



• ST GEORGE'S •

## **St. George's Church, Wilton**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

**7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 7.30pm, St George's Church, Wilton**

**Attendance: 52 people**

## **Vestry meeting**

### **1. Welcome**

The meeting was opened by Rev. Nick Griffin. The APCM is a time for the church to reflect on what has happened and look forward to what is ahead. Rev. Nick Griffin led a time of prayer.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Ann Burt, David Burt, Laurie Jeffrey, Helen Clegg, Mervyn Robertson, Judith Pickles, Nigel Pickles, Carmen Cromwell, Jane Hamilton, Di Vickery, Geoff Winterson, Maurene.

### **3. Time of Worship**

Bethan Baigent and Rob Cromwell led worship including 'How Great Thou Art' and 'Ten Thousand Reasons'.

### **4. Approval of minutes of Vestry Meeting of 15th May 2023**

The Minutes of the 2023 Vestry Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by Rev. Nick Griffin.

### **5. Election of Churchwardens**

Nominations had been received for Lisa Westlake and Peter Joyce to act as Churchwardens for the year ahead, and their appointment was confirmed.

Thanks were expressed to Di Vickery who had served as Churchwarden for the last year. Also, to Peter Joyce who is standing as Churchwarden for a tenth year. Peter has been a gift to St. George's especially in the recent quinquennial. Rev. Nick Griffin asked for support for Peter in the coming year.



## **Parochial Church Council meeting**

Rev. Nick Griffin led a time of prayer.

### **6. Acknowledge Deanery Synod representatives**

Thanks were expressed to Hilary Hayes and Hilary Mckegney as Deanery Synod representatives. Hilary Hayes is standing down as Deanery Synod representative. Hilary Mckegney will continue.

### **7. Acknowledge and elect representatives of the laity on the Parochial Church Council**

Nominations had been received for Bethan Baigent, Matt Norman and Lucy Norris. The nominations were duly accepted.

### **8. Premises, Goods and Ornaments and annual report of activities**

Thanks were expressed to everyone who had contributed to the reports. These had been made available before the meeting. Rev. Nick Griffin received the reports stating the reports demonstrate the story of the life of St. George's.

### **9. Speakers**

#### **Local care and residential homes ministry**

Kate Taylor spoke about the local care and residential homes ministry with Messy Vintage and supporting home communions.

Messy Vintage is being run in two residential homes with 15 people attending. Kate links Bible stories with crafts. For example, Mary Magdalene and lavender bags, making Easter gardens etc.

In addition, to home communions, a Maundy Thursday service took place at Easter and carol services at Christmas. This aspect of St. George's ministry takes church out into the community. Thanks were expressed for Kate's creative work.

#### **Family, children, and youth work ministry**

Bryony Griffin spoke about St. George's family, children, and youth work. 2023 was an exciting year with the expansion of this work, which followed a twofold strategy: 1) Developing the work offered to children and youth already at St. George's 2) Reaching out to new children and youth.



This has been achieved both online through social media and increasing in-person activities like the gingerbread party. Activities like Buggy Buddies and Mossy Church show that Jesus and the church has a place in their life. Thanks were expressed to Judith Pickles, Laura Archibald, Ruth Rendell.

On Sundays:

- Tots@11 grows faith and friendships. Thanks to Charlotte Kelly for leading this.
- Kids@11 continues to grow with ages 3 to 9 years attending. Thanks to Hilary Hayes and Jenny Norman.
- Youth@11 is going well. Thanks to Nadine and Rose Slack.

In 2024, St. George's is further expanding its children's ministry with a summer camp and holiday Bible camp for primary age children. To continue and grow this work more volunteers are needed including support with Tots @11 to read a story and lead a colouring activity. For the Kids @11 more leaders are needed. For youth work more volunteers are needed beyond Sunday mornings. Contact Bryony to discuss further. Thanks were expressed to Bryony.

## **10. Accounts for the PCC for 2023**

A statement of financial activities, annual report, and summary of income and expenditure were made available before the meeting. The following was noted:

- Common fund is used to pay clergy - the Parish Share is St. George's contribution towards this.
- Accounts are separated into unrestricted and restricted funds.

### **Income:**

- Income has increased by 62% in two years. However, expenditure has also increased to 66%.
- Christian Giving has increased.
- A one-off church office building appeal raised £24,588. Special thanks for these donations.
- Legacies income is lower than the previous year.
- Hall hire income has decreased; however, St. George's is using the hall more and there is competition with other hall spaces and limited parking.
- Other income has seen a small rise, which includes wedding and funeral fees.
- Charity weekly collections showed a small increase.

### **Expenditure:**

- St. George's paid the full Parish Share contribution of £84,442.
- Music provision has increased with a new worship director and the purchase of more equipment.
- Community Fridge net costs are not significant, due to grant donations of £6,000.
- Electric and gas costs have risen.



**Balance sheet:**

- Investments have gone up in value as the markets have improved.
- Robin Stamp has been appointed responsible for the Christian Giving Scheme.
- Some of Gift aid was received at year end, but some will come into 2024 accounts.

**Unrestricted funds:** Aim for three months expenditure in reserves. Currently hold reserves of £50,000, which is in line with this; however, it would be more comfortable to have higher reserves going forward.

**Statistics:**

- 128 people on electoral roll.
- Number of people in Christian Giving Scheme has increased. After tax recovered (£138,000) and divided by number of people giving (108); on average giving is calculated at £106 per person per month. £72 goes to the diocese and the remainder to St. George's. Gratitude was expressed to all who give.
- The biggest outgoing cost is the Parish Share which is calculated on average church attendance and other demographics. The Parish Share calculation will be changed next year.

The accounts were accepted. Thanks were expressed to Ian Pinder.

**11. Appointment of an independent examiner for the year 2024**

The appointment of Lentells was accepted.

**12. Electoral roll**

Received and accepted.

**13. Any other business**

No other business.

**14. Next steps for St. George's**

Rev. Nick Griffin has been at St. George's for three years. Arriving during Covid lockdown, Nick planted six apple trees and one pear tree - these trees have been prophetic for how St. George's has grown. Service attendance has tripled, there is a huge increase in children's work and a functioning office. Income has increased and there is more prayer. St. George's is producing fruit and growing.

Nick is here to stay and recognises that we need more time to grow in spirit and in number as well as deepening roots (Abide in me and see first roots: John 15) and sharing in community, 'loving God and loving neighbour'.



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St. George's does not need radical new direction, but to continue in its current work. It is important to make as many touchpoints as possible in the community and engage others in the worship of God. This is already being done through the Community Fridge, Tuk-tuk, Mossy Church, Soup, and other church activities. However, when you grow in certain areas, structures need to be put in place to support this.

At St. George's we want people to feel they belong and that they are part of the church family. To do this we need to make deeper roots. This is done through social events like the cheese and wine social and through small groups, which meet regularly. Currently 55 people attend small groups, but we want even more people to engage. Like the Parable of the Sower, we need to take root.

It takes work as the household of God and St. George's has great staff and volunteers, but we need to expand the pool of volunteers. For example, for kids@11, nine volunteers are needed across the course of a month.

St. George's has trialled 'the eleven' service in the church building, and most are in favour of keeping this. However, it is recognised that the church building does not meet everyone's needs (especially for wheelchair users and buggies) and it is a less flexible space. To grow there also needs to be enough seating. Buildings are precious but they are a tool and the best way to preserve them is to use them as much as possible. Nick will be requesting temporary permission to move pews to make some spaces more accessible.

St. George's needs to continue growing deeper in God, with more people and children, whilst ensuring that each person feels they belong. Let's trust that God will make this happen.

## **15. Acknowledgements and thanks**

Rev. Nick Griffin expressed thanks for:

- Carol who has helped with setting up;
- Barbara who was involved in providing coffee and support in the kitchen;
- Paul who worked tirelessly on the office build project;
- Rosa.

## **16. Time of Worship**

Bethan Baigent and Rob Cromwell led worship 'In Christ Alone'.

## **17. Blessing**

The meeting was closed by Rev. Nick Griffin with a blessing.