshire. Jane Lee, Joan Ellis, David Sawyer, Alise Trendall, David Sawyer, Jacqueline Quentin, Rosie Neale and Pauline Webb.

1. **Opening devotions:** The meeting opened with readings from Psalm 46 and Mark 10 (13-16).
2. **Election of churchwardens:** Matt was delighted that Pat and Barny are willing to continue as church wardens. Matt thanked them both for their work throughout the year. Ian proposed them to continue and Rachel seconded and unanimously voted by all. This was followed by a round of applause as a way of thanks from all.
3. **Apologies:** see above.
4. **Minutes of 2023 ACM:** proposed by Wayne, seconded by Paul and these minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting nem. con..

5. **Reports:**

All Reports on the church website: <https://www.allsaintschurchmkvillage.co.uk/printable-leaflets/>

(a) **Church Warden's Report:** A big thank you to Sylvia for her continued support at the weekly services. Biggest areas to note; the work on the step was completed, the contractor was excellent. Cutting back of the yew trees to give more access on the path. Sound system to be replaced in 3 phases, phase 1 (replacement of speakers) is complete. Thanks to Brian for the mowing team, still looking for more volunteers. The walking groups have continued to call at the church, making a big contribution to the church funds. The Dorcas Group have made over 30 blankets, currently being sent to Ukraine.

For the coming year, they would like to complete the next phases of the sound system, and create a serving area for the back of church. The architectural review is also due this year, which is likely to lead to more work.

(b) **Treasurer's Report:** Ian gave a summary of the 2023 accounts. £2,702 came through the card reader, which we probably wouldn't have received in cash. We received grants from Broughton Trust and the Diocese. Wedding and Funerals brought in about the same as last year, as did the fundraisers. However, income was down, mainly due to a reduction in planned giving. Expenditure was also down, primarily due to a reduction in the Parish Share. There has been an increase in general bills and maintenance. Our cash in the bank remains around 6 months' worth of expenditure. The church porch worked out about costing zero, thanks to the donations and grants – only the soakaway represented an additional expense. Ian thanked everyone for their resources, not just money but time too. Special thanks to Pat for her support. Barny proposed and Ron seconded that the accounts were received – this was approved unanimously. Matt thanked Ian for his outstanding work on our behalf.

(c) **Electoral Roll:** Matt reported that church membership stands at 68 adults and 22 u18s – this compares to 71 and 22 last year. The adults identify as 38 Anglican and 26 non-Anglican (4 'not stated'). Our reported Electoral Roll is 43 (vs 47 in 2023 and 44 in 2022) – 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.

(d) **Brief summary of other church life in Walton and around MK:** Ruth Maxey will, going forward, spend half time of her time for Church Without Walls and half with Newport Pagnell. Unfortunately, this is going to cost more money, due to the way Ruth's post was set up (we've had a great deal for ten years, and will now be paying for Ruth in the normal way).

It looks like Ruth Gookey's work at Christ The King will remain reduced and the church will likely need more support from Matt and the Partnership this year.

Matt updated the meeting regarding the Deanery and Churches Together in MK – details can be found in the relevant report on the church website.

6. Elections and Appointments:

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

Virginia Kagunda (Prayer Steward)

Carolyn Sanderson (Worship and Council Rep)

Gloria Terrelonge (Worship & Weddings)

Amanda Kingston (Secretary & Special Events)

Wayne Webb & Paul Terrelonge (Building & Maintenance)

Dawn Bromley (Families/Children & Young People)

Ian Corlett (co-opted as Treasurer)

Sue Robertson will be joining as Community Steward.

Matt thanked Niki and Ayokunnu, who are stepping down, for their valued work and support. Sylvia proposed all roles and Pat seconded the votes. Everyone was in favour.

8. Safeguarding and re-appointment of Safeguarding Officer and Responsible Person.

The updated policy will be formally approved at the Partnership Annual Meeting at the end of April. Rachael Jenkins from Christ the King is our Safeguarding Officer, representing the whole Partnership. Sandra Mills is our Responsible Person, and Matt thanked them all for the good work they do. Matt commended the above report and personnel. Pat proposed and Gloria seconded, and the report, Rachael and Sandra were all approved unanimously.

9. **Rector's Report:** available separately on the church website. Matt took a lot of time of reflection before writing this report, but felt now was the time to acknowledge the challenges faced by the church. There are many positives and good news to report. Bell ringers, Tuesday Afternoon Tea, Epiphany Party, Christmas Fayre, Lent course and the Bishop visiting too. There are, however, challenges. We relaunched the Children's Church with great support, but have had limited numbers attending. There are large numbers of children in the communities, but we don't seem to be reaching them/their families as a church. The Children's Church Leaders have met and discussed whether it would be better to run it on a Saturday. A family service is also being mooted as an option. Amanda asked if we contacted children and their families on anniversaries of their baptisms etc. This is something that has slipped, Amanda said she would be happy to pick this up. It was also noted that we do have important contact via school assemblies for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Sue raised that the people in their 20's who've been attending regularly aren't being catered for. We have people coming from Cranfield University who may find it hard to get here and back. Matt asked whether there was a service in Cranfield and whether that's something we could provide. There are also a number of people whose first language isn't English and do we need to cater for them, i.e. having notices etc written as it may be easier to read English, than understand the spoken word. Carolyn talked about running other interest groups. There was a lot of discussion on other things to try and to consider. It was decided that these ideas would be taken forward and discussed in sub-groups.

10. **Any other business** – none

11. **Closing Devotions** – we concluded by saying closing Devotions: Compline together at 9.10pm.