



All Saints' Church, Milton
Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 21st April 2024 during the 10.30am service

Please read through this booklet before the meeting.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Everyone on the church electoral roll, and any person resident in the parish, whose name is entered on a register of local government electors, is entitled to attend and vote at this meeting.

Agenda

Apologies for absence
Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Only those on the church electoral roll are entitled to vote at this meeting.

Agenda

- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see reports)
- Electoral Roll Report (see reports)
- PCC Report (see reports)
- Annual Accounts (see accounts on separate pages)
- Deanery Synod Report (see reports)
- Churchwardens' Report (see reports)
- Fabric Report (see reports)
- Priest's Report (see reports)
- Reports from Church organisations (see reports)

- Elections:
 - Members of PCC
 - Sidespersons
 - Appointment of auditors
- Any other business

[Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2023](#)

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Present

James Blandford Baker (chair), Linda and Robert Henderson, Paul and Jan Wilkins, David Owen, Pearl and Alan Skull, Anne and Rob Aldridge, Bill and Lesley Darroch, Chris and Nicola Pennant, Peter and Jackie Cottingham, Andy Everitt, Andrew Macpherson, Gerry and Jackie Metcalfe, Roger and Judith

Lemon, John and Gill Uttin, Richard Burrows, Howard Scarborough Linda Henderson (LH) welcomed James Blandford Baker (JBB).

JBB welcomed everyone and opened in prayer.

Apologies for absence

Jane Fellows, Michelle Peters, Charlotte Lemanski, Derek and Sandra Prater, Neil Caplan, Sarah and Daniel Bates, Stewart and Sarah Taylor, Richard and Jenni Hastings, Helen and Terry Moore, Roxane Owen, Rosanna Bienzobas, Peter and Viv Sebborn

Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for Churchwarden, Linda Henderson and Paul Wilkins, who were duly elected.

JBB thanked Linda and Paul for their service over the past year, especially during the interregnum, and for being willing to stand again for another year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Present

As above

Apologies

As above

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Everyone was happy with the minutes.

Electoral Roll report

There are 124 names on the Electoral Roll, up by two from the previous year.

PCC report

There were no comments about the report.

Annual accounts

David Owen gave a short presentation of the Annual accounts for 2022, on behalf of Roxane Owen who was away.

Overall, there was a small surplus at the end of the year. However, this masks the fact that building expenses were down on previous years, and salaries were significantly lower as we no longer have a Youth Worker.

Reserves are growing due to the lack of building expenses this year, but income is not growing, which is concerning.

Giving accounts for 91% of income, the remainder coming from fees for services, payments for use of the hall etc. Expenditure is made up of the parish share (59%) and salaries (14%) plus charitable giving (10%) and facilities (10%) etc.

The overall trend shows a rise in expenditure and a fall in income. We need to be aware of this as we think about possible spending on the building and the employment of a Youth Worker. At present we are just about breaking even.

A final slide showed a list of the charities the church gives to.

There were no questions raised.

Deanery Synod report

JBB gave an overview of deanery planning. There was an initial draft plan proposed by the Diocese. The format of this plan needed to be changed and other items needed to be included. Work on this revised plan is currently being done by the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee. The new plan

should be completed before the end of June and sent out to PCCs for comment before being approved by the Deanery Synod in July.

LH was concerned that the PCC would only have 2-3 weeks to respond to the new plan.

JBB responded saying although the format of the report would change any amendments to the content would be unlikely to significantly affect Milton. The main change will be that parishes will be able to ask the Diocese for support and training for lay persons. The Diocese will provide resources to churches centrally.

PCC should be reassured that the ministry planned for Milton will not be changed.

PCC has already arranged a meeting within this time frame to discuss the revised Deanery Plan.

Churchwardens report

There were no questions about this report.

Thanks were given to Paul and Linda.

Fabric report

There were no questions about this report.

LH thanked Richard Burrows for saving the church around £10,000 by reconditioning the heaters.

Safeguarding report

There were no questions about this report.

Reports from church organizations

JBB briefly went through the reports. There were no questions raised.

School governance

Andy Everitt noted that there were currently no members of the church on the governing body of Milton primary school. The incumbent has a reserved place on the governing body, which is currently taken by the Archdeacon. Members of the congregation should be encouraged to join the governing body. The school governors would welcome church members particularly if they have

skills in the areas of buildings, facilities or finance. If anyone is interested, please talk to Andy Everitt or Jackie Metcalfe.

Elections

Deanery Synod representatives

David Owen and Maria Gloag were proposed and seconded, and duly elected.

PCC members

Howard Scarborough, Peter Cottingham, William Darroch and Pearl Skull were proposed and seconded and duly elected for a 3-year term.

Sidespersons and assistant sidespersons do not need to be elected.

LLMs

Proposal: All LLMs to be ex officio members of PCC.

Proposed: DO. Seconded: PW. All in favour. Motion passed.

Appointment of auditor or independent examiner

All happy for this to be delegated to the PCC

AOB

None

JBB closed the meeting with the Grace

Reports for the year 2023

Electoral Roll

Work to compile the Electoral Roll for 2024 is currently underway and this will be added to this report and distributed as soon as possible.

PCC report

Monthly PCC meetings continued throughout 2023, giving PCC time to discuss and plan the process of appointing a new Priest in Charge.

The main topics that PCC covered during 2023 are as follows:

The process for appointing a new priest in charge. This included:

- Preparation of the Parish Profile
- Holding a Section 11 meeting to sign off the Parish Profile, agree the Parish Representatives, and discuss advertising, applications, interviews, informal visits and the Bishop's statement
- The appointment and installation of Rev Alex Jeewan as Priest in Charge

Thanks to Maria Gloag and Linda Henderson for being our Parish Representatives

Other topics discussed by PCC included:

Safeguarding

Finance/charitable giving

Changes introduced by the Charity Commission

Deanery Synod including the Deanery Plan

Preparation of a priorities document, looking at future options for All Saints Milton in terms of effort and expenditure

Churchyard management

Rules and regulations for the churchyard

Transfer of the ownership of the Repton Gate to Milton Parish Council

Fabric

- Plans for the church building and wall
- Heating
- Hall divider
- Tree surgery

Children & Youth – including Tuesdays Together

Events

Pearl Skull, PCC Secretary

Deanery Synod Report

Three meetings since last APCM:

July: St Andrew's Impington

- Announcement that Diocese had set new goals for the Deanery plan so the plan submitted in August was no longer valid. This led to the understandable resignation of the working party.
- Maria Gloag elected as Lay Chair and member of standing committee of Deanery Synod.

November:

- Presentation from Rev Mark Modal regarding Open Christian Learning, a new Ely Diocese resource to support personal and vocational spiritual growth. Well worth a look <https://ely.learn.anglican.org>
- New members of committee appointed including myself as Lay Chair.

March:

- Opportunity to meet together in fellowship to share both blessings and challenges in our parishes and pray for one another.

Maria Gloag, Deanery Synod Representative

Churchwardens' Report

Firstly, Linda and I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank you all for your ongoing commitment to the small branch of God's family meeting at All Saints Milton. It is humbling that so many of you are prepared to continue giving generously of your time, gifts and money in support of our church and community. There is so much to be done each week that relies heavily on volunteers, be it on a Sunday, helping with various midweek activities or in maintaining the building and churchyard.

Our special thanks also to our paid staff (Michelle, Natasha, Elinor and Sally) for all their hard work, to Sara Bates for her ongoing commitment to our young people, to Christophe and others involved in leading worship, to all who have served on the PCC, to our treasurer Roxane, to our LLMs and last but not least to Anne, Stewart, Simon and Jackie.

Though we were still in interregnum for much of the year, the numbers attending services in person have continued to increase and views of our streamed services have also risen slightly. It is exciting to see new faces but we have also had some sad goodbyes. Jackie Metcalfe, who served here so faithfully for many years, has moved to support the ministry in Waterbeach and Natasha Williams and her family will also be leaving us in the near future. To those who are new, welcome. To those who have moved on, we will miss you but wish you all God's blessings. We also mourn the passing of some members of our church family. While we trust that they are with their saviour we cannot help but grieve their loss.

Talking of new faces, it is with great delight that we welcome our new vicar Alex and his family. Already his warmth, energy and vision are making their mark. We look forward with excitement to the year ahead, which we are sure will bring new blessings and challenges under his leadership.

You may have noticed new locks on the internal doors through to the main church. You will also soon see new lockable partition doors fitted to the entrance of the main hall. These are to allow an increase in the use of the church's facilities by outside and community groups. Already there are many groups that meet in the church throughout the week including the brownies, guides, stitchers, the photographic club, the WI, praise and play, baby group and toddler group. The summer also saw the successful launch of "Tuesdays Together" which ran weekly over the holidays and has continued as a monthly after school club. Being "a church at the heart of the community" involves not just outreach, but letting in. Watch this space!

Paul Wilkins and Linda Henderson, Churchwardens

Fabric Report

There have been no major structural works or repairs during the past year, but we will be having our 5 yearly quinquennial inspection in July and are already aware of a number of issues that are likely to arise and require attention. There continue to be some minor leaks when it rains hard but for the most part these have not been too disruptive. However, in the medium to long term we will need to do substantial work on the foyer and small hall area and have had some provisional plans drawn up. These plans will solve these problems, update existing space, and create new spaces to enable us to grow our work with children and the community.

The drains continue to be fragile and prone to blockage so please treat them with kindness and respect! As usage of the church and hall grows this may become even more of a problem and while any major works on the foyer area will include improvements in this regard, we may well need to consider interim measures to improve things.

All Saints has continued to benefit this year from a favourable fixed price gas contract, but this expires soon and our expenditure on heating will increase substantially next year. We will attempt to mitigate this as best we can through the use of the smart zoned thermostats and a new partition door to the hall and lockable doors to the main church should also help.

At long last we have received planning consent to proceed with repairs to the wall at the front of the churchyard conditional upon an archaeological inspection. Many thanks to Linda who has worked unbelievably hard on this over many years. The number of hoops she has had to jump through beggars belief. We are now at the stage of seeking quotes for the work and applying for grants to fund this, which will be a considerable cost.

Thanks as always to those who are regularly involved in the maintenance of the churchyard. This is important work as there are many people who visit the churchyard who do not necessarily come into church. We have a spring working party planned for the 23rd of March which we hope many of you will be able to attend. We have agreed a plan with interested parties which details the parts that will be left wild and those that will be more actively maintained. Linda has also resolved a longstanding issue in regards to having a proper plan and faculty covering the interment of ashes. This plan maps out existing plots and where future interments may take place. We hope to keep this designated area mowed and tidy for the benefit of those who attend the graves of loved ones.

Paul Wilkins & Linda Henderson, Church Wardens

Safeguarding Report 2023

As Safeguarding Officer for All Saints, I take all aspects of work from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, who in turn, takes its formal guidance from House of Bishops' policies and practice guidance, as directed by the National Safeguarding Team. Local strategies and practice guidance are based on these and endorsed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Group. At the end of last year, the Church of England released the **National Safeguarding Standards**

and Quality Assurance Framework. The aim is to help dioceses, cathedrals, and parishes to answer the question “How good is our safeguarding activity?” There will be further information coming from the safeguarding team in the diocese shortly, but I have been assured by them, that the vehicle for taking this forward in the first instance will be through the Safeguarding dashboard. Some parishes are not yet using the safeguarding dashboard. We have been using it for some time and I am starting to embark on extending it to the new safeguarding hub as well. This will be a time-consuming task to set up but will save time and be easier to keep up to date going forward.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at PCC meetings. The frequency of DBS renewals was previously reduced from 5 to 3-year intervals, this is now complete. This timescale has now been applied to training requirements as well, and this is in progress.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. That small piece of information might be the missing piece which helps to keep a child safe. We are all responsible for keeping children and vulnerable adults safe.

Linda Henderson, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Priest's Report

As I have only been in post since the end of October 2023 this report will be shorter than usual. Firstly, I'd like to say how pleased and privileged I am to be your Priest-in-Charge. I am grateful for the warm welcome myself and my family have received since arriving.

Being Priest-in-Charge at ASM is a demanding role but is made so much easier by working with you all to see the kingdom of God come to Milton.

Every Monday myself and the admin team meet to go through the administration needs and the priorities for the following week. This is a valuable time and I hope Michelle and Tasha feel supported and effectively led through these meetings.

I also try to meet regularly with Elinor, our children's worker, and Sarah, our interim youth leader, to support them in their work.

I have been working hard to support and develop our ministry team. I meet with all our licensed ministers at least once every three months. Every Thursday we meet together to say Morning Prayer, share breakfast and have a team meeting. Once a month we have an extended team meeting where we might talk about a larger topic.

I am very grateful to Alan Skull who has helped us to co-ordinate a Pastoral Team. This team meet regularly to pray for various needs in our community and to arrange visits and/or phone calls to those who are in need or housebound. I try to visit those who are in need, but I can't visit everyone, so the Pastoral Team help immensely with this.

I very much appreciate the support from Linda and Paul, our churchwardens. We meet once a month to pray together and discuss priorities. I am so very grateful to them both for their friendship, support and hard work.

I have also begun to meet once a month with Paul Butler, the vicar at Waterbeach and Landbeach and this is proving a fruitful relationship as we begin to consider how we can work together better in the future.

We have agreed to continue to support Ridley Hall and have a new ordinand joining us after Easter. We are really looking forward to welcoming Jacob and his family.

I very much want to develop and grow the local links with All Saints. I have made contact with the 'Community Champion' at Tesco, who have agreed to provide hot cross buns for Messy Easter, and have applied to be a volunteer chaplain at EACH. I am also part of the Community Care team run by the Parish Council. Part of our vision is to be a church at the heart of the community, so this means that we must actively work with our local community to show who we are. I am encouraging everyone to work hard to achieve this.

As you'll see in the 'School report', I am developing the relationship between the church and the school. This is taking time, but it is an investment to make our relationship stronger and bring real and active faith in the lives of the pupils at the school.

We ran a series of Lent Lunches this year, which included a course based on 'Spot the Difference'; a Lent study course written by Nick Fawcett. It was well received, and we had about 40 people regularly attending. I also encouraged our home groups to run the study course too in their groups.

Our verse of the year was Galatians 6: 10. This says, 'Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.' This reminds us that we are called to serve everyone, this includes but not excludes those on the outside of our church.

With love and best wishes as we walk together to bring the kingdom of God here in Milton,

Alex

Reports from Church Organisations

Children and Families

Baby Group

During the last year we had about 8 mums and babies and sometimes dad's. The group provides the opportunity for mums to meet together to share experiences, have someone to talk to and someone to listen.

It is important outreach which is respected by the health professionals especially as we have no baby clinic in the village.

Tea and cake are also served.

We meet every Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 4pm.

Thanks to Lesley and Beryl for their continued support and dedication to the group.

Sue Nunn

Baptism and Thanksgiving

Sadly, we have had no baptisms or thanksgivings during the past year. An anniversary of baptism card is delivered to each child for four years.

Please pray that we will have some baptisms this year.

Sue Nunn

Junior Church

Junior church continues to thrive each Sunday morning. We meet as one group for ages 0 – 11, with a minimum of 3 adults for each session. We enjoy using the small hall and outdoor log circle depending on the activities we want to do.

Over the summer holidays the whole church thought about the story of Daniel. We started and ended the series with an All Together service. The other weeks the children and youth met together and used games, reflections and crafts to think about.

During the Autumn term we followed the Jesse Tree, creating a Bible timeline through the Old Testament and approaching the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. We used a variety of materials to support us in the sessions to include games, storytelling, creativity, and reflections.

Since Christmas we have been using resources created by Faith in Kids to reflect on 'Meals with Jesus' that can be found in Luke's Gospel, which leads us nicely up to Easter.

To complete our overview of the Bible in a year, during the summer term we will be looking at what happened after Easter, completing our 'Meals with Jesus' series and then moving into the Acts of the Apostles and the adventures of the first Christians.

A huge thank you to all the leaders and helpers who take time to plan sessions and support all our children. Please prayerfully consider whether you would like to join this team to get to know the children better and support them in their journey of faith.

Elinor Everitt, Children's Work Leader

Messy Church

Last year we trialed running Messy Easter in The Dell at the Country Park. We used the outdoor space to cook food on the fire pits, make a large den, create Easter baskets, follow a scavenger hunt, parachute games and much more. Over 50 families attended, either dropping in or staying for the whole session. We were truly blessed in many ways, not least with the amazing weather that we had. We are running Messy Easter in The Dell again this year, to build on what we did, but also to link into the other events that the Church runs.

Thank you to the large team of helpers without whom this would not be possible.

Elinor Everitt, Children's Work Leader

Milton C of E Primary School

I visit our primary school every Wednesday for a weekly assembly or an occasional religious education lesson. Anne Aldridge has offered to support me with this, and I welcome support from the wider ministry team as delivering a quality assembly every week is a challenge.

I am also an ex-officio member of the school's governing body and attend regular meetings once a term to support the school.

It was also a joy to welcome KS2 children to church for Christmas and Easter services. Thanks to Robert and Elinor for providing the music. I am also grateful to Richard Adams and Paul Wilkins who regularly man the sound desk. The children clearly enjoy visiting the church.

Following, Ely diocese guidelines, myself and the headteacher have created a Church School Covenant. This is to agree how the church and school can support one another.

I am also keen to revitalise the way in which collective worship is run in the school. There is a need for them to be distinctively Christian and use Christian symbols and prayers more regularly.

We are very fortunate to have our primary school in the village so please remember the children and their staff in your prayers and support them in every way you can.

Revd Alex Jeewan

Praise and Play

Praise and Play happens on a Wednesday morning during term time. We continue to use a mixture of songs, now with instruments each week, games, play and crafts to think about the Bible story. This year we have had series on 'Being Thankful', 'God likes it when we ...' and 'Meals with Jesus'.

Thank you to Diddy Disciples, Flame Creative Kids and Families on Faith Adventures who often inspire me! Since September Waterbeach Church have started their own Praise and Play on a Tuesday morning, run by their children's worker Kirsty, so we now plan the sessions together to run at our own churches. This makes a huge difference to planning and preparing the sessions.

Thank you to my team of helpers Nicola, Barbara, Joy, Jackie and Alex without whom I could not run the group.

Elinor Everitt, Children's Work Leader

Tuesdays Together

As many of you will know I dreamed the vision for this outreach whilst staying in a hotel in Bath. Michelle caught the vision with me and then with my team of helpers we ran this during the school summer holidays. Most of the other church groups stop during the summer holidays, which many families miss. The aim was to create a space for 2 hours each Tuesday morning where anyone could come to be, create, chat and play together. We had a theme each week based around the Creation Story, with toys, creativity and Tech activity linked to that theme. The jigsaw and creativity corners were popular across the ages. The session also included Tea and Toast, with the food often being provided by FoodShare which Michelle collected for us. The group was well attended each week with many people returning for subsequent weeks. To support the environment, we had a swap each week, such as toys, children's clothes or books. These had a mixed response, with the books being the most popular!

From September we have continued with a monthly Tuesdays Together After School to build on the relationships we established both during the summer holidays, but also with families where the children are at school. We have continued with the same content, but also now include a story and time to reflect. The stories have a Christian ethos, not all coming from the Bible, but allow families to hear about and know that they are loved by God. We are now hosting a regular group of families, with both pre-school and primary school aged children.

Thank you to my team of helpers who enable this to continue.

Toddler group

The toddler group continues to meet on Monday and Friday mornings in term time, between 10am and 11.30am in the church halls and the outside play area when weather permits. We start with free play and a craft activity, followed by refreshments for the adults and children. The children and parents are then very good at helping us to put the toys away before we have singing time. There are lots of sleeping bunnies on the floor waiting to start and it's lovely to see the enthusiasm of the children wanting to choose their favorite songs.

I would like to thank the team Jill, Pearl, Jane and Beryl, without whose time and commitment we would not have been able to provide such a group for our village. It is lovely to have Rachel helping us, but we are very aware this may not be long term. **So, we are very much in need of more helpers, especially on Mondays, if we are going to be able to continue two sessions a week.** If you think you might be able to help or would like to know more information, then please get in touch with me. This is a very valuable outreach to our community, but we do need help to keep providing this.

Linda Henderson

Church Flowers

The congregation gets enormous pleasure from the ongoing tradition of filling our church building with flowers. Once again, a big thank you is due to all those who help, as they continue to delight us with their beautiful flower arrangements. If you like to arrange flowers at home and would like to help in the church please come and speak to me or give me a ring at home. More volunteers are always welcome.

Lesley Darroch

Ecochurch

Ecochurch is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. Since All Saints achieved the Ecochurch Bronze award in May 2022, the ecochurch team has continued to meet regularly to plan further steps in the journey towards an ecochurch silver award which has five parts: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global engagement and lifestyle.

The church celebrated Creationtide with special services and environmental issues are occasionally included in sermons and prayers. Articles in each month's church news featured environmental issues including UN Climate and Biodiversity conferences and a

“Climate fast for lent” and other ideas for personal action. We hosted two evening talks open to the community: “Climate Crisis, Extinction Crisis” by Brian Eversham, CEO of the Wildlife Trust and “The Wood Wide Web” by Terry Moore. Some of the congregation participated in a village litterpick. The listed status of the building limits what can be done to move towards net zero but “easy wins” have been made and the more difficult things are being investigated. We are working with the churchwardens on a management plan for the churchyard which works for wildlife and people. Minibeast hunts after a service in June and during Tuesdays together in August added to the information about what is living in the churchyard.

We are looking to recruit new members for the team as we lost three members this year.

Helen Moore

Ekisa

We are a small, Milton Based charity supporting the work of Ekisa Ministries in Jinja, Uganda.

Ekisa was co-founded by Emily Henderson, who now worships at All Saints and is one of our Trustees. She will be visiting Ekisa again this Easter and will bring back lots of news for our Spring Newsletter. In Uganda, Ekisa works with children and young adults with disabilities, offering education in the Ekisa Academy, a Community Support programme and a residential home for those who can't be cared for currently by family members or in a family unit. Ekisa believes all children deserve to grow as part of a family, and where at all possible helps this to happen through reuniting and supporting them in their own birth families or finding suitable foster or adoptive parents. Through its work Ekisa have been recognised internationally at helping to break down misconceptions about disability. All Ekisa UK's Trustees and fundraisers give their time voluntarily so nearly all monies donated and raised are sent directly to Ekisa Ministries in Uganda. In 2023 we hosted two events to raise awareness of our charity as well as to raise funds, including an Ekisa Pub Quiz, kindly hosted by The White Horse, Milton. We were also delighted to restart our Christmas Gift and Food Fair in November, after a few years break due to Covid and its restrictions. These events are enjoyed by many and a great way to raise much needed funds for Ekisa. A lot of the money we are able to send to Uganda (an amazing total of over £43,000 in 2023) comes from direct, regular and one-off donations. In the coming year we plan to expand our Fundraising with Quiz, Concert and Christmas Fair being planned. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us, including All Saints Milton, and invite anyone who would like to know more to email info@ekisa.org.uk.

Roger Lemon and Michelle Peters

Food Bank Collections

Our regular collection for the Cambridge City Foodbank continues. Food is left in the church porch and volunteers take it to the depot each fortnight. A special collection was held at Harvest festival which was combined with donations from our village primary school.

Cambridge City Foodbank has had a presence in Cambridge for over 10 years. Our foodbank was founded by local churches, and is part of the Trussell Trust's network of foodbanks across the UK. 15914 three-day emergency food parcels given to people in need during 2023 at Cambridge City Foodbank – that's over 300 per week!

Your continued generosity in supporting our collection is very much appreciated.

Home Groups

Home group meetings generally include study, prayer for each other and wider concerns, and other social interaction. There's still plenty of scope for expanding the membership of home groups in the church. Current members appreciate the fellowship and support, as well as study opportunities. Most groups keep in touch via WhatsApp. Anyone wishing to join, or just visit a group, please contact the church office.

There are currently 5 home groups meeting:

Tuesday: Average 7 attendees. Meets in person weekly on Tuesday evenings. Usually choose a topic or course to follow for a term.

Wednesday / Monday: Average 8 attendees. Meets weekly by Microsoft Teams, some physical meetings in better weather. After sharing news and prayer we usually work through Bible books, but sometimes use topics instead. Virtual meetings work better for some people, especially in Winter. There are various reasons for this, including physical health limitations. For others – especially those who spend a lot of work time on computer screens – physical meetings are preferred. We've been able to welcome N and J, who work abroad, to some virtual meetings.

Women's group: Meets in person fortnightly on Wednesday evenings for bible study and prayer. Average 5 attendees.

North Lodge Park group. Meets Wednesday evenings (not every week) for an hour. 6 regular members. We share and then pray for each other; followed by a look at a Bible passage.

"Open House" meets in person fortnightly on Thursday mornings, average 10 attendees. After welcome, refreshments and catch-up, there is a brief bible reading and reflection, followed by sharing and open prayer in which the majority of people participate, although some prefer to listen and pray in silence. We usually conclude with a worship song or hymn.

Peter Cottingham

Milton Mothers' Union

We have had a varied programme last year. World day of prayer service, Kings coronation cream tea, members afternoon, communion service lead by Jackie Metcalf's and the Wave of Prayer lead by Gill Uttin.

Sadly, in the last four months two of our dedicated members have died. Elisabeth Moule who was our chairperson for five years and Judith Lemon who helped to organise the World day of prayer for many years.

'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'

We have sent money to AFIA (away from it all holidays) and Tesco vouchers to the Mid Cambs Women's Refuge.

It is with regret that because of our very small numbers we have decided to close the Milton Branch of the Mother's Union.

Some of our members have chosen to join the diocesan Mother's Union group.

Our members are hoping to be able to meet occasionally for fellowship.

Sue Nunn

Open Doors

Psalm 23v4 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.'

It is quite easy to say that our support of Open Doors supports the persecuted church; but how do they work and what do they do? The prayer notes and resources enable us to stand alongside suffering Christians and the people on the ground who are Open Doors mission partners do just that in the field. However, there is much more to it. I think it helps to summarise some of their operations in this report – I have summarised this information from their 2024 report, which can be read in full at

<https://media.opendoorsuk.org/document/pdf/2024-Advocacy-Report.pdf> and is a resource for prayer in itself.

- Responding to, encouraging and supporting the Foreign Office work in responding to the (FO) commissioned report by the Bishop of Truro in 2019 which made practical recommendations for an enhanced response to the plight of persecuted Christians and that the UK should lead on this
- Presenting a report on persecution trends at the House of Commons in January each year (highlighting the top 50 nations where it is hardest to be a Christian) to which all MPs are invited
- Acting on said report as a list of priority nations where resources can be directed

- Directed to on the ground cross-cultural mission partners
- ...to providing direct help to people displaced from their homes, pastors, and to build businesses that allow Christians to live in and serve their communities
- ...to provide resilience and trauma counselling to help people recover from persecution and how to respond to it
- ...asking the UK and foreign governments to support freedom of religion and to tackle abuse by authorities and individuals
- ...providing legal advice and to support the above
- ..continuing to highlight key trends and issues for people to pray

Neil Caplan

Overseas Mission & Giving

Please see accounts.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care work continues to be delivered at All Saints on many levels. Home groups provide strong support, as do other groups that operate in the church such as Mothers' Union, toddlers and baby group.

Although the number of parishioners who require visits remains relatively low, it is encouraging to see that church members help each other in daily life, particularly in times of difficulty. In addition, home Holy Communion is available for those who are unable to come to church.

Pastoral care was overseen by Rev Jackie Metcalfe until early in December 2023 and subsequently by me as Pastoral Team Coordinator. The pastoral care team meets regularly to pray for the pastoral needs of the parish, including those in our weekly prayer guide.

Thanks are due especially to those who visit on a regular basis and to the many more who pray.

Alan Skull

Sahara Project: taking the good news to a group with no known witness amongst them

N and J were sent out by All Saints some nineteen years ago. They work in West Africa, aiming to build a group of national believers in a place where there have never been any. They run a small tourist business which gives them residence permission and good local connections. Whilst the business pays its own way it is not able to provide them with much income for living expenses. They therefore need and appreciate continuing support from individuals and from the church. They have two teenage children who attend the local fee-paying French medium school. G takes her final exams this summer and then plans a gap year.

Their work is in a spiritually difficult, and rather isolated area; and it is unusual to find a family that has managed to remain in such a place for as long as they have. Several other expat Christians have been able to get residence permits through the business. N and J have good relationships with local people, especially the staff in their business. They have been able to have meaningful conversations about faith with various of them.

Peter Cottingham

Sound, Screen & Website

Sound & Screen/Livestream

A big thankyou to those who have joined the team recently, we can always do with more team members, especially if you're available during the week for weddings / funerals, so let me know if you are interested in lending a hand, or just shadow someone for a few services to see if it's your thing.

The livestreams still sees lots of viewers, we have had to make some changes to improve privacy and the audio feed, and this has occasionally led to problems with the audio, but with the resources we have there's not much we can do to make this easier, as it's not feasible to monitor the stream audio live (it's delayed by a many seconds),

Church Website

The All Saint's website (www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk) is a shopfront for the church with links to the church's YouTube channel livestreams and a 'what's on' calendar, along with general information on All Saints.

We can always make more use of it though, so if you have any content or info please email it to me at webmaster@allsaintsmilton.org.uk, or if you are interested in helping manage the site itself, chat to me also, as that would help keep the content fresh and current.

The website also links to the podcast, with all the service recordings automatically appearing, so do subscribe to keep up to date, instructions are on the website. Or just browse the list on the website under the 'resources' tab. You can also subscribe directly to the Youtube channel, and automatically get notified when new content added.

Useful links

Podcast - <http://allsaintsmilton.org.uk/catchup>

LiveStreams - <https://www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk/livestreams>

AllSaints Youtube Channel – <https://www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk/youtube>

Richard Burrows

Stitchers' Club

The group meets on the second Monday of each month at 2 until 4pm.

At present we have 15 members who enjoy knitting cross stitch etc while. we chat , have refreshments and care for each others needs.

Thanks again to the church for allowing us to meet.

New members are very welcome.

Sue Nunn

Warm Hub

The Warm Hub, which began in December 2022 continued to operate from 10am to 4pm on Tuesdays in January and February. Entry was free as were the refreshments. As attendance had been low, we experimented with running other events, such as clothes and toy swaps at the same time. In terms of improving attendance, the most successful of these was the vaccination clinic. Thank you to the many people who helped with this.

Kathy English

World Day of Prayer

On the first Friday in March every year All Saints Church, Milton joins with churches from around the world in the World Day of Prayer. Each year the service is prepared by Christian

women in a different country and celebrated in their own language in 146 countries. In 2023, the service was prepared by Christian women in Taiwan on the theme “I have heard about your faith”.

On 1 March 2024 we heard from Christian women of Palestine and prayed for the country in a service on the theme “Bear with one another in love”. This was especially relevant and moving as it was written several years before October 7th 2023 when conditions in Palestine became far worse. A big thank you to everyone who took part in the service and those who provided refreshments at the welcome cafe before it.

The 2025 service will have the theme “I made you wonderful” prepared by Christian women of the Cook Islands.

Helen Moore

Youth

Highs and Lows; baking and burning; challenges and chilling out; crazy games and calm colouring; silly chat and deep vulnerability – just some of the roller coaster ride that is spending time with our wonderful young people.

We continue to meet during the Sunday morning service most weeks and approx. fortnightly on Sunday evenings. We pray, worship, chat, eat snacks; read the bible; play games, watch films, try to solve murder mysteries and generally enjoy each other’s company. This term we have been particularly grateful for a number of special guests from the wider congregation to talk about whether, when, how and why they read the bible.

Please continue to pray for all our young people – that they grow in the knowledge of how loved they are.

Sarah Bates