**THE PARISH OF ST AIDAN, GRAVESEND**

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

**ST AIDAN’S CHURCH AT 1120 hrs ON SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2025**

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM: Ann & Dennis Ashurst, Janet Morris,  
 Janet Trevor.

PREVIOUS MINUTES  
The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2024 were AGREED as a true record and were duly signed.

APPOINTMENT OF CHURCHWARDENS

Fr Michael thanked Rob Hollands for his work as Churchwarden during the past year. Rob had been proposed and seconded. As there were no other nominations, Fr Michael declared Rob Hollands ELECTED as Churchwarden for the coming year. Fr Michael said that there was still a vacancy for another Churchwarden. Sadly it was increasingly common for churches to have only one or sometimes no Churchwardens and he was grateful to Rob for his continued commitment.

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 1125 hrs ON SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2025**

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM: Ann & Dennis Ashurst, Janet Morris,  
 Janet Trevor.

ATTENDANCE 22

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2024 were AGREED as a true record and were duly signed.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

This year was the year when the Electoral Roll had to be completely renewed. As a result, the number of people on the Electoral Roll had decreased from 62 (last year) to 51

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 2024 were noted and APPROVED. Barbara commented that it would be extremely helpful if all regular givers who were also tax-payers signed Gift Aid forms. Fr Michael said that, financially, we were surviving, rather than thriving. He hoped that the forthcoming renovation of the Hall floor would attract new hirers. It cost over £600 each week to run St Aidan’s church and we needed to be open about acknowledging this. Agreeing with Barbara’s comment about our being able to pay only a small proportion of the Diocese’s ‘indicative offer’, Fr Michael said that we gave what we could afford and some churches in the Diocese paid even less or nothing at all. He thanked Barbara for her continued work as Treasurer.

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 2025 accounts.

REPORT ON THE FABRIC

The reports on the Church and Hall were reviewed. It was noted that an application for a faculty to remove the church porches (to reduce incidence of unsafe and unauthorised access to the flat roof) was ongoing.   
Fr Michael thanked Rob for his continued involvement with the maintenance of the buildings.

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 he was grateful for the work of the Nursery School, particularly the creation of the woodland garden and the provision (at their cost) of new metal fencing around the community garden, maintaining the lawn area and trimming the hedge adjoining the Vicarage.

DEANERY & DIOCESAN SYNODS

The reports were noted. Fr Michael said that Bishop Jonathon considered Area Deans to be of great importance to the structure of the church and, since his report had been prepared, he had been appointed Area Dean to the Gravesend Deanery (to the post formerly held by The Rev’d Nigel Bourne).

ELECTION OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Barbara Potter and Jenny Rawlinson had come to the end of their three-year terms of office and were standing for re-election. Dennis Ashurst had been co-opted to the PCC for most of the past year and was offering himself for election. All three had been proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations from the floor, Dennis Ashurst, Barbara Potter and Jenny Rawlinson were ELECTED to serve until 2028 and were congratulated by Fr Michael; he thanked all who contributed to the smooth running of the church.

ELECTION TO THE DEANERY SYNOD

Fr Michael said that Steve Kench-Cannon had offered himself for election and had been proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations from the floor and Steve was declared ELECTED to the Deanery Synod. There was still a further unfilled vacancy.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS’ REPORTS

Other reports were reviewed. Fr Michael drew attention to a typographical error on the **Safeguarding Report on** page 6 – the word ‘not’ had been inadvertently omitted from line 3 which should now read: “.. Safeguarding should not be seen as a chore ...”. There were also two reports received after the main printing: ‘Churches Together’ and ‘Alzheimer’s & Dementia Support Service which were distributed separately.

VICAR’S COMMENTS

Fr Michael said that his main comments were as stated in the Chairman’s Report which had been previously distributed. He was grateful to all who had any responsibility at St Aidan’s which continued to cater for several different groups. A Youth Group had earlier been suggested which he was open to supporting but it would need resources which we did not appear to have at present.

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) to further the work of the Kingdom.

OTHER MATTERS

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED that the next meeting would be held on Passion Sunday, 22nd March 2026 in the Church at about 11.15 am.

The meeting closed with prayer