

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN
Registered Charity No. 1145155

Minutes of the 724th Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
held on Tuesday, 1st October 2019 in the Church Extension

Present: Father Michael Roper (Chair), Mike Broome, Lynn Sanger, Pauline Armour, Franklin Barrington, Margaret Barrington, Jane Bransgrove, Milly Broome, Brian Bowers, Marilyn Burkett, Richard Burkett, Steve Clark, Lisa Down, Louise Hall, Martina Herpak, Sally Josolyne, Marie Maguire, and Liz Pullen.

In attendance: Faith Bowers (clerk).

Fr Michael opened with prayer.

7219 1 - Apologies for absence were received from Anthony Pullen.

7220 **2 - Notice of Essential AOB** There was none.

7221 3 - **Minutes of the June PCC Meeting** were approved and signed. The minutes would be published on the church noticeboard and website.

7222 **4 - Matters arising from the minutes** Nothing was raised.

7223 **5 - Vicar's Report**

Everyone, including the Bishop, had felt last week's induction service had gone particularly well, as had Fr Michael's first week in office. He told the PCC his preferred style was collaborative and approachable, rather than dominant. He liked to offer plenty of ideas which could be discussed to see which the church would run with.

7224 **6 - Safeguarding**

The previous evening the Safeguarding Officers, Marie and Vanessa, had met with the Vicar and Churchwardens. They would all attend the next level course arranged by the Diocese at Carshalton next week. They were making an audit of who has DBS clearance for St John's: all the PCC ought to have this.

The Safeguarding Policy, based on that of the Diocese had been approved at the previous PCC meeting. DBS clearance is portable within the churches of the Diocese but not for other bodies: thus the Vicar has it separately for the school and hospital.

Safeguarding, with contacts, ought to be more prominent on the first page of the website. **SJ**

Part of the porch noticeboard had now been allocated to Safeguarding.

The Church Hall should have its own policy, akin to that of the church but covering lettings contracts etc.

Contact details for Women's Refuge, etc., should be put up in the toilets, where people could note them in privacy. Liz observed that the MU's annual 15 Days of Activism on Gender Violence was approaching, and MU material on gender violence was made available for anyone to take.

The Vicar asked for a copy. **LP**

All the PCC carry a responsibility for the young and for vulnerable adults. This needs vigilance: the DBS alone is not an adequate safeguard. It should be clear that anyone who would prefer not to speak of concerns within the church could go straight to the diocesan adviser, Kate Singleton.

7225 **6 - Contactless Payments**

A simple device had been bought for £69 and Sally showed this. They had given it a test drive for Ride and Stride and it worked well, with £130 taken and processed quickly, with £2-20 transaction fee deducted. The user just enters the sum donated and taps their card on the device (unless the sum is over £30, when the pin number is needed). There are two kinds of device, attended and unattended, the latter being much dearer and better suited to a cathedral than a parish church. The

one bought connects to the mobile phone network, and can send a receipt by text or email, but Sally thought it probably could not categorise payments, although the next level of devices (c.£130) certainly could. Some devices work by WiFi connecting to people's phones. Using Gift Aid was not clear. Card data is secure.

Richard had estimated that the potential income from baptisms, weddings and other events might raise £1300 p.a. Milly thought it should be made available after the regular services.

The Group was continuing to work on these matters, aided by experiments with the device that had been bought. Richard thanked Sally and Deborah for acquiring that. Sally thought Deborah had used Parish Buying for it.

Brian suggested that basic instructions should be kept with the device and this was thought sensible.

Sally added that they were also looking at the possibility of payments on the website.

Contactless Group

7226

7 - Reports and Recommendations from Committees

a) *Children and Young People* - There was nothing new to report.

b) *Church Hall* - The Committee had met. Various maintenance matters had been dealt with, led by Brian Whaymand. Work had included renewing the kitchen floor. Their next meeting would be in January when lettings charges would be on the agenda.

Tea and Chat had drawn increasing numbers - 17 recently - and a real camaraderie has developed. Milly expressed appreciation of the volunteers who maintained a monthly rota to run this.

c) *Congregation Committee* - Marilyn had at last got permission for carol singing at Worcester Park Station. This would be on Thursday, 12 December, from 5.30 p.m. and this year the proceeds would go to the Princess Alice Hospice. The contactless device should be available there too.

Marilyn had asked committee chairs to give her the names of all on their teams, but so far had only received one - from Richard. The 'Thank you' tea would be on 9th February, but she needed to know who should be invited, so needed a response from committee chairs or their representatives on PCC.

All

d) *Finance* - The committee had met on 18th September and minutes had been circulated to PCC. Richard tabled the draft budget.

The appeal for more regular planned giving had been launched in June with several repeats since. Only 32 replies had been received by the September meeting, with a few more added since. Richard hoped for a substantial increase of £6000 or more but so far it looked more like £3000. They would meet again on 23 October.

Richard had been shocked to see the deficit budget for 2019 and hoped for a balanced budget for 2020, but the increase would only allow for keeping static, with care. Sadly that meant they could not plan the desired increase in contribution to the Parish Support Fund. The draft budget allowed for a 2% inflation rise for organist, administrator etc. Those fees that the PCC controls would be considered in November. The Miscellaneous category included £200 for equipment needed for the fairs. Mission giving would be the same amount as the previous year.

£60 for the parish office phone and broadband seemed high and was being checked.

Richard asked everyone to study the draft budget and make their comments before the next PCC meeting.

All

Mike asked what the Parish Support Fund figure ought to be. Richard replied £78,500 this year and £81,000 next year. Failure to increase the contribution was a serious concern.

The Maintenance Committee was trying to keep costs down. Last year electrical tests cost £1,000 but they are only required every five years. Part of their budget results from those test results. The ongoing repairs from the Quinquennial will not come out of the regular budget, especially the state of the tower, where cement had damaged the bricks.

Lynn asked about budget for flowers. Richard said Alastair should be asked about that.

The Vicar thought the utility costs surprisingly good, and asked if Parish Buying was used. It is.

He thanked Richard and the Finance Committee.

e) Fundraising - Lynn and Lisa reported on this. The Jumble Sale and subsequent Car Boot Sale had raised about £600. In the process, the storage room had been cleared so the Christmas Fair would be starting from scratch. Ride and Stride had raised £550, half of which comes to the church. The quiz also contributed a little.

A canteen of 80 pieces of cutlery had been found in the depths of the storeroom. Lisa was enquiring whether this was of potential value.

The Christmas Fair would be on 30th November.

f) Maintenance - Mike expressed gratitude to the small band of workers who had met to improve the lane. Next time they would try to arrange it in school holidays when the young people were more likely to help, as the previous year. Brian said Simon Jones had noted the state of the lane and would raise it with Merton College's estate manager.

A mirror should be fitted at the road to help the vicar cross from his path more safely.

PAT (portable appliance testing) was soon due on electrical equipment.

g) Outreach Committee - Liz reported that this would meet on 17 October. There was concern about finding a cook for Christmas Day, but Marilyn said there had just been an offer.

7227 **8 - Deanery Synod Report**

In Anthony's absence, Liz reported that the next Deanery Synod would be at St John's on Wednesday, 16 October, 7.30 for 8 p.m., with light refreshments first. All were welcome. The speaker would be Stan Brown from Surbiton Hill Methodist Church on 'Enhancing Links'.

7228 **9 - Any Other Business** There was none.

7229 **10 - An idea**

The Vicar was supporting the new Community Hub at Malden Manor Station and he would like to make a link with the local Sure Start. He mentioned the Angel Tree Project, providing Christmas treats for children in particular need, and Sure Start should be able to provide information on these. The PCC would support that.

There being no further business Fr Michael closed the meeting with prayer at 9.15 p.m.

The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday, 5 November 2019 at 8 p.m.