



St David's Church

Kingsthorpe Team Ministry



*The Church of
St John the Baptist*

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024 REPORTS



St Mark's Church

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KINGSTHORPE TEAM MINISTRY
Charity Number 1130370
KINGSTHORPE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING 2024

AGENDA for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on Thursday 11th April 2024 at **St David's Church** at 7.30pm.

Prayers

VESTRY MEETING:

Apologies for absence

- Appointment of Churchwardens
- Appointment of PCC members (10 persons from each church)
- Appointment of Sidespersons.
- Appointment to Deanery Synod.

PARISH MEETING:

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 11th May 2023.

Report from PCC Treasurer and approval of the accounts.

Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Electoral Roll(s).

Comments from Team Clergy.

Reports from Lay Pastoral Ministers, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Deanery Synod - already circulated.

Fabric reports.

Rector's comments.

Any Other Business:

Date of 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

NEW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Dates of future meetings.
Appointment of Lay Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
Appointment of Safeguarding Officer.

**KINGSTHORPE TEAM MINISTRY
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Thursday, 11th May 2023
by Zoom & in person.

Revd. Canon Jane Butler chaired the meeting. Revd Jonathan Lee & Revd Sarah Lee were also present. Matthew Brennan was interpreter.

Present:	On Zoom	8 laity
	In person	21 laity
Apologies:	St. David	None
	St. John the Baptist	2 laity
	St. Mark	1 laity

The meeting opened with prayers lead by Revd. Canon Jane Butler.

VESTRY MEETING:

Appointment of Churchwardens:

St. David:

1. June Ward - proposed Shirley Basford; seconded Terry Basford
2. Rebecca Adnitt - proposed Shirley Basford; seconded Terry Basford

St. John the Baptist:

1. Vacant
2. Vacant

Rev Jane state that she would make this matter known to the Archdeacon and ask his advice.

St. Mark:

1. Jo Carrick - proposed Ken Sumbler; seconded David Bunker
2. Vacant

Revd Jane Butler thanked the outgoing churchwardens for all their work in the past year and that she looked forward to working with the newly elected church wardens in the coming year.

Appointment of Parochial Church Council:

St. David:

1. Sarah-Jane Major Ex-Officio/Lay Reader.
2. Joyce Munroe (P June Ward S Muriel Stevenson)
3. Jane Serbyn (P Sarah-Jane Major S June Ward)
4. Anne Stevens (P June Ward S Muriel Stevenson)
5. Maureen Robinson (P Muriel Stevenson S June Ward)
6. Shirley Basford (P June Ward S Becky Adnitt)
7. Mary Hardwick (P Maureen Robinson S June Ward)

Vacancies remain for three PCC places.

St. John the Baptist:

1. Jenny Griffin Ex-Officio/Lay Reader.
2. Geoff Foster (P M Brame S A Brame)
3. Mandy Bentley (P P Gothard S P Stone)
4. Pauline Stone (P J Griffin S R stone)
5. Peter Borley-Cox (P M Brame S P Stone)

Vacancies remain for five PCC places.

St. Mark:

1. Ruth Gould (P Helen Hickman S J Carrick)
2. Helen Hickman (P Richie Carrick S R Gould)
3. Sue Evans (P W May S D Bunker)
4. Richie Carrick (P S Cumbleton S E May)
5. Kathy Wilcox (P E May S S Evans)
6. Liz May (P Richie Carrick S Shirley Cumbleton)
7. Paula Blackwell (P R Gould S C Woodley)
8. Samantha Hunt (P S Cumbleton S J Carrick)
9. Shirley Cumbleton (P Richie Carrick S E May)

Vacancies remain for one PCC place.

Appointment of Sidespersons:

St. David:

All members of the congregation.

St. John the Baptist:

All members of the congregation.

St. Mark:

All members of the congregation.

All the above named were elected to serve as sidespersons in their individual churches for the coming year. All members present were in favour.

**Deanery Synod Representatives ex officio (2nd year of 3-year term).
(5 persons allowed)**

- Jenny Griffin
- Sarah-Jane Major

PARISH MEETING:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2022 were signed as a true record after the as all persons present were in favour.

Finance:

Becky Adnitt told the APCM that Roger Cobley had recently passed away. He had been the independent examiner for many years.

Peter Borley-Cox gave a brief overview as to how the parish finances had been over the last financial year. He explained that parish income had increased but not enough to cover its expenses.

He reported that the parish reserves had increased due to a bequest which had been received during the year. Sue Evans told the APCM that it was time that the parish revisited the parish reserves policy to ensure it meets current needs.

Peter Borley-Cox proposed that the accounts were approved. It was seconded by Ruth Gould. All were in favour of this motion.

Revd Jane thanked both Peter Borley-Cox and Sue Evans for their hard work during the last year.

Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Peter Borley-Cox explained that Jackie Brame was willing to be the Independent Examiner again for the coming year. The appointment of Jackie Brame was proposed by Peter Borley-Cox and seconded by Sue Evans. The meeting passed this motion.

Electoral Roll:

St. David:

The APCM were told that St Davids had a total of 27 members on their electoral roll. (A decrease of 10)

St. John the Baptist:

The APCM were told that St John the Baptist had a total of 77 members on their electoral. roll. (A decrease of 3).

St. Mark:

The APCM were told that St Marks had a total of 43 members on their electoral roll. (An increase of 1)

Curate's Comments

Revds. Jonathan and Sarah told the APCM that their report in the booklet covered everything they wanted to say.

Report from Organisations & Committees including the Fabric Reports

- **Foodbank**

The APM were told that the foodbank was very successful and the number of families using the facility had grown to 358. It has 30 volunteers. In the week prior to the APCM, the foodbank had helped 866 adults and 489 children.

Rev Jane took the opportunity to thank Cheryl and all her helpers.

- **Fabric Committees**

- St John the Baptist
Mark Brame stated the St John the Baptist Fabric Committee report was in the booklet.

Sarah-Jane asked about the chapter house project. Mark Brame said this was on hold as they were still waiting for a response from the DAC.

- St Davids
St Davids were still waiting for permission for their disabled toilet. Again, this is a DAC issue. Jane Serbyn said the worry was that the project had grant funding which may be lost if the project is delayed.
- St Marks
Jo Carrick said that the St Marks report was in the booklet, but she said that the large project to repair the crack in the church would be starting soon. This was a costly project by the £7,000 cost had been covered by pledges.

Revd. Jane told the meeting that any other reports were in the booklet which had been circulated. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Rector's Comments:

Revd Jane said her comments were too in the report in booklet.

Mark Brame stated that he was disappointed with the St John the Baptist reaction to his standing in down with no volunteer coming forward to fill the role. Rev Jane thanked him for his hard work and dedication.

She explained that if there was no resolution to the issue then a full and frank discussion would be needed at the next PCC meeting about how the parish is to continue across the three churches. She saw that the joint service on the 21st May 2023 as an opportunity for this.

Any Other Business:

Dorothy Brooke asked if Rev Jane was feeling better after having missed the Easter services.

Rev Jane thanked Matthew Brennan for helping with signing at the PCC meetings.

Date of 2024 Annual Meeting:

Thursday, 11th April 2024 at 7.30pm.

This ended the business of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Appointments to the new Parochial Church Council:

Lay Chair - Mandy Bentley

Secretary - Helen Hickman

Treasurer - Peter Borley-Cox and Assistant Sue Evans

Safeguarding Officer - Jane Serbyn

All members present were in favour of these appointments:

Dates of Parochial Church Council meetings for 2023/24

- 25th May 2023
- 27th July 2023
- 28th September 2023
- 23rd November 2023
- 25th Jan 2024
- 28th March 2024

- 2024 APCM 11th April 2024

The meeting closed with the Prayers.

Rector's Report

In 2023 we have worked well as a team of churches.

During the winter we had warm spaces in each of the churches. Rev Jonathan led this. This was not widely taken up but those who took part enjoyed it and kept warm. We were lucky enough to gain a donation from the council towards the running of this.

During this time we started family services on the 1st Sunday of the month in all churches, this had mixed success depending on the number of children that were at the services. It was certainly a learning curve for some.

We continued with brick church, the attendance varies from month to month, even so we continued doing this led by Rev Jonathan. Woodland church was also continued with Rev Sarah this has grown and it is multigenerational. The youngest been a toddler the oldest being in their 90's. The Sunday morning

services continued as normal. Special; service were done for all the festivals during the year.

During 2023 I was ill for 10 weeks and I would like to thank Rev's Jonathan and Sarah for holding the fort and taking the Easter services. With out their help and cover I wouldn't have been able to recuperate as well with little thought for the parish during this time.

During this time children's activities, home groups have continued as well as a renew 88 being started for families.

In August 2023 Rev Alison Wagner joined us as the team vicar of St David's and school chaplain to Malcolm Arnold Academy. This has proved to be a very good appointment. Rev Ali has been well received by members of all the churches. The finance position is continuing to be precarious, and less money is being able to be paid towards the parish share due to more money being needed for payment oof utility bills. Peter Borley- Cox is finishing as treasurer at the APCM after 18 years. I want to thank him for all the work he has done during this time.

As we are going into 2024 we are looking at new possibilities for mission and growth.

I would like to thank everyone who works behind the scenes, as well as those who help week by week, especially I would like to thank all the church wardens that take on so many extra duties as well as church warden duties.

I would like to thank my clergy and laity team that both work with me and support me. I would like to thank Revds. Jonathan and Sarah for all they have done in the last three years as they prepare to move on. We wish them well.

Canon Jane Butler
Team Rector

Team Vicar's Report

I have been in my role as Team Vicar and Chaplain at MAA for nearly 8 months and there's been a lot to get used to. I am in very familiar territory, only a mile away from where I grew up but in an entirely new landscape.

I am incredibly grateful for the welcome and support I have received across the parish. Thank you.

Some Highlights:

1, The Launde Retreat- a wonderful opportunity to pray with and get to know many members of the churches. Before we left Launde, three of us prayed in the outdoor Chapel (one each from St D's, St J's and St M's) for the parish, it felt significant.

2, The Vision Day: Denise did an excellent job of guiding and encouraging us to share our hopes and fears in the context of prayer.... Always prayer.

3, My first baptism at St David's welcomed the youngest member of our family at St David's. When I was preaching later on in the year on Simeon recognising Jesus in the Temple, he (our lovely baby) with gurgles and squawks provided a wonderful reminder that God was actually a baby in Christ and needed love and care from a human family.

3, Christmas: Carols at St John's in the church after the Christmas Tree Festival. St David's full of primary school children twice and a great visit to Purple Oaks School for a Christmas Service. A wonderful Crib Service, well attended but with an atmosphere of joy in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

4, Woodland Church is a really special time outside exploring God in a reflective and dynamic way on Bradlaugh Fields. A great cross parish team leads this creatively each month and I've loved joining in.

5, The Be Still Course in January encouraged us to think about how we make time for God in our busy lives and the importance and gift of that practice. Jesus withdrew to quiet places to pray we learned to do that more. It was like a mini-retreat in the week.

6, The Lent Course- I only attended 2 but the conversations, again cross parish were thoughtful and faith building.

Some things to look forward to:

Café Church: Offering a more informal service rooted in hospitality, worship, prayer and Biblical exploration. A truly intergenerational affair, please pray for this.

Greater links with the schools: The team at St Mark under Rev Sarah have invested and sown much fruit from their work in Whitehills. My hope is that our growing links with Northgate, Kingsthorpe Grove, MAPS and Purple Oaks will strengthen and that our churches will become familiar places for the children in the parish.

An Ordinand: The arrival of an Ordinand to train with us for the final year of their studies is very exciting. I will be returning to my old college, St Mellitus occasionally and I hope that we will all benefit from this exchange as we seek to equip them for their curacy and as we enjoy their gifts.

Confirmations in July: Bishop Debbie is coming to St David's. Please pray for the preparation and the candidates as they take this step of faith.

Canon Jane has been a tremendous support in my first few months, dispensing wise advice, praying for me and also letting me 'get on with it!' The boys (all

three of them) are getting used to another house and church community and mostly thriving but it is still a period of adjustment.

I have not always found it easy to balance the two posts, they could both be full time jobs. This Holy Week and Easter is proving a particular challenge. So, I am learning to say 'no' at times, and to remind myself I am not here to solve everybody's problems but to point them to God and to pray.

What slips so easily is the time for prayer and reflection, the work that looks pointless but is the bedrock of our Christian lives. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith. Let Him write the story of this parish and fill it with people he is calling.

Revd Ali

Curates' Report

The third year of our curacies has been very good, we feel at home here in Kingsthorpe, thank you to everyone for their continued encouragement of our ministry.

It has been a busy year for us since the last APCM. The pattern of our week has continued with a mix of online and in person services. Morning prayer on Tuesdays and Wednesdays continues on zoom and enables several people to join in who would be unable to attend these services if held in person. 9.30am Thursday morning Holy Communion at St John the Baptist Church and a monthly 11.30am morning Holy Communion service at St David's have become regular events. We do encourage anyone who is available at those times of the day to join us if they can, it is so lovely to meet to pray and worship together. It has been great to welcome Rev Alison Wagner to the team, and she now enjoys the running of the monthly Wednesday Holy Communion at St Davids. Sarah and Jonathan have both taken 3 weddings each during the summer of 2023, which was both a privilege and a joy. We have enjoyed continuing to take regular baptisms and it has been an honour to continue to walk with bereaved families and take funerals for their loved ones.

Over the summer of 2023 we undertook training to deliver "The Bereavement Journey" 7- week course, and in September ran this for the first time in this parish, alongside Chris Woodley and Jo Carrick who had also done the training. Sarah-Jane Major then took over the administration for this course and together with Jo ran a second course at St Marks which has been well attended by community contacts. The five of us found the training really valuable and the course has been excellent. The team hope to continue to offer this as a parish perhaps twice a year.

In July and August 2023, we ran Summer Informal Worship evenings, to learn some new songs from video input, read and study the Bible and pray together. A small group from across the churches met and really enjoyed times of fellowship together on Sunday evenings rotating around the different churches.

Little Stars which launched in Sept 2021 alternating between St Mark's Church, and St John the Baptist Church has continued throughout school term times. This group is for parents/carers and their children and attracts usually through word of mouth or Facebook, between around 8-10 families each week for a 1.30-3pm session. We have seen an increase in Grandmothers attending with their grandchildren recently. Little Stars has stories, songs and prayers on seasonal theme accompanied by live piano music and the presence of a large Teddy Bear dressed in his liturgically coloured waistcoat. After this there is informal time relaxing with toys, chat and refreshments. Many new friendships have been forged and there have been several meals organised during the last year jointly by the leaders of the Tots at St David's and the Little Stars leaders to get the mums and carers together for a happy social occasion. After Easter 2024 this group will meet weekly at St Mark's Church, where it has been better attended than at St Johns. There is a strong lay team able to lead this group and take it forward.

Brick Church has continued at St. John-the-Baptist Church on a monthly basis save for a pause over the sunny summer months. The format remains the same: we enjoy a Bible story together (read and watched on a 'Lego-video') before launching into an hour or so of fun with Lego and Duplo, taking themes from the Bible story and building together with creativity and imagination. This is coupled with a Lego treasure hunt, a prayer wall and colouring sheets, which is all followed by Grace, and more chat over a 'sandwich & cake' tea together. Numbers have grown throughout 2024 particularly and we have enjoyed welcoming new families to that and other services too. A big thank you to the team who come to set up and take down to help this run smoothly and to the "Tea Team" and bakers who produce a fantastic afternoon tea every month.

September 2022 saw the launch of Woodland Church at the Outdoor Classroom on the Brampton Valley Way. Spring 2023 saw a new start for Woodland Church in Bradlaugh Fields behind St David's Church. We wander across from the front of St Davids once a month, picking up litter as we go, and then meet up with others at the gates to the Fields. We risk assess together, and launch the theme for that month, then wander and wonder in the park together. This has helped to form friendships across the generations, and we have had people

from almost every decade from 0's-90's doing life together, sharing and having fun. We pause for activities and reflection, and we have looked at trees, seeds, hidden things, and recently built a complete Easter Garden near the outdoor classroom play area. We have gone into partnership with the team at the Barn there, who are willing to open up the facilities for us once a month and provide hot and cold drinks for sale at a very reasonable price, plus indoor space for crafts and singing if the weather outside proves difficult for our activities and toilet facilities. It has been really wonderful to see this develop and grow and a big thank you to the team who put so much effort into leading, baking and organising so that this Fresh Expression of church runs smoothly.

Our links with Whitehills School have grown, and in the summer term, Reception came to visit St Mark's and learn about the building and what goes on in a church. Year 6 visited us for a special Prayer Space event, and in small groups of 15 explored what it means to pray. We also visited school to help them with their transition process as they prepared to leave for secondary school. In the autumn term, Rev Sarah continued to take assemblies regularly at the school covering Church festivals for them. Rev Sarah visited year 6 lessons, and Year 2 visited St Marks for an Explore Advent morning, the highlight of which was the hunting for and taking home of a beautifully coloured jewel, after learning that God values them as much as they do their precious stone. Year 5 & 6 came to us for their Carol service again this year, which was a lovely opportunity to warmly welcome all the parents and say a few words about the importance of God's love for us all. In the spring term we have visited year 4 to talk about Easter, and year 5 have visited us to Explore Easter. Two children from Whitehills who attended and enjoyed the Christingle Service have been baptised in March 2024. A wonderful team was involved in both the set up and the running of the Explore days in particular and our thanks go to everyone who was involved as the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed their time at St Mark's Church.

We have continued to have good links with the Uniformed organisations in the parish this year, who came to us for Remembrance Sunday in November 2023, but prior to that in June 2023 the Squirrels came on a visit in the summer term to explore St John the Baptist Church. We invited the uniformed groups to attend a Carol Service put on particularly with them in mind at St Mark's Church in December 2023, this was well attended by the Scout/Cub/Beaver troupes, and we were also joined by some of the Girls Brigade from our ecumenical partners at the Baptist Church.

In January 2024 we celebrated the week of prayer for Christian Unity by planning and holding an ecumenical service in St Mark's Church with people involved from all our three churches, plus Christians from the Roman Catholic,

Baptist and Methodist Churches. Rev Sarah really enjoyed connecting with all our local churches in the planning of this service. We had high numbers in attendance, and it was well received by all. We were delighted that Rev Ian Suttie, a retired Methodist Minister from Kingsthorpe Churches Together, Rev Dr Samantha Gillard the new methodist minister and Father Daniel from the Roman Catholic Cathedral were able to join us for this service.

Men's Group has continued to meet during the past year and includes people from all three churches. They have enjoyed watching rugby and cricket, playing indoor bowls, eating together enjoying company and conversation. Summer 2023 there was a successful walk, a boat trip and spectating at a cricket match.

We have continued to enjoy being part of the team who run 'Fun and Faith' for our young people; and also, being involved in the running of the Advent and Lent courses. We have enjoyed supporting the work of Renew 88 Wellbeing on Wednesdays and the Café on Saturday mornings at St Davids.

Rev Jonathan moved curacy placement in January 2024 to Christ the King Church in Kettering, to assist with staffing there and to broaden his experience in a different type of parish. Rev Sarah has continued here in Kingsthorpe. We would both like to thank Rev Canon Jane and the people of Kingsthorpe Team Ministry very much for the opportunity to be curates here and to grow in confidence in our ministry with your support. We are now "signed off" and looking for our next post as incumbents which will probably happen this summer 2024, so this is our last report for the APCM. We hope and pray that all the wonderful work that is happening in this parish continues to help those of this community grow in faith and love.
Thank you.

Rev Sarah and Rev Jonathan

Deanery Synod Report - no report received.

St David Electoral Roll Report

The 2024 membership stands at 25.

St John the Baptist Electoral Roll Report

We began the year with 77 on the Roll.

6 have left the parish.

3 have died.

No new members have been added.

There are now 68 members on the Roll.

Jenny Griffin

St Mark's Electoral Roll Report

Passed away: 1
New member: 1

The 2024 membership remains at 43

K Sumbler

PCC Secretary's Report

The Parochial Church Council met five times in the 2023-24 parochial year. Officers were elected at the end of the annual meeting. All the meetings were quorate. Until November 2023 all PCC meetings were a hybrid was offered with both in person meetings taking place at St David's church alongside Zoom but since this time all meeting were in person. Attendance was very good.

The main items of business across the year:

- The PCC did not manage to pay the Parish Share in full. The level of income needed has not recovered since the pandemic. However, the parish have set up a committee which purpose is to see how income could be maximise at each of the three churches. (The decision was made in 2013 to pay the parish share in full as a priority, requiring regular fund-raising events).
- The parish continued with its outreach activities with the continuation of Brick Church and Food for Thought. New activities were started such as woodland church and the Bereavement Journey course.
- Safeguarding work took place to ensure the three churches and the parish continued to be compliant in all aspects of safeguarding
- Revd Alison Wagner joined the parish as Team Vicar and Chaplain of Malcolm Arnold Academy in August 2023.

Deanery Synod is attended regularly.

Core Groups remain and were able to recover and meet in person during the year, i.e., Pastoral Care, Nurture and Growth, Youth, and Mission.

Helen Hickman

St Davids Church Warden report

Vestments & Chattels

These are all as previous year, are in good serviceable condition, valuables are retained with in a locked safe, when not being used for worship.

Building & Fabrics

The sound systems and projector for the Church Hall is now completed, and is being used for services, training and faith and fun.

Disabled toilets - Debates continues, sign off obtained from the faculty, commencement date for the works to be advised.

Compliance Checks - all necessary checks for electrical, fire test and PAT testing complete & up to date.

General

Ali Wagner was licensed on the 6th August 2023, by Bishop Andrew Proud, and the Archdeacon Richard. A lovely service with refreshments afterwards. Ali is a great asset to St. David's, and the team working together is a delight.

Thank You

Rena & Kelvin - For the upkeep of the grounds. The front elevation to the Church is looking amazing.

Anne - For the organisation of the 50/50 club, and for keeping up to date the electoral roll.

Peter Cotter - For all his work 'behind the scenes', he will be missed as he and his wife have moved away

A big thank you for Servers, Sides People, the now small Chior, Flower arrangers, tea makers, and all who contribute to the church upkeep and services.

Fund Raising

Bod's Little band

Murder Mystery party

Quiz Night

Services

Remembrance Sunday - a fantastic display of knitted poppies, complemented by the metal shadow soldier. This did draw in the local community and passers-by to the outdoor section of the service.

Childrens Crib Service - The Christmas Eve service was truly magical, a spectacle to delight, and faith learning for all.

We would also like to thank Rev Cannon Jane, Rev Sarah, Rev Jonathan, Sarah-jane Major and Rev Ali.

June & Becky

St. John the Baptist Churchwardens Report

St. John the Baptist Churchwardens Report, 2023.

We continued to hold Morning Prayer on Zoom on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 9:00am. Services continued throughout the year with the Rector and Curates usually leading, on a rota.

The 10:00am Sunday services were attended by, usually, about 30 - 35 people, with an average of 42 throughout the year. January saw the KCT Ecumenical service at St. John the Baptist with over 100 in attendance. Thursday morning 9:30am Holy Communion averaged about 4, with numbers between 2 and 8; this service is being held in the Chapter House through the winter months to save on heating costs.

At Easter we held services of Compline (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, and Easter Day, all of which were well attended; with about 70 on Easter Day.

In the summer we did offer an “informal worship” service on a Sunday evening in July and August, but it didn’t attract any newcomers to attend.

The Church was open for Heritage Weekend this year, with the display of the “Chained Library” from the 16/17th centuries; and the Victorian Architect’s drawings from the 1863 restoration work also on show. The annual “Ride & Stride” event went ahead as planned on the Saturday.

The church hosted a Village Harvest Festival service at the end of September with over 200 children present.

The annual Remembrance Service was held in November, with about 80 in church, followed by the Act of Remembrance at Kingsthorpe War Memorial. This service was well attended, with Kingsthorpe and Whitehills Scout Groups joining us.

The Christmas Tree Festival was arranged for the start of December and was well attended and finished off with “Carols on the Green”, which was held inside church due to poor weather. There were about 150 stood in church to sing carols, with refreshments provided, although no fire-pits this year!

Over Christmas we held a Nine Lessons and Carols service, a Crib Service (about 130 attended), Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Family Eucharist. We also hosted a Christingle Service within church for the local Kingsthorpe Village Primary School with about 170 teachers, parents and children taking part.

Little Stars, Brick Church and Woodland Church have all continued to flourish throughout the year.

Mark Brame

St John the Baptist - Fabric Report

The fabric committee has met regularly during the year.

A health and safety review was carried out regularly this year and updated as required.

Work on the project to extend the Chapterhouse continued in the early part of the year but due to the DAC not responding to our requests for the faculty application forms, has been put on hold.

The work identified in the quinquennial inspection was prioritised and the agreement of the Archdeacon and architect for the work was of a “housekeeping” nature to be done. The work was left until the autumn when the leaves had fallen and an attempt to find someone to do the work will be made before spring.

Annual servicing of the clock, boilers, alarm systems and fire extinguishers was carried out.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the additional earthing required for the lightning conductor.

The trees and shrubs in the churchyard have been trimmed regularly by the contractor working for the council.

A defibrillator, funded by the Parish Council, has been installed externally on the Chapterhouse.

There was one organised churchyard tidy-up in the year. The fabric committee would however like to thank those that have, as individuals, on occasion done some tidying up.

Alan Isaac

St Mark's Churchwardens report

Fabric of the Church

The boilers had their annual service and no issues identified.

All the appropriate checks to meet the fire regulations and electrical testing have been undertaken.

The Quinquennial inspection was completed in June 2023.

The report identified areas that needed work carried out. The fabric committee decided the first job would be to fix the vestry flooring as there were rotten floorboards. This was completed. The repairs were funded by the church fundraising holding a Harvest Supper. The fabric committee are planning to identify and prioritise other jobs that need doing. The church holds a couple of workdays throughout the year allowing small jobs to be completed.

Thank you to the fabric committee who do so much to maintain the church, often keeping many repairs “in house” to enable us to save money. Thank you also to the congregation who keep our church and grounds tidy and clean. We have lots of willing volunteers who give up their time to maintain the church.

General.

Our Sunday attendance numbers have remained stable. During the year we welcomed the Whitehills School children at Easter and Advent. They held their Year 5/6 carol service at St Marks as well as running the explore Easter & Advent courses. We also held a carol service for uniformed groups just before Christmas welcoming over 80 young people and their families. Thanks are needed to all those who volunteer in welcoming the school and help with the refreshments. Rev Sarah has worked tirelessly to organise these events.

We held our annual carols on the green and having sung a few carols on the green we then came inside the church to continue the service. This began and ended with the pipe band playing. Also, the Christingle service was ‘full to capacity’ this year.

Hall bookings continue to bring in a good income and the hall is used regularly throughout the week by lots of different groups.

The bereavement course was held in the hall in September. There was one group meeting at St Marks during the day and another at SJB in the evening. This was well attended.

Having volunteered to be churchwarden I expressed that I would need a small band of people to help me. Volunteers stepped forward and I want to say a big thank you to you all. This certainly made my role easier and it was good to work alongside and have support from you all.

Jo Carrick

Lay Reader Report

Another busy year, but one full of blessings and opportunities to meet and worship together.

Over the last year I have continued to lead worship, as well as jointly working with clergy during our time of joint services.

It has been a pleasure to work with the team as we welcome local schools to our buildings to explore the Christian faith as part of their RE curriculum.

Fun and faith continue to meet fortnightly, and we have recently welcomed two new members. Our young people are a credit to themselves, and their families. It is a real privilege to work with them as we journey together in faith.

Little Stars is now a well-established group and Tuesday afternoon is a highlight of my week as parents, grandparents and carers come together to have fun together as well as finding out about Jesus and His love and compassion for us all. It is particularly special to watch the adults support each other both practically and emotionally.

Food 4 Thought continues to meet every other month. A group of us from across the parish are working together to provide an alternative service with a meal at St Marks Church. Numbers are small but those who come along are enjoying the time we spend together exploring our faith through fellowship, music and prayer.

For some of our congregation it is difficult to come out and about so I led a Lent course this year. I appreciate journeying together with others through Lent.

It has been a privilege to work with Jo Carrick as we welcomed seven ladies to St Marks to complete the Bereavement Journey Course.

Lastly a few thanks, for our wonderful congregations who also make me feel welcome, our curates who I have enjoyed working with and like others it was exciting to welcome Rev Ali to the parish and I look forward to working with

her in the coming months. Lastly Rev Jane for her encouragement, guidance, teaching and prayers.

I look forward to the coming year, continuing my journey with Christ together with you all.

May we all receive Gods love and Grace.

Sarah - Jane Major

Report from the Lay Pastoral Minister 2023/24.

This was a busy and rewarding year, church work, pastoral care had not stopped, it was if anything even busier in a different way with new initiatives. In addition, St Marks Church Prayer request and concerns again were well up year on year. They are fed into the Lay Minister and sent out to the group, numbering over 14 including Clergy strictly adhering to the content of the request.

Care home communions continued, Personal external communion and individual home communion continued, via the Lay Minister and thanks to the curates and Sarah Jane in helping across the Parish. Personally over 60 home communions have been carried out over the past year all regularly receive communion at least once a month i.e. the elderly and house bound who are very grateful. However, some have now been moved out into other parishes and with our relationship with other parishes are able to hand this over.

It is necessary to be re-licenced as a Lay Minister in Sept 2025 for another 5 years. With regret I have decided to step down before that date. however a constant review is undertaken by Rev Jane whereby individually as ministers and Lay Ministers, St Mark's still operate a prayer triplet which was and is carrying on although it is down to one triplet meeting once a month.

Fun & Faith continues to operate, live and the youngsters have great fun along with some varied ethical, faith, theological topics prayer and teaching. Thanks to Kathy, Sarah Jane, Rev Sarah, and Rev Johnathan and our new addition Becky Adnitt keeping this worthwhile Ministry at St David's. The youth enjoyed an outing at Wickstead Park and the bowling alley and the Pancake Day, was also carried out. Thanks to Johnathan Hunt in baking again, and to all that help to make this another success.

Food for thought, continues to thrive with good numbers, food and Christian content. There is plenty on offer in the Parish. However, I would encourage you all where you would always be welcome at this initiative It might be that

you would be interested in leading or taking on a roll however small, if only on an ad hoc basis, if so, discuss this with one of the Ministers or Church wardens.

With the Mission meeting we had a while ago there were many ideas, we now have the impetus to do some let us all work together and harness all our gifts that good Lord has provided.

House groups and courses, alternative services are on offer to all regardless of your ability or standing, you don't have to be an academic we can all learn from each other to increase our faith and share our experiences.

In addition, as a Pastoral resource I am involved, in addition with Rev Sarah involvement, Sarah Jane with Whitehills Primary school I support them with such items as Experience Easter, Advent, Church etc and a great time is had by all.

I wish it to be noted that I am extremely grateful for the help and support of other members of the congregation and Team Clergy that people in our community are cared for. The pastoral needs are well covered at St Marks and across the Team as a whole. Blessings on you all

Chris Woodley, (LPM)

Safeguarding

The Parish continues to hold Safeguarding at the centre of its framework. The Diocese Dashboard is working at the highest level and continues to keep abreast of new and updated issues.

All the churches activities have annually reviewed policies, risk assessment and appropriately registered DBS checked, paid and volunteer workers. Each church has a safeguarding representative who meet quarterly throughout the year and as necessary to ensure safety within our churches.

The Safeguarding officer maintains contact with the Rector and the two representatives to ensure that continuity of care is covered across the parish. Training sessions for basic/Foundation Safeguarding, Domestic abuse, and an overview of Food hygiene, Health and safety and first aid have been offered to PCC trustees and volunteers of the church and community groups throughout the year.

Jane Serbyn

St John the Baptist Choir Report

Choir membership remains stable, and it is good to see Rachael (a student at Northampton University who joined us last year) able to attend more regularly now that she is living closer to SJB. Unfortunately, we haven't gained any further new members, so with the onwards march of time the long-term future of the choir remains precarious.

Nevertheless, the choir is still able to lead the congregation in the setting of the Eucharist and to sing an anthem most Sundays. We also held our traditional festival of nine lessons and carols on Advent 4, which was attended by around 30 worshippers, though this was possible only with the help of several former SJB choristers and singers from St D and St M.

I was encouraged that the appeal for funds to repair a defect that had arisen with the organ, raised over £900 in just a few weeks and I extend my thanks to all who contributed. The remedial work has now been undertaken, though the same issue is occurring elsewhere in the instrument, which will need to be addressed in the near future.

Finally, I'd like to thank all members of the choir for their continued commitment and enthusiasm at this challenging time in the choir's history. My thanks also go to Robert for his assistance on the organ until the end of August 2023 when he departed for a post at another church and to Laura who helps out whenever she is able.

Ian Smith, Organist SJB

St John the Baptist Flowers Arrangers Annual Report

We are continuing with our efforts to be more sustainable and have done more arrangements using different containers and without floral foam.

We have also been able to do some arrangements with our own home-grown flowers and foliage. We hope to be able to more of this in the future.

For the Christmas Tree Festival we did a Four Seasons tree decorated with fresh, dried and silk flowers.

We are always looking for new people to help with the flowers. If anyone is interested in joining the flower arrangers or helping in any way, please contact either Pauline Stone, Carol Isaac or Jenny Griffin.

Thank you to all those who have given towards the cost of flowers throughout the year either for special occasions, or in memory of someone or just as donations.

Thank you also to all who have arranged flowers or helped in any way especially at Easter and Christmas.

Pauline Stone, Carol Isaac, Jenny Griffin

St Mark's Flower Fund Report

We have continued only asking for donations at Festival times and we have managed to provide fresh flowers every Sunday, except for the summer months when we have placed silk arrangements in church because of the extremely hot conditions in the building.

At the end of 2023 the accounts stood at £202.42 cash in hand. At the time of writing this report the account currently stands at £199.00 having received donations towards the Easter arrangements.

My thanks to those who have made donations during the year and also to Ruth who helps with the arrangements.

Liz May

Kingsthorpe Churches Together Annual Report

The KCT Annual General meeting was held on Tuesday 31st March at St Marks church hall. There were representatives from St John the Baptist, St Marks, St Davids St Aidan's, the Methodist and Baptist churches. Ruth Gould (St Marks) was re-elected as Chairperson. Maureen Robinson (St Davids) as Vice chair and David Bunker as secretary. We welcomed the Rev Ian Suttie a retired methodist minister to the meetings. Three meetings were held during the year to discuss and plan events and services. The year started with a joint service for all the denominations at St John the Baptist church during the week of Christian Unity. KCT agreed to take over the organising of the service for the World Day of Prayer in March but due to a lack of time this did not happen in 2023. The Good Friday service and Walk of Witness did take place and was well attended. Representatives were invited and attended a multi faith service at the Roman Catholic Cathedral for the coronation of King Charles the Third. Representatives also attended a service and lunch to celebrate the Baptist Church Bicentenary in June and a service to say farewell to Rev Francis M'itiiri and his family in July. They have moved to London where Rev Francis will continue his ministry. In December KCT sang Christmas Carols outside Waitrose lead by Rev Ali.

Ruth Gould.

Mothers Union Report

Another year has gone by. It has been heartwarming to meet regularly, enjoying each other's company and listening to some excellent speakers. Members also enjoyed a summer gathering at Lamport Hall, three of our ladies enjoyed time away together in York for the annual conference in September. I also had a good few days on retreat with MU at Launde Abbey. Several of us also went to St Benedict's for Mary Sumner Day, enjoying fellowship, worship and scrumptious refreshments. The Christmas lunch is always a highlight of the

year, and it didn't disappoint, we all enjoyed a hearty lunch at the golf club in Kingsthorpe.

The dedicated very small committee also meet regularly and keep me on my toes. A personal thank you to Jane S and her excellent organising skills, Andrea for managing the accounts Pauline for arranging our speakers and Anne for their dedication and wise words. A big thank you especially to Jane Roberts who after servicing on the committee for many years has decided to step down.

Our ladies continue to give of their time and Christian fellowship at Baptisms. Thank you, Pauline Gothard, for organising the team and Eileen who now sends cards to each family. The clergy and families really value your input at these very important and special services.

As we move into the new year we look forward to meeting together, sharing the values of Mothers Union with each other, learning together about the influences and hardships that families face in this country and further afield. We do have a committee that is willing to continue to stand for just one more year but we would also welcome a couple of new members to join us.

We have welcomed some new members to our group but with sadness we said our final goodbyes to Brenda, she will be missed but remembered with affection.

As your chair I thank you for your support and prayers and as we move into a new year thank you for your commitment and support of such a wonderful organisation and may we continue as a branch upholding the aims and objectives of the worldwide Mothers Union.

Earlier in the report I said that your committee are willing to stand for one more year, this is to allow members of the Kingsthorpe branch to find a new chair, secretary, treasurer and committee members. Your officers are all busy ladies and are committed to many other roles in the parish so we are looking to others to take on these roles. With that in mind we have decided not to invite a speaker to our October meeting but instead talk about the future of the Kingsthorpe Mothers Union about the roles of chair, treasurer and secretary and who might like to take these on. We will also look at other roles committee members can take on so that the AGM in February 2025 can run smoothly.

Sarah - Jane Major

St David's Time for Tots - Renew Families

(Thursdays 1.30-3pm in term time)

This group for parents/carers and their children aged between 0-5yrs continues to flourish. It attracts families from across the parish and beyond. The group have met regularly over the past year using the local parks during the school's summer break to keep in touch. Families are encouraged to join in with the activities of the church in the form of services and social engagement.

Twice this past year the adults have met socially to share a meal and to continue to build relationships.

We are blessed to have developed a core team of volunteers who support family's wellbeing and share the responsibilities of the sessions. (Early Years, Health visitor, Listeners and mental health first aider)

This year we are thankful to the West Northants Council Wellness programme for their grant donation of £2500. These funds have secured hall hire, play equipment, trips out, social entertainment, and refreshments.

In recent months the group has acknowledged the need for support to young families suffering from social isolation, depression, and anxiety. We have provided wellbeing programmes and parenting courses to support vulnerable individuals and families.

The group has rebranded as Renew 88 Families 0-5 café in January 2024

Jane Serbyn

Renew 88

This group meets throughout the year on a Wednesday morning in St David's Church Hall (10-1pm)

During 2023/4 our numbers have steadily grown (Currently 35) The sessions provide a mix of fellowship and craft as well as having a regular time of meditation and prayer. A communion service is available to the group once a month for those who wish to attend.

The group provides a space where 'Its ok not to be ok'. Members are referred from Social Prescribers at local surgeries as well as those who regularly attend from within the parish.

We have received a grant of £2500 from West Northants Council Wellness programme which has been used towards hall hire, resources, games, and soup lunches.

The group recognises everyone by name and not by label and offers fellowship and support in a non-judgemental space.

Jane Serbyn

The Friends of Kingsthorpe New Churchyard Pocket Park Committee

The Friends of Kingsthorpe New Churchyard Pocket Park meet at 10 am every Saturday between March and October to maintain and improve this old cemetery. The aim is to provide a quiet area of green space within the village.

The work required to achieve this includes cutting back brambles, nettles and other fast-growing plants to allow space for planted bulbs and other plants to thrive. The large trees within the park require maintenance such as lopping of dead branches from time to time.

The park currently contains a large active badger set. The badgers are left in peace despite the significant damage they make. Much effort goes into keeping the paths in order - sweeping fallen leaves, refitting some of the edging stones and spreading wood chippings when necessary.

Over the past few years The Friends have been engaged in a programme of replacing the old, rather crude, wooden benches in the park with cast iron framed benches with recycled plastic slats. In addition to their own fundraising, they have received significant financial help for this work from the Kingsthorpe Manor and Town Charitable Trust.

Children from Kingsthorpe Village primary School use the park one day per week for nature trails and woodland observations. They get much pleasure from seeing the plants grow and the many birds nesting in the bird boxes. The Friends are confident local residents value this area and the new seating is much appreciated.

Report for Charity Commission

*The purpose of our Church
is to grow together in the faith of Jesus Christ
and to share God's love with all.*

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**KINGSTHORPE TEAM MINISTRY
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (Charity No. 1130370)
for St. David, Eastern Avenue, NN2 7QB
St. John the Baptist, Kingsthorpe Village, NN2 6QZ
St. Mark, St. Mark's Crescent, NN2 8EG**

The staffing level in the parish during the last year was Rector (Revd. Canon Jane Butler), the Curates Revds. Jonathan and Sarah Lee. However in January

2024, Rev Jonathan Lee left the parish to continue his curacy with Kettering. In August 2023, Rev Alison Wagner was appointed team vicar with the chaplaincy of Malcolm Arnold Academy. Assistance is also given to the parish by Rev Stuart Mousir-Harrison. The Lay Pastoral Minister is Christopher Woodley. Mrs. Sarah-Jane Major is a Reader Ministry. Mrs. Judith Whitmore was the Lay Evangelists within the parish.

Thanks are due to Interpreters Jackie Hutchinson and Matthew Brennan who work with the Rector.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 11th May 2023 on Zoom and in person Following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting the membership of the Parochial Church Council was made up as follows: -

St. David:

Rebecca Adnitt (Churchwarden), Sarah-Jane Major (Lay Reader/ex-officio), Maureen Robinson, Joyce Munroe, Shirley Basford, Mary Hardwick, Jane Serbyn and June Ward (Churchwarden).

St. John the Baptist:

Mandy Bentley (Lay Chair), Peter Borley-Cox (Treasurer), Mark Brame (Churchwarden), Geoffrey Foster, Jennifer Griffin (Deanery Synod/ex-officio), and Pauline Stone.

St. Mark:

Jo Carrick (Churchwarden), Shirley Cumbleton, Suzanne Evans (Assistant Treasurer), Ruth Gould, Helen Hickman (Secretary), Elizabeth May, Samantha Hunt, Kathy Wilcox, Paula Blackwell and Richie Carrick.

The Parochial Church Council met six times in full session in the year. Between May 2023 and November 2023, the PCC meet in person at St David's with an option of dialling in on Zoom for those who wished to but since November 2023 all meeting have only been in person. All meeting were quorate.

(Representation to the PCC from each church at the annual meeting in 2013 increased to 10 persons over and above Churchwardens and Deanery Synod members (as agreed and notified in 2012)).

Various members of the PCC support the life of the Parish through sub-groups, i.e., Pastoral Care, Nurture and Growth, Youth activity and Mission.

Deanery Synod representation after the annual meeting was 1 person. (The electoral roll allows for 5 positions).

The Parish was unable to pay the Parish Share in full in 2023. Fund-raising efforts slowly continued to grow during the year. However, the increase in the cost of utilities had a more than significant impact on the parish's financial position.

The Parish Office, with a Team Co-ordinator and voluntary assistance, continues to be an important asset.

Mrs Jane Serbyn is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. She has ensured that across the team on-line training has been undertaken where individuals have access to the technology to do so. She provided regular updates to the Parochial Church Council.

The Team has representatives to the local Kingsthorpe Village Conservation Group, Pocket Park Committee, Kingsthorpe Churches Together and St. David's Community Association. The Community Café at St. David's was able to reopen. St David's have been running a successful and well used foodbank.

Fabric matters are dealt with regularly at all churches. The redevelopment of the Chapter House at St. John the Baptist has stalled due to the planning permission expiring.

During 2023, contact with the local schools has continued. There have been in person visits made to our churches at Christmas.

Other events in the year:

- Christmas day services
- House group and on-line Lent course
- Easter Services
- Christmas Tree Festival
- A Nine Lessons & carols services were held in the parish.
- A Remembrance Day service was held at the War Memorial in Kingsthorpe.
- Crib and Christingle services
- Fun & Faith youth group met regularly.

Each of the church halls is used to hold a variety of community events and sponsored by the church congregations.

Administrative Information:

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hall Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.
ME19 4JQ

CCLA Investment Management Ltd, The CBF Church of England Funds, Senator
House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET.

Independent Examiner:
Jackie Brame FCCA.

For Parish Matters:
The Reverend Canon Jane Butler, The Rectory, 16 Green End, Kingsthorpe,
Northampton, NN2 6RD

Parish Office:
St. David's Church & Hall, Eastern Avenue South, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2
7QB. Tel: 01604 720781.

Website: www.kingsthorpechurches.co.uk

Facebook - Kingsthorpe Parish

HJH Mar 2024