

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN
Registered Charity No.1145155
Minutes of the 770th meeting of the Parochial Church Council
At 7.30 p.m. on
Tuesday, May 7th 2024
In the coffee lounge

PRESENT Rev Michael Roper as chair, Mike Broome, Rev. Milly Broome, Lynn Sanger, Chris Benson, Margaret Barrington, Anthony Pullen, ,Stuart Goodden, Fiona Baguley and Deborah Harris.

Alastair Harris - Treasurer

Sally Pusey as secretary.

		Action
	Apologies from Richard and Marilyn Burkett, Liz Pullen and Sally Josolyne	
7734	Fr. Michael opened with prayer. AOB- Eco Hub – Fiona Baguley	
7735	Minutes of the previous meeting: - Correction made, agreed and signed	
7736	Actions outstanding- will be within todays Agenda	
7737	<p>Vicars Report- Fr Michael thanked Chris, Sally J and Deborah for their time on the PC as they are stepping down. In order to prevent confusion or conflict Fr Michael has put in place the following resolution: - “Being resolved that for the duration of the Restore Project, all contractual arrangements made with contractors, architects and other consultants will require a letter of authorisation signed by the Vicar after approval by the PCC has been given. This alone enables said agreement to proceed” This was voted on and agreed unanimously by the PCC. There will be a new PCC with 3 new members after May 19th. Tony P would like to step down from Deanery Synod. A member of the congregation is thinking and praying on whether to go on to Deanery synod. Mothering Sunday- We didn’t have big refreshments available after the service and most people left straight away. The coffee lounge was too cramped and it felt unwelcoming. We need to do more to encourage people to stay. During Worship we need to more tolerant of the children and the noise they make in church. We should be grateful that we have children coming to church.</p>	Resolution

	<p>There will be some changes to Worship moving forward, one of which is that people would like to sing a communion hymn and the choir needs to be inclusive not exclusive.</p> <p>Chris Sanger has arranged a full service of children to serve this coming Sunday.</p>	
7738	<p>PCC Governance Paper- Harvey believes that you can do a 3 year term on the PCC, followed by another 3 years. Lynn pointed out that at St Johns there is usually a gap of a year between the 2 terms of 3 years. Fr Michael has asked Harvey to look at this point.</p> <p>Harvey proposed to reduce the number of PCC meetings and only meet every other month. The PCC had talked about this before as it gives more time for actions from the PCC meeting to be actioned. In best practice we also wouldn't have spousal couples on the PCC. Fr Michael says he wants to break open the way the committees work. For example, the summer fair works with people who aren't on a committee and we need more situations like that so we can bring in fresh people without them having to be on a committee.</p> <p>The committees need to be able to come and report to the PCC and also ask the PCC for help should they require it.</p> <p>Also, a committee needs to do the work they need to do cooperatively and not to rely on the chair being responsible for everything.</p> <p>Liz and Tony Pullen have agreed to be joint chairs of a new Mission Committee.</p> <p>Ministry Team -there is the expectation that people can carry on and everything will remain the same, whereas we need to look at succession planning.</p> <p>We also need a situation vacant post on the parish mailing so that we can ask people to help where there are gaps in jobs and roles.</p>	
7739	<p>Finances- Restore Finance Update</p> <p>The changes from the last update are that an extra £20 came in from Chris's concert, Lisa Down went in to see Trueloves about a silent auction she is organising and they donated £100 to the Restore Project. Also, a couple of initial payments for the buttress work have been paid out which are £1248 and £1800. The other change is that the quote for the price of the buttress work that Alex has recommended we accept is lower so that has bought Alex's fee down a little too.</p> <p>Finance Update- Quarter one update. Finance Committee has seen the update but not yet met to discuss it. There is a deficit of just under £6000 but that allows nearly £9000 paid to Alex V so the underlying trend looks healthy. Alastair talked through a bit more of our up-to-date finances and then asked for any questions.</p> <p>Mike B mentioned about keeping the stewardship going and to continue encouraging people to transfer over to PGS. Mike suggested raising awareness of stewardship across the board. The</p>	

	<p>Finance Committee will push PGS again in the autumn and information will go in to the Welcome Pack.</p> <p>Reserves-The PCC looked at a paper that Alastair had put together about our reserves. It was acknowledged that we usually have £50,000 in reserves and currently we are under that at about £47,000. Some recommendations by Alastair about the reserves were discussed.</p> <p>These were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maintain for now, on a strictly temporary basis, an absolute minimum of £20k of reserves. This level should only be considered in order to cover temporary funding where we expect to be able to reclaim costs through grants; 2. aim to rebuild reserves in the short term to £50k and in the medium term consider building a designated fund for specified purposes and defined timescales, a 'Future Heritage Fund'. <p>The original 2024 budget implied an expected monthly £500 excess of income over expenditure. This, together with expected reclaims of VAT paid for Restore costs, should help us to achieve the short term goal;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. commission a small working group (which may comprise the chair of maintenance, a churchwarden and a member of the Finance Committee) to conduct a detailed review of the needs arising under Factors 2 - 5 above with a view to a further consideration of minimum reserves by the PCC as a whole in a few months' time, at which point a formal reserves policy may be agreed and put in place. <p>These were agreed and a small working party was formed. It was agreed that Fr Michael, Mike B, Stuart and Geoff would look at this.</p>	Reserve finance working party
7740	Hall Report-The is going to be a working party on the 1 st June and as part of that working party, they will be looking at the quinquennial report recommendations with the main focus being on the guttering and damp.	
7741	APCM prep update-There are 3 vacancies for the PCC with 4 people standing for election. Marilyn Burkett, Richard Burkett, Peter Wickenden and Steve Dyke. Sally has all the reports ready to put together.	Sally P
7742	Restore Group- A quote was in from Universal Stone for the buttress work at £21,491.74 excluding VAT. Alex recommended we accept. Universal Stone come highly recommended. Alastair noted that we needed to explore that if Marshalls pay the contractor directly would we still be able to claim back the VAT? The default is that Marshalls pay us and we pay the contractor. A resolution was discussed, proposed by Stuart G , seconded by Lynn S and carried unanimously by the PCC	

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