

St Mary's Wavendon – Annual Church Meeting 2024

Electoral Roll report

Church membership stands at 91 adults and 24 associate members (7 adults & 17 u18s) – this compares to 76 and 14 (4a/10c) in 2023, and 71/17 in 2022. After a number of years around the 90 mark, total membership has grown significantly in the last 12 months, reflecting our growth as a congregation.

The 91 full members identify as 65 Anglican and 22 non-Anglican (with 4 'not stated').

Our reported Electoral Roll is **72** (vs 61 in 2023 and 58 in 2022) – this is calculated in a fairly esoteric but consistent way, to avoid double counting church members with our parent denominations.

Anglican	65
Methodist	6
URC	0
Baptist	4
Roman Catholic	5
Other: Salv Army/Pentecostal/FIEC/Orthodox	7
<i>Non-Anglican</i>	<i>22</i>
Not stated	4
Total	91

MJT, March 2024

Deanery Report

The major focus of the Deanery this year has been the renewal of our community life following the departure of the previous Area Dean, Tim Norwood, in March 2023. Four of the local clergy – known as the MK4! – have taken on elements of the AD's role and are working very well (and collaboratively) together. The Deanery also has a new secretary and treasurer and new representatives on its key committees. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jonathan Bailey and Carolyn Sanderson, two of our three Deanery reps who continue to make a significant contribution to the life of MK Deanery, and who both serve on key committees. Special thanks, too, to Anthony Tull, our third and longest-serving rep.

Alongside the reorganisation of the Deanery's corporate life necessitated by Tim's departure, important work has started regarding our vision for the Deanery for the next decade. We are currently working on a Mission Action Plan, with a view to finalising this vision later this year. There is talk of major diocesan investment in MK, via a bid submitted to the Church of England's Strategic Development Unit in 2025. It remains to be seen whether and how this develops. Previous experience of such bids has been mixed, and there are real concerns as to any form of investment whose targets – both numerical and financial – are unrealistic and unsustainable. Watch this space...

Churches Together in Milton Keynes (CTMK) continues to embed itself in the church life of MK. Walton Churches Partnership supports CTMK financially, having re-allocated what we used to give to the Mission Partnership to CTMK. However, we have decided not to formally join the organisation yet, preferring to wait and see how it develops. Our thanks to Ann Harris, who gives so much to the shared church life of MK.

Here in Walton itself, our Partnership life remains strong. We remain committed to being an ecumenical team and there is much to celebrate across our Partnership. Our structures are light-touch but resilient, and staffed by very capable people, including a strong and united Council. We are financially secure for the medium-term, which is particularly significant given the changes in our staff team happening this year – more on this at the AGM. We have put our registration as a CIO on hold for the time being, until we can harmonise our financial processes. There is no rush, and the benefits of the structural change are marginal.

MJT, March 2024