**THE PARISH OF ST AIDAN, GRAVESEND**

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

**ST AIDAN’S CHURCH AT 1100 hrs ON SUNDAY 23rd MAY 2021**

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM: John Morris, Janet Trevor.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2020 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 7 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 2022 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 being no other nominations, Michael declared Dennis Ashurst elected as Churchwarden for the coming year. He thanked Dennis for all the work he had done and was doing and congratulated Dennis on his 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 1105 hrs ON SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM: John Morris, Janet Trevor.

ATTENDANCE 16

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2020 were AGREED as a true record and were duly signed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

It was noted that this year 3 names had been removed from the roll (death) and 3 new names had been added making the total of the new roll still 56. 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.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The audited accounts and finance report for 2020 were noted and APPROVED.

Fr Michael thanked Barbara Potter for her ongoing work as Treasurer.

Barbara said that the financial situation for the second half of 2021 would appear to be serious and she would go into more detail at the PCC meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Barbara Potter 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 2021 accounts.

REPORT ON THE FABRIC

The reports on the Church and Hall were reviewed. Fr Michael thanked the Churchwarden and all who had ensured that the buildings had been well maintained, especially in the latest lockdown period. There had been no vandalism during this period. He thanked Barbara who had liaised with contractors on site where necessary.

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 thanked Gayle, her staff and the Nursery School Management team for

running the school so successfully during the period since the last APCM whilst meeting the requirements of Covid-19 legislation. The staff had cleared an overgrown section of the churchyard at the back of the Hall and had converted it into a wildlife area for the children to enjoy. Barbara added her thanks to Kelly who was regularly mowing the grass in parts of the church gardens.

DEANERY SYNOD

The report was noted. Fr Michael said that Dr Peter Harris (who had filled a casual vacancy on 20th January 2021) was continuing as the sole lay representative on the Deanery Synod. (There remained one unfilled vacancy). Fr Michael added that Peter had completed his first phase of lay training and was starting on the next phase.

ELECTION OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Doreen McIntosh, David Sisterson, Janet Trevor and Mike Welch had all come to the end of their respective periods of office and all had offered themselves for re-election. They had all been duly nominated and seconded.

There being no other nominations from the floor, the above were ELECTED to serve until 2024. Fr Michael congratulated the newly re-elected members.

ELECTION OF SIDESPEOPLE

Fr Michael said with sadness that a long-time Welcomer, Irene Morel, had recently died and that her funeral would be held in the coming week.

The meeting AGREED that the existing Sidespeople (Welcomers) continue in office for the coming year, viz: Penny Bennett, Joan Cook, Doreen McIntosh, Barbara Potter, Jenny Rawlinson, Christine Thatcher, Janet Trevor, Valerie Weekes. Fr Michael asked that anyone who wished to become a Welcomer should let him know. He added that all Welcomers would need to undertake the basic Safeguarding on-line training module.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS’ REPORTS

These reports were reviewed. Most organisations had not been asked for reports as they had not met since the last APCM. Fr Michael thanked David Sisterson for playing the organ at Sunday services to enhance our worship, despite singing not being allowed under Covid-19 restrictions. The East Gravesend Group of churches was now fully staffed: Christchurch by The Rev’d Andrew Davey and St Margaret Ifield and Holy Family by the Rev’d Ted Hurst who was combining this new role with his existing Rectorship of St Peter & St Paul Shorne. The first prayer meeting of the new Group would be held this week and Fr Michael asked for the congregation’s prayers. Fr Michael said that reopening of the Powerhouse & Computer Suite, the restarting of the social calendar and the serving of refreshments after Sunday morning services may be possible if the further relaxation of the Covid-19 restrictions materialised on 19th June 2021. He added that those serving refreshments would need to undertake the basic Safeguarding on-line training module. Fr Michael thanked everyone for their continued patience.

VICAR’S COMMENTS

Fr Michael said that his main comments were as stated in the Chairman’s Report which had been previously distributed. He welcomed three new regular worshippers, Rob & Janice Holland and Richard Ward. He added that the finalisation of a committee (existing volunteers: Sarah Foster-Mason, Richard Ward & Mike Welch), to examine the Diocese’s Called To Grow initiative had been delayed by the pandemic but was now being pursued again: we all needed to decide where we wanted to be as a parish in an open and creative way, reaching out by making use of existing groups wherever possible. He said he had established good relationships with most of the schools in the parish and was continuing to contact Riverview School to this end. He had earlier been appointed Vice-Chair of the Governors of St George’s School but was currently Interim Chair with the likelihood of this position being confirmed. He stated, however, that whilst he understood the importance of clergy representation on this church school’s governing body, his first priority would always be St Aidan’s and his parish work.

Mike Welch, on behalf of the meeting, thanked Fr Michael for all he had done and was doing despite the many frustrations caused by the pandemic and the consequent need for compliance with the government’s often-changing restrictions.

Fr Michael said that it had sometimes been the case of needing an ‘island’ spirit, self-help, attitude to get through these times. He thanked everyone for their forbearance and for showing the right spirit.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED that the next meeting would be held on Passion Sunday, 3rd April 2022 in the Church at 11.30 am.

The meeting closed with prayer