

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN  
Registered Charity No.1145155  
Minutes of the 752<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
At 8 p.m. on  
Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 2022  
In the coffee lounge

PRESENT, Rev Michael Roper as chair, Anthony Pullen, Milly Broome, Mike Broome, Sally Josolyne. Liz Pullen, Richard Burkett, Marilyn Burkett, Margaret Barrington, Lynn Sanger.

In attendance: Sally Pusey (secretary)

7537 1 – Apologies from Chris Benson, Barry Eaton and Deborah Harris.

7538 2 - NOTICE OF ESSENTIAL AOB

Treasurer update, Legacies policy, children's ministry, surrey churches conservation trust update, outreach committee, foundation governor.

7539 3 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The September minutes were checked and signed.

7540 4 – VICARS REPORT

1. The worship survey was sent out to 193 people and we've only had 30 replies. Overwhelmingly the responses are from people who have been attending church for 20 years or more and are mostly over the age of 70. Most people say the services bring them closer to God. It was suggested to resend the survey out again in the parish mailing, paper copies for the families at Little fishes to take home, or a QR code etc

- A call for more book at home prayer services

-Less history in the sermons as they know the Bible!

30 out of 193 is not a good response and we need the younger people to engage with the survey.

2. We have lost about a quarter of our congregation, mainly young people and some elderly people who have passed away. People are also attending less regularly. We need to create something that people feel they do not want to miss.

3. Harvest was a success with the parade service.

4. Livestreaming is still being viewed by people at home. We are looking in to purchasing a better camera.

5. Wifi- We have a temporary fix by using a new 4G card which we are using to support the contact less giving and the live streaming. We are looking at anew router and hard wiring in to improve Wi-Fi both in church and in the extension.

6. Fr Michael has been to visit the Bishop. He seems to be fully in support of our relationship with the scouts and also feels we need to move forward with taking ownership of our own church hall. We await to see what happens next.

7. Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October Fr Michael will preach about stewardship and the new red envelope givers will be celebrated.
8. Fr Michael has signed up to Eco church and will now go ahead and sign up the church.
9. Heat bank. We may set up a heat bank where we offer hot soup and somewhere to come and be warm. Possibly on Saturday mornings. We will monitor the need.

7541 5 –SAFEGUARDING

Marilyn is attending a Domestic violence course at the Cathedral. Sally P had to postpone her Safeguarding officer training until January as she was ill.

7542 6 – FINANCE – PARISH GIVING SCHEME and BUDGET UPDATE

The PCC agreed that a payment to Tecnicos for £1434 and a payment to the water environment company for £1953 should come out of the major building works fund. We are expecting, but have not yet received, a payment of around £6,800 from gift aid which was due in July.

Good news is that as of the end of August we are in balance.

There is an estimated deficit of £3000 at the end of this year but we do now have the work to do to remove the fallen oak tree in the church yard.

Launching the draft Budget for next year this evening and the plan is for the PCC to look through it before the next meeting so it can be confirmed at November's meeting.

-we are maintaining the £72,000 we give to the Parish Support Fund

- included in the draft budget are best estimates of what may occur over the next year.

-The question is, can we rely on donations/giving?

The draft budget shows a deficit of £19,968 next year. To put that in to context at the end of 2020 the deficit was £905, at the end of 2021 it was £6926.

If the 2023 budget goes as projected we will have used up a 3<sup>rd</sup> of our cash reserves. What can we do?

If we could increase the number of people who give free will offering from the current 124 to 146 we would have a balanced budget!

The red envelope campaign brought in 7 new givers and an increase from people who are already giving which equated to £7000 including the gift aid claimed on it. We need to grow the church

We need people to understand the level of income we need to achieve.

**Mike B** would like The Parish Giving Scheme to be rolled out sooner rather than later as it enables us to receive the gift aid back quickly and efficiently.

**Tony Pullen** suggested a ~Gift Day~ for a specific cause.

We need to communicate more effectively with people about how much we have, and how much we need for the restoration work etc.

The £350 agreed for a new projector in Nov 2021 will be put in to the budget.

**Sally J** talked about irregular giving and how we need to promote the giving machines again and the plate collections. We need to remind people that both these collections are continuing.

7543 7 – ST JOHNS HALL-HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

The hall committee have currently got three grant requests pending looking to fund the relaying of the car park.

7544 8 –SCOUT HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT RENEWAL & PRE-SCHOOL LICENCE UPDATE

As reported in the vicar's report, Fr Michael has met with the Bishop and discussed the ongoing Scout agreement. There is going to be a meeting with solicitors Russell-Cooke regarding the Pre-school licence.

7545 9-RESTORATION PROJECT

Both the church and hall quinquennials have been done and the report for the church is due in the first week of November and the hall report is due in the second week of November.

Quotes are being sort for the work on the drains and the building work is progressing to stage 2 which is where investigations are happening to get the details of the work that is planned.

**Mike B** is meeting with **Chris B** and will feedback at the November meeting.

7546 10 – COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE/ST JOHNS WEBSITE

1. A calendar shared as a group for running the church has been created and is being tested.
2. There is a proposal to create a form which can be filled in when an event at church is being organised that will list all the various channels of advertising e.g. Facebook, parish mailing, pew sheet poster etc.
3. The website needs to be simplified and in the future a new website will be required.

7547 11- LEGACIES POLICY

The draft legacies policy was circulated to the PCC and they approved the wording of the policy statement with one correction to add an extra comma. **Mike B** will be looking in to getting more information from the Diocese regarding Legacies.

7548 12-ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**1. Children's Groups**

Toddler group. The Tuesday toddler group is a church based group with a maximum of 18 children attending. They need to buy some Christian based resources and the PCC approved this and requested that **Jo Hill** speak to **Alastair H** and **Richard B** to arrange this.

Children's ministry. There are between 8 and 12 children attending each week and are predominantly girls. They have stories and have games and activities. There are more volunteers needed and this will be promoted at family services etc.

Older children. We would like to encourage the older children to become servers or help with coffee after church so they can feel involved and valued.

2. **Surrey Church Conservation Trust.** We hope to be receiving a grant from them for £2,500. In order to apply for a grant we will have to sign up with them which costs £30 a year for 5 years so well worth the small outlay. The PCC gave approval for the Church to join up.

3. **Outreach committee. Mission Giving –**

2022 is the last of the 3 year cycle of giving £300 each to Young Minds, Re-engage and Care International, leaving £600 for other charities.

In view of the exceptional great need this year and the Harvest sermon, it is felt that the mission giving this year should be split between the Food Bank and KCAH.

There were 3 proposals put before the PCC and the PCC agreed to restore the mission giving amount in the budget to £2000 which will give Young minds trust, Re-engage and Care international £300 each and £550 each will be given to the Food Bank and KCAH. We will then launch an appeal to raise that extra £500.

It was noted that the Outreach committee needed new members to join.

4. Governor – the PCC voted to allow Gillian Berry to continue as a foundation Governor at Malden Parochial School.

We closed with prayer

The next meeting will be on the Tuesday November 1st at **7.30pm** in the coffee lounge.