**THE PARISH OF ST AIDAN, GRAVESEND**

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

**ST AIDAN’S CHURCH AT 1130 hrs ON SUNDAY 26th MARCH 2023**

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 3rd April 2022 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 9 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 2024 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 Dennis for all the work he had done, day by day, and continued to do and said that Rob had been churchwarden at All Saints’, Perry Street four times and would bring a wealth of experience to the role. He congratulated them both on their 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 1135 hrs ON SUNDAY 26th MARCH 2023**

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM: Janet Trevor.

ATTENDANCE 29

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2022 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 one name had been removed from the roll and one name had been added maintaining the total of the roll at 63. 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 2022 were noted and APPROVED.

Fr Michael said that Income from normal sources had suffered greatly during the pandemic period but we had received grants from the Diocese to decrease the deficit. Hall letting income had now resumed and, thanks to various groups using the Computer Room for adult training, the Powerhouse was now making a small profit. He thanked Barbara Potter for her excellent work as Treasurer and her other associated work over and beyond that within the Treasurer’s remit.

In response to a question from Steve Kench-Cannon Barbara said that the financial outlook was good. A Government grant had been received to assist with fuel costs, a Council grant towards the costs of opening the church as a Warm Space had been received and the current fixed price electricity contract did not run out until 2025.

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 2023 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 Dennis for all the work he had done in liaising with various contractors 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 the school now had larger numbers of children with special educational needs and this was requiring considerable investment in suitable training for the staff. He thanked Gayle, her staff and the Nursery School Management team for operating the school so successfully at both sites.

DEANERY SYNOD

The report was noted. Fr Michael said that Dr Peter Harris wished to continue as Deanery Synod member and Janet Morris, whose term of PCC membership was coming to an end, wished to become a member of the Deanery Synod. Both had been formally nominated, proposed & seconded. There being no further nominations, both were ELECTED to serve to fill the two vacancies as lay representatives on the Deanery Synod. Fr Michael added that St Botolph had been without an incumbent since the death of Fr Cyril Showers: to continue to allow St Botolph’s Church School to have a weekly Eucharist, he had agreed to take the service there (except on the 1st Friday of the month) for the time being. In reply to a question, Fr Michael said that about 8 children from that school had been confirmed by the Bishop on 18th March 2023.

ELECTION OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Dave Rawlinson and Dennis Ashurst had all come to the end of their respective periods of office and had offered themselves for re-election. Daphne Lane had reached the end of her period of office and was not seeking re-election. Janet Morris had also reached the end of her period of office but had just been appointed to the Deanery Synod. Michael Butler, Jan Hollands, and Steve Kench-Cannon had been nominated to fill the remaining vacancies. They had all been duly nominated and seconded.

There being no other nominations from the floor, Dennis Ashurst, Michael Butler, Jan Hollands, Steve Kench-Cannon and Dave Rawlinson were ELECTED to serve until 2026. Fr Michael congratulated the re-elected members and the newly elected members all of whom would bring different skills and experience to the Council.

ELECTION OF SIDESPEOPLE

The meeting AGREED that the existing Sidespeople (Welcomers) continue in office for the coming year, viz: Penny Bennett, June Cook, Robert Hollands, Doreen McIntosh, Barbara Potter, Jenny Rawlinson, Christine Thatcher, Janet Trevor, Valerie Weekes. He added that all Welcomers, and others newly appointed to specific roles needed to undergo safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role. He now had the resources to deliver the Basic Awareness level (replacing C0 level) on a suitable date in church for those unable to complete it on line. He asked anyone unsure of the training they required to contact him or Janet Trevor.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS’ REPORTS

Other reports were reviewed. Fr Michael said that St Aidan’s did not have a representative on Churches Together in Gravesham.

VICAR’S COMMENTS

Fr Michael said that his main comments were as stated in the Chairman’s Report which had been previously distributed. He concluded by thanking everyone for their support during the year.

Mike Welch, on behalf of the meeting, thanked Fr Michael for all he had done, not only in church but, for the wider community, for example, facilitating adult training in the computer room groups and instituting Warm Spaces in the Lounge & West Room. Thanks were also extended to Amy and the family.

OTHER MATTERS

**Worship** – Mike Butler said that there could be more opportunity for using contemporary worship songs
(without the need for a special band etc). Also those, especially newcomers, could experience difficulty when expected to sing the psalms to Anglican chant.

Fr Michael said that many people struggled with singing the psalms: struggling together was part of growing together in worship. He felt it would be a retrograde step to reintroduce a gradual hymn to replace the psalm.

**Lay Leadership** – Dr Peter Harris thanked the congregation for its support on his journey towards licensing as a Reader.

Fr Michael said that announcement of the date of Peter’s licensing would be made in due course. He added that St Aidan’s also had an Anna Chaplain, a Reader Emeritus, and several people to write the weekly ‘Reflections’.

Fr Michael said that, although he was responsible for the spiritual life of the parish he was always open to other ideas and invited anyone who had suggestions to come and see him.

**Eco Awards for Churches** – Fr Michael said that St Aidan’s was now eligible for a Bronze Award. Rather than purchasing the plaque (c£80) Sylvia Munns was overseeing our move towards gaining a Silver Award.

**Advance sight of papers for the APCM** – Replying to a question from Steve Kench-Cannon, Fr Michael said that the papers **had** been available at the back of the church since last Sunday.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED that the next meeting would be held on Passion Sunday, 17th March 2024 in the Church at 11.15 am.

The meeting closed with prayer