



Church of Christ the King, Kettering

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present at the meeting held in the worship area at the Church of Christ the King:

Reverend Sarah Bennett

Very Reverend Chris Dalliston

Reverend Jonathan Lee

and (according to the signed list of names) 83 church members:

Janice Angles, Ken Ansdell, Mary-Ann Ansdell, Steve Atkins, Hazel Barker, Matt Bell, Rachel Bell, Jonathan Bennett, Anushka Bewley, Andrew Bilney, Godfrey Bland, Bridget Booth, Jenny Brock, Ken Brock, Corinne Broughton, Robert Brown, Ziggy Brown, Andrew Bubeer, Hannah Bubeer, Rachel Bubeer, Sue Burdett, John Burdett, Pat Bussey, Andrew Buxton, Steven Candlin, Ady Carman, Mike Curtis, Val Curtis, Claire Dale, Matthew Dale, Sabina Davies, Jill Dore, Robert Dore, Doreen Dunn, Peter Dunn, Lisa Foley, Paul Foley, Daniel Foot, Katina Foot, Michael Gardner, Jo Hill, Steven Hill, Bec Holmes, Ruth James, Julie Kaye, Russell Kaye, Lowri Lane, Bridget Lawson, Jon Lawson, Maureen Liepins, Peter Liepins, Val Macdonald, Anne Marshall, Colin Marshall, Kathryn Martin, Julian Mitchell, Mandy Mitchell, Margaret Nix, Genevieve Oram, Kate Oxford, Mike Oxford, Lilian Payne, Rachel Pettit, Kate Reid, Mike Reid, Carol Robinson, Geoff Robinson, Karen Robinson, Mark Robinson, Carole Smith, Roger Tame, Mike Tatton, Sarah Tatton, Gavin Taylor, Curtis Thompson, Lennox Thomson, Louise Thomson, Rachael Watts, Adrian Weal, Gill Weal, Julia Welch, Stuart Welch, Glyn Wood

Welcome and Introduction

Steve Atkins and the Very Reverend Chris Dalliston (Dean of Peterborough) welcomed everyone to the APCM. They explained that Chris would chair certain items and general agreement was given to this arrangement.

Chris made the opening remarks, explaining that it was his role to ensure that all voices were heard in the meeting. He emphasised the importance of transparency and of being open and sharing and being conscious of the prayer of Christ that we be one. Chris said that he considered that his role at the APCM was also to ensure that the meeting went well, and that people prayed for one another, spoke in love, and did everything out of love. He reminded the meeting of the love of Christ and the purpose of Christ, and that we are to be witnesses of His resurrection and His purposes in the world. Chris explained that he would be the Presiding Officer for each part of the election process during the meeting.

Steve reminded people to sign in to denote their attendance and, on the appropriate sheet, to enter the names of people who sent apologies.

1. Prayer and Worship

There was a time of prayer and sung worship led by these members of the worship band: Matt Bell, Colin Marshall, Karen Robinson, Mark Robinson, and Stuart Welch, assisted by Steve Candlin (sound desk) and Nick West (*Easy Worship*). The songs were: 'Come let us worship our King' and 'Speak Jesus'.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Jo Batch, Rita Best, Clare Bilney, Priscilla Dodman, Steve Dodman, Merlyn Gray, Alan Headland, Mary Headland, Andy Hotchin, Diane Johnson, Phil Johnson, Helen Niemiec, Paul Niemiec, Mary Owen, Angela Prouse, Stewart Smith, Sonia Tame, Lynda Taylor, Sally Toward, Richard Walker, Ruth Walker, Chris Watts, Alison Wood.

3. Minutes of meeting on 15th May 2023

The draft minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 15th May 2023 were available to church members. No concerns were raised about accuracy or omissions. Peter Dunn proposed that the draft minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on

15th May 2023 and Julia Welch seconded this proposal. The proposal was agreed unanimously, and Steve Atkins duly signed the minutes.

4. Electoral Roll Report

Steve Atkins reported that the number on the Electoral Roll in 2023 was 326. This has decreased in 2024 to 312. 25 names have been removed. 24 of these people are known to have moved away or moved to different churches, or have asked to be removed from the Roll, and 1 has died. 11 people have joined the Electoral Roll this year.

Steve thanked Mandy Mitchell, the Parish Administrator, who is the Electoral Roll Officer.

5. Elections of Churchwardens (Annual Meeting of Parishioners)

Chris explained that people either whose names were on the Electoral Roll or who live in the Parish were entitled to vote. Chris asked if anyone wished to stand for the position of Churchwarden, in addition to the persons already nominated. There were no additional nominations. Votes were submitted and counted by Chris Dalliston and Jonathan Lee. Steve Atkins and Julia Welch were re-elected to serve as Churchwardens from 2024 to 2025. They were applauded.

6. Treasurers' Report

Copies of the *Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023* were available to church members. Kate and Mike Oxford (Treasurers) expressed thanks to the Bob Dore (previous Treasurer), Allan and Mary Jones, Peter Remini, the staff, the heads of ministry areas, Steve Dodman and Matt Bell (in connection with the building project), and those who give faithfully at the Church of Christ the King. Mike explained that in 2023 income was largely in balance with expenditure, and sufficient funds were raised to enable the annexe to be built but not completed internally.

Kate presented a summary of the accounts which had been approved by the independent examiner and the PCC. She gave details income and expenditure and explained that both income and expenditure were lower than budget. Kate said that giving in 2024 to date was lower than in the equivalent months in 2023 and in 2022. Fewer people were joining than leaving the regular giving scheme.

Mike explained that the funds raised for the building project amounted to £535,000 at the start of the year and then £130,000 more had been raised which enabled phase 1 and phase 2a of the project to be completed. £14,000 from the remaining funds will be needed to pay for the re-routing of the gas main. Another Gift Day will be arranged with the target of raising £75,000 in order to complete the electrics and plumbing in the annexe.

Questions were invited but none were raised, and Kate and Mike said that they were willing to be contacted if anyone had questions later.

Steve expressed his gratitude to Kate and Mike, and they were applauded.

7. Elections of Deanery Synod Representatives

Chris explained that there was a single candidate (Andrew Bubeer) for the Deanery Synod vacancy. Chris asked whether anyone else wished to be nominated and when no-one else sought nomination, Andrew Bubeer was duly appointed. The Deanery Synod representatives for 2024 to 2026 are Steve Atkins, Matt Bell, Andrew Bubeer, Ady Carman, Steven Hill, and Andy Hotchin.

8. Elections of Congregational Representatives

There were 16 people standing for a maximum of 11 places as Congregational Representatives. Chris Dalliston checked that everyone who wished to do so had submitted a vote. While Chris and Jonathan were counting the votes, there was a time of sung worship led by the worship band. The songs were: 'Cornerstone' and 'In Christ Alone'.

In due course Chris reported that these people were elected to the PCC as Congregational representatives: Andrew Bilney, Corinne Broughton, Steve Dodman, Russell Kaye, Kate Oxford, Mike Oxford, Karen Robinson, Mark Robinson, Adrian Weal and Stuart Welch. 2 other people were reported to have attracted the same number of votes and therefore the Biblical principle of drawing lots, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, was followed, and Diane Johnson was elected to the final place available on the PCC. These people will serve as Congregational representatives for 1 year.

Chris encouraged people to pray for the members of the PCC.

9. Associate Vicar and Lead Pastor's report

Sarah Bennett thanked all who were willing to stand for PCC, even if they had been unsuccessful. She quoted Psalm 33.22 'Let your steadfast love be upon us even as we trust in you' and said that she had spent a lot of time in Psalms in the past year. Sarah said that the year had been very difficult following the stepping back of the incumbent and the placement elsewhere of the intended curate. Despite the difficulties, Sarah considered that the church had done well. She quoted Micah 6.8 and emphasised the need to take the lead from God. Sarah acknowledged that everyone will have fallen short and explained that she had tried hard and that her efforts had taken a toll. Therefore, she said she would be taking a period of compassionate leave from 3rd June 2024. Sarah acknowledged that the current time was painful for the church, and she said that she felt sorry for those who are hurting. She referred to the 'one another' series of sermons and encouraged people to live out the 'one anothers'. Sarah said that she had missed seeing the Northern Lights recently and this reminded her that we can be blinded by distractions and miss seeing incredible things. She drew attention to God's good provision for the church in recent months in many ways, including:

- the variety of preachers and the number of people serving tirelessly behind the scenes. Sarah named Nadine Brown, Lee Dunleavy, and Jonathan Lee in particular.
- relationships – for example with Kingsley School, HOPE ministry, and the *Well-being Café*.
- financial provision in the form of the support for Nadine, funding for the building project and the outcome from the Gift Day.
- Partnerships – for example *Churches Together* held an event at Christ the King, Roger and Ingrid Hamlet are now mission partners, and the PCC held an 'Away Day'.
- Outreach opportunities via *The Source* events, *Well*, *Edge*, *MishMash*, Christmas events and the services of baptism.
- Answered prayer, the prayer meetings on Monday evenings, and prayer support for specific people.
- 20 years of service from Mandy Mitchell.
- The Churchwardens and Standing Committee.
- Servant-hearted people such as the *Love in Action* team

Sarah encouraged people to reflect on God's goodness and not to lose sight of this but to thank Him for all He provides. Sarah expressed thanks for each person and for the privilege to serve. She concluded by quoting from *Morning by Morning* by Pat Barrett.

Sarah received a standing ovation.

Sarah left the worship area and Steve stated that we have a remarkable associate vicar and lead pastor. He explained that he and Julia Welch had decided to organise a gift for Sarah as she takes compassionate leave, and he explained how others could contribute if they wished.

10. Safeguarding Report

Rachael Watts is now the Parish Safeguarding Officer for the Church of Christ the King, and she gave permission for her contribution to the APCM to be replicated in this document, as follows:

'I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Parish Safeguarding Officer here at Christ the King. I have recently taken over from Marshall who I know many of you will know and has moved onto pastures new in Anglesey with his wife Kelly. I would encourage you to read the full update from Marshall as to the last year with is included in the APCM report.

I have been part of this church for a number of years and for those who may not know, I am a Social Worker so Safeguarding is nothing exactly new to me!

As Parish Safeguarding Officer I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you the picture I have had. The picture has been vivid and consistent and I hope and pray that you will take this away and seek your own prayerful discernment as to its own personal meaning for you.

I would like you to imagine that our church family are all stood upon a piece of a vase. I say this with the deepest respect and compassion to all, but within my picture I see our vase as broken, with pieces laid out apart, and I believe this represents where we currently are as a church.

Some of our church family will identify themselves as being stood on an inner section of a piece of the broken vase; a distance whether near or far from the broken edge. It may cause a feeling of confusion, uncertainty, it may even feel like the changes to the vase are distant, odd, difficult to explain or quantify, albeit that it cannot be denied that change has occurred.

Some of our church family will be stood on the very edge of a piece of broken vase, at the sharp, raw edge and have a specific experience or account, those who capture this through their identification as victims and it is right that they have the right to identify themselves as this.

What I see in my picture is that God is calling us to be a piece of Kintsugi. For those who do not know what this is, this is a Japanese art; Kin meaning gold, and Tsugi meaning golden joinery. When pottery is broken, it is not discarded but through the use of gold the item becomes a new creation.

I believe this picture speaks to a number of points. I believe that God is calling us in this next season ahead to allow him to shape us. I believe that God wishes to be the potter, with the pieces of the vase joined together with God being the gold between the cracks. I believe that God is warning us that we should not to seek to mend the vase ourselves, devoid of him, only he knows what's next in store for the pieces of our vase. I believe God is also warning us to avoid seeking to mend the vase so it looks exactly like it did before, with the lines and fractures hidden as far as possible from view. I believe God, who being the ultimate Safeguarding Officer, is calling us to love and honour the accounts of those who have been hurt or harmed; he sees them and honours them, and so I would encourage us to be Christ like in our approach and to continue to pray for all those effected.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I wish to make clear my commitment to all, in order that we may honour God, our church family and our community together to create a safer church for all. I am passionate that we become a church with safeguarding practices visible and clear within everything we do so that all who come here feel safe within this church family. I hope and pray you will join with me in our collective duty to identify those in need of support, and seeking to protect those at risk, emulating the very nature of Jesus' ministry.

So it would be remiss of me not to mention that if you see anything that causes you to be concerned or worried about the safety or wellbeing of another, please do not hesitate to contact myself. My details if you need to contact me after include the Safeguarding mobile number and Safeguarding email address, both of which can be found on CTK weekly, or on one of the posters dotted around the building.

Rachael was thanked and applauded.

11. CTK Beyond These Walls Report

Steve Atkins expressed thanks to Steve Dodman and Matt Bell for their work in connection with *CTK Beyond these Walls*. He explained that Steve Dodman was unable to attend the meeting and therefore Matt Bell would provide feedback.

Matt explained that for tax purposes, the new building is known as an annexe - not an extension. He expressed gratitude to the diocese and to the archdeacon who oversees the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). Permission to start the building work was approved within 6 weeks which meant that work started on 17th September 2023, within the time limit of the existing planning application. Matt gave credit to *Mayway Construction Ltd* for the efficiency of their work and explained that *Cadent* would be on-site to re-lay the gas main in the near future. He explained that there had been some discussions with *Mayway* improving the parking arrangements on the site. Matt thanked God for the provision of funds to date and explained that Laura Burdett-Munns and Mike Oxford were working on grant funding. He thanked the building project group for their work.

Matt invited questions but none were raised.

He was thanked for his work and applauded.

12. Introduction to Eco Church

Julia Welch explained Eco Church is a project of A Rocha UK – a charity committed to mobilising Christians to care for nature. Completion of a questionnaire will help to evaluate how ecofriendly the church and the church site are. Sabina Davies has agreed to help with the completion of the questionnaire. Subsequently a score will be received, and consideration can be given to working towards a plan. Julia explained that Sabina had also agreed to continue as Data Protection Officer for the church, and she thanked Sabina.

13. Opportunity for Questions on Written Reports

Gill Weal asked if the meeting needed to approve the 2023 accounts. Steve explained that the rules require the PCC to approve them, which they have, and to present them to the APCM, as in Item 6.

14. Any other business

Steve thanked the people who made the meeting possible, including Nick West and Steve Candlin for visuals and sound, Val and Mike Curtis for refreshments, the worship band, Mandy for her work in the church office preparing the paperwork, the heads of ministry areas who wrote reports and others who did unseen tasks. Steve said that this was all part of serving the church family.

15. Prayer and conclusion

Chris thanked everyone and said that the meeting had bene conducted with courtesy. He reminded the meeting that if we place ourselves in the hand of our loving God, he proves trustworthy. Chris suggested that we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit and said that God yearns for fullness of life in His people, which allows hope in Him.

Steve thanked Chris for his preparation and delivery of the meeting. After singing 'The Blessing' the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.