

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS OF ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, MONKS RISBOROUGH HELD IN THE CHURCH AT 8.00 pm ON MONDAY 11 APRIL 2016**

## **Introduction: Vestry Meeting**

The Annual Vestry Meeting, preceded by prayers, was held at 8.00 pm, with the Reverend James Tomkins in the chair. The minutes of the meeting in 2015 were approved and signed.

Mr Charlie Fairall and Mrs Johanna Powell were elected Churchwardens. James Tomkins paid tribute to the services rendered by Susanne Dodds, who was retiring as a churchwarden. Her support and help had by no means been confined to Sundays. Apart from her contribution to establishing the churchyard extension, she had been tireless in working to obtain grants from trusts and charities.

After 15 years as secretary Douglas Miller was also retiring, as had Pat Kimber after 11 years as treasurer. Both had provided service that would be the envy of many other churches. A presentation was made to the three retiring officers, who responded by saying how much they had enjoyed contributing to the life of the church.

The Terrier, Log Book and Inventory were available for inspection.

The meeting ended at 8.08 pm.

## **Sustaining your sacred centre**

Before moving on to the Annual Parish Meeting, James Tomkins invited those present to consider ways in which they might strengthen and deepen their relationship with God. He outlined the different ways that were, or might become, available within the parish: outings to cathedrals, pilgrimages, 'quiet' days, house groups, silent prayer, morning prayer, Sunday and Thursday services, prayer guides, Lent courses, enquirers' courses, non-residential retreats, a course on how to pray, a course on the liturgy used in the Sunday Parish Communion at St Dunstan's, grave talk – a space for people to talk about death.

Other ideas were sought with a parish weekend and a non-religious retreat suggested. Slips of paper were then circulated on which members were invited to write down three ideas for what we might do. These were collected by James for consideration.

***Post Meeting Note – these have been collated and categorised and are attached as Appendix A to these minutes.***

## **APCM**

The APCM began at 8.30 pm.

### **1. Present and Apologies for absence**

The Reverend James Tomkins, Team Vicar, took the chair. Douglas Miller was secretary for the meeting. There were 33 parishioners present. Apologies were received from: Judith Bunting,

Margaret Butt, Janet East, Cathy Farquhar, Rowena Gibbons, Ros and Peter Haigh, Penny Hollings, David Manthorpe, Joan Peachey, Peter Rainbow, Edwin and Pam Rye, Caroline Scott and Mick White.

## **2. Minutes of 2015 APCM**

Minutes of the 2015 APCM had been circulated with the Agenda papers. These were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the chairman.

## **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **4. Notification of Other Business**

Parishioners had been invited to give notice of any matter they wished to raise later in the meeting. Nothing had been mentioned.

## **5. PCC Annual Report**

There were no questions on this report, the financial report within it or the reserves policy now required by the Charity Commissioners, but James took the opportunity to highlight some of the main events of the past year. He mentioned:

- The consecration of the churchyard extension by Bishop Alan after six years work in which he was grateful to Keith Gibbons for the major part he had played.
- The best attended and most successful Fun Day that had so far been held.
- The wonderful path laid at Owlswick giving disabled access to the chapel and newly created composting toilet.
- The restoration of the East window.
- The improved heating throughout the church.
- The completion of the series of new service booklets that had culminated with the book for baptism in the Family Service.
- The choice of the church for the holding of the Diocesan Harvest Festival Service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- The excellent take-up of cathedral visits.
- The community events in the church, culminating with a sell out for the forthcoming jazz concert.
- The development at the school of a set of Christian values.
- Attendances of over 700 across Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the range of services offered, an indication of the church's success in reaching out to the wider community.
- Attendance at the short services on the 11<sup>th</sup> of the month at the War Memorial.
- The way in which the whole community had responded to the car parking proposals which might have impacted adversely on church life and events.

## **6. Fabric Report**

There were no questions on this.

## **7. Electoral Roll**

There were no questions on this report, now brought together by Keith Barnes. The number on the roll is now 184.

## **8. Other reports**

There were no questions on the other reports previously circulated.

## **9. Election of six members to the PCC**

The following had been proposed and seconded and were elected: Richard Aguilar, Keith Barnes, Susanne Dodds, Keith Gibbons, David Manthorpe and Anne White.

## **10. Election of Sidespersons**

Those listed on the agenda notice were elected: Steve Adams, David Argue, Pat Argue, Anne Baker, Christine Ballard, Helen Brockington, Margaret Butler, Susanne Carr, Keith Gibbons, Janet Griffin, Jackie Highe, Morna Hinch, Sue Ingram, David Kemp, Pat Kimber, David Manthorpe, Jackie Manthorpe, Jean McBean, Philip Masterton-Smith, Douglas Miller, Margaret Pitman, David Powell, Pam Rye, June Timms, Jo Wade, Paul Woodward-Court and Rosemary Woodward-Court.

## **11. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts**

David Powell was re-elected to the role of Independent Examiner of Accounts, proposed by Sue Ingram and seconded by Tim Goode.

## **12 Other business**

Margaret Pitman reminded those present that the plea to find someone to lead the Events team has so far gone unanswered.

There being no further business, James Tomkins thanked members for attending and closed the meeting with prayers and the saying of the grace at 8.48 pm.

## **Appendix A to minutes of APCM dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **Opportunities to sustain your Sacred Centre**

(listed in order of the number of votes received)

A course on how to pray (8)

A course on the liturgy used in the Sunday Parish Communion service at St. Dunstan's (7)

Visit to Sarum College – Salisbury (5)

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (5)

Grave talk: a space for people to talk about death, dying etc. [www.dyingmatters.org](http://www.dyingmatters.org) (4)

A pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Paul (3)

Other Pilgrimages (3)

'Quiet' Days (3)

Social time away together (3)

Retreats (2)

Non-residential retreat - as per the Rickmansworth Deanery (2)

Lent Courses (2)

Other ideas receiving a single vote:

Visits/pilgrimages to St. Albans Abbey, Westminster Abbey, Lambeth Palace, Assisi, Rome etc.

'Quiet' walks

A singing break

Parish away day with opportunities to visit gardens and worship

Silent Prayer

Advent Courses

Enquirers Course e.g. 1 day Alpha

'Heaven' Talk – how do we imagine it?

Experience the skill for obtaining a quiet, reflective spirit

Explaining the Gospels in the Bible

Daily office in people's homes (i.e. neighbours rather than church)

Book club using religious books/novels

More of Rob's courses

Meaning of Lent today

How do we encourage people of all ages to practise the faith

Visit Whitechapel Mission

Discussion of moral issues of today e.g. Euthanasia, abortion etc.

Men's breakfast on a Saturday morning

Exploring the wealth of music connected with churches and cathedrals

Engaging with theological debate