

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

Minutes of the 728th Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
held on Tuesday, 4th February 2020 in the Church Extension

Present: Father Michael Roper in the chair, Mike Broome , Lynn Sanger, Franklin Barrington, Margaret Barrington, Brian Bowers, Jane Bransgrove, Milly Broome, Marilyn Burkett, Richard Burkett, Lisa Down, Martina Herpak, Sally Josolyne, Marie Maguire, Anthony Pullen and Liz Pullen. In attendance: Faith Bowers (clerk).

The Vicar opened with prayer.

7256 **1 - Apologies for absence** were received from Pauline Armour, Steve Clark, Louise Hall, and Deborah Harris.

7257 **2 - Notice of Essential AOB** There was none.

7258 **3 - Minutes of the November PCC Meeting** were approved and signed, after one small correction. The minutes would be published on the church noticeboard and website.

CWs/Amy

7259 **4 - Matters arising from the Minutes**

Photocopier - A replacement part was awaited which should deal with the line that is under-inked. Mike is corresponding with Toshiba regarding having a copier with a stapling function. **Mike**

7260 **5 - Safeguarding**

The PCC needed to endorse the Church of England's Policy on reporting serious incidents. All serious incidents should be reported to the Charity Commissioners, but those involving safeguarding must be reported through the Diocese. The PCC should delegate serious incident investigations to the Diocese or Charity Commissioners.

Mike asked the PCC to endorse this Policy. This was carried unanimously.

Marie said the Safeguarding team would meet next week.

The Church of England had launched the Past Case Review Mark 2. Michael had been checking what incidents previous vicars remembered. Jane also remembered one case she had had to report to Social Services. A report would be sent to Kate Singleton, the diocesan officer: the review would be a huge task for the Diocese.

Lynn said the new Safe Church book had come; it was also available on-line. Checking who needed DBS checking and also recording training undertaken was continuing, so the churchwardens needed to be told when anyone had been on a course. Kate Singleton was impressed with St John's progress on this.

7261 **6 - Lent Appeal**

Last year's appeal for Free Will Offerings had only met limited response. The diocesan head of giving had visited St John's yesterday and offered various ideas. Lent seemed an appropriate time for a further appeal. The response would help in determining the pledge that has to be made to the diocese in July. A smaller group would decide how best to promote this: Michael, Richard, Jane and the churchwardens.
MR, RB, JB, CWs

This might conflict with the Bishop's Lent Appeal, for which brown envelopes are usually given out on one Lent Sunday. The Mothers' Union Lent Lunches raised money for that appeal, but only involved people able to go midday Friday. Perhaps there should be a wider appeal on Palm Sunday. That was another matter for the small group to determine.

It was important to build relationships with the congregation and show them the purpose of giving, how it relates to the Mission Action Plan. There is so much competition from charities, people need to know what their giving is for. The Vicar would address this in a sermon. Stewardship of time, talents and money should be included in intercessions. Information should be prepared for OMN, a special leaflet etc. Visuals and stories from people enjoying St John's could help.

7 - Vicar's Report

Michael stressed the need to raise finances for the longevity of the church here: the future for the Church of England generally was not looking bright. The Church Hall is run as a separate charity, so the church cannot raise money by lettings, which often help elsewhere. The church needs friends in the local community, beyond the congregation. The more open the church can be, the more likely local people are to own it.

7262 **8 - Mission Action Planning**

The current MAP focused on all-age accessibility, sustainability and communications. These were all largely 'in house' concerns. Now it was time to look outward.

A short exercise on what was valued about the church saw lots of positives but most churches would make similar claims; what was meant by them might differ. So who was not being reached? Who was not represented on Sunday mornings? Immediate answers were fathers (some but less than mothers), people from Malden Manor estate, young adults, singles, non-whites. The Vicar gave everyone a page of questions to consider before the next meeting. He hoped people would come with ideas next time, especially ideas for which they had a passion.

All

7263 **9 - Reports and Recommendations from Committees**

a) Children and Young People - Milly again stressed the need for more helpers for Children's Ministry. The Toddlers Group would close unless new leaders were found by July, when the present ones would leave. About 15 children come at present. One mother is a Muslim, three come from the Malden Manor estate. The original religious input has been allowed to lapse but could be revived with a suitable leader, and it could be a feeder for Messy Church. The Vicar was sorry that his commitment to the parochial school on Wednesdays meant that he was not free to help.

Sally said that the local library's Rhyme Time would be a good place to advertise the group. The Vicar urged all to pray about this.

All

b) Church Hall - Brian reported that the committee had met recently. A working party was planned during the Easter holiday to deal with various minor repairs - volunteers welcome! Refurbishment of the rear toilet area had been suggested, but probably fresh paint would improve them sufficiently. If anyone using the halls wanted to make particular suggestions, Brian was happy to hear them.

The committee had not been eager to publish letting fees on the website, saying prices were readily available on request. Since they were set fees the PCC could not see why they should not be published. Several said they were unlikely to enquire further about anything if prices were not given up front. Sally said that enquiries on the website suggested many did not pursue the matter. She could provide data on this. The PCC felt strongly that the prices should be on the website.

BB/SJ

c) *Congregation* - The committee had met to plan the teas. There would be two, on 9th and 16th February. About 40 had now booked for each.

Men's Thing - Tony had various willing speakers but no offer of a new leader. The group was good for outreach. The need for a leader could be voiced in OMN, pew leaflet etc. Milly said that even if they just offered Tea and Chat for lonely men that could serve a need. Dates needed to be set. **AP**

d) *Finance* - The committee understood the importance of having a cheque book available in the safe to avoid problems in the treasurer's absence.

Broadband - Mike had got details from Alastair and was pursuing this. The first month would still have to be paid on his credit card.

Small emergency fund - Tony and Michael should talk about the Vicar's Poor Fund which was little used. Tony stressed that occasionally the need was for a small amount of ready cash. They should tell Alastair how much should be available in the safe, and explain this to Tony Davis so that he did not bank it. **MR/AP**

Annual Accounts - Richard said Alastair was working on these, but could not be at the APCM on 26 April. Written questions would be required in advance so that Richard was briefed to answer.

Kitchen boiler - after 15 years' service this was leaking and needed to be replaced. It provided radiator heating in the extension as well as hot water in the kitchen. This could cost £2,600 or more, which was not in the budget so would have to come from reserves. Alastair was compiling protocols to control expenditure, especially on unbudgeted items. In this case, the PCC needed to approve expenditure of up to £3000 on a new kitchen boiler.

This was proposed and carried unanimously.

Contactless payment - Sally said Lisa had designed banners, 160 x 40 cm, and they were about to order these.

e) *Fundraising* - The committee had met. Tickets for the Murder Mystery Evening would be available this week. Beyond that, there would be the Summer Fair, and a Tea and Jumble Sale in September.

f) *Maintenance* - Mike said the saga of church heating continued. The problem seems to be an electrical fault. Geoff and especially Graham had been working hard to keep it working. He hoped a service man would come this Wednesday.

There were also problems over organ maintenance. Mike had asked Barry to copy him into emails about this, so that he could pursue it.

Mike was asked to convey the thanks of the PCC to Graham. **Mike**

g) *Outreach* - The committee was planning another Big Brekkie on 9 May. Anne had brought some interfaith items.

Website - Sally had an interesting analysis of usage which showed where the main traffic was and could be used to determine what was most useful. She could supply monthly data.

h) *Sustainability* - Chris Beales had marked the location of orchids in the churchyard and was conducting a scientific study of their spread. The Vicar thought the way of marking them could be improved. Chris's list of the many species found around the churchyard was impressive.

10 - Deanery Synod - Tony said that communication could be better. Three representatives needed to be appointed.

The Vicar would like to invite the Synod to meet at St John's.

7266 **11 - Any Other Business notified at (2)** - None had been notified.

The Vicar said he would like to keep other business to a minimum in March so that maximum time could be given to the Mission Action Plan.

The APCM would need some thought. The retiring PCC members were Steve, Martina, Sally and Louise.

There being no further business Tony closed the meeting with prayer at 9.48 p.m.

The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday, 3 March 2020 at 8 p.m.