VERWOOD PARISH : ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, VERWOOD and ALL SAINTS CHURCH, THREE LEGGED CROSS

Verwood Parochial Church Council is a Charity registered under no 1130729

To know Jesus Christ and make Him known

Report of the **Annual Meeting** held at
7.10pm on Thursday, 9 May 2024 at St Michael & All Angels, Verwood

AM1 Prayers were offered by the Vicar, Reverend Deborah Matthews, who chaired the meeting.

AM2 **Apologies**
Ally Child and Bob Turvil

AM3 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2023 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

AM4 **Election of Churchwardens**
Beryl Greenhalgh (proposed by Andrew Green and seconded by Ro Green) and Anthea Stephens (proposed by Jacqueline Mellett and seconded by Patricia Barr) were, in the absence of other nominations, objections and abstentions, duly elected. Their terms will commence following their swearing in by the Archdeacon.

AM5 **Election of Deputy Churchwarden for All Saints.**
There were no nominations.

The meeting was closed at 7.15pm.

SIGNED..... As an approved true record 2025
Reverend Deborah Matthews

Initialled as verified (subject to any amendments) following membership approval at meeting 23 May 2024 by Reverend Deborah Matthews.

Report of the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held immediately following
The Annual Meeting at St Michael & All Angels Church, Verwood on
Thursday, 9 May 2024

32 Parishioners attended the meeting.

APCM1 Minutes

The motion to accept the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 20 April 2023 as an accurate record was accepted and the Minutes were signed.

APCM2 Chairperson's Report

The Vicar gave a Report as set out in APCM 1 attached. Ann Mayo was thanked for her work with the choir, and for playing the organ for church for 22 years. The choir was also thanked. The presentation by the Vicar of a potted floral display to Brenda Slade for her 25 years of service as Sacristan was met with rapturous applause from the meeting.

APCM3 Elections

a) 3 PCC representatives to serve to APCM 2027

JCP advised that 1 nomination had been received.
Stephen Walton was proposed by Bob Turvil and seconded by Duncan Moss. Although not strictly necessary as there were no other nominations, objections or abstentions, he was duly elected by a unanimous show of hands.

b) - e) PCC representatives under 21 and over 16 to serve

There were no candidates

APCM4 Annual Reports

The Annual Reports were all contained in the **Report**, and copies had been available for three weeks. This included the Report of PCC Activities. JCP advised that there was an Addendum to the Treasurer's Report in the Report, and that NG would explain that. A copy of this report is held in the PCC minute book marked APCM 2

The Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll officer published details prior to the meeting that the Roll had 119 names as at 9 May 2024 – (there having been 10 deletions and 2 additions).

The **Report booklet** of committee and group activities, was also available for 3 weeks in the Meeting room. A copy of this Report is held in the Minute book marked APCM 2a.

The Deanery Synod Report is included in APCM 2.

APCM5 Statement of Accounts

a) Neil Gibson (NG) referred to the accounts, which had been available for consideration for the 3 weeks prior to the meeting. A copy of the Accounts and the main Treasurer's report and the Addendum is held in the Minute books marked APCM 3. NG explained that in November 2022, he predicted a shortfall in 2023 of approximately £33,000 and that proved about right. The draft Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 were presented to the PCC at their February meeting, and some members were alarmed as they showed an inability to meet all outgoings in 2024. The Independent Examiner wanted to be reassured that the PCC was a going concern in view of the

income being less than the expenditure. NG read the Addendum which the Independent Examiner required (and which had been published in advance) to the meeting. He advised that we could lawfully default on paying the Parish Share, which would ensure our solvency, although it would remain on the books as a debt. A recently received legacy and fundraising proposals meant that the accounts were in order at this time. NG reported his gratitude to the donor for the receipt of a very generous legacy, but warned that could not be used to just pay debts or a similar deficit situation would arise in 2-3 years. NG stressed that it was vital that the planned giving was increased as it has effectively decreased whilst spending (although pared to the bone) has increased. He urged members to review their giving to ensure the ongoing viability of the PCC

b) On the financial affairs of the Parish, NG confirmed that spending was being as carefully controlled as possible, and that the issue was the lack of income. There were several questions from members. In response, NG advised that our PCC was not alone in this situation, and recounted that for the first time in his 14 years as Treasurer, the Deanery Synod had asked parishes if they were going to be able to pay Parish Share in full. NG confirmed that donations and legacies had in the past ensured viability and once again urged members to consider reviewing planned giving, and in particular leaving the PCC a legacy in their Will. Whilst not in immediate crisis, it was essential, NG advised, that the church looked at how to improve the income situation. He thanked Steve Greenhalgh as Donations Secretary, Cyril Sampson and Andrew Green for cashing up collections, for all their efforts.

In response to a question, NG advised that Parish Share, due to our relatively good membership size in contrast with other parishes, was £92,000. It was due to be reviewed and method of calculating altered for 2025.

Assets, said NG, are mainly inalienable although there were no immediate plans to do so, it was possible to sell All Saints. Revd M Eaton advised that the national church does have assets and that his stipend was nationally funded, as was ordination training. An Associate Priests average cost, he advised, is around £120, covering salary, pension and accommodation. The Diocese does not have to fund any of this.

Members joined in thanking NG for all his ongoing efforts as Treasurer by hearty applause. NG confirmed that he would continue in post this coming year.

The approval of the Accounts was proposed by Ann Mayo, seconded by Steve Greenhalgh and accepted nem con.

APCM6 The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Anthea Stephens delivered the Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments, advising that the only addition was the defibrillator in the Meeting Room. She confirmed that all urgent work required by the Quinquennial Inspection had been completed. She thanked Steve Greenhalgh for drawing up a Routine Maintenance Schedule which was displayed in the Meeting Room and for monitoring that. On behalf of both Beryl and herself, she gave generous thanks to everyone for their support and dedication in every aspect of the running of the church and a very special thanks to the Vicar and her team for all their love and dedication. The Churchwardens' Certificate was signed and delivered to JCP.

APCM7 Independent Examiners

Neil recommended that Grant Sellers continue to be retained as Independent Examiners. This was proposed by Ro Green and seconded by JCP, and unanimously approved.

APCM8 Matters of Parochial and general Church Interest

There was no other business, but Jean Steele rose to thank the Vicar for the family service with the interaction of the school children, which was very well received. The Vicar explained that

she was planning changes to make it even less formal and more fun, and acknowledged Jenny Baxendale's efforts in working with the schools and orchestrating the children's choirs.

Brenda Slade stood on behalf of all members, to thank the Vicar, Michael, Peter, and Norman as the clergy team for their time and patience over the year and all they did for the churches. She welcomed their always being there to talk to and to hear what members were saying and expressed full gratitude. The Vicar responded that she really loved serving in this parish, and that it made the clergy's calling easier and burden lighter to work in such a supportive and enthusiastic church and she thanked all concerned for bearing with her.

Ann Mayo reminded members of the Aerobathon to raise funds on Tuesday. She encouraged members to support even if they did not wish to take part.

APCM9 There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting was closed with the Grace and a Blessing from the Vicar at 8.15pm.

SIGNED..... As an approved true record 2025
Reverend Deborah Matthews

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