

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN
Registered Charity No.1145155
Minutes of the 740th meeting of the Parochial Church Council
at 8 p.m. on
Tuesday, 1 June 2021
by Google Meet, with members attending from their homes

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

In attendance: Faith Bowers (clerk), Alastair Harris (church treasurer).

The Vicar opened in prayer.

7400 1 - APOLOGIES were received from Marie McMaguire and Anthony Pullen.

7401 2 - NOTICE OF ESSENTIAL AOB
There was none.

7402 3 - MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING
After an addition about Christian Aid by Deborah, these were approved and signed, and would be published in the usual ways.

CWs/Amy

7403 4 - SAFEGUARDING
Lynn had sent a list of those needing DBS clearance to Marie and Vanessa. She was concerned that she had had no response from Vanessa. She should be contacted. Uzma had also been set up as a checker. Marie was struggling with family problems but had agreed with Lynn that on Saturday morning, 19 June, between 10 and 12, people requiring checks should bring their documents for Marie to deal with them. Amy could send out a notice to that effect. Any portable checks should be brought.

MM/VS/LS/AC

The Vicar stressed that no activities could begin until this was completed. Two Canadian churches had been closed down because of safeguarding issues!

Pauline said she had not been checked, but it was thought less critical for the MU. Jo Hill was keen to begin *two* toddler groups, so would to renew her DBS clearance.

7404 5 - VICAR'S REPORT
a) *Reopening*

There was still much to do before reopening.
He was concerned for those who come to the services without understanding much that is done, especially those who attend for two years to qualify for a school place. He planned to hold an all-age morning service once a month. Three of these each year would be parade services for Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Day and the

Patronal Festival. He knew all-age services would not suit everyone but there would be the quieter alternative at 8 a.m. He wanted to create something people would not want to miss.

The Wednesday midday Eucharists would continue. Perhaps the Mothers' Union could attend this, rather than on Tuesdays as before.

He was also concerned about people who were continuing to give faithfully while getting little for it. More should get OMN as hard copy in future.

Milly would take the Wednesday service next week as the Vicar would be on holiday.

b) *Administrator* Amy was moving away from the parish on 23 July so the church would need a new administrator. Amy had suggested someone. The church would make a gift to Amy in recognition of her good service in this role.

c) *St John's Day Celebration, 27 June*

Provided that the ending of Covid restrictions on 21 June held, Lynn spoke of the plans for an open-air service followed by a barbecue, with activities for children, two stalls and some entertainment. The fund-raising committee were looking for help from outreach and congregation committees over serving food. Those who felt safer with their own food could bring a picnic.

The event should be advertised in OMN, on Facebook etc.

Pauline observed that some would still be wary of such a gathering.

Mike had been to a motor sports event the previous week with some 250 outdoors and it had felt safe. Most people only wore masks when going to the toilet block but they generally respected distance.

Michael observed that the chalice might never be restored for the laity.

Booking should be requested to give some idea of numbers. The Vicar would set that up on Eventbrite after his holiday.

7405 6. FINANCE

Alastair presented the April figures. Those for May were not yet ready as the month only ended yesterday. April had been another good month, showing a modest surplus on the month, although there was still a deficit overall. There had been some wonderful gifts, including one for the Building Fund and some for the Food Bank, and welcome contributions from fund-raising.

Richard reported that the Insurance was due for renewal imminently. Geoff Little had reviewed offers from both Ecclesiastical and Trinitas and considered that remaining with Ecclesiastical is the best strategy. It is the start of a new 3 year Agreement at an annual premium of £1,857 (up from £1,778 last year). Richard asked for authorisation. *The PCC approved.*

Geoff chairs Maintenance but does not see PCC papers. Richard would find it helpful to have a list of committee chairs when these are settled. He would ask Amy for this.

RB/AC

Alastair asked to see the job specification for a new administrator as Amy had done a lot to help him.

Wardens

7406 7. HIRING AGREEMENTS

There had been little progress but a meeting was arranged with the Scouts on 10 June when they hoped to move things forward. The Diocese is very slow. Mike had yet to receive a reply to his letter sent two weeks ago, but was resigned to this. Emma and Duncan would meet him and tell the Diocese what they decided.

7407 8. SECURITY etc.

This was progressing. Richard had looked at signs that might be used in the churchyard. Esotech have asked for a visit for the electrician to make final measurements for the installation.

7408 9. BUILDING REPAIR PROJECT

The proposed investigative work for damp has been reduced in scope as a consequence of difficulties with the Diocese. Chris Benson has approached Capital and received a revised quote of £3,435 +VAT = £4,122. There are still a few details to be sorted, but it is hoped that the work can start in the next few weeks.

7409 10. WEBSITE

Sally reported that some 20 people were in attendance on-line for the APCM, and that Sunday services are still well attended and also viewed later. In the last month usage of the website had declined, but new visits were made to new items such as Christian Aid.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer about 9 p.m.

The next PCC meeting would be at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 6 July 2021.