

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN  
Registered Charity No. 1145155

Minutes of the 727<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the Church Extension

**Present:** Mike Broome in the chair, Lynn Sanger, Pauline Armour, Franklin Barrington, Margaret Barrington, Brian Bowers, Jane Bransgrove, Milly Broome, Marilyn Burkett, Richard Burkett, Steve Clark, Lisa Down, Sally Josolyne, Marie Maguire, Anthony Pullen and Liz Pullen.

In attendance: Faith Bowers (clerk).

Milly opened with prayer.

7250 1 - Apologies for absence were received from the Vicar, Louise Hall, Deborah Harris, and Martina Herpak.

7251 **2 - Notice of Essential AOB** There was none.

7252 3 - **Minutes of the November PCC Meeting** were approved and signed, after a correction to the date. Jane, who was not at the December meeting, said that the photocopier was only six years old, not twelve, and there was a second care home, St Anne's Lodge for adults with learning disabilities, within the parish, in Lyndhurst Drive.

The minutes would be published on the church noticeboard and website. **CWs/Amy**

7253 **4 - Matters arising from the Minutes**

*Photocopier:* Mike had been looking into what was available on Parish Buying. The Vicar would like a copier that could do more, e.g. staple. Jane said this would be a significant cost that was not in the budget. Steve hoped an extended warranty would be available.

*Joan Taylor's grave* - Liz mentioned that the middle set of gates to the churchyard were given in her memory. Mike added that the Lychgate was inscribed as a memorial to someone in 1889.

7254 **5 - Safeguarding**

The Diocese was making a Past Cases Review 2 and required responses from parishes by 14th February. The Vicar had written to the three previous incumbents (all those still alive) to ask if there had been any issues during their time.

Meanwhile the church needs to get all those who are 'hands on' with children or vulnerable adults DBS checked. That would include all children's work, and the Sunday Lunch Club and Tea and Chat. Marilyn said she had gathered lists of workers and could supply these to the churchwardens. For the Christmas Day Event it should be adequate to ensure the person carrying overall responsibility had been checked. **MB/CWs**

7255 **6 - Contactless Giving**

This was going well. Over £200 had been received this way before Christmas. Milly suggested taking the device to Little Fishes and 30 Minutes.

Sally had been looking into a banner to draw attention to the facility. Pop-up banners were available at various heights: 2 m, 1.6 m, 1.2 m, and smaller. The 1.6 m sounded most suitable. That would cost about £40. Mike asked if the PCC would be happy to spend that and it was agreed unanimously.

Lisa was thanked for her A4 notice about this on the church boards. For the banner, however, it was felt that the wording should stand out more clearly. Lisa agreed to create a new design with

larger text on white background. Perhaps the picture should be of the device. Wording about payment should be prominent near the top. Lisa and Sally would arrange this. **LD/SJ**  
Sally said they were looking at the possibility of using a QR code on the pew leaflets so that people could contribute easily by phone. The present machine could not be so used, but other firms offer the possibility, at a higher cost. It would take people straight to the website, with no app needed. It could be arranged through Parish Buying. Tony hoped people would not use it *during* services, but only before or after. Mike thought the idea worth pursuing further, recognising that it would require a new account and administrator.

Richard said the Finance Committee would look at the outcome of the 2019 appeal, but another was going to be needed in Lent. The Diocese has someone who can advise on such matters, and on how to build these concerns into the MAP. delete

Sally and Richard were looking at the use of a tablet enabling a more discreet mode of giving than just the contactless device. A free app was available from Parish Buying. Richard said they could experiment with a tablet he owned.

7256

### **7 - Mission Action Plan**

The Vicar had asked for this to be on the agenda. The MAP from 2017 needs renewing. He would like the PCC to come to the next meeting with ideas on where to focus St John's mission. In the January OMN he had highlighted three possible concerns: inclusivity, especially towards those with disabilities, people on the margins of the church, and making love tangible around Malden Manor.

Tony said that a recent SPA training meeting had heard from a new diocesan officer who was clearly an 'ideas man' and would be contacting all new incumbents regarding their MAP.

7257

### **8 - Reports and Recommendations from Committees**

*a) Children and Young People* - Milly said they had met before Christmas. The Crib Service had gone well, but there was still a pressing need for more helpers. It was a matter they would talk to the Vicar about. **MB/MB**

*b) Church Hall* - Brian said they were to meet later in January. The Christmas Day Event had been busy and gone well. On Election Day, when he had been a teller at the Church Hall, he had had people asking where was Tea and Chat.

Sally asked to have details about booking the Hall, including prices, on the website as people often asked about this. Brian would raise this with the committee. **BB**

*c) Congregation* - Marilyn had circulated minutes of the recent meeting. Carol singing at the station had been disappointing. She had been told they would not be striking on Election Day but in the event, there were only two trains from London in the time, instead of the usual eight. It was a miserably wet evening. Nevertheless, £110 had been collected for the Princess Alice Hospice. Marilyn had written a lament to the RMT Union.

She had gathered the names of some 130+ people to thank for doing work for the church: so many that she was having to arrange two Thank You Teas, not the one originally planned. These would be on 9 and 16 February. She would be sending invitations soon.

It was hoped soon to revive the Men's Thing. It was seen as a valuable meeting that needed to develop, but required a new leader. The Vicar had offered himself as a speaker. Tony hoped to arrange some meetings soon. **TP**

*d) Finance* - Richard said that the Vicar had written a thank you letter to all people on the FWO scheme. However, the letters were sent by a group email revealing recipients email addresses. No confidential information was revealed in the letters, so it was agreed that the incident would be recorded in the Church "Log Book".

Richard drew attention to the numerous repairs Brian Whaymand does, saving the church expense. Last week a piece of wood supporting the altar broke, endangering the altar itself. Brian had soon made an invisible repair.

Mike said that the Finance agenda should include dealing with emergency payment in the treasurer's absence. The recent problem had been no cheque book to hand although there were signatories available. The matter of setting up a new broadband account should also be on the Finance agenda. **RB**

Tony said the church ought to have a small fund available for emergency when people were found in dire need. Richard said there was a small amount kept for contingencies but they should consider having some cash readily available **RB**

Lynn said that in seeking a filing cabinet for safeguarding, they had found a lot of old documents including financial papers. They were not being kept securely, but did they need to be kept at all? Some went back to Vic Price's treasurer ship. Richard would look at these with Lynn. They would look at diocesan advice on what documents should be kept and what binned. The recommended duration varies with different content matter. **RB/LS**

*e) Fundraising* - They had not met since the December PCC. The next effort would be the Murder Mystery evening on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

*f) Maintenance* - Work had been done on the troublesome heaters. The contractors had to remove asbestos from the boiler house. The heating seemed to be working satisfactorily now.

Drainpipes had been cleared and churchyard equipment serviced. There should soon be a report about the kitchen boiler. The vestry leak was still a problem.

The architect's report was expected by the end of January.

*g) Outreach* - This committee would meet soon.

*h) Sustainability* - this committee is still in abeyance.

7253 **9 - Deanery Synod Report**

Tony said the APCM would need to appoint new representatives. This was important because the next triennial would have to deal with some major issues.

7254 **10 - Churchwardens**

Lynn wanted to record the church's gratitude to the Vicar, Ministry Team and Choir for the Christmas services which had all been very good and well attended.

7255 **11 -AOB**

There was no further business, but Milly invited prayer for Freddy Spreckley on a Royal Navy ship in the Straits of Hormuz, an area of potential danger at present.

There being no further business Milly ended the meeting with prayer at 9.28 p.m.

The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 8 p.m.