



**Church of Christ the King,
Kettering
Annual Report 2025**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 12th May, 2025 – 7.30pm**

1. Prayer & Worship
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of APCM on 13th May 2024
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Associate Vicar and Lead Pastor's Report
6. Annual Meeting of Parishioners: Election of Churchwardens
7. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
8. Discussion and Decision on Lay Representatives' Term of Office
9. Election of Congregational Lay Representatives
10. Treasurer's Report
11. Safeguarding Report
12. *CtK: Beyond These Walls* Report
13. Opportunity for Questions on Written Reports
14. Any other business
15. Closing Prayer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." (1 John 4.7).

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col 3.17)

A huge **thank you** to every member of our church family for the way in which you have supported us and one another during 2024. It has been a difficult year for everyone, and yet we have seen God working amongst us and surrounding us with His love.

The on-going extended leave of our incumbent, and the continuing uncertainty and anxiety as a result, meant that 2024 was another challenging year for clergy, for staff, and for congregation members. We pray for Rob and his family and ask that we all keep them in our prayers. We are thankful for everyone who worked tirelessly to continue with ministry and volunteering so that God's work here could continue.

In particular, on behalf of the whole congregation, we thank Sarah for the way in which she has pastored our church family and taken on wider responsibility than was expected. Thank you also to Jonathan and their children for supporting her behind the scenes as she gave so much of her time to our church family and the community.

We are indebted to Revd Canon Brian Withington, who agreed to support us initially for five weeks and who, thankfully, is still journeying with us some nine months later. Brian's wisdom, calm and experience are such a blessing to us. Thank you also to his wife Jacky for her patience and understanding as he continues to serve here during his "retirement".

It was in 2024 that we said thank you and goodbye to several members of staff.

Kelly, our Youth Mission Leader left us in the spring to return to Wales for an exciting new role. Kelly had led the youth team and ministry for around two years and had encouraged our young people in putting their faith into action.

Mandy had been our Parish Administrator for around 21 years but stepped down in December. We are hugely grateful for Mandy and for the way in which she served and managed the details of the office for so many years. Her happy welcome, organisational skills, and knowledge are greatly missed.

Jo had led our Children's and Families work for around seven years, bringing joy and the gospel to children both in church and in the surrounding schools. We thank her for her enthusiasm, and passion for this work. Jo (and Mr. Sheepy!) are missed by adults and, of course, by the children.

Nadine had been here for two years as intern, however her dynamic personality and bubbly enthusiasm had meant that she was known and loved by many as she undertook ministry above and beyond a mere intern's role. Nadine is in her first year at Trinity, Bristol, training for ordination leading to full-time ministry.

We have also been hugely grateful to several members of clergy who ministered here amongst us before moving on to new posts elsewhere.

Revd Jonathan Lee served as Curate until September before moving to London as Associate Vicar, St Pancras Church, Euston Road, London. His calm presence, preaching, and wisdom were appreciated by all, as were his gentle pastoral nature. We well remember him getting stuck in sitting with the children telling Bible stories.

Revd Lee Dunleavy served as an ordinand on placement, leaving us in June to move to Saint Cyprian's Church in Nottingham as Curate. We are grateful to Lee for his in-depth preaching, and for all that he did to serve in often unseen but practical ways.

This annual Churchwardens' report is also an opportunity to thank everyone who has served on a voluntary basis. Thank you to everyone who leads a ministry area. We are particularly grateful to Andrew Bubeer, who had served here on an almost full-time basis as an "intern". The scope of Andrew's work was wide ranging, including preparing community news, preaching, youth work, and supporting staff with all things practical. We thank Andrew for sharing his passion for the gospel, and for his dry sense of humour which was always welcome.

The role of Churchwarden includes overseeing the practical side of the services; we thank our assistant wardens: Maureen Liepins, Ron and Jackie Sawford and Anne Marshall for their faithful support at services during 2024. We are very grateful for the team of friendly welcomers who greet everyone as they arrive at the church, and we thank everyone who has contributed to our services throughout the year. Thank you so much of you have helped with technology, reading, intercessions, leading worship, children's and youth groups, or serving tea and coffee. All of this and more makes up the work of this church family, **Thank you.**

The fabric of the church is often a cause of great concern for Churchwardens; however we are grateful that Andy Hotchin oversees the maintenance and cleaning of the building along with the fabric team of volunteers. We thank them all for looking after all aspects of the building, and we also thank everyone who volunteers to help with gardening, cleaning, maintenance mornings and car parking.

It has been a privilege to have served as Churchwardens here at Christ the King. Getting to know many of you better and serving together has been a joy. However in truth it has also been an incredibly difficult season that has taken its toll in several ways. Julia stepped back at the end of January 2025, and Steve will not be standing for re-election at the APCM in May 2025. In addition to those we have thanked at CtK, we also thank Bishop Debbie and Archdeacon Alison, alongside others at the diocese for their help and support during our time as Churchwardens.

As we look ahead, it is time more than ever for us to follow God's leading. We earnestly pray for discernment and wisdom in the selection of new Churchwardens at the 2025 APCM, and for the future of God's kingdom here at CtK. Let us continue to love one another, and to be united in prayerfully encouraging one another on our adventure with Jesus.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Is 43.18)

Steve Atkins & Julia Welch

PCC AND CHURCH MANAGEMENT

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4.2-3)

What is the PCC?

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) is the central, decision-making, governing body of the church. PCC members are Charity Trustees, a role that entails responsibilities under charity law.

Its chief function is to "collaborate with the incumbent, consulting and co-operating on matters of general concern and importance to the parish".

Who serves on the PCC?

Clergy licensed to the parish plus the two annually elected Churchwardens are automatically members "ex-officio". Others are elected lay members, including: 6 representatives to Deanery Synod; 11 (2024) from the Congregation. The Deanery Synod reps were elected for 3 years, i.e. 2023-26. The lay congregational reps have, in recent years, been elected annually; this pattern is due for review at the 2025 APCM. Elections at the 2024 APCM generated a productive balance of continuing and newly elected members, as listed elsewhere, with people who have been in the church a long time, to those who are newer.

What are its main functions?

The PCC's remit includes: the maintenance and repair of the church; overall charge of expenditure, with the Treasurers; spiritual and practical mission of the church, oversight of the various groups that report directly to it: finance team, the Building Project Group and a Fabric Team, plus various ministry areas. As the Charity Trustees PCC is responsible for the employment, overall care and well-being of any lay employees. PCC reviews and approves policies, protocols and the like. An abundance of policies was drafted, edited and proofread, and redrafted during the year, culminating in PCC approval. In addition, there is an elected Standing Committee, a group that transact PCC business between meetings, manage our employed staff, and set a strategic direction for PCC, including meeting agendas. This comprises Clergy, Churchwardens and at least another two other members elected from within PCC.

What happened in 2024?

The on-going extended leave of our incumbent naturally led to a level of uneasiness, anxiety and trauma across many parts of the church. The whole PCC, and sometimes specific subsections of it, invested much time in meetings, including with Rob, Bishop Debbie, Archdeacon Alison, and a mediator from outwith the diocese. The calendar year's ending saw us approach a way forward.

PCC meetings are preceded by and then begun in prayer and worship. This enables us to prioritise hearing God's voice, discerning his guidance and his will. As previously noted, we are regularly reminded of words from the opening of Psalm 127 "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain". The year also saw some financial challenges (details elsewhere), nonetheless we remain grateful to God to all those who gave to the church sacrificially, both financially and via other resources and myriad, often hidden, forms of service. Around the end of 2024, a handful of members stepped back from the PCC or indicated their intention to do early in 2025. Each of these had displayed huge commitment, offering faithful service in key areas of church life.

As featured in the Churchwardens' Report, we have also seen some long-serving and some temporary staff leave CtK, for myriad reasons. Their dedication over the year reminds me that "we can do all this through Him who gives us strength" (after Philippians 4.13) as we seek move on under the instruction to "act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6.8).

*Steve Atkins
PCC Vice-Chair*

FABRIC TEAM

This team exists primarily to help with the many practical aspects of church governance.

We currently have eight members: Ken Ansdell, Jonathan Bennett, Ady Carman, Andy Hotchin (chair), Peter Liepins, Phil Johnson, Roger Tame and Graham Waghorn. Special thanks to others who have played valuable parts in the team through the last 12 months, including Julia Welch and Mary Owen.

The team meets bi-monthly to plan as well as meeting ad hoc to do practical tasks, operating within the Terms of Reference agreed by PCC.

During 2024, in addition to lots of general maintenance of the building and grounds, the following actions have also been taken:

- all guttering has been checked and cleaned and repaired if necessary
- work has continued in the grass area alongside the drive. A drainage pipe has been installed. An Ecodeck grid system has been supplied, with a generous donation from within the congregation. Once the work is completed, the grass area should be fully accessible again for parking throughout the year without risk of getting stuck or bogged down during wet weather
- lighting in the Worship Area has been upgraded to LED
- Policies were checked and updated as needed
- We held three half-day maintenance and cleaning sessions and are very grateful to everyone who came along and joined in. During these times we were able to do some deep cleaning and maintenance
- Room 1/staff office and the main office have been fully redecorated and recarpeted

We do need to appoint someone to the voluntary role of a Housekeeper.

Special thanks go to our diligent team of volunteer cleaners, who together ensure that the building is kept clean for everyone to enjoy. There is always room for more volunteers in this important area of ministry.

If you would like to know more or could help with keeping our grounds and building looking lovely, then please contact me by email on facilities@ctk.org.uk. Thank you.

Andy Hotchin

SAFEGUARDING

There has been a lot going on this year in respect of Safeguarding, both from a whole church experience, as well as in my own role as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).

I'll start by reflecting on my experience as PSO. When I took up this role last year, I entered it passionate about trying to do as much as I could, bringing my experience as a qualified and practising Social Worker, to help the church in a really difficult time. I have been passionate about increasing the accessibility of the safeguarding processes and approaches we take within the church, with the belief that accessibility to safeguarding guidelines, knowledge and approaches will only seek to strengthen and maximise the likelihood of everyone singing from the same hymn sheet (no pun intended!). One of my first tasks upon taking the role was to update the Safeguarding Policy and Documentation as required each year to be presented to the PCC. I, along with the devotion of a PCC Working Group, saw the review, revision and renew of the Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Concern Reporting Form, which was formally adopted and approved last year. On this note, I want to mention a special thanks to Stephen Hill, Julia Welch, Andy Hotchin and Andy Bilney who were passionately invested in walking alongside me whilst I undertook this update, providing invaluable feedback and input. If you haven't already read or seen the updated documentation this is my shameless plug for you to do so. I am still looking at how we can continue to make using these documents and information ever more accessible, but that's a whole other paragraph for another report (maybe next year's APCM update!).

I will not take up much time to discuss the last few years the church has experienced in respect of safeguarding culture, but note this has firmly brought it fully into the forefront of the church's life and mind and in a way I hope to retain. Please do not misread this; I do not wish for those who have been harmed, victimised or traumatised to remain in those places. My hope however is that Safeguarding doesn't become seen through the lens of this being a seasonal issue,; it needs to be for life. This is what I wish us to hold onto from this experience, taking the steps to heal, in whatever way and in whatever time is right for each individual, as well as the church family as a body.

Looking ahead, how do we create safe community not just in policy but in practice? This is very much well on its way with the DBS checks that Adrian Weal is diligently organising and providing oversight of, and for this I would like to directly thank him for his attention to detail and tireless work to ensure that volunteers and staff remain appropriately vetted. Within the last year, there has been a significant landscape change in terms of the groups and activities that were running in the church for children and adults, a number of which no longer exist. This presents an opportunity for new activities or groups to be developed and grown, and this will be something that, as PSO, I will be seeking to help shape and mould again by looking at how these spaces and experiences can be as safe as possible. I am also eager to broaden our views of Safeguarding beyond the occasions where allegations of abuse or harm are raised, but also to the proactive and protective capacity within good Safeguarding practices.

I'm still trying to discern what this could look like for the church, but I have some ideas which I will be consulting with the PCC around, but most importantly God, being the ultimate safeguarding officer, who knows the plan for the best way forward.

Rachael Watts

WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

"All worship, unless it is just entertainment, is sacred because it is an offering to God." — C.S. Lewis

Worship lies at the heart of our life together as a church. Through song and silence, sound and stillness, we offer our hearts to God and allow His Spirit to move among us. This past year has brought many challenges, yet through it all, the worship ministry has continued to lead our congregation—whether gathered or scattered—in sung worship, week by week.

We begin this report by offering heartfelt thanks to all those who serve faithfully within our worship teams. Their service—often unseen—involves many hours of preparation, practice, set-up and pack-down. Our musicians and singers lead us with dedication. We also recognise the essential contribution of our sound team, without whom our music would not be heard; the visuals team, who enable the words of worship to be seen and shared; and the VMix team, who ensure that those worshipping from home are included in our gathered praise. Every member of these teams plays a vital part in helping us draw near to God together, and we thank each one sincerely for their offering.

This year has not been without cost. We have been a team navigating stormy waters—some among us stepping back due to personal or family health challenges, others choosing to pause in light of the difficult season the church has gone through. Even in this time of uncertainty, we have been upheld. God has graciously provided, including the welcome addition of new team members. We thank them for their willingness to step in and serve.

We also give thanks for the continued life of our inclusive MishMash service, which remains a space where people of all needs and all ages can encounter God in a creative and invitational setting. This could not happen without a large and committed team behind the scenes, and we want to honour their efforts in creating a space of worshipful welcome for all.

We have continued to provide musical worship each week, even as the number of services has been temporarily reduced. Though we may, at first glance, view this as a setback, we believe that God is at work even in the stripping back. It is a time of preparation. We take encouragement from the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43.19)

We pray that, in this quieter season, God is preparing us for a renewed outpouring of worship in the days to come.

We must also name some ongoing challenges. The lack of midweek practice time affects not only our ability to learn new songs but also removes a valuable time of fellowship and shared spiritual formation. Rehearsing immediately before a service adds pressure and reduces the joy and creativity that flow more freely when there is time and space to prepare well together.

The sound team has been working to give greater consistency to our live stream sound, which remains a challenge given the different make-up of our bands week to week. Steps have been taken to improve the signal to the projectors from the visuals laptop to give a better-quality image, and we are continuing to work on the wired and wireless network around the church building.

The vMix desk continues to run well with few issues, helped by the stability of a settled team over the past year. We were sorry to lose James Handley from the VMix and EasyWorship teams in February, which leaves the rota currently in the hands of Graham Waghorn, Reuben Bell, and Nick West, with occasional support from Matt Bell when needed. We are also grateful that Fiona Muir has been sitting with the team on some Sundays, with a view to joining the rota when she feels ready.

Since February, and for the foreseeable future, the livestream no longer goes out as a public stream. Anyone who wishes to watch the service live must now be added to an email group which receives a private invitation link each week. This ensures continued access for those unable to attend in person, while responding to current church needs.

We are deeply grateful for those who have carried the extra weight of leadership within the Worship Focus Team this year—particularly Nick West for leading the vMix team and Steve Underwood the sound team. Special thanks go to Fiona Muir, who has taken on responsibility for the rotas for the visuals and sound desk, serving with both efficiency and care.

We have also been pleased to welcome Anthony Sutton to the sound and visuals teams, and Nicky Sutton to the worship bands. We want to express our gratitude to those who have stepped back from the visuals team this year, or who are taking a pause after a period of faithful service: Gideon Borbor, Wesley Thomas, Jessica Cox and James Handley.

Looking ahead, we are aware that there are gaps across all of our teams—musicians, visuals, sound, and vMix. We need more hands and hearts to help carry the work forward. Musicians who wish to join the team should be proficient on their instrument, but for all other roles, full training is offered. Truly, many hands make light work, and we ask all members of the congregation to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling them to serve. As the Apostle Paul reminds us:

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12.27)

Each of us has a part to play in enabling the body of our church to function in fullness and health.

To everyone who has been involved in the worship ministry of Christ the King in this past year, we extend our warmest thanks. Your service matters. Your offering is seen. We look forward in hope to all that God will do in the season ahead, as we continue to worship Him with all our hearts, voices, and lives.

Ziggy Brown

CtK:BEYOND THESE WALLS

Our vision is to build deeper relationships and stronger communities that serve people more effectively by improving and extending our church building.

We will do this by creating:

- Bigger Space - for growing activity
- More Space - for more activities
- Welcome Space - for hospitality and welcome
- Utility Space - for necessary activity

You can't miss the annexe, sitting, as intended, in full view of everyone coming up the drive – locked and a little bit lonely – but didn't it make a difference when the fencing came down?! Our contractor, Mayway Construction Ltd, completed their final snagging at the end of February and all payments to them are up to date. They are ready and waiting to pick up the work as soon as we give them the word.

We need around £230,000 to be able to bring it fully into use as envisioned. This figure can be split into smaller amounts in order to make it less daunting – but the bottom line can't be ignored. If we raised £120,000, we could carry out enough of the remaining work to allow us to use the annexe in a limited way – for meetings and informal gatherings. Thank you to those who have continued faithfully to support the project which has allowed us to undertake some of the internal decoration. So far in 2025, giving to the project, including gift aid is just over £8,000.

We will have a Gift Day soon where we hope to raise enough money to move the project along after a year where we have only made small steps. Please be in prayer about the part you might play in supporting the project. Wouldn't it be great to see the annexe finished and open for business ...?

God has brought us this far and we continue to trust that he will help us to bring it to successful completion.

Steve Dodman

CtK: Beyond These Walls Project Team Co-ordinator

April 2025

HOPE (MINISTRY TO OLDER PEOPLE)

Hope activities have continued this year and we have engaged with over 70 of our older members in the community with the support of all my amazing volunteers, for whom I thank God.

Friendship Club meets on a Tuesday afternoon for an hour and a half. The group is small but dedicated and we average 10 each week. Our members love coming together to catch up and chat and, of course, enjoy their teas and cakes. This year we are starting to invite speakers from church to come and chat for 15 minutes. This will be once a month, and we are starting in May 2025 with Roger Tame playing some tunes for VE Day. Thanks to Joan, Jill and Peter for continuing to serve in this group.

Luncheon Club meets on the second Tuesday each month for a delicious four-course meal and entertainment. We average 45 members each month and we are regularly getting new people coming along. Our kitchen team is wonderfully headed up by Mary and there are lots of volunteers to help things go smoothly. Thank you all. We do need more drivers though, so please consider if you could be available for half an hour either side of the lunch.

We have had some fantastic singers and groups this year and we always remember our former members who have sadly passed away that year in our November Remembrance Lunch.

Day Trips happen once a year in August. Last year we had the most fantastic trip to the National Arboretum in Alrewas. In order to fill the coach, we reached out to the wider church and the community and from that we have two new regular attendees to Luncheon Club. This year we will be going to Springfields in Spalding. Anyone is welcome to attend. More details will be on the church notices.

Sue Hare

INCLUSION

Christ the King, has experienced a challenging year, but our love for everyone and our effort to reach out has not dwindled. We have continued to be blessed having Sarah leading our church during this time and her commitment to inclusion remained steadfast. There is a place for all of us to serve our loving God, as one body, and over the last year we have seen several people flourish and take on serving roles. Our MishMash team is a great example of this; we have welcome new team members, as well as saying goodbye to Lilian after 10 faithful years of service.

Inclusion Sunday and the celebration of 10 years of Mishmash took place. This was a fantastic day where members of the MishMash team were also able to be involved and the congregation got to see the sensory room set up. We have added signs to the doors of the toilets that are also have the symbols that aid understanding for all.

The sensory resource box remains at the back of the church for anyone who could do with a fiddle aid, or ear defenders during the service. This has recently been restocked. Please just ask if you need help to locate this.

Finally, we are a community, and in times when people feel overwhelmed, anxious, or alone, we need to reach out with compassion to those around us. If you have any needs or require assistance to access our activities, or if you just need someone to listen, please get in touch.

God Bless,

Di Johnson dianesmile123@hotmail.com

MISHMASH

Most of you in our Church family will know that Mishmash is a service for children and young people with additional needs and their families.

We continue to be a monthly service and our dedicated team provide a place where families can experience God's Love, acceptance and grace through worship and prayers, crafts, fun, food and fellowship.

Over the last twelve months we have seen a few changes in our leadership team as more of our founding members Lilian Payne, Margaret Nix and Claire Dale have stepped down from serving with in Mishmash.

As a team we are thankful for all their innovation, driving force and passion for our church to be inclusive and for starting and developing Mishmash.

The team also embraces the opportunity and challenge of continuing to serve our Father, our Church and Mishmash families. Our Faithful God continues to bless us as a service providing all our financial and team needs.

In July 2024 we acknowledged our 10th Anniversary celebration with a service and special tea. It was wonderful to see so many of our past families and team members return and join us.

Also in July 2024 Diane Johnson other team members and Ctk service leaders held an Inclusion day where we shared with everyone ways to improve accessible spaces for all where God's Love and message can be heard by everyone. One simple idea that was implemented on that day was inclusive signage which is still in use on a daily basis around our church.

With the help of our newest team members we have doubled our distribution of leaflets and posters in the community sharing the Good News of Mishmash and bringing into our service several new families.

I'm delighted to say we now have around 15 families who regularly attend our Mishmash service.

In order to reach out to more people in the community, we will be showcasing Mishmash at this year's Enfest day In May and providing support to Diane Johnson and Enfold.

Another area that we are developing is our prayer ministry team; we currently offer support and prayers during each monthly service and we are working on meeting regularly to pray for our families between each service.

Thank you for your continued support for Mishmash.

Please pray for our service and team members as we continue to show Gods love and acceptance to Our Mishmash families.

Kate Reid

(On behalf of Ann Marshall and all the Mishmash Team)

KINGSMAN MEN'S MINISTRY

The last 12 months have seen us continue with a similar pattern of activities mostly consisting of a monthly Saturday morning breakfasts and a Monday Snooker evening, which really seem to be appreciated by all who attend. We would love to see new men joining in with our men's programme, and more activities to be re-established. Whether you have never been, or not been for a long time, it would be great to see you.

In February I announced at the men's breakfast that I have been giving prayerful consideration to standing down as Men's Ministry leader, in the hope that a younger man might take the helm. Hopefully, this would encourage a wider age range of men to become more involved and bring new fresh ideas for activities. In the absence of an obvious successor, I am happy to continue in the role and would be happy to work alongside a new ministry leader should one step forward.

Last month I encouraged the men to complete quick survey to assess the interest for a 'Men's Life Group' type of meeting for study, prayer, and support – either online or in person. We are still evaluating and awaiting more feedback before deciding what happens in that regard.

Edge Update

The Edge men's group continues to meet each 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month with the aim of bringing men who are exploring the Christian faith or who are on the 'edge' of church into fellowship with other Christian men to discuss a variety of faith-based topics. Whether they are new to faith, looking to reconnect or want to explore the foundations in a fresh way, we encourage honest conversation, with practical teaching and genuine connection.

Just after Easter we started a new Edge Alpha series and are hopeful that more men will come into new relationship with Jesus as a result of this.

Andy Hotchin/Nick West

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

The Mission Support Group is tasked by the PCC with managing Ctk's giving to missions work outside the parish. We also aim to promote practical and prayerful support of our mission partners and encourage global missions' engagement among the congregation.

We commit 10% of our received giving to our Mission Partners. Unfortunately, due to the reduction in giving during last year, this has impacted the planned gifts for 2025. We provided notice of this to our partners in November with PCC's support. We hope that recovery in the Church's finances this year will go some way to restoring the level of support we can provide in 2026.

Current Partners:

Roger and Ingrid Hamlet became new mission partners at the start of 2024 as part of the Baptist Mission Society (BMS). Over 2024 they have been undertaking training both here and in France ahead of moving out to Chad early in January. They have joined Guinebor II hospital in the capital, N'Djamena, where they have been setting up a Prosthetics and Orthotics department to complement the existing Orthopaedic work and physio department. Chad is second bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index, with an estimated 25,000 people per 1 qualified doctor. Chad is majority Muslim, with a Christian minority in the south.

Rick & Janette Brown work with Agapé France and live in Paris. Agapé is an international evangelical mission. Rick is director of Agapé Famille, a couples' and families' ministry. Janette is head of operations, finance and human resources for Agapé France.

Stewart & Michelle Ayling work with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Arusha, Tanzania. Stewart is the Programme Manager in Arusha, and the International Dangerous Goods advisor. He advises on the transportation of "dangerous" cargo by air, which can include things such as medical equipment. MAF uses aviation to transform the lives of the world's most isolated people in need, enabling thousands of aid, relief and mission projects in remote areas.

The Moldova Charity Mission for the Disabled is a locally run charity which aims to bring God's love to children who have additional needs and their families. It was founded by Petru and Antonina Chirica; their daughter Doina now runs the charity. They are in the process of renovating a new building to expand and replace the current day care centre. Over the last couple of years they have been working closely with Ukrainian refugees who have relocated to Moldova.

Phil & Carolina Rout work with Latin Link in Anapolis, Brazil. They live on the campus of a Theological Seminary called SETECEB, where Phil is a lecturer. Many of the students go on to be pastors serving the church in Brazil.

We also support **Tearfund, Open Doors, CPAS and Evangelical Alliance.**

Part of our role is to ensure a good connection between our partners and the Church family. Phil Rout joined us in September to preach at a service, and several of our partners visited during the year. We are providing updates in the "Weekly" newsheet for each partner. We will restart active meetings as a team after Easter 2025 and consider how best to engage further this year.

The current membership of the Mission Support Group includes: Yo Perkins (Hamlets), Anne Marshall (Browns), Peter Dunn (Tearfund and Open Doors), Gill Weal (Aylings), Andrew Buxton (Routs) and Mike Oxford (Moldova). The link person keeps in contact with our partners and bring updates and where necessary requests for help and prayers to the Church.

We would value one additional member to work with us as link partner for one of our missionaries. If you are interested in joining, please contact one of us!

Mike Oxford & Yo Perkins

LOVE IN ACTION

Thank you to all our team; we are ever grateful for fresh ideas and appreciate the varied contribution made by each member of the team.

Throughout the year we have continued to help many who have needed a blessing/visit/emergency help of food/lift to appointment.

Our Christmas initiative of Nominate a Need resulted in nearly 20 gifts of varying values totalling just over £700 , following people's nominations.

Thank you so much for all the donations that made these wonderful giftings possible within the church family and the community. Everything Love in Action does throughout the year is funded by your donations: we do not receive anything from church funds. Indeed, we thank all those who continue to give off their time, efforts and money. Without all these valued gifts we could not do what is done in the name of our God and our church.

The Wellbeing Cafe continues to thrive. We meet weekly with church and non-church members, averaging 20 in a warm, informal and supportive atmosphere. Craft activities and non-threatening quizzes continue to be popular. Again, thank you to the various folk who contribute to making Wednesday afternoon sessions run seamlessly. Many ladies continue to knit squares and completed blankets have been dispatched for Moldova and Bangsang.

We are all called to serve - If you feel you would like to know more, or maybe want to help in the future, PLEASE join us on Mon 19th May @ 9.30am. We would love to have more volunteers.

Val Macdonald, Carol Robinson and Gill Weal

PASTORAL PRAYER MINISTRY

Pastoral prayer ministry is available at Ctk for people who may need more time or greater privacy than is possible at one of our church services.

It is arranged at mutually agreed times and places in order to create a safe place to receive in prayer.

It is a privilege to serve God in this way.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is one of those things that goes on in church very much behind the scenes. It is usually thought of as visiting people, possibly more than once, who are going through difficult times, sickness, bereavement, unemployment, relationship problems. It's also about helping people see that God is in their situation with them, that they are not alone. Since the last APCM, we've had Jonathan Lee depart for his new parish and Sarah Bennett step back for a while. Both helped people who needed pastoral care. Alongside them we've had Brian Withington walking alongside us, helping out. Besides clergy, we are fortunate to have a number of retired clergy who have helped too. But pastoral care is not just down to the clergy; it's down to all of us. Love in Action plays a big part and is usually the first port of call, for those in our church community and those outside of it. Life group leaders also play a big part, listening and helping those in their groups. There are also numerous others who help out – you know who you are – thank you. Please remember, if you or someone you know needs help or support you can get in touch through the office, Love in Action, the email pastoral@ctk.org.uk or fill in a pastoral care request form (at the back of the worship area). Thank you to everyone who helps look after others. God bless. (Luke 10.25 – 37)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WEFT

Members have continued to see friendships grow over the last year.

Weft members have enjoyed creating lots of different crafts including putting together wooden kits and painting interesting designs on them. Once again one of members' favourites is silk painting and creating beautiful cards. I have tried to include different activities over the year including a film afternoon and quizzes, which were really fun.

Many of our members have had challenging health issues over the years for themselves and family members, but members have continued to make the group a priority where possible.

At the end of each afternoon we continue to have a thought for the day and pray for each other and the situations that are on our hearts.

THE HAVEN (formerly Manna)

In March 2025 we decided to change our name to reflect the changes in our group.

We now meet in each other's homes and take it in turns to host. We were very pleased to welcome a new member to our friendly group.

We are currently looking at The Promises of God and following the Bible study notes that go with the study. Over the months each member has the opportunity to lead the week's study and we all join in an often-lively discussion about the week's subject. We also pray together and for each other at the end of the morning.

We look forward to many more women joining us at both Weft and The Haven, bringing fresh skills, experience and inspiration.

THE SOURCE

It was decided by our team not to hold a meeting last autumn. We very much hope that over the coming months, as we seek our Lord, that we can see a way forward to planning an autumn meeting this year.

May our Lord Jesus bless you as you seek Him in your daily walk with God.

Carole Smith

Women's Ministry Lead.

WELL

Our Women's **WELL** group at Christ the King continues to flourish as we approach our third year this September. We are delighted to see new ladies joining us, enriching our fellowship and deepening our collective journey of faith.

WELL meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month during term time, offering women an informal, friendly, and welcoming space to explore Christianity, learn from the Bible, and live life well. Our gatherings last an hour and a half in the evening, where we reflect on a theme or topic from the Bible. This is an open group, and you are free to come along whenever you feel prompted to join us. Some women no longer attend WELL as it served as a stepping stone, igniting their Christian faith and leading them back to church, which is a wonderful testament to its impact.

Zoe Martin and I share the leadership of **WELL**, taking turns to lead our sessions. Each meeting begins with a song of praise and concludes with prayer. We aim to create a spiritually uplifting experience for all.

Last term, our sessions were inspired by the book *Miracle Hour* by Linda Schubert, which guided us through themes such as the power of praise, spiritual warfare, repentance, forgiveness, and prayer. In January, some of our members also had the opportunity to attend a retreat at Launde Abbey, deepening their faith through reflection and worship.

This term, we have been exploring topics ranging from "God's Plan for Us" to "Love and Loving Our Enemies." We are particularly excited to celebrate the faith milestones of our members—last year, one of our ladies was baptised, and another successfully read the entire Bible in a year! This year, we look forward to witnessing another baptism within our group.

Being part of this ministry is truly a blessing. It is a privilege to share our Christian faith, speak biblical truth, and demonstrate love and support to our sisters in Christ. We encourage all women to join us in this journey of faith, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Vicky Thompson

YOUTH MINISTRY

Friday Night: The Youth Space

What a privilege it has been to be a part of Friday Night Youth for another year. Chris and I have now been doing this for around 16 years and no, we are still not tired of doing it yet! Although we are writing this report, we are by no means any more important than the other four members of the team who make up the Friday Night Youth Volunteers. So firstly, I want to thank Jon, B, Laura and Gavin, all who have given up many of their Friday Nights after long weeks at work to ensure that whilst things have looked uncertain in other areas of the Church, the Friday Night Youth Work has continued. For this I know all the teenagers who attend are very grateful and appreciative, even though we may not see it in their capacity to clean up their rubbish! We routinely have 30-40 young people attend every Friday Night and we were truly blessed within recent weeks to have even made it to 48 young people on one night. Of these 30-40 young people, five young people are known to have a connection to church, primarily due to family connection or being members of this church. This means a staggering 35 young people are from the community with no link to the church but who come week in, week out, because they feel comfortable, welcomed and at home in this space. We are big believers of the transformative impact this can have on young people simply being comfortable in a Church space and you never know what doors this may open, now or later in life. As leaders we have also had naturally occurring and welcomed conversations around faith which shows our young people's awareness of the volunteers' faith although it isn't overtly spoken of or preached. We have had the blessing of celebrating in our young people's successes and achievements, as well as being a safe person for some young people to share difficult or traumatic experiences where they hadn't shared this with anyone else. The blessing and privilege of being a volunteer in this space is too much to sum up in a paragraph so another shameless plug from us - if you want to come and experience this first hand, if even for a taster session to see if this is something you would want to become involved, in then please do reach out!

Looking ahead we are hoping to continue to provide our young people with a safe space at the church as well as give them opportunities like event nights (Water Fight Night and Lazermaze trip to name the two big winners) recognising the impact this has on creating lasting memories for our young people regardless of what home, school or community life they come from.

Youth Life Group (Sunday Nights)

As a team it has been a real pleasure and joy to continue the Youth Life group since Kelly left last year. God has really blessed our work; and the youth life group has grown from three young people to around 10-14 young people who attend on a regular basis to have fun, fellowship and food (both spiritually and physically). Our team has also grown from two to five people. It has been fantastic and a real joy with the support and commitment of both the young people and their families in continuing to attend and support the life group despite no longer having a Sunday evening service.

As with the previous year, we have had to adapt to changes as the group grows and decided to bring the themes of each week in line with the main sermon series with a focus on "how to apply this to my life". This has naturally allowed a focus on having an "authentic" Jesus heart, and how this looks at school, home and in life.

In other exciting news, there is becoming a real need and desire from our young people for more in-depth discipleship and mentoring. We are looking at ways to accommodate this and will hopefully have more news in the next couple of months.

Other Things to Highlight

Please keep praying for the team, the young people, the parents, and thank God for his provision.

Blessings,

Youth Mission Team

KETTERING DEANERY SYNOD

Our mission is to encourage and support the churches of our Deanery to build the Kingdom of God. We do this by: building relationships; sharing resources; and praying for each other.

What is Deanery Synod?

Kettering Deanery is one of 12 geographical areas within the Diocese of Peterborough, containing several neighbouring churches.

The Synod comprises the clergy of the Deanery, along with elected lay members from each parish or benefice. The number from each is linked to a church's electoral roll. Lay members were elected in April/May 2023 for a three-year term of office.

Who leads and manages Deanery Synod?

The current officers are:

Rural Dean: Revd Nicki Hobbs (St Andrew Broughton with Cransley with Mawsley)

Assistant Rural Dean: Revd Tom Houston (St Andrew's, Kettering)

Lay Chair: Peter Jackson

Secretary: Steve Atkins (resigned February 2025)

Treasurer: Alan Ridley

These officers are joined by Hazel Goodman and Lyn Ridley to form the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee. This group met three times during the year.

What happens at Deanery Synod meetings?

Meetings naturally open with Prayer and Worship. They also briefly consider recurring business items such as: reports from Diocesan and General Synod; Finance, including Parish Share; and local pastoral matters.

Each meeting also has a primary focus.

Our meetings in 2024:

February – discussion in groups about the role of Deanery synod, why people volunteered to be involved, and hopes for future synod meetings.

June – visit from Bishop Debbie who spoke about her vision for the diocese and answered questions from the floor.

October – discussion on finances and fundraising. Alan Ridley was appointed as Deanery Treasurer. The synod voted to create a Kettering Deanery Facebook group for advertising services and events, and sharing good news stories.

We also welcomed Charlie Nobbs, the Diocesan Director of Mission, to the Deanery during his prayer walk round the diocesan boundary as part of Thy Kingdom Come.

Am I able to get involved if not an elected member?

Yes!

Speak to one or more of your church's Deanery Synod representatives about Synod activities.

Many meetings are open to all, so why not ask what topics are planned for 2025 and consider coming along.