

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN
Registered Charity No.1145155
Minutes of the 766th meeting of the Parochial Church Council
At 7.30 p.m. on
Tuesday, January 9th 2024
In the coffee lounge

PRESENT, Rev Michael Roper as chair, Lynn Sanger, Richard Burkett, Chris Benson, Margaret Barrington, Anthony Pullen, Marilyn Burkett, Fiona Baguley, and Stuart Goodden, Deborah Harris

Peter Wickenden Restore Group finances

Alastair Harris - Treasurer

Sally Pusey - secretary

		Action
7691	Apologies from Sally Josolyne, Mike Broome, Rev Milly Broome and Liz Pullen	
7692	Notice of Essential AOB – None	
7693	Minutes of the previous meeting:- Corrected and then signed	
7694	<p>Finances – Restore Finances- Peter Wickeneden</p> <p>The only change from last month is the Architects fee which has moved from “to pay “to “paid”. The totals stay the same with £50,000 raised and £61.000 spent. Excluded are any grants that are still in the processing stage which is being managed by Kirsty and the grants committee. The total of £445,567 excludes VAT but we may be able to reclaim that from the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme. Alastair said that after the next 3 months we will have spent £61,000, its seed money which is needed to get a project going so going forward we must only use grant monies raised. Peter spoke to someone who said the way forward was to put the entire project out to tender and the tenders would come back with the project broken down in to sections and then you can choose which sections to go forward with, do those sections and then claim back from the relevant grant bodies.</p> <p>The next big grant being worked on is The National Lottery Grant and Kirsty will be in touch with them to find out what we have to do as the rules are changing and becoming a bit friendlier to places of worship. The PCC thanked Peter on how clear the information was that he had produced.</p> <p>General Finances – Alastair Harris</p> <p>In October we drew down £10,000 from our deposit with the CCLA. We started off with £40,000 that we put in a few years ago so we currently now have £30,000. We have some big bills coming in for the new photocopier and the 3 remaining bills for ARC Architects so Alastair would like authority to draw down a further £10,000 with the proviso that if we are in a good situation with cash flow in the coming months that we endeavour to put it back as soon as we can. The PCC agreed to this.</p> <p>Barry has asked to be paid the same for funerals as he’s paid for</p>	

	<p>weddings. This will be looked at, at the next meeting.</p> <p>Non statutory fees include, Verger, organist, bell ringer, sexton and the heating charge or the church for 6 months of the year. These fees go directly to the people who do the various jobs except the heating fee which goes to church. It was recommended and accepted that these fees remain the same as last year.</p> <p>A question that came up on one of the grant applications was who owns the property ie. The church.. Fr Michael owns the freehold. The DAC says this happens a lot and they will help with the process.</p>	Fr M
7695	<p>PCC Governance – Harvey wasn't able to attend the meeting. He has flagged up various things we need to improve on.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need a standing Committee as a legal requirement. 2. We shouldn't be relying on co-opted members of the PC, they should be elected. 3. Harvey needs to look over all our committees' terms of reference which Sally will send to Fr Michael to pass on. <p>Tony P spoke about the importance of the responsibility of the PCC being trustees.</p>	Sally P
7696	<p>Approval of nomination for Foundation Governor – The PCC approved the nomination of Irene David Pillai for a foundation governor of Malden Parochial School.</p>	
7697	<p>Vicars Report-</p> <p>The numbers were up over all the Christmas services and there was very good feedback for the Advent carols with 44 people attending. There were 182 people at the crib service and everyone was happy with the new format.</p> <p>Midnight mass there were 87 people including a lot of new faces and an Angel Project family.</p> <p>Christmas morning there were 65 people including 11 children in attendance.</p> <p>Christmas Carol Service – People are coming to this service to feel Christmassy and get in the Christmas spirit so we need to try and stick to that format. Lots of people stayed behind for refreshments Hospitality makes people feel welcome.</p> <p>Fr Michael said he popped down to Malden Manor and hung some lights on the tree near the co-op on the 23rd December. Within a couple of days more lights and decorations had been added so we will try and do it again next year.</p> <p>The Angel Project- We raised just over £4,000. There were over 200 children this year as we also had children put forward from Green Lane School and both the preschools for the first time. We had around £1,000 to start and from the tree lighting on Plough Green both Hooky St and the friends of Manor Park donated over a £1,000. The rest was donated by church people and the wider community. We need to do it again next year for 2 reasons, it meets the needs of children in this area and its scandalous that we have so many children in our community who are eligible for free school meals and the pupil premium and</p>	

	<p>secondly everyone who received a gift card had our details stamped on the envelope so we are seen to be being active in our community. This is the same community we need to ask for support for the Restoration Project going forward. To carry on being successful The Angel Project needs to be a year round charity and maybe we can attract some sponsorship for it. Maybe we could advertise it in The Bridge or Surrey Comet to raise awareness of the project. The Plough Green tree lighting will have us back again as their charity next Christmas.</p> <p>Fr Michael also took presents, cakes and biscuits to Ashington House which houses 6 people with severe learning difficulties/autism.</p> <p>There will be no evensong for the Presentation of Christ in the temple because the attendance is normally only 19-23 people including clergy and choir. The 150th Anniversary of the Victorian nave is soon so we can do something choral based to celebrate that.</p> <p>Bobby Child would like to put on a mini music festival so maybe the choir could get involved.</p> <p>Ash Wednesday is also Valentine's day this year and Easter is early on 31st March. The planning group will meet to plan Easter and Lent.</p> <p>What is our vision for church? - We do familiar things, we drift through the year. What is our vision for both now and the future? Without a clear vision we do not focus or achieve our goals What do we want to be known as or for? It needs to not be just a slogan but to translate in to actions. We also need this information to form parts of our grant applications. This will be looked at again at the next meeting</p> <p>Fr Michael won't have his holiday until after Easter.</p> <p>Family services will continue on the 2nd Sunday of the month with the exceptions of Mothering Sunday, Remembrance, Harvest etc. which will be dependent on when they fall in the month.</p>	
7698	<p>Restore Group- The group are meeting on the 19th Jan. Chris Benson has kindly offered to put on a concert in aid of the Restoration Project and details will be advertised. A display about the restoration project and the use of the Su Up machines during the event is to be organised. Tony is putting together a brochure about the restoration project to go to Merton College.</p>	
7699	Hall Report – New cleaner has started	
7700	Safeguarding- PCC asked to keep Sally up to date with their safeguarding training.	All PCC
7701	<p>AOB - Violence in the West Bank</p> <p>Recognising that he is not a member of the PCC, Alastair thanked the Council for the opportunity to brief them on an important matter close to his heart. Alastair is trustee of a UK charity called ABCD Bethlehem, whose mission is to help disabled children in the Bethlehem area and the West Bank more widely.</p>	

	<p>On Wednesday the 3rd of January the Israeli Defence Forces invaded a camp in the West Bank called Nur Shams (one of 5 in which ABCD is involved), near the city of Tulkarem. During a period of 40 hours, the IDF carried out violent acts of destruction throughout Nur Shams, including the ransacking of Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children, which ABCD have helped to create and support over a number of years. The Centre supports some 250 children a month. Overnight the IDF destroyed much specialist equipment, breaking windows to be able to use them as sniper points; destroyed iPads, screens and children’s support kit; stole children’s winter food rations, clothes, blankets and Pampers nappies and wrecked the disability access railings to the Centre. This appears to have been a wanton act of vengeance and terror.</p> <p>On Friday the 5th ABCD Trustees met and heard direct from the Centre’s manager following which they strongly condemned the IDF action in a press statement. The Statement has led to ongoing media exposure including an article on BBC Radio 4’s Today programme at 07:16 on Tuesday 9th of January in which Mishal Husain interviewed ABCD’s incoming Chair, Rev’d Daniel Burton.</p> <p>Alastair asked for members’ prayers for this shocking situation and all those concerned – there have been wholly unacceptable acts carried out by both sides in the conflict, and we should remember that there is a significant, though reducing number of Christians among the Palestinian community in Israel/Palestine. Alastair is hoping to provide a presentation on ABCD to the Men’s Thing in the coming months. Meanwhile general information leaflets are available in the porch and Alastair is happy to field any enquiries.</p> <p>The meeting ended in prayer. Next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th February 2024</p>	