

**St Aldates Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7.30 – 7.45pm**

DRAFT

**1. Worship and Introduction**

2. Andrew Miller Proposed, Alissa Moore-Williams seconded, and all were in favour of electing Tapiwa Ngoma as the Minutes Secretary.

**3. The Vestry Meeting – Election of Church Wardens (2 places)**

SF thanked Chris Gillies on behalf of the PCC and the church as he steps down as Church Warden after many years of faithful service. He and his wife Noelle have also been greatly involved with the ACT community. They are moving away from Oxford and focusing on their next season of life. Stephen Foster and the congregation thanked Chris and Noelle for all the hard work and years invested.

**Two candidates were elected as Church Wardens: Nemi (Anemi) Wilton** (*Proposer: Colleen Seed, Seconder: Rachel Dunn All Agreed, no objections*) and **Jamie Mitchell** (*Proposer: David Portway, Seconder: Tom Curtis All Agreed, no objections*) Both were elected.

Stephen interviewed and thanked Nemi and Jamie for taking up the position of Church Wardens.

Meeting Closed

**St Aldates Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7.45-9pm**

1. **APCM** Opened: Secretariate for the APCM and PCC proposed as Tapiwa Ngoma –proposed Rachael Clear, seconded Colleen Seed, and all agreed.

2. **Apologies and Minutes** of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Apologies: Andy Moore, Sally and Roger Watkins

Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022: Funmi Durodola proposed, Noelle Gillies seconded, and all were in favour of approving the minutes.

**2.1 PCC Elections**

**Election of Lay PCC members (four places): Andrew Davisson** (*Proposer: Mark Withers, Seconder John Tranter All agreed*), **Alissa Moore-Williams** (*Proposer: Jonathan Brant, Seconder: Adriaan Louis*), **Jeremy Basset** (*Proposer: Patrick McDonald, Seconder: Stephen Dudley*) and **Hannah Iqbal** (*Proposer: Joel Grates, Seconder: Caroline Chelliah*).

**Election of Deanery Synod PCC members (seven places): Funmi Durodola** (*Proposer: Uche Akeh, Seconder: John Durodola*), **Colleen Seed** (*Proposer: Wongani Mwanza, Seconder: Monique Davisson*) **Wongani Mwanza** (*Proposer: Tim Champion-Smith, Seconder: Jeffery DeJong*), **Serenus Chelliah** (*Proposer: Jo Stockdale, Seconder: Stephen Neal*), **Rachael Clear** (*Proposer: Sarah Coles, Seconder: Paul Bossward*) **Ifeanyih Maijeh** (*Proposer: Tom Barber, Seconder: Lauren Harris*) and **Rosalind Kainyah** (*Proposer: Monique Davisson, Seconder: Mark Withers*)

Stephen introduced and interviewed Rosalind, Ifeanyih and Hannah, and they were welcomed to the PCC.

Stephen thanked John Tranter and Ali Chevassut for their wisdom and years serving on the PCC.

### **3. Financial Report for 2022**

Tom Curtis, Finance Manager, summarised the Financial Report. There was a growth in congregational giving in 2022. Tom thanked the congregation for their amazing generosity throughout the year. Expenditure for the year was quite high as building maintenance and AV project costs for lighting and sound were in urgent need of upgrade and repair (20 years old). Tom spoke of our need to be good stewards of the resources we are given and building expenditure for 2023 is not expected to be that high.

Jeremy Basset, Treasurer, spoke about how the lack of refurbishment, such as the ones had last year, will help channel and fund ministry outreach such as ACT and reaching the Youth in Oxford. Students and families are reaching unprecedented levels of growth in the church and so resources will be channelled there. JB spoke of how giving has grown ahead of congregational growth – *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* Matthew 6:21. Reflected on how incredible it is that God invites us to partner with Him and build a foundation for future generations with our giving. This funding allows us to proclaim the Gospel across Oxford and beyond. He thanked the congregation for their continued generosity.

Accounts for 2022: Andrew Miller proposed, and Walter Bayer seconded.

Auditors for next year: Nemi Wilton proposed, and Jamie Mitchell seconded.

### **4. Vision & Update from Stephen**

Stephen talked about how 2022 was a very encouraging year with a lot of people coming to faith. ACT, Alpha, student nights, different services, over coffee and in the streets are all places that people are coming to faith.

Stephen thanked Mark Brickman for a job well done with Good Ground and Break Ground. Alpha has been going well. Over 250 children in Aldates Kids. Over 250 people in Youth, Students and Postgrads connected. Stephen spoke about the miraculous healings that have been taking place and an increase in the number of unchurched having a powerful encounter and choosing to follow Jesus.

Jodie Lintern spoke about the testimony from a student making a commitment to follow Christ on the back of Richard’s Cross Shaped Life testimony.

Emily Chisnall spoke about a student who had encountered God in a fresh way and was moved to tears when reading through the Scriptures as they felt God was speaking personally to them for the first time.

Stephen encouraged people to invite people for Easter services as the growth currently being experienced is lives being transformed by Jesus. He noted that research showed that 70% of 18 – 25s would accept an invitation to a service as they wouldn’t want to appear to be rude.

Stephen interviewed David Portway the current director of ACT ministry who'll be retiring this year. David is seeing a multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-class integration in the life of the church in a way he has never seen before. Stephen thanked David for his work with ACT over the years and the congregation gave him a round of applause.

## **5. Safeguarding**

Stephen interviewed Anya and Carol to talk about Safeguarding. Over 500 volunteers are doing their safeguarding training. The training everyone has been doing is embedding a culture of safeguarding which in turn will make people feel safe. Stephen thanked them for all their investment into this area of ministry.

## **6. Race Faith and Justice**

Stephen interviewed Wongani from the Race, Faith and Justice Committee (RFJ). They produced a small group resource which was well received. The team is now looking at how the church should be responding to the issues surrounding racial injustice during this time. Stephen thanked Wongani and his team for all they're doing.

## **7. Any other business**

Tom Curtis and Jeremy Basset noted that each were happy to take any detailed questions regarding Finances.

A question was raised from the floor regarding our ECO waste reduction.

SF noted that the church has put in an order for 500 reusable cups in an effort to cut down on ECO waste. The cups will be more secure with lockable lids as well.

Stephen interviewed Simon Ponsonby and asked him what the Lord is saying to people at St Aldates. Simon reflected on this being his 25<sup>th</sup> APCM at St Aldates and he is excited about what God is doing. He was thankful for the provision of Stephen in leadership and the anointing and vision that is so clearly resting on him. He reflected on the biblical story of Jesus showing Peter how to fish to the way in which Stephen is showing the church how to ask people if they want to know Jesus. Simon recognised this was building on what had been laid down before but it was extraordinary and miraculously sovereign to see so many people come to faith. He noted also that this was not people coming back to faith, but new people with no Christian background miraculously turning to Jesus. The Lord is clearly working and it's an intense and thrilling time.

Meeting closed.