



## **MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES PCC**

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in St. Dunstan's Church

### Annual Vestry Meeting (for the Election of Churchwardens)

Chairman: Father Michael  
Present: Deacon Di Blackden  
Stephen Blurton, Churchwarden  
Stephen Lawrence, Churchwarden  
Robin Holliday, Hon. Treasurer  
Emma Ryder Richardson, Acting PCC Treasurer  
20 congregation members including 6 PCC Members

Apologies: Susan Smith  
Tim Reid  
Nicky Higgins  
Jenny Whittall  
Phyllida de Sallis  
Karen Mack

1. Father Michael welcomed attendees and opened the meeting with prayer
2. The Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 were unanimously approved
3. Election of Churchwardens for 2023

Stephen Blurton and Stephen Lawrence were unanimously elected for a further year and were warmly thanked for their support of the Vicar and for all their hard work and loyalty to St. Dunstan's and its community.

The meeting was closed

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 were approved unanimously.

Father Michael also asked that in future the previous year's AGM Minutes be published before any AGM in order that they can be circulated with the Agenda and added to the St. Dunstan's website. Also unanimously agreed.

Proposer : Jo Woodliffe

Referring to the Minutes of the 2022 APCM, Jo Woodliffe asked if there had been a response to her proposal that a special service should be held for dementia sufferers. Father Michael said it had been included in the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 "God's work: Our Future – Expanding our Horizons", details of which are on the notice boards at the back of the church.

## 2. Electoral Roll update

In the absence of the Electoral Roll Officer it was reported:

Number on Roll	152
Deletions during 2022	8
Additions during 2022	6

## 3. Elections:

Representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod:

In 2023 current representatives have to be re-elected:

Nominees Karen Mack, Denise Packham and Emma Ryder Richardson were elected unanimously leaving a vacancy for one further representative for nomination at the 2024 AGM.

Representatives of the laity to the Parish Church Council:

- There are 4 vacancies on the PCC
- One nomination had been received from Anne Clayton and in the absence of any further nominations, Fr Michael declared that she was elected for a three-year term of office and that the PCC therefore had the delegated powers to co-opt as necessary. Fr Michael warmly thanked Jenny Begeman and Mary Pennington for their contribution to the work of the PCC and was most appreciative of the long service that each had given.

Fr Michael welcomed Anne Clayton and looked forward to her contribution to the work of the PCC. During the year there have been some complicated issues and decisions to be taken but he had appreciated the careful thoughts and contributions from everybody, reassuring him that he had a reliable PCC to work with.

The Vicar urged those attending the meeting to encourage members of the congregation and wider community of Mayfield to put forward a nomination. Nominations for the PCC can be accepted at any time during the year and nominees are co-opted on to the Committee.

## 4. Appointment of Sidespersons of the Parish for 2023

Head Sidesman, Philip James, presented a list of 18 names which were re-appointed for the year en bloc. Hazel Davie had volunteered recently and was added to the current list of Sidespersons.

Proposer: Guy Mantoura Seconder: John Neve

## 5. To Receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for 2022

In presenting the Annual Report, the Hon. Treasurer referred to the somewhat complex presentation, but this is a statutory format that has to be applied.

St. Dunstan's is very fortunate in that it holds large investment reserves but in these times of general financial instability the Accounts reflect that these reserves are being used to make up the "real" annual deficit which runs at around £22,000 on the PCC's general account before investment losses in 2023 of £10,000. In the long term if this situation continues, the investments will diminish and it is essential to focus on finding extra funding to cover annual costs.

There had been a very positive and encouraging response to the request for increased giving sent out last December but it falls short of the desired income target. The PCC has discussed savings that could be made in the annual budget but this would cut deeply into the everyday ministry of St. Dunstan's.

We are enormously grateful to the Nicholson Trust for its support in funding the cost of the new audio equipment and the re-printed service booklets. Also the Friends of St. Dunstan's whose generous and regular donations help with the ongoing costs of keeping the building in good order. Also the Friends of the Churchyard for their contribution towards its upkeep.

Father Michael pointed out the particular anomaly in the accounting for the audio equipment. It is shown as an asset in the balance sheet at cost - £32,823 and will be depreciated over 5 years. The matching donation from the Nicholson Trust is shown as a grant. Thus the accounts reflect a benefit of the grant in 2023, and will reflect depreciation charges of £6,565 over the next five years, whereas in reality the purchase and grant has no effect on annual income or expenditure. The figures quoted above ignore this accounting requirement.

There were no questions or comments on the Annual Report and Accounts and the Vicar thanked Robin Holliday, Hon. Treasurer, for his time spent on managing the finances. His regular and professional commitment to the amount of work involved is enormously appreciated.

## 6. Appointment of Independent Examiners

The Hon. Treasurer proposed that Vincent Blake be re-appointed and this was unanimously agreed. The Hon. Treasurer commented that the Examiner is paid for this service.

## 7. To receive the written reports of Parish Activities (circulated with the Annual Report)

The Vicar presented the Annual Committee Reports, which form part of the Annual Report. These reflect the vitality and variety of the work carried out by those who do so much to support St. Dunstan's and it is encouraging to have this support, often carried out "behind the scenes". He thanked those who had written the reports and Nicky Higgins and Emma Ryder Richardson for collating and producing them and adding them to the website.

(Jo Woodliffe pointed out a minor discrepancy in the Stewardship report in Paragraph 5 which should have referred to December 2022 rather than 2023).

## 8. The Vicar's Report

Father Michael began with thanks to the many people who support him and enable St. Dunstan's to carry out its ministry in Mayfield and Five Ashes, particularly naming the Serving Team, Deacon Di, always so willing in many different roles and those who prepare for the services, Holy Dusters, those who open and close the church daily, the Choir and Jack, Director of Music, Flower Guild, Bellringers, Margaret Neve and the Sunday Club helpers, Karen, Safeguarding Officer, Mike Hand Bowman and the team who manage the audio equipment, Julia and Denise and the coffee makers, Nicky Higgins, Office Administrator and the Standing Committee, especially the Churchwardens, Steve Lawrence and Stephen Blurton and to Jo Asquith, his wife.

Much has been done this year including saying farewell to Andrew Benians, Director of Music, after 18 years and welcoming Jack Gonzalez-Harding in his place. There has been a real move forward in the place of music within the worship at St. Dunstan's.

In June 2022 the open meeting to look to the future attended by members of the congregation was a great opportunity to look to the future and "God's Church, our Future" is the plan that was drawn up following the consultation. There are many initiatives that have already been put into place or are in the process of being undertaken.

We are looking at offering different sorts of worship including possible non-communion services. Dementia services were not being explored as these were currently offered at St. Thomas's and it would be wrong for us to set up in rival to them.

In order to keep up the momentum we need volunteers to take on specific tasks that will broaden and enrich our work. Please do consider these and talk to Fr Michael or any member of the Standing Committee if you feel you can help with any of them. Also, do let him have photos of church activities that people are involved in so that we can have a continuing visual record of all that goes on.

Great is the Faithfulness is a Diocesan initiative that we have taken up, working with the parishes of Dallington, Walberton and Bodle Street. Through

this we are looking at changes in our Welcome (see new porch notice boards) and sharing our faith and how we teach it.

## 9. Looking Forward

There are some important dates to share:

- 6<sup>th</sup> May – live streaming of the Coronation in the church
- Bishop Will, Suffragan Bishop of Lewes will visit on 16<sup>th</sup> July
- The Deanery Confirmation will be held at St. Dunstan’s in the autumn
- “Hope Explored” in September will be a chance for all of us to reflect more on all that Jesus has promised, and an opportunity to invite others to come along too
- Bishop Nicholas Reade will bless a statue of St. Dunstan which has been commissioned from a woodcarver in Oberammergau by the Flower Guild in memory of Sheila Humphrey on 10<sup>th</sup> December
- Choir singing at Chichester Cathedral on 24<sup>th</sup> May and at Westminster Abbey on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August

The Vicar thanked those present and said that the first year of his ministry at St. Dunstan’s had been very enjoyable. He is looking forward with optimism and excitement.

## 10. The meeting closed in prayer

There was no other business

### **Date for APCM 2024**

**14th April, at 11.30 in St. Dunstan’s Church**

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**Signed today as an accurate record:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Date:** .....

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