

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, ABINGDON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2024.

1. The meeting opened with prayer.

Apologies for absence were received from Douglas Aitken, Sue and Alex Scott, Gill and Peter Squire, Stewart and Christine Ciupa.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2023 were accepted as correct nem con.

3. Matters arising

Keith Bowman queried Glynne Butt's listing as an ex-officio member of the DCC. The secretary apparently needs to be co-opted. Glynne suggested the matter might be resolved were she to stand for the current vacancy on the DCC.

4. Reports:

ELECTORAL ROLL.

- Keith Bowman presented the Electoral Roll Report. Of the 69 members listed last year, Adrienne Compton James is deceased and Jeremy has left the area, so leaving 67 members. We will be required to draw up a completely new roll in 2025. Keith was thanked for compiling and updating the roll.

ANNUAL REPORT.

- This had been circulated in advance and is appended. Joyce Kelly was warmly thanked for all her work in its preparation. Only one correction was suggested: Veronica, our Sacristan, had not been thanked in the Vicar's Report. Fr. Paul acknowledged the oversight and apologised, saying that he would be offering his thanks during his Address at the end of today's meeting.

All contributors to the report were thanked. Louise and David were specially commended for their detailed monitoring and management of

energy usage. Fr Paul also wished to record thanks to the choir which he felt was of exceptional quality for a church of our size.

#### PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

- In the absence of the Treasurer, the accounts for the year ending December 2023 were presented by Laurence King. The accounts had been approved by the DCC in March. The figures showed a worrying loss of £23,940. This was despite our extensive programme of fund raising which well exceeded the budgeted figure and was the largest in the parish. £6,351 was lost on investment income against expectations which was disappointing and energy costs were £5,123 worse than budget. The loss was covered by reducing the short term deposits we held in C of E Deposit Accounts in CCLA Bank. Looking forward, Laurence highlighted the lessons learned from 2023. There were encouraging signs for the year ahead. We will hope to continue with our successful fundraising efforts and as we are now part of the parish energy basket there should be substantial savings on gas and electricity costs. There is therefore a good chance that we will be able to significantly reduce the deficit of £24,651 predicted in the budget. Laurence was warmly thanked for producing the financial report in a clear and comprehensible manner.

#### CHARITABLE GIVING

- The congregation had been invited to propose charities for our support in 2024-5. The charities receiving the greatest number of votes were TARIRO and OXFORDSHIRE HOMELESS and these will be supported for the next two years.

#### 5. Elections.

*Proposer and Secunder in italics.*

- CHURCHWARDENS.  
Joyce Kelly. (*Louise Heffernan, Peter Squire*)  
Louise Heffernan. (*Beryl Clements. Nicola Ng*)  
The nominations for Joyce and Louise will be forwarded to the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on 18 April at which Churchwardens for the parish are formally elected."

- PCC MEMBERSHIP  
For a 3 year vacancy : John Clare. (*Joyce Kelly, Barbara King.* )  
For a 2 year vacancy : Hilary Clare. (*Ming Ng. Beryl Clements.* )  
For a 1 year term : This vacancy remains unfilled
- DCC MEMBERSHIP  
Nicola Ng. (*Louise Beryl*)  
Beryl Clements. (*Louise. Nicola*)  
It was suggested that Glynne might fill the third vacancy to resolve the legal inconsistency of her secretarial role as pointed out earlier by Keith. (*Nicola. Joyce*)
- CHURCH IN ABINGDON REPRESENTATIVE  
John Clare is willing to continue. (*Joyce. Veronica.*)

All of the above were thanked for their willingness to serve and there being no other candidates, were duly elected to office (or in the case of Churchwardens: were nominated.)

#### 6. AOB.

- A question from the floor asked about Fr. AKMA's involvement at St. Michael's. Fr. Paul has requested additional clergy support on Sunday mornings in the role of deacon and/or preacher and a working agreement is in place outlining AKMA's participation at both St. N's and St. M.'s. His name is on the new clergy rota which begins on 14<sup>th</sup> April.
- Veronica praised the tremendous fundraising effort in the past year. She pointed out the wider benefits for our church community and urged people to support this work in prayer.

#### 7. Vicar's address

Fr Paul outlined the challenges ahead of us in the year ahead:

Our finances are clearly of concern. Susan Read, our Treasurer's, resignation comes into effect today and we have no successor in place. A person who is already helping with our bookkeeping has been approached. Fr. Paul has also had a conversation with Jenny Metcalfe from St. N's who is willing to speak to the DCC with helpful suggestions.

Nicola and the fundraising team were warmly thanked. The sums raised were described as remarkable and Nicola's work in outreach through the events she has organised was commended.

We currently have no safeguarding officer. Carol Bowman was thanked for filling this role for a number of years. In the absence of a successor, Fr. Paul has assumed the role. He reminded members of the congregation of the procedures required should they have any concerns.

Fr. Paul's responsibilities at both St N's and St. M's on a Sunday morning have caused problems for some time, primarily his late arrival at St. N's. Discussions have taken place and measures to address this are in place with some success. Joint meetings of Churchwardens from both churches are aimed at reducing duplication of effort and streamlining of procedures.

Fr. Paul repeated an earlier plea to be informed of any church members in any sort of need.

Provision for children at Michael's is being addressed with the start of Childrens' Church on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in July. Seven people have offered help. Two families have already expressed interest and there are plans to review the Baptism Registers with a view to widening uptake from September. Carol's past experience will be invaluable.

Fr. Paul concluded by thanking everyone for their contributions however small. It is a particular joy that Veronica Margetts has stepped into the role of Sacristan and that Peter Sumner has offered to assist her. David Duce and the serving team were thanked for their contribution to our worship. The Churchwardens were also thanked for the support they give to Fr. Paul and for everything else that they do. The participation of parish clergy and Beryl Clements in our liturgy was valued. Adrienne Compton James and Mo Alner were remembered with gratitude.

Joyce Kelly thanked Fr. Paul for his leadership.

The meeting concluded with prayer.