

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN
Registered Charity No.1145155
Minutes of the 748th meeting of the Parochial Church Council
At 8 p.m. on
Tuesday, May 3rd 2022
In the coffee lounge

PRESENT: The Vicar in the chair, Franklin Barrington, Marilyn Burkett, Richard Burkett, Anthony Pullen, Milly Broome,, Margaret Barrington, Pauline Armour, Deborah Harris, Chris Benson, Mike Broome, Sally Josolyne.

In attendance: Sally Pusey (secretary). Alastair Harris (treasurer)

The Vicar opened in prayer.

7493 1 – Apologies from Lynn Sanger, Liz Pullen and Marie McGuire.

7494 2 - NOTICE OF ESSENTIAL AOB
Church Hall and PC in the parish office.

7495 3 - MINUTES OF THE March meeting
Amended and signed by Fr Michael

7496 4 – SAFEGUARDING
Nothing new to share other than we are looking for someone else to join the safeguarding team alongside Marie.

7497 5 - VICAR'S REPORT

-Fr Michael is very concerned about our safeguarding, we need to find people to undertake the safeguarding training as safeguarding is a priority. We are looking to expand the safeguarding team and will ask the congregation for people to come forward who have experience in safeguarding and working with children and young people.

-The church was busy over the Easter weekend and Sunday numbers are picking up. Fr Michael may look to link up with another local church in the future to encourage bigger congregations on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. There was live streaming on Maundy Thursday and Easter morning with a good number of views. The Easter vigil was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

-The congregation will be asked what sort of worship they would like going forward to engage as many people as possible.

-Ro King and Becky Horton are stepping down from doing Little Fishes in the summer. We need to encourage people to help with both Little Fishes and Children's Ministry. It was suggested that it might be a good time to do a "Time and Talent survey".

- The bereavement café is going very well.

- Fr Michael reported that Mrs Pavlis has issued standing invitations for members of the PCC to go in and visit Malden Parochial. It was also noted that Malden Parochial are still looking for a foundation governor, preferably from St Johns.
- Sunday 8th May will be the delayed St Georges day parade. All money on that day in the plate collections and via the App will be given to the scouts and this will continue annually . Some refreshments for the children will be provided after the service.
- At the APCM on May 22nd Franklin Barrington, Richard Burkett, Pauline Armour and Marie McGuire will all come off the PCC as their terms of office will be finished. Nomination forms for new members will be available at the back of church.

7498 6-Finance

Alastair presented the finance information in three sections

- A) Annual Accounts – The annual accounts have been reviewed and approved by the independent examiner.
When looking at the income and expenditure it shows a net surplus in 2021 of £8074 across all funds.
Regular giving has been consistent.
Building fund ended the year with just over £20,000
Magazine sales have been going down as more people view it online, but it's still covering its costs.
Biggest cost is the parish support fund and the parish administrator expenses have gone up.
The deficit on the general fund for 2021 was almost £2,500
The total reserves at the end of 2021 have gone up to £131.707 from £123.633 at the end of 2020.
The day to day costs are still a struggle to be met by the day to day income

The PCC approved the accounts and gave thanks to Alastair and the finance committee for their continuing hard work.

- B) March /1st quarter-
Jan/Feb fairly quiet as expected.
In March the giving through the bank rose because of a large half-yearly planned donation, a quarterly donation and time differences with February. Monthly planned donations are now back up at £4, 900 which is where we were prior to covid.
Ukraine appeal donations started coming through the account in March.
Overall we were in surplus for the 1st Quarter.
- C) NatWest Update-NatWest give no updates on the progress of our mandate leaving Alastair having to constantly chase them. NatWest decided to question Lynn's signature and then Mike needed validating because he doesn't bank with them. Mike and Lynn both received emails from NatWest to sort out the issues but they looked so much like spam so neither of them replied and Alastair has had to resubmit the mandate as it then expired because of the lack of replies to NatWest's emails. Alastair continues to chase NatWest to progress the mandate. We are dependent on completing this before we can open a new bank account

for the proposed Parish Giving Scheme, as well as arranging for all signatories to have online banking access.

7499 7-St John's Hall

-A tree was removed as it was overhanging the pathway.

7500 8-Scout headquarters agreement renewal and Pre School licence update.

-Scouts- A site drawing and report from the surveyor is needed and the agreement is to be written up by the solicitor by the end of this academic year.

7501 9-Security Project Completion

The PCC gave many thanks and appreciation to Richard for all his work for the security project. The system now needs to be registered and is covered by a 1 year warranty. After the warranty is up we will need to organise a service agreement. Richard is currently writing a "how to do booklet" for the security system.

7502 10-BUILDING REPAIR REPORT AND CONFIRMATION OF NEW QI ARCHITECT

Repair project:

- CB had had a successful meeting with Alex Veal (AV) of ART Architects, and an email report had been circulated confirming his suitability to become our QI architect. He is now approved by Southwark Diocese, so can be formally appointed.
- CB noted that as well as the necessary repairs we should also be discussing with AV our vision for the interior of the church (including the porch), and the options for heating when our present boiler expires.
- Charles Sheppard was due to produce his schedule of repairs by the end of April; he now expects to complete this by week commencing 8 May at the latest. He is also obtaining guide prices from contractors. Receipt of this package will enable us commence serious fundraising.

Drains

- MB/CB had met with Tony Clothier (TC) of Water Environment who will produce a report and recommendations for tackling our drainage issues. However, to do this he needs a topographic survey to establish levels, etc. He has obtained two prices for this, and recommends we accept the lower of the two, from Technics – £1,195 plus VAT. AH confirmed there is money in the repairs fund to cover this. MB will ask TC to get the quote readdressed to us for acceptance. Mike Broome proposed that the PCC go ahead with the survey. This proposal was agreed by the PCC.

7503 11-COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE/ST JOHNS WEBSITE

-live streaming – It was reported that approximately no more than 10 people are accessing the live streaming during the service but there are a further 20 to 40 views later in the week.

Deborah Harris reported that now the communication committee was formed they are looking at questions such as, What is St Johns message. What do we stand for? Who are our audience? They will look at both our internal and external communications with the wider community.

This will include online, streaming, our website, posters, word of mouth, pew sheets, weekly mailings, OMN and the welcome booklet.

It was agreed we needed a new website and the question, did we want a new logo was raised?

The PCC agreed to accept the committee's terms of reference going forward as they take formation.

7504 12-AOB

-Barry Eaton put in a request to be paid the same fee for funerals that he was paid for weddings. The PCC agreed to survey other churches and to check with the RSCM to look at the going rates.

-Sally Josolyne asked whether St Johns could help contribute to the church hall fee for the Year 6 leaver's party. The PCC agreed that St Johns would contribute the £100 fee.

-The parish office PC needs to be replaced or refurbished. This was agreed to be looked in to.

The meeting closed with prayer from Milly

The next PCC meeting would be at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 7th June 2022.