

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting – Monday 24th March 2025, 8.00pm in Church

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

Present: Matt Trendall (Chair), Pat Sawyer, Ian Corlett, Julian Drury, Alison Drury, Cath Segers, Dawn Bromley, Rachel Morse, Dominique Elliott, Charles Robertson, Gloria Terrelonge, Paul Terrelonge, Sue Robertson, Ron Codrington, Teju Shobanjo, Sandra Mills, Carolyn Sanderson, Wayne Webb, and Pauline Webb.

Apologies: Barny Daley, Sylvia Bennett, David Sawyer, Philip Derbyshire, Joy Derbyshire. Joan Ellis, Beth Smith, Nick Mills and Alise Trendall.

1. **Opening devotions:** The meeting opened with a brief reflection from Matt on Ephesians 1:1-3.
2. **Election of churchwardens:** Pat and Barny are willing to continue as church wardens, which is great news. Matt thanked them both for their outstanding work – Barny has been churchwarden for three years and Pat for fourteen! Matt indicated that we will begin to look for a new churchwarden over this coming year, and asked for our prayers in this. Carolyn proposed their appointment, Wayne seconded and this was approved unanimously (and enthusiastically), and followed with a round of applause as a way of thanks from all.
3. **Apologies:** see above.
4. **Minutes of 2024 ACM:** one small amendment was noted – David’s apologies appeared twice! – with this amendment, it was proposed by Ian, seconded by Dawn that these minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting - approved nem. con..

5. **Reports:**

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

(a) **Church Warden’s Report:** Pat took us briefly through the diary of the year and the various repairs and improvements which had been made to the fabric. In particular, improvements to the sound system, fixing the water ingress to the vestry and the repair to a window mullion (at greatly reduced cost vs expectations) were noted. Pat thanked Sue for her work on the noticeboards, the mowing team and the high-level cleaning team. Our latest quinquennial Inspection took place on Friday – we await the report, but there will be a raft of work to do – we will plan how to address and finance this in the coming months. More news to follow in due course.

(b) **Treasurer’s Report:** Ian has produced a detailed report alongside the accounts. He gave a summary of the key findings: notably that overall we made a small surplus of £163, including both general and building funds. This was better than forecast, especially given the extra repairs which had been needed during the year. Wedding and funeral fees were similar to 2023, but planned giving had increased by about £3,000 (excl. Gift Aid) and service collections by more than £1,000. Pat and Barny had done sterling work managing our energy costs. Our forecast for 2025 (a small deficit) is similar to 2024’s forecast.

We await the findings of the Quinquennial Survey. There is currently about £7,000 in the Building Fund – we will likely need a planned fundraising effort to afford all that will need to be done.

Ian thanked everyone for their resources, not just money but time too. Special thanks to Pat for her support. Ron proposed and Pat seconded that the accounts were received – this was approved unanimously. Matt thanked Ian for his brilliant work on our behalf. Ian is willing to continue as treasurer, which is also great news: Matt proposed, Rachel seconded and Ian’s re-appointment for this year was approved unanimously.

(c) **Electoral Roll:** Matt updated the meeting that the full, 6-yearly renewal of the church membership (Electoral Roll) means that we are aiming to complete this by the Walton APCM on 30th April. Matt will issue a report available to church members once this process is complete.

(d) **Brief summary of other church life in Walton and around MK:** Matt reflected on the staff changes over the last year, both in our parish and in MK. It has been great to welcome Revs Alison and Ian onto the team. Generally our Partnership is in good health; we give thanks to God for this – may it continue!

6. Safeguarding updates

Events of the last few months have placed a stronger focus on safeguarding in churches. To this end, Matt updated the meeting that we have put two new initiatives in place: (1) we are appointing a dedicated Safeguarding Lead for All Saints – Beth Smith. Rachael Jenkins remains our Parish Safeguarding Officer, but covering four congregations is a big challenge. Beth will focus specifically on All Saints, supporting Rachael. As a teacher she brings a wealth of experience and has already done good work with our safeguarding for Children’s Church and Children’s Choir. (2) A new Safeguarding Leaflet informing people how to deal with concerns or disclosures. This leaflet has been approved for the whole Partnership, and will be circulated in the near future.

Matt is delighted that Beth has agreed to take on the role, and also that Sandra Mills continues as our Responsible Person and Ayokunnu Otunla as our DBS verifier. Paul proposed, and Gloria seconded that Beth, Sandra and Ayokunnu be appointed (or re-appointed) for the coming year, alongside Rachael as PSO – these were all approved unanimously.

The current policy had its major review last year, so remains unchanged for 2025. The full policy is available on the WCP website: <https://www.wcpmk.co.uk/safeguarding/> Dawn proposed and Rachel seconded that we receive this policy – approved unanimously.

7. Elections and Appointments:

There are some changes to our church Stewards Council for the coming year. Virginia Kagunda is stepping down, and three new people will be joining: Beth Smith (see above), Charles Robertson as WCP rep (alongside Carolyn) and Teju Shobanjo. The Stewards Council is therefore comprised of: Matt (Chair), Barny and Pat (Wardens), plus the following:

- Carolyn Sanderson (Worship and WCP Rep)
- Gloria Terrelonge (Worship & Weddings)
- Amanda Kingston (Secretary & Special Events)
- Wayne Webb & Paul Terrelonge (Building & Maintenance)
- Dawn Bromley (Families/Children & Young People)
- Sue Robertson (Community)
- Charles Robertson (WCP Rep)
- Teju Shobanjo (open brief currently)
- Ian Corlett (co-opted as Treasurer)

Matt thanked the whole team for their hard work and support. He also paid special thanks to two unsung heroes: Sylvia Bennett and Sandra Mills (our Tower Captain). Sandra updated the meeting on the newly trained bellringing team and also the improvements made to the bells. Cath proposed and Pauline seconded that this Council be appointed – approved unanimously.

8. Rector’s Report: available separately on the church website, alongside the other reports. Matt gave a brief summary: we have had an encouraging year. Our new vision is exciting – it taps into a deep sense of who we are already, but also gives us greater clarity for the future. A number of new things have started this year (with thanks to Rachel and the Children’s Choir team – Beth, Alison, Carolyn & Lydia; Sue for our welcome events; Rosie for the new choir practice; and Philip and Joy for Ponderings in the Pub) and we have welcomed more new people. Community life is growing, and faith, too – we have a full-immersion baptism planned for Sunday week, with at least two from All Saints (quite literally) taking the plunge. Café Church returns monthly April-Sept to help us engage further with the vision, at a sustainable pace.

9. Any other business – Matt advised the meeting that he is taking a sabbatical from 22nd August – 21st November this year. Rachel proposed a vote of thanks, and also thanked Gloria for her beautiful flower arrangements.

10. Closing Devotions – we concluded by offering thanks and prayer, and closed with the Grace at 9.08pm.