

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN
Registered Charity No.1145155
Minutes of the 751st meeting of the Parochial Church Council
At 8 p.m. on
Tuesday, September 6th 2022
In the coffee lounge

PRESENT, Rev Michael Roper as chair, Anthony Pullen, Milly Broome, Mike Broome, Sally Josolyne. Liz Pullen, Chris Benson, Barry Eaton, Margaret Barrington, Lynn Sanger, Deborah Harris.

In attendance: Sally Pusey (secretary), Jane Bransgrove (finance committee)

7525 1 – Apologies from Marilyn and Richard Burkett.

7526 2 - NOTICE OF ESSENTIAL AOB
Treasurer update, Legacies policy.

7527 3 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The July minutes were checked and signed.

7528 4 – VICARS REPORT

Autumn-covid will come around again. We will remain open and monitor the situation but people will be able to make their own choices to attend or not. If a member of the congregation is poorly in any way they must be encouraged not to attend church.

Worship Survey-there have been 22 replies so far. There will be changes in worship going forward. There is lots of positive feedback regarding evensong.

The blessing of the back pack service was a busy service.

Children's Ministry- Little fishes is now on the 1st Sunday of each month. There are currently 12 children in children's ministry which is the most since covid.

Services

September 18th Worship for All

October 2nd Harvest and parade service

November 13th Remembrance

December 18th Christmas- Gifts For All

Worship for All will carry on for the rest of this year and then we will assess whether to continue in the future.

Messy Church-December 11th, theme a crafty Christingle.

Possible messy church for Harvest too –meeting with children's leader's to discuss.

There is a new children's application form for Malden Parochial that means we can hold on to information for appeals etc. in the future. Fr Michael will write a covering letter to go with the application form for each child.

We need a big push for Harvest to support the foodbank.

We need to look at ways to save electricity/gas. LED lightbulbs, jackets on boilers.

7529 5 -SAFEGUARDING

Michael is about to renew his training and Sally P will undertake Safeguarding Officer Training.

7530 6 – FINANCE – PARISH GIVING SCHEME- Jane Bransgrove

PGS is set up and ready to run. We are encouraging the PCC to sign up and get started. PGS will speed up receiving our gift aid payments. If possible it would be great if people could sign up for the automatic yearly increase in their giving amount. If the PCC start this first then they can encourage the congregation to change over their standing order's to the PGS. Fr Michael is to preach about giving in late October and will also encourage people to join the PGS.

Can we pay quarterly, 6 monthly? **Jane** will look in to this.

Parish Pledge-The Diocese needs to know our pledge for the next year. The finance committee feel we can't increase our pledge.

It was stated that until we have control over the Church Hall finances we can't afford to increase the pledge.

The PCC voted to send the following statement – “We would like to honour the £72,000 a year for the Parish Support Fund but in the light of the current financial crisis we cannot guarantee this “

7531 7 – MISSION ACTION PLAN

We need to ask ourselves – Is what we do here on a Sunday important? Are we making new Christians?

Less than 50% of people said they would recommend the services for various different reasons.

Open church on Saturdays may bring people to church on Sundays.

GROWTH– This needs to be intentional to grow productively and we need to pray about this.

IMPACT- What is the impact of everything we do and offer?

What difference does what we do make to people?

We need to look at what is working and what isn't to see what the impact is and focus our energy on what we can do.

ECO CHURCH- When we sign up we need to look at sustainability –recycling, heating for the future etc.

The PCC agreed to sign up St Johns to ECO church. We also need to look in to using recycled paper and how much paper we use.

7532 8 – ST JOHNS HALL-COMMITTEE REPORT

The hall committee are still looking in to resurfacing the car park.

The quinquennial inspection has now been done and they are awaiting the report.

There may be some a problem with some brickwork around the windows.

7533 9-SCOUT HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT RENEWAL & PRE-SCHOOL LICENCE UPDATE

We are getting our own legal advice to help sort out the Scout agreement. The Scouts are on board with us so far and are also looking at getting their own advice

too. They are now in the position of having to spend £4,100 to bring the scout hut electrics up to new standards and a possible further £3000 of work. They're unsure about spending any money if there is the potential they could lose the scout hut in the future?

As the freeholder the hut won't be legally compliant if we don't pay for the electrics to be done. We need to think about if we are happy to pay this to get the scout hut compliant with the possibility if we sort out a new lease with the scouts that we could recuperate some of the £4,100 from the scouts.

The PCC agreed for, **Fr Michael, Lynn and Mike** to work with the scouts to come to an agreement about the electrical work and the church possibly recuperating the £4100 in the future.

Fr Michael has a meeting at the end of September with the Bishop to discuss the scout's agreement.

7534 10 – BUILDING REPAIR REPORT

The meeting with Alex has produced an appointment proposal - £380.000 plus Vat with contingencies of 10-20%.

We have already agreed to go to stage 2

The Grants committee met in August and have allocated funds to look at various grants from Virador, Letch Trust, Marshalls, The Churches Conservation foundation and others. They are meeting again mid-October to see where the applications have got so far. Two applications have already been submitted. Chris Benson mentioned the National Lottery Grants and will look in to this with Alex who has previous experience in this field.

The church quinquennial report has been done and we are awaiting the report.

We now have a detailed drains report and we have asked the architect to look at 2 companies to obtain pricing for the work.

7535- COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE/ST JOHNS WEBSITE

The committee met on the 28th July. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed to the PCC. They are looking at how people find out about what is going on at St Johns, Facebook, website etc.

Time and Talents survey where they can match people's needs and abilities.

Internal communications. We now have an internal google calendar and they will look in to who needs access to it.

7536-ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Legacies- Every year we should renew the Legacy policy. We need to relook at the policy which is basically the Diocesan one and make it more personally ours Try and

make legacies something which we discuss and we can help support people who don't have a Will to make one. We need to give legacies a slightly higher profile. **David Owen** and **Mike Broome** are going to gather some information to bring to the PCC.

Treasurer Update read by Deborah Harris

The Finance Committee is very conscious of the energy and cost of living crises and the potential Implications for St John's, in terms of impact on both income, as donors feel the impact, and costs.

In respect of costs, the PCC is reminded that the Parish is under a fixed contract with Total Energies through the Parish Buying Scheme under which both gas and electricity prices are reset in October. Notice for this is normally given at the time of the rise. Under the terms of the contract the Parish must withdraw from the contract by the 1st of April prior to the October. This year the PCC, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee took the decision to remain with Total and PBS.

In the light of the current uncertainties regarding energy prices, the Finance Committee are taking the following actions

1. The 2023 budget process has been started, with a view to establishing a

'base budget'

how to achieve 10% and 20 % cuts in that base if required,

and

the implications and consequences of those cuts

2. PSB/Total are being contacted to see whether they are able and willing to give an early indication of costs after 30 September 2022.

3. Monitoring of current and ongoing income and costs.

Quarterly management account reports will be made to the PCC when these become available.

We closed with prayer

The next meeting will be on the Tuesday October 4th at 8pm in the coffee lounge.