

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting – Monday 23rd March 2026, 7.30pm in Church

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

Present: Matt Trendall (Chair), Pat Sawyer, Barny Daley, Alison Drury, Julian Drury, Carolyn Sanderson, Rachel Morse, Beth Smith, Joan Ellis, Teju Shobanjo, Virginia Kagunda, Dominique Elliott, Cath Segers, Dawn Bromley, Rosie Neale, Wayne Webb, Gloria Terrelonge, Charles Robertson, Gill Farrow, Amanda Kingston.

Apologies: Ian Corlett, Paul Terrelonge, Pauline Webb, Sylvia Bennett.

1. **Opening devotions:** The meeting opened with Evening Prayer, incl. Psalm 46 and a reading from Matthew 21 (1-3, 8-13).
2. **Election of churchwardens:** Matt expressed his sincere thanks to Pat and Barny for their exceptional work, particularly during his sabbatical. Both confirmed their willingness to continue serving as churchwardens. They were proposed by Wayne, seconded by Dominique, and unanimously elected by the meeting. Matt then presented them with gifts, followed by a round of applause
3. **Apologies:** see above.
4. **Minutes of 2025 ACM:** proposed by Charles, seconded by Carolyn and these minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting nem. con..

5. **Reports:**

All Reports on the church website.

(a) Church Warden's Report: Barny reported that it was encouraging to see the congregation continuing to grow, which makes all the work feel worthwhile. He also noted the ongoing value of providing online worship for those who are unable to attend in person – alongside the weekly online service there is now a recording of Sunday's sermon in church (and other service material) posted on the website. Much of the maintenance effort this year has centred on the quinquennial review. Although the urgent issues were addressed earlier in the year, a substantial list of work remains, which will require significant fundraising. This has accounted for most of the team's time and expenditure.

Pat added that it had been hugely beneficial that Matt invested considerable time in establishing a strong team before his sabbatical, and she expressed her thanks. She also highlighted the excellent collaboration with the team at St Mary's.

In response to Julian's question regarding the cost of the remaining work, Barny confirmed the estimate to be around £30,000 in total, with around £20,000 of work remaining to be completed. The meeting discussed fundraising and agreed to progress this over the coming months, both to complete the essential work and to support additional improvements the church would like to pursue.

(b) Treasurer's Report: Ian reported that the church has had a positive financial year, ending with a surplus of £7,165 across general and unrestricted funds combined. A notable increase in giving during December contributed to this, along with an additional £1,700 received through the card reader in church. Donations via QR codes, the church website, and in-person giving also continued to support income. Weddings increased this year, while funeral numbers were lower.

The parish share has remained unchanged for the past few years, so the church should plan for this to rise in the future. Looking ahead to the 2026 budget, costs are expected to increase, but giving and Gift Aid income are also anticipated to grow.

Restricted funds continue to be supported by contributions from the Walkers Group, the Wreath Making event, and a grant from Broughton Trust. However, Matt noted that the recent QI work had largely emptied the building fund, so future work (see (a) above) will need a renewed round of fundraising and other giving.

Ian also advised that Manish, who has served as independent examiner for many years, has now stepped down. Philip Kendall has reviewed the accounts and will sign them off.

Ian expressed his warm thanks to everyone for their generosity and to Pat for handling the banking. The meeting also gave Ian a round of applause in recognition of his excellent work and the support he provides Matt.

(c) Electoral Roll: Matt reported that church membership stands at 79 adults and 31 associate members (7 adults & 24 u18s). The adults identify as 51 Anglican and 25 non-Anglican (1 ecumenical and 2 'not stated'). Our reported Electoral Roll is 56 (vs 50 In 2025 and 43 in 2024) – 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:

40 years of Walton were celebrated in October 2025. When the Partnership was created, the population of the parish – essentially the four villages of Wavendon, Walton, Broughton and Milton Keynes Village – was just 1,000 people. It is now approximately 45,000 and counting! That's an average of more than 1,000 new residents per year. Bishop Dave advised us recently that Walton Parish is now bigger than three of the deaneries in Buckinghamshire. The last year has been one of stability in the staff team and it's great to have Alison here. Rev Ruth is now part-time at Church Without Walls. Rev. Ian has been appointed as minister of Christ the King Community Church on a two-year contract, which could be renewed again at the end of 2027.

There has been growth at All Saints and at St Mary's. Christ the King is also increasing, after a difficult season. Church Without Walls has decreased but still doing well.

It is important that we continue to support and celebrate our wider church community. There are several children's and youth groups running across the parish, and this year 12 Lent groups were shared among the churches.

Across MK there are ongoing changes and reviews of LEPs, and several larger parishes are receiving new clergy appointments. Sincere thanks were expressed to Carolyn, who has served with distinction at the Deanery Leadership Team.

It was wonderful to welcome Bishop Dave in January and to hear about the plans for further investment in MK.

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

Beth has spent the past year covering the safeguarding role and it has been on a significant learning curve. She noted that the church makes excellent use of the various communication channels available, and at the heart of this is our commitment to following all safeguarding policies. Overall, we are up to date, with only a couple of DBS checks currently in progress. Leaflets have been distributed to the congregation, and safeguarding information has been included in the Children's Church newsletter. Safeguarding training is ongoing with the Children's Church leadership team, and all safeguarding documentation is held centrally. Matt expressed his appreciation for Beth's support and confirmed that she continues to be the safeguarding lead (and first contact) for All Saints. Rachael Jenkins remains the overall Parish Safeguarding Officer, with Sandra Mills (Responsible Adult) and Ayokunnu Otunla (DBS Verifier) also serving in their respective safeguarding roles. All were willing to stand again. They were proposed by Barny, seconded by Dominique, and unanimously approved.

The safeguarding policy for the Partnership is due to be updated next month. The current policy was proposed by Beth and seconded by Rachel, and unanimously approved.

Carolyn asked whether the safeguarding leaflets should be distributed again, and Beth agreed. Matt suggested this could be raised at another service, with further copies printed as needed.

7. **Elections and Appointments:**

Walton Churches Partnership (WCP) Clergy Team

Rev. Matt Trendall – Anglican Rector

Rev. Alison Drury – Anglican Curate

Rev. Ruth Maxey – URC Minister (lead minister for Church Without Walls)

Rev. Ian Pearce – Baptist Minister (lead minister for Christ the King)

Churchwardens:

Pat Sawyer

Barney Daley

All Saints Stewards' Council

Rector, Curate and Churchwardens (ex officio)

Ian Corlett (Treasurer, co-opted)

Amanda Kingston (Secretary)

Beth Smith (Safeguarding Lead)

Gloria Terrelonge and Teju Shobanjo – 'Inviting' Stewards

Carolyn Sanderson and Rachel Morse – 'Nourishing' Stewards

Dawn Bromley and Charles Robertson – 'Refreshing' Stewards

Rosie Neale and Dominique Elliott – 'Adventuring' Stewards

Safeguarding

Parish (WCP) Safeguarding Officer: Rachael Jenkins (member of Christ the King)

All Saints Safeguarding Lead: Beth Smith

DBS Verifier: Ayokunnu Otunla

Responsible Person (formerly Children's Advocate): Sandra Mills

Other Roles

Tower Captain: Sandra Mills

WCP Link Reps: Carolyn Sanderson and Charles Robertson

Deanery Synod Rep: Carolyn Sanderson (1 vacancy) To discuss at the next Steward's Meeting

Vacant Roles:

Second Deanery Synod Rep for All Saints (there are also two reps at St Mary's)

New: Health and Safety Officer – Matt believes this should be a separate role as the work is currently performed by Pat and Barney. Dominique explained she had previously been a Health and Safety officer and would be happy to consider the role, depending on the scope. It was agreed Dominique would discuss further with Pat and Barney.

Matt highlighted that several individuals have served as Stewards for many years, which has worked well. However, the increasing scope of church responsibilities has resulted in much longer Stewards meetings. It was agreed to introduce Stewards aligned to each area of the church's Vision, with each pair forming a team responsible for that aspect of church life. This structure will ensure appropriate focus on each area, encourage wider involvement, and help embed the Vision more effectively within the church. There will also be a new Maintenance Team. The Safeguarding role, Secretary, Treasurer, Church Wardens, Matt and Alison will remain standing members of the Council. All new roles have been independently proposed and seconded – details are available on a separate sheet.

Matt commended the proposal. Pat proposed the motion, Gloria seconded it, and it was carried unanimously. Wayne and Paul are stepping down from the Stewards and were thanked for their significant contribution, followed by a round of applause. They will remain in the Maintenance Team. Sue Robertson, who has made a considerable impact during her two years of service, is also stepping down, and the meeting expressed its thanks to her as well. Finally, Matt thanked all the many people who serve the church in their various roles – a long list!

8. **Rector's Report:** Matt reflected over three headings. Gratitude, In a culture of both rising anxiety and grievance, he is more convinced than ever that practising thankfulness is of supreme value. Encouragement, We are delighted to be growing, but a larger church means more opinions, potentially competing ones! Practising encouragement is a form of gratitude in action. Love, As our book and course this term has reminded us, the only definition of success according to Jesus is love. We can only judge ourselves by our capacity to love God, each other and the world. We continue to grow – average Sunday attendance is 74 so far this year!

Matt's personal reflection from the Sabbatical, is a huge thank you . His intention was to hit the ground walking and slow down. He had reflected a lot on what he can offer to this role, and his sense is that the three areas where his input is most valuable are around wisdom, discernment, and unity. These should therefore be where he will try to invest more of his time. Not always easy to do, but that's his aim. He was pleased not to resume all of his previous responsibilities on returning, as pastoral work has increased, particularly following the loss of Nick and Keith, as well as three members at St Mary's congregation. Matt emphasised the importance of continuing to turn the Vision into reality and acknowledged the need to speak about it more from the front so that it becomes fully embedded in the life of the church.

Matt ended by using the quote raised by Charles in the previous service, from King George VI's famous Christmas broadcast in 1939, 'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way". So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.'

The attendees of the ACM then shared, in small groups, recent highlights and their hopes for the future.

Matt then thanked Virginia for all her support in church and best of luck for her move to Wolverton in the next few months.

9. **Any other business** – none
10. **Closing Devotions** – We concluded by singing the All Saints Vision hymn, followed by the closing Devotions: Compline together at 9.00pm.