**THE PARISH OF ST AIDAN, GRAVESEND**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING HELD IN**

**ST AIDAN’S CHURCH AT 1140 hrs ON SUNDAY 17th MARCH 2024**

The Rev’d Michael Payne took the Chair for the meeting. The meeting opened in prayer.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM: Janet Trevor.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2023 were AGREED as a true record and were duly signed.

APPOINTMENT OF CHURCHWARDENS

Michael said that Dennis Ashurst (who had acted as Churchwarden, since 2014, for 10 years) was willing to continue in office. Because Dennis had already served more than 6 years, it was proposed by Fr Michael that Section 3 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 should not apply to the parish of St Aidan, Gravesend and that this resolution should have immediate effect and should cease to have effect on the day preceding the 2025 annual meeting of parishioners to elect Churchwardens. This resolution was AGREED. (This has the effect of allowing an existing Churchwarden a further year in office).

There was only one other further nomination, Rob Hollands. Rob & Dennis had both been proposed and seconded. As there were no other nominations, Fr Michael declared Dennis Ashurst and Rob Hollands ELECTED as Churchwardens for the coming year. He thanked them both for the work they had done in the past year and congratulated them on their re-election.

There was no other business and the meeting was concluded.

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN ST AIDAN’S CHURCH AT 1145 hrs ON SUNDAY 17th MARCH 2024**

The Rev’d Michael Payne took the Chair for the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM: Lesley Caswell, Janet Morris,
Les & Sylvia Munns, Barbara Potter.

ATTENDANCE 24

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2023 were AGREED as a true record and were duly signed.

MATTERS ARISING

**Deanery Synod Report** – Fr Michael said that, following the appointment of The Rev’d Gordon McBean to St Botolph’s School, Northfleet, he no longer took Friday Eucharist Services there.

**Churches Together in Gravesham** – Fr Michael said that Sylvia Munns was now our representative: Michael Butler was also a supporter of this group.

**Eco Awards for Churches** – Fr Michael said that St Aidan’s had obtained a Bronze Award, one of only 13 or so churches in the Diocese to have done so. He thanked Sylvia Munns for her work in achieving this.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

It was noted that this year two names had been removed from the roll and one name had been added reducing the total of the roll to 62. Fr Michael thanked Doreen for her continued work as Electoral Roll Officer.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The report was reviewed. Fr Michael thanked Mike Welch for his work as PCC Secretary. He continued that Mike had decided to stand down from the role of Health & Safety Officer (HSO) and from organising the Sunday Morning Refreshment Rota. Les Munns had volunteered to take over as HSO (he had this role at All Saints’, Perry Street for a number of years), and Jenny Rawlinson had agreed to organise the Sunday Morning Refreshment Rota and he thanked both of them

TREASURER’S REPORT

The audited accounts and finance report for 2023 were noted and APPROVED. Fr Michael said that we were now having to draw on reserves in order to pay running costs. Income from letting the Church Hall had dwindled significantly and there was now only one regular hirer (apart from the Nursery School and the Calvary Apostolic Church). A decision had been taken to not let out the Hall for one-off parties because of the lack of a booking secretary and that it involved a lot of difficulty in dealing with unco-operative hirers. He wanted to secure more regular hirers and if anyone knew of any such groups seeking a meeting place on a regular basis, they should be directed towards Barbara. The Hall urgently needed roof repairs and also work done to the flooring in order to make the venue more attractive as a community resource. Michael Butler suggested the promotion of legacies to St Aidan’s and for reminding church members of the need for careful financial stewardship. Printing the church’s charity registration number in the newsletter may help. Fr Michael thanked Michael Butler for his suggestions.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Barbara Potter (unable to be at the meeting) had earlier said that Keith Scudder, who was suitably qualified, was willing to be reappointed. It was therefore AGREED by the meeting that Keith Scudder be appointed Independent Examiner for the 2024 accounts.

REPORT ON THE FABRIC

The reports on the Church and Hall were reviewed. Fr Michael said he was looking into the possibility of community funding to refurbish the church hall. Fr Michael thanked Rob, especially for his liaison with contractors, and also Dennis, for their work over the year.

TERRIER LOG & INVENTORY

The Terrier Log and Inventory (which included photographic records) were available for inspection.

NURSERY SCHOOL REPORT

The report was reviewed. Fr Michael said that an Ofsted visit was expected shortly. The Nursery now had a number of children who were barely 2 years old and an increasing number of children with special needs who all now needed supervision. He asked that the Nursery School staff be kept in our prayers. With the death of Anne Welch, another church representative was needed. Jan Hollands said she was willing to fulfil this role.

DEANERY & DIOCESAN SYNODS

The reports were noted. Fr Michael said he was grateful to Dr Peter Harris for his reports. He added that the Area Dean,The Rev’d Nigel Bourne, provided good leadership to ensure that the Deanery Synod was meaningful and worked well.

ELECTION OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Doreen McIntosh, David Sisterson, Janet Trevor and Michael Welch had all come to the end of their respective periods of office and had offered themselves for re-election. Javid Elahi had been nominated to fill the vacancy created by the death of Anne Welch. All had been duly proposed and seconded.

There being no other nominations from the floor, Javid Elahi, Doreen McIntosh, David Sisterson, Janet Trevor and Michael Welch were ELECTED to serve until 2027. Fr Michael congratulated the re-elected members and the newly elected member. He thanked all who contributed to the smooth running of the church

ELECTION OF SIDESPEOPLE

The meeting AGREED that the existing Sidespeople (Welcomers) continue in office for the coming year, viz: Penny Bennett, June Cook, Doreen McIntosh, Barbara Potter, Jenny Rawlinson, Christine Thatcher,
Janet Trevor, Valerie Weekes.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS’ REPORTS

Other reports were reviewed. Mike Welch said that the signatories on the Little Rainbows report should have been shown as Barbara Potter and Lesley Leith-Bulman.

VICAR’S COMMENTS

Fr Michael said that his main comments were as stated in the Chairman’s Report which had been previously distributed. He thanked all who had submitted reports. He concluded by thanking everyone for their support during the year adding that St Aidan’s also contributed to the wider work of the church through Christian Aid, The Childrens’ Society, Hope Gardens (India) and the Diocese of Bo (Sierra Leone).

Mike Welch, on behalf of the meeting, thanked Fr Michael for all he had done and was doing, not only on Sundays but on other days (often unseen by the congregation).

Fr Michael said that he was also a tutor (10 teaching days p.a.) at St Augustine’s College (West Malling) and a Trustee at the Aletheia Academies Trust which included many local schools including St George’s (having given up the Governorship at St George’s C of E School). He was also a member of The Diocesan and Deanery Synods. However, St Aidan’s Church & Parish remained his top priority.

OTHER MATTERS

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED that the next meeting would be held on Passion Sunday, 6th April 2025 in the Church at about 11.15 am.

The meeting closed with prayer