

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN  
Registered Charity No.1145155  
Minutes of the 756<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
At 7.30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 2023  
In the coffee lounge

PRESENT, Rev Michael Roper as chair, Anthony Pullen, Rev Milly Broome, Richard Burkett, Marilyn Burkett, Chris Benson, Barry Eaton, Deborah Harris

Apologies from Sally Pusey (secretary). Minutes taken by Marilyn Burkett  
Lynn Sanger, Liz Pullen, Margaret Barrington, Sally Josolyne.

		Action
7584	Apologies from Lynn Sanger, Liz Pullen, Margaret Barrington, Sally Josolyne.	
7585	Notice of Essential AOB – Ripple Valley	
7586	Minutes of the previous meeting: One amendment made to the January Minutes. 7525 One suggestion – maybe the timing of Midnight Mass to be changed to 11pm rather than 11.30pm as it was very late. The January Minutes were then agreed and signed.	
7587	Vicar’s Report December relatively successful – numbers still not quite pre-Covid but many have returned. Focus now towards Spiritual Development. Ash Wednesday on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February. There will be two Lent Groups – Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon – following the 2022 Lent Book, ‘Embracing Justice’ by Isabelle Hamley. Also an opportunity for discussion on Saturday mornings – why we do what we do- aimed at younger people. Aim to put more energy into Holy Week. Holy Saturday Vigil again this year. No 8am Eucharist on Easter Day (or Christmas Day). Shrove Tuesday ‘celebration’ offered – no take up yet. Confirmation will take place at St John’s in October – hoping to confirm older children and parents not yet confirmed. Admission to early Holy Communion to take place on Trinity Sunday – June 4 <sup>th</sup> . The worship survey response: only 39 out of 200 worshippers. Question mark over Evensongs as only 9 attended (plus choir) for Candlemas. Maybe introduce something different. St John’s congregation worship pattern is to attend just once on a Sunday. Need for a liaison person to link up with young families: a ‘Retention Officer’. No Thirty Minutes now as numbers began to dwindle and it became too easy a way to tick church attendance box. PCC: we need to engage in succession planning. We lose 3 PCC members at AGM (21 <sup>st</sup> May)– although we can co-opt. Possibly have a ‘worship for All’ service on that day. Our future focus will need to be the Restoration Project.	

7588	<p>Safeguarding:  New forms for DBS applications. Sally now has new database. Need to clarify whether Sally responsible for checking CWs, Reader, SPA.  Reader and SPA have checks through the Diocese. Sally to chase up who requires the 'Leadership Course.'</p>	Sally
7589	<p>Finance: Alastair Harris, Treasurer, presented the Management Accounts for the full year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. December Planned Giving remained buoyant. Gift Aid Tax recovery through PGS also benefiting cashflow. Gift Aid recoveries for Q1 and Q2 were received from HMRC. Service collections quite high, including Christmastide special services. Grant of £1,400 from the Diocese: a flat amount to all parishes to help with energy costs. Appeal income includes over £2,000 for the Angel appeal, as well as Gift Aid recovered for previous appeals, that for Ukraine being £99. Utility bills continue to rise rapidly and in December we paid November's, the second month of our new tariff. Parish Buying indicate our rates are very competitive so no discount. December's bills, paid in January, amounted to £1,100 – weather colder that month. Paid two donations for Mission Giving, £2,570 for Angel Appeal Gift Tokens (£200 yet to come in January) and settled amounts due to Christian Aid from earlier in the year (£740). Income exceeded high expenditure to provide another month in surplus in cash terms, as anticipated (the 5<sup>th</sup> of the year).</p> <p>Planned giving and tax recovery exceeded budget, largely as result of late 2021 stewardship campaign. Cash collections (not including SumUp) double the level anticipated in the budget. Fundraising, including the fete, fair and other events, raised over £8,500 – a magnificent sum. Various donations received, at over £10,500. Service Fees higher than budgeted: 3 weddings, 2 banns, 8 church funerals and 5 burials of ashes. Rising interest rates have increased interest income.</p> <p>Largest single expenses, Parish Support Fund and Admin, close to budget, as were insurance, music and clergy &amp; ministry team expenses.</p> <p>Upkeep of services underspent as we placed moderate orders for sacristy goods.</p> <p>Figures for Church and churchyard maintenance: underspent by some £5k. In reality the underspend on budget higher, at £5,815. Due to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not replacing lightbulbs, Hoover, fire alarms, no general upkeep costs, gutter cleaning, stair lift service, no electrical 5yr test and no cleaning materials: £2,000+</li> <li>2. 'Survey &amp; Surgery', at least partly covered by Little Oak's charges, which had not been received by 31.12.22, £1,400</li> <li>3. Quinquennial inspection: (incurred in 2022 but not yet received, expected to be £2,520 including Hall) £1,140</li> <li>4. Security Maintenance budgeted at £60/m –additional costs of powering are within electricity costs. No other maintenance costs have yet been incurred. £720</li> <li>5. Lane budget of £100 not spent (superseded by Lane Work Charges and various other items £260. Unbudgeted costs of £755, largely due to the water leak. Management Accounts figures - total spent £2,660</li> </ol>	

	<p>and an underspend of £5,060 However, costs for the tree surgery, lane repairs and quinquennial fees, total £11,020 - all to be paid in 2023, will result in an overspend of £5,960.</p> <p>2023 Budget (agreed late in 2022). Finance Committee reviewed energy costs in the light of events early in the new year. £7,600 in budget for gas and electricity. (£2,000 in 2022, inc water charges.) Finance Committee proposed not to change the budget at this stage but to monitor and keep the PCC updated. The PCC agreed with this approach. Legacies. The Finance Committee were proposing the following as a resolution to the PCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ‘Until the completion of the Restoration Project, all future legacies of less than £10,000 should automatically go to the Designated Restoration Fund unless they are specifically directed elsewhere by the donor’.</li> </ul> <p>This reflected the view of Fr Michael and was accepted and passed unanimously.</p> <p>In future Management Accounts would be presented quarterly, but the Finance Committee will in the meantime continue to monitor the parish’s finances closely. Agreed by PCC.</p>	
7590	<p>Finance Committee: Richard suggested a schedule for finance involvement of PCC through the year. Good response for Epiphany Gifts Appeal raising £1,000.</p> <p>PGS: 10 in scheme at present. 18 letters sent to Committee members with email list in preparation for the congregation. GDPR not helpful. No email list available. Need for explanation/clarification in church and a strategy for the next 18 months. (To be discussed at next Finance Meeting.)</p> <p>Energy costs a concern: this year’s estimate £7.5k-£8k. Increase in our annual deficit over past three years although donations have helped reduce deficit. The pattern of increasing deficit causes concern. Main problem is that giving is too low.</p> <p>Fr Michael clarified that the Restoration Project not responsibility of the congregation. Maybe only small input at end of project eg stained glass. Aim to encourage ‘new’ and ‘younger middle-age’ into the scheme. Fr Michael agreed to talk about PGS to congregation after Easter to encourage people already giving to join as well as new people. Special mailing for 4-6 weeks, ready-made fliers are available. Launch campaign after Easter. Need for regular updates of our costs in parish mailing, OMN &amp; pew leaflet to raise awareness: daily costs of running the church?</p> <p>We hope to continue £72k for Parish Support Fund, but if energy bills really high, we still need to hold on to at least £50k in our reserves to secure loans for Restoration Project.</p> <p>The budgets for the last few years predicted a deficit of about £20,000: in 20 and 21 the deficit was thankfully smaller largely due to generous donations,</p>	

	but with significantly larger energy costs there is real concern at what the outcome might be for this year.	
7591	Maintenance: Merton College willing to discuss sum for repair of lane. Still question of quality and lane from gate to cottages is still poor.	FR R, Maint.
7592	Hall Committee: No report received. Windows being installed. Quinquennial Report given to Committee – a number of issues need addressing.	
7593	Restoration Project: draft planning form received. Discussion needed by Fr Michael, Chris Benson and Mike Broome. Nothing unexpected.	FR R, MB, CB.
7594	Communications Committee: met in Sept and December. Suggestion for an internal calendar to record dates/events/fundraising. Sally (J) finding safer way to share documents. More detail about booking church hall needed: cost and method of payment other than cash. Website needs to be much simpler – Richard asked whether there would be a search facility. Chris asked about format of parish mailing: could it be shorter/with 'more punch'. Fr Michael explained that MailChimp has its own format.	
7595	<p>AOB: Ripple Energy</p> <p>After a vote, the PCC agreed the sum of £70 (2 voted against the proposal) to access prospectus. Tony expressed concerns over benefits and pay-back time and where the 'investment' will come from. We know nothing of finite life of wind turbines, uncertainty on Govt. policies. Lots of potential but great uncertainty. Is this the right time?</p> <p>Suggestion to have a 'Green Energy' Working Party to find info on solar panels &amp; heat pumps. How much energy per panel?</p> <p>Fr Michael ended the meeting with thanks to Beth, Debra, Janet &amp; Claire Moore for the recent Quiz Night.</p> <p>Milly concluded with a prayer. Meeting ended at 9.11pm.</p>	