

St Mary's Wavendon – Annual Church Meeting 2023

Electoral Roll report

Church membership stands at 76 adults and 14 associate members (4 adults & 10 u18s) – this compares to 71 and 17 (4a/13c) in 2022, and 75/17 in 2021. After a number of years around the 90 mark, total membership is expected to grow this year, with many new attendees, including a number who intend to join.

The 76 full members identify as 59 Anglican and 16 non-Anglican (with 1 'not stated').

Our reported Electoral Roll is 63 (vs 58 in 2022 and 59 in 2021) – this is calculated in a fairly esoteric but consistent way, to avoid double counting church members with our parent denominations.

Anglican	59
Methodist	7
URC	0
Baptist	1
Roman Catholic	3
Other: Salv Army/Pentecostal/FIEC/Orthodox	5
<i>Non-Anglican</i>	<i>16</i>
Not stated	1
Total	76

MJT, March 2023

Deanery Report

In a year overshadowed by financial struggles in many local churches, we are very grateful to be one of the few parishes in a financially healthy position currently. We paid an additional gift to the deanery of £4,609 in 2022 to help other parishes in MK, and offered a larger gift for 2023, which was not eventually adopted (although gratefully acknowledged).

The key events of this last year of the 2020-2023 triennium are:

The final dissolution of the Mission Partnership – the body which for 40 years supported all of MK's LEPs, like us – and the establishment in autumn 2022 of a new body: 'Churches Together in Milton Keynes'. This effectively 'launched' in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January 2023, with a series of events, of which our parish (Walton) hosted the final one at our sister church of Christ the King, Kents Hill. We await the development of CTMK with interest, as its success relies largely on the extent to which it can exercise a broad appeal to churches of all types across the city. We have committed the financial support we used to give the Mission Partnership, which works out at £6 per member per annum – current approx. £1,300pa.

Discussions regarding our establishment as a CIO are ongoing – a process which affects all the LEPs in MK. We have also been asked to undertake a review of our LEP, something the WCP Council began at a meeting a couple of weeks ago. Initial feedback suggests that we are quite happy with who and how we are at present, with a couple of things to address, which don't affect our day-to-day running.

The Area Dean, Tim Norwood, departed for pastures new on 5th March this year. Major discussions are now taking place as to who will replace him, and the strategic thinking about what such plans will mean for our mission and community engagement in MK. The promised investment from the diocese five years ago has not materialised, while Milton Keynes continues to grow rapidly. The clergy and Deanery Synod wish to work together with the diocese to get a better plan for the years ahead. In the meantime, we'll just keep on doing what we're doing, and trusting the Lord to sustain and bless us!

MJT, March 2023