

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

Minutes of the 726<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
held on ~~Tuesday, 3rd November~~ 2019 in the Church Extension

*Tues 3 December 2019*

**Present:** The Vicar in the chair, Mike Broome, Lynn Sanger, Pauline Armour, Franklin Barrington, Margaret Barrington, Milly Broome, Brian Bowers, Marilyn Burkett, Richard Burkett, Steve Clark, Marie Maguire.

In attendance: Faith Bowers (clerk).

The Vicar opened with prayer.

7241 1 - Apologies for absence were received from Jane Bransgrove, Lisa Down, Louise Hall, Deborah Harris, Sally Josolyne, Anthony Pullen and Liz Pullen

7242 2 - **Notice of Essential AOB** The Vicar had one item.

7243 3 - **Minutes of the November PCC Meeting** were approved and signed, after one small correction. They would be published on the church noticeboard and website. **CWs/Amy**

7244 5 - **Matters arising from the Minutes**  
These were all covered elsewhere on the agenda.

7245 6 - **Vicar's Report**

*Revised practices*

A new Advent Service leaflet had been produced. This had thrown up problems with the church's photocopier which is about twelve years old. It was time to look at the options for that.

The Vicar would like the choir to enter singing. The first effort suggested that the timing of their entry needed attention, both to inform the organist and for the congregation to stand. **CWs**

The children now all leave at the same time.

*War Graves* The Commonwealth War Graves Commission would like to put up a sign about the war graves in the churchyard. This is part of a scheme approved by the Church of England. The church can agree to the position and there is no cost to the church. This is one of only two such in the Kingston Deanery. Approval of both PCC and Archdeacon is required.

*The PCC agreed to this unanimously.*

*Joan Taylor's Grave* - The Guide leader approached the Vicar for permission to clean the grave of Joan Taylor who had founded the 1<sup>st</sup> Worcester Park and Old Malden Girl Guides in 1920. They wished to celebrate the centenary in 2020. The Vicar had offered to lead a service to mark the occasion.

*Worcester Park Baptist Church* was seeking worship accommodation on Sunday mornings for nine months while major work is done on the Baptist sanctuary. They were looking at St John's Church Hall and also the hall of Cuddington School. It was good to be able to offer hospitality to a sister church.

*Angel Presents* - It had proved impossible to contact the Children's Centre in time to set this up in 2019 but should be attempted in future. Instead, the Vicar suggested the church might do something for Christmas for the five residents of the care home for people with learning disabilities on the main road. One resident is Karen who regularly attends St John's with a carer. This is the only care home within the parish.

**7 - Safeguarding**

The vicar, churchwardens and safeguarding officers had taken the training course, and the Vicar would take further training on domestic abuse in the new year. They were trying to complete the list of those needing DBS clearance by 15 December. Mike said a spreadsheet would be developed to list them all, training undertaken, etc.

Steve asked about requirements for Christmas Day drivers. DBS is needed in relation to vulnerable adults when money or personal care is involved. The Christmas drivers are a private arrangement with the guests, who will be asked to sign that they agree to be driven. No escort is then required.

**8 - Reports and Recommendations from Committees**

*a) Children and Young People* - Milly said the main concern was to find more leaders and helpers to ease the pressure on Margaret. The Vicar hoped to join the children's work once a term to get to know the children and provide a little support.

*b) Church Hall* - Brian had nothing to report. The committee would meet in January.

*c) Congregation* - This committee had met. Carol singing at Worcester Park Station was planned, 5.30-7 on 12 December. Marilyn hoped this would be well supported by the PCC.

Arrangements were continuing for the Thank You Tea on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

The Men's Thing had lapsed in recent months, but it was intended to revive this in the New Year, with a programme planned for four months ahead.

*d) Finance* - Richard said the committee would meet in January. He had received more replies to the letter about regular planned giving. The Vicar would write to thank all those who had replied.

Experiments continued with contactless payments and they were beginning to advertise availability. Sally would like to have a pull-up banner, which would not be too expensive. They needed a group of people trained to use it, but it was quite a simple machine.

Mike said it had become apparent, with the Treasurer away for several weeks, that it was desirable to have a credit card facility for the church. The boiler problems had thrown up necessary but unexpected expense which could not await the treasurer's return. There were enough signatories available but they did not have access to a cheque book. It had had to be done on a personal account. Also Mike had investigated Broadband and found he could halve the costs but was unable to set that up without a card for monthly payments. Richard thought there would need to be a limited amount allocated to such card, so that the treasurer could see monthly commitments ahead. He would talk to Alastair, who would soon be back, and the Finance Committee about this matter. Asked about online banking, Richard did not know whether that would have helped.

*e) Fundraising* - Lynn said the Fair had gone well, raising over £2,000. The barbecue outside had proved good for drawing people in. The Fairs involve a lot of work over three days and the people who do most of this are all getting older so it would be good to see some fresh people taking over the organising.

The next effort would be a Murder Mystery evening in March.

The Vicar wondered how competitive people were. In some parishes people enjoy the challenge of the Parable of the Talents, seeing how much they can grow £10 in a given time.

*f) Maintenance* - Mike said the team had been busy, largely over the heating problems. He hoped that would be resolved on Thursday.

A mirror had now been erected on the lane. It had to be high to avoid dazzling drivers. The Vicar said it was a great help in crossing the road safely.

As agreed at the last meeting, the architect, Charles Shepherd, had now made his visit and his report on major issues was awaited. Payment for this would come from the gift, as agreed.



g) *Outreach* - Franklin was not aware of anything new since the last meeting.

The Vicar said he was getting a positive response to the idea of having the church open on Saturday mornings. He proposed to begin this before Palm Sunday to try it out before the summer season. He already had some volunteers to help.

Sadly the booking for Malden Manor School's carol service on 4 December had had to be cancelled because of the heating problems.

h) *Sustainability* - this committee is still in abeyance.

7248 **9 - Deanery Synod Report** - There was none.

7249 **10 -AOB**

The Vicar had been invited by the Old Malden Residents Association to contribute to the cost of a Christmas tree on Plough Green, to be lit the coming Saturday. Marilyn regretted that the notice was too short to muster enough choristers for carol singing. The Vicar would ask Pat Lovegrove to suggest this for next year. Milly observed that Plough Green is Merton College land.

*The PCC agreed unanimously to make a contribution of £50 towards the cost of this Christmas tree.*

Steve asked for the date of the APCM as that affected his work on the Electoral Roll. It would be on Passion Sunday, 29 March 2020.

There being no further business the meeting ended with the Grace at 8.52 p.m.

The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8 p.m.

*W. Roome — 7.1.2020*

