

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN
Registered Charity No.1145155
Minutes of the 764th meeting of the Parochial Church Council
At 7.30 p.m. on
Tuesday, November 7th 2023
In the coffee lounge

PRESENT, Rev Michael Roper as chair, Rev Milly Broome, Mike Broome, Lynn Sanger, Richard Burkett, Chris Benson, Deborah Harris, Margaret Barrington, Liz Pullen, Anthony Pullen, Marilyn Burkett.

Peter Wickenden, Kirsty Tong – Restore Grant’s Committee

Alastair Harris - Treasurer

Apologies from Sally Pusey (secretary). Minutes taken by Marilyn Burkett

Sally Josolyne, Fiona Baguley, Stuart Goodden,

		Action
7671	Apologies from Sally Pusey, Sally Josolyne, Fiona Baguley, Stuart Goodden	
7672	Notice of Essential AOB – Vote on Peter Wickenden’s role as Financial Officer for the Restore Group, Deanery Synod Report, Tony Pullen’s possible licensing, Management Accounts, Resolutions on Architect’s and Surveyor’s fees under Finance.	
7673	Minutes of the previous meeting: One amendment and one addition were made to the October Minutes. 7667 should read: Alastair asked if the cost could be delayed (not staggered). To be included: ‘It is important to remember that the PCC members are trustees of the Restore Project and have responsibilities as such’. The October Minutes were then agreed and a signed copy would be organised.	Fr Michael
7674	Safeguarding. Sally has drawn up the list of PCC members and the courses that need to be completed. Marilyn, Tony & Sally are up to date but PCC members need to complete the basic foundation course and Domestic Abuse course. In addition, Fr Michael and Margaret need to complete the Safer Recruitment course.	PCC Members Fr Michael Margaret
7675	The PCC welcomed Kirsty Tong who has been leading the Grant’s Committee for the Restore Project. Other members of the Group are Peter Wickenden, Detlef Golletz, Steve Clark and supported by Fr Michael and the Churchwardens. The Committee is working hard to secure grants for the project as £460k is required. So far, grants of £2.5k from the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust and £20k from the Marshall’s Charity have been promised. To reach the target, it is necessary to break down the project into smaller tasks. The primary focus will be on the Tower (£266k + VAT). We are still awaiting the Faculty from the DAC but that is expected shortly. Some funders only provide grants to listed places of worship retrospectively, others require £30k or £50k already.	

	<p>Initially, it is probably easier to raise the 50% required for the Tower. From January 2024, the National Lottery Heritage Fund is extending its scope for applicants. With local community, environmental and educational projects, there is a possibility of a substantial grant of up to £250k. Application will require a lot of work. An advisory team from the Lottery would be able to give guidance.</p> <p>Kirsty has a spreadsheet with a possible range of potential funders. Kirsty was thanked for her input and hard work as there is a possible £167k already available. [The Marshall’s grant does not cover professional fees and the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust requires membership of £30 p.a. (agreed by PCC).]</p> <p>Fr Michael suggested some ideas to pursue: to make St John’s a ‘Hub’ for the Hogsmill Conservation area and a resource for local schools and community; community projects to involve children and heritage, to meet with Elliott before the next Bat Walk, ask Chris Beales to ‘train’ members of the congregation on our resources. Possibility to bring in ‘apprenticeships’ with the contractors.</p> <p>Need to specify our needs – eg streaming, technology, CAT6, sustainability - required for the Project Inquiry Form.</p> <p>PUBLICITY: a parish flier (using input from a graphic designer & marketing expert- school parents), local media, The Bridge, Merton College. RESTORE: bringing it all together, community, church and you.</p>	Restore Group
7676	<p>Alastair explained how invoices for the Restore Project had been met so far:</p> <p>£27.5k from designated funds – all used plus £18.6k from our General (unrestricted) Fund. (£46,168 in total)</p> <p>The 5 monthly payments (total £14k) will come out of the General Fund (our reserves).</p> <p>The diocese has told us that most grants specific to works may not be available to ‘re-imburse’ general funds. Over the past 3 years, we will have used £61k of our funds for the project.</p> <p>Good news in that the General Fund will be increasing because of our stewardship campaign and some money can be put back into the fund – although we shall have to spend another £6k for the new printer.</p> <p>£2.5k was raised for general funds through the £10 challenge (with an extra £1k donation added). Need to avoid ‘donor fatigue’ though.</p> <p>Suggestion that work on the buttress commence first- no scaffolding required and something will be happening!</p> <p>Perhaps we could explore interest-free loans or provide a ‘facility’ if extra money required.</p>	
7677	<p>Alastair presented the Budget for 2024.</p> <p>A draft budget was presented at the September meeting when the Parish Support Fund pledge was agreed. The budget was circulated prior to the meeting, and Alastair issued paper copies at the meeting.</p> <p>A few points: our Energy is still provided by Total – electricity charges have increased but gas charges decreased. Releasing £1300.</p> <p>Plans to hold Epiphany Appeal in Jan 2024 for sacristy costs, so the</p>	

	<p>budget figure has been reduced.</p> <p>Music budget increased by £600 for purchase of surplices for female choir members.</p> <p>As our income has increased above £100k per annum, we will incur NatWest bank charges, estimated at £200 per annum.</p> <p>Additional gardening costs of £700pa to assist Graham Burley.</p> <p>We still have a contingency of £5k included in the budget.</p> <p>Unanimous approval of the 2024 Budget and thanks expressed to Alastair and the Finance Committee.</p> <p>The following Resolutions were passed:</p> <p>A Retrospective Resolution for payment of £11,780 to Art Architects (paid in October), Resolution for 5 further invoices of £2, 960 over the next five months, a Resolution for payment of £3,600 to Huntley Cartwright – with a drawdown of £10k from our CCLA general deposit.</p> <p>All agreed unanimously.</p>	
7678	<p>Q3 Management Accounts</p> <p>Utilities expenditure over budget. We shall have an overall deficit of £8k, largely due to the payment of architect's fees of £13k in July, but the deficit is lower than we thought and the figure does include unplanned expenses.</p> <p>The good news: over half of our regular donations are through PGS. Underlying finances look good.</p> <p>Lynn requested a PCC Resolution for the purchase of the new printer: £4,490 + VAT. Unanimous vote in favour.</p>	
7679	<p>Vicar's Report</p> <p>The Red Chair symbolising Domestic Violence will be in place from Advent Sunday. Jesus will go 'on tour' as last year. There will be an Advent Carol Service on 3rd December at 4.00pm. First Communion will take place on 29th October (Christ the King).</p> <p>Messy Church for Christmas – another try. Open House on Saturday mornings not really happening – need to push that.</p> <p>Granny Mo's ashes now in the Garden of Remembrance.</p> <p>Memorial Services: 4 funeral families attended but many from St John's congregation. Hospitality appreciated.</p> <p>Need to celebrate the Sign of the Kingdom all around us.</p> <p>We shall be launching the Angel Project again this year. 2nd December from 4pm-6.30pm the Choir invited to sing at the Plough Green Christmas Tree Lighting up – plan to invite the congregation to join in too. All extra funds raised will go to our Angel Project.</p>	
7680	<p>AOB Margaret drew our attention to the Deanery Synod Report – may be helpful.</p> <p>Romana Nelson will be moving to the Woolwich Deanery.</p> <p>Tony is awaiting a response from Bishop Christopher to enable him to be a licensed SPA.</p> <p>Liz closed with prayer at 9.25pm.</p>	