

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN  
Registered Charity No.1145155  
Minutes of the 755th meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
At 7.30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023  
In the coffee lounge

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

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

7572 1 – Apologies from Mike Broome, Liz Pullen, Barry Eaton, Deborah Harris.

7573 2 - NOTICE OF ESSENTIAL AOB - None

7574 3 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were made to the December Minutes:

7563 'Little fish's' should read 'Little Fishes'

7571 'Knave' should read 'Nave'

The December minutes were agreed and signed.

7575 4 – VICAR'S REPORT

**-Christmas Review:** Messy Christingle was good for families and was well attended. The Crib Service also went well with thanks to Margaret. Midnight Mass numbers were good and maybe more than pre-Covid - engaging with people who don't normally come to church. Nine Lessons & Carols service also saw an increase in numbers. Low attendance on Christmas morning: only 4 at 8am service and low at 9.45am also. In future, no 8am service on Christmas Day or Easter Day following late services the evening before. There was good feedback for 'Baby Jesus on tour'. Overall, Christmas seemed a positive time – creating good memories.

**-Lent.** Ash Wednesday will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. There will be a Lent Course with two time slots, afternoon and evening. It may follow the CofE 'Live Lent & Embrace Justice' course.

**-Warm space initiative.** The Church Coffee Lounge is available every Saturday morning and Tea & Chat available every Thursday afternoon. The Church Hall is sometimes booked for parties on Sunday afternoons. We have registered our venues but no-one has used our warm spaces yet. Weather has been relatively mild so far. When there is snow and ice, maybe people wish to remain at home and not venture out.

**-PCC** has the option to co-opt members for specific expertise. Fr Michael's idea to 'shake up' the agenda to become more interesting.

**-St John's in the community:** we are not visible enough. Insufficient presence and involvement in the community eg tree lighting on the Green, in the flats/Sheephouse Way. We need to 'change our culture' and become a 'known presence' not just here

in church on a Sunday. The Angel Project has raised our profile but we need to build on that. Geography is part of our problem – but we need to overcome that and be more creative. We need access to Notice Boards/more posters/more information about what we do. Maybe leaflet drop to parts of parish? (Communication Committee?) We need to find out what people need. Involvement at 'The Hub'? Build on family attendance at School Carol Services in church – particularly Malden Manor (e.g. extend our 'hospitality'- ask for volunteers to help with refreshments Possible launch of 'Easter craft activities' in schools.

7576 5- SAFEGUARDING

Sally is checking the DBS database to find out when updates are necessary. Ministry Team updating.

7577 6 – FINANCE

Richard gave update on our energy consumption: in November our utility bill was £818 and in December is estimated to be £1,130. So just under £2,000 for November & December. Our consumption is currently just below our worse case scenario. We did have £15 relief from our electricity supplier but no relief from the gas supplier. (We are regarded as a 'business'.) Govt figures quote 21p a unit but we are paying 35p. We have not heard from Total Energy – we are pursuing this. Our 2023 estimates indicate we are paying more than expected. Maintenance needs to look again at boiler timings and set points to reduce if possible. Maybe cut off at 10.45am and not have double doors open wide!

Discussions on solar panels/heat pumps are taking place – overlap here with the Restoration Project.

November figures good: we received a £2k legacy and the £1400 grant from the Diocese from the energy support fund. Our deficit will be reduced from £5k to £2k but our energy bill will take its toll.

**PGS** scheme will be rolled out to church committee members and there are 23 people we can approach. Jane is also working on congregation lists.

**Epiphany gifts** will be launched on 8<sup>th</sup> January where people can donate towards the purchase of candles, wafers, communion wine etc. Article in OMN plus flier for information on how to donate and included on our website.

At our February PCC there will be the first review of our 2022 figures.

7578 7- ST JOHN'S HALL-HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

The hall is having 4 large windows replaced at a cost of £3280. They are still looking for funding to redo the car park surface. They have lost their regular slimming world booking due to parking difficulties.

7579 8- CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT

This was a great success again this year with huge thanks to Pat Lovegrove and her helpers for organising such an important event. This is so important to our outreach into the community. The number of guests was down this year – so we need to ensure that it is well advertised and promoted. Maybe explore 'Worcester Park Life', notices in libraries, GP surgeries? Thanks also to Pat for her organisation of our monthly Sunday Lunch Club and we hope for new volunteers to come forward.

7580 9- RESTORATION PROJECT

Everything on hold until the application for faculty has been sent off/returned. Alex is preparing the application papers. Any grants might be more forthcoming if faculty in place. We have not yet received the final Quinquennial reports – may need chasing.

7581 10- LANE Contractors came to do a 'temporary fix' just before Christmas to make the lane safe. No invoices received yet. Need to complete the work with gravel/shingle to make a firm and more permanent foundation. Very muddy/puddles again.

7582 11- COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE/ST JOHNS WEBSITE

Nothing to report. Minutes out shortly. News of our Christmas Day Event/Sunday Lunches should be on our website & on A Church Near You – promoting the good things we do! The Men's Thing needs reviving/re-launching.

7583 There being no other business, we closed with prayer at 8.34pm.

The next meeting will be on the Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at **7.30pm** in the coffee lounge.