

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN  
Registered Charity No.1145155  
Minutes of the 758<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
At 7.30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023  
In the coffee lounge

PRESENT, Rev Michael Roper as chair, Anthony Pullen, Liz Pullen, Rev Milly Broome, Richard Burkett, Marilyn Burkett, Chris Benson, Barry Eaton, Mike Broome, Sally Josolyne and Margaret Barrington.

Alastair Harris as treasurer

Sally Pusey as secretary

		Action
7607	Apologies from Lynn Sanger and Deborah Harris	
7608	<b>Notice of Essential AOB – New projector</b>	
7609	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting:</b> Agreed and signed.	
7610	<b>No actions outstanding from previous minutes.</b>	
7611	<p><b>Finance-</b>Alastair briefly explained that the structure of the accounts document had not changed from recent years. The Income and Expense Account, known as the Statement of Financial Activities, as shown in summary on page 2, with detail on pages 7-8. The Balance Sheet was on page 3 with detail on page 4-5. There was a schedule of the movements of the Funds on page 6, formal notes to the accounts on pages 9-12 and the Treasurer’s Annual Report from page 13.</p> <p>Overall, for the year 2022 we had a deficit of £9,148. However, this needed to be broken down. The restricted funds, main for Appeals, showed a surplus of £1,874 and the ‘Unrestricted Funds’ showed a deficit of £11,022. Unrestricted Funds included, importantly, the Restoration Fund, for which all monies had been designated by the PCC. Page 8 showed that we had a deficit on Designated Funds of £11,423. This reflected significant expenditure on the Restoration, notably architect’s fees and Water Survey fees. The general fund had a small surplus of £401 for the year, which was very encouraging but reflected the effort in managing our day-to-day costs.</p> <p>Regular donations had increased on 2021 and were now back at pre-pandemic levels. This was largely the result of the Stewardship Campaign late in that year, the full benefits of which were seen in 2022. One-off donations had been remarkably high in 2021 and were lower in 2022 as to be expected as we did not appeal for funds when the pandemic receded. The Diocese had provided a grant of £1,400 for energy costs, which we had only partially (£200) credited in 2022 to cover the increase in costs in November and December allowing the balance to support ongoing high costs in 2023. The proportion of donations that were gift aided remains very high. Claims had been</p>	

made and received in 2022 for Quart 4 2021 and Quarters 1 & 2 2022 but we were outstanding claims for Quarters 3 & 4 2022 and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme for 2021-22. This was because of personal circumstances and was not a concern in terms of being able to make the claim and receive the tax refund at some stage, but was causing a cash flow issue, which the Treasurer and the Finance Committee were monitoring. Contactless and cashless donations had risen and we had recently been advised that we are one of the highest achieving parishes for this type of donation in the Diocese. This was largely due to the very successful Appeal for Ukraine and the Angel Appeal. It was good to have been able to run both fairs and other fundraising during the year now that the pandemic was over, Old Malden News, whilst we did not run for profit, had again provided significant income, and fees from weddings, funerals in church and burials of ashes had risen as the numbers of services had increased. The Treasurer reminded the meeting that parishes no longer received any fees for funerals taken solely in a crematorium. Expenditure had largely been well controlled again in 2022. The Parish Support Fund contribution to the Diocese remained at £72,000, unchanged since 2018. Administration costs were higher because this was the first full year of employing Sally as our administrator. Church Maintenance included many exceptional and unavoidable items as listed on page 15, including the costs of removing the fallen oak and tree management (£5,500) and architect's fees and drainage survey fees in connection with the Restoration.

The Treasurer was happy to receive questions. One was raised in relation to the Endowment Funds - these related to funds left many years ago, including the Fynes-Clinton bequest. We were unable to touch or release any capital but received income every year from these historic amounts.

The accounts were approved unanimously by those present.

#### 2023 Quarter One Management Accounts

The Treasurer had hoped to be able to present these at the meeting, but personal circumstances meant they were not quite ready. Once completed they will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and presented to the PCC. They currently showed a deficit of £9k but this included costs that had been accrued for in 2022 (oak removal and tree surgery, £5,500), other exceptional costs, some annual costs incurred at the start of the year, together with gift aid normally but not yet claimed and received.

#### Parish Buying Two-Year Letter of Authority

On 14th April the Treasurer sent an email to all members of the PCC noting that the St John's had been by Parish Buying to sign a Letter of Authority ('LoA') relating to the Energy Basket, for the provision of our electricity and gas needs, for two years.

	<p>Having provided some background and noted that energy charges would continue to be reset annually as at the 1st of October, and that the LoA covered the energy supply to the Hall, the treasurer invited the PCC to vote on the resolution " The PCC agrees to authorise the signing on its behalf of a two-year Letter of Authority with Parish Buying for the Energy Basket." The Treasurer and Chair of Finance recommended that St John's sign up (<i>and therefore to approve</i>). They believed that "despite the shock of the new energy rates that came in on the 1st of October, we are well served by the Energy Basket, which provided the benefits of bulk buying, scale and the purchasing power of thousands of parishes. Alone we would risk failing to find a willing supplier, achieving reasonable rates relative to the markets at the time and we would have significant hassle and uncertainty. Our current rates are below the Government Cap set in September." A series of questions and answers was also provided.</p> <p>All members of the PCC voted by email in favour of the resolution and the LoA was duly signed on Wednesday the 26th of April, the signing having subsequently been acknowledged by Parish Buying.</p> <p>The PCC thanked Alastair for all his hard work on the accounts.</p>	
7612	<p><b>Vicar's report-</b> There is going to be a Baptism in the 9.45am service on May 21st.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There was no PCC meeting in April as it was too busy on the run up to Easter.</li> <li>-A new head teacher of Malden Parochial will hopefully be appointed very soon.</li> <li>-Fr Michael will be organising a worship group to meet 4 times a year to discuss the coming quarter re music and worship.</li> <li>-The PCC gave some very positive feedback re Holy Week and especially walking with the cross from Malden Manor.</li> <li>-A lot of Baptism families came along to the last Messy church which was great.</li> <li>- Newcomers and young families want to be able to connect more with the church. We need to facilitate this .Growth needs to be intentional to work effectively. People aren't coming as regularly as they used to. So although we are back to pre covid numbers, people are at church less often.</li> <li>-Nearly 80% of our income comes from approximately 15 households!</li> </ul> <p>We need to focus on our newest/youngest members. Little fishes is on this coming Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> so many parents will be present in church for the stewardship campaign sermon. We would love to get 20 new givers as a goal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There will be a prize from Bettys of Harrogate drawn from all those who submit a pledge form.</li> </ul>	

	<p>-Stuart Gooden will stand for PCC at the APCM.</p> <p>-We need a safeguarding Officer who regularly attends church to work alongside Sally and Marie.</p>	
7613	<p><b>Safeguarding-</b> Mike B has helped Sally put together spreadsheets for both DBS updates and safeguarding training and Sally will fill them in and then contact everyone who needs either a new DBS or to update their safeguarding training. All the PCC need enhanced DBSs.</p>	<b>SP</b>
7614	<p><b>Hall Committee Report</b> – Brian Whaymand has stepped down from being treasurer for the Hall Committee and Peter Wickenden will replace him. Brian will stay on the committee. The hall window work is now finished.</p>	
7615	<p><b>Restoration Project-</b> This has been a challenge. Mike has spoken to our architect’s office about getting a quantity surveyor and having the works broken down in to segments, starting with work on the tower. Mike then emailed Alex to confirm that everything was ready to go to the DAC meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. He heard nothing for 24 hours and then came the reply that there had been some confusion and everything had been put on hold. Mike B phoned both Alex and the DAC today as he hadn’t had an update from Alex. The DACs next meeting is on May 30<sup>th</sup> when Alex should be going for planning permission. Alex has also been speaking with a quantity surveyor who will give us a quote and budget costs.</p> <p>A company called H G Matthews have shown an interest in our bricks for the Tower. They make wood fired, handmade traditional bricks. We will need some extra bricks so they are going to give us a quote.</p>	
7616	<p><b>Social Media</b> -. Sally Josolyne did a PowerPoint and spoke about our social media presence as this was discussed by the Communication Committee when they met last week. The 3 points that they would like to address are that we grow our network, build the community and speed up messages that we want to put out.</p> <p>Sally J talked about the churches presence on face book and it was discussed how this needs to be more streamlined and effective.</p> <p>The PCC agreed that our Facebook pages should be updated. The FB pages/groups may also be linked to each other and possibly also a link to Malden Parochial School. We also need to start publicising our FB pages and maybe have a QR code that could direct people to our FB.</p>	<b>SJ And communication committee</b>
7617	<p><b>Ripple Energy – Green Energy Group-</b></p> <p>The group met last week and looked at Ripple Energy solar farm information. They are not happy to recommend this at this time. It looks like Ripple Solar give the cheapest electricity rate but there is no information on how much the added costs will be. There are far too</p>	

	<p>many unknowns at the moment. The GE Group will keep a watch out over the situation with Ripple. The Group are continuing to look at other ways of heating etc.</p> <p>The Mayor of London gives out grants for eco energy and this will be looked out and will need to be in by Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.</p> <p>Thanks to Peter Wickenden and Richard Burkett for all their hard work.</p>	
7618	<p><b>Any Other Business</b> – We now have a new projector which works with the original church laptop. Richard is putting together a simple guide for users.</p> <p>The Archdeacons visit went well and he was very pleased with St Johns.</p>	<b>RB</b>
	<p><b>We closed with prayer from Marilyn. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.</b></p>	