

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN  
Registered Charity No.1145155  
Minutes of the 777<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
At 7.30 pm on  
Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2025  
In the coffee lounge.

PRESENT Rev Michael Roper as chair, Mike Broome, Liz Pullen, Lynn Sanger, Margaret Barrington, Richard Burkett, Peter Chugg, Peter Wickenden.

(Pat Lovegrove for part of meeting.)

Marilyn Burkett (Secretary)

Apologies: Fiona Baguley, Steve Goodden.

	Apologies received and noted. Opening Prayer – Fr Michael.	Action
7808	Minutes of the previous meeting. No corrections to Jan 2025 Minutes. The Minutes were agreed and signed. Notification of AOB: Deanery Synod report.	Liz P
7809	Matters arising: 7801 Peter C is proceeding with the updating of Charity Commission registration and liaising with Parish Admin.	Peter C.
7810	Pat Lovegrove present at PCC to give report on the Christmas Day Event. In early days of its organisation, there were probably 70 guests with a large number of helpers from the congregation. Although fewer guests now, still a great need for more helpers. The Christmas Day Event does fulfil a huge role in the community as there are many people living alone. Social Services not able to inform us of possible recipients so we depend on 'word of mouth'. There are now fewer and fewer people from St John's who volunteer to help. There is a lot involved with organisation e.g. food, health & safety, insurance. Pat used to be able to call on members of Community Care and the Outreach team, but it has become a huge struggle with less help. Pat informed the PCC that she is no longer able to continue in the role as organiser but is very concerned for the future viability of the Event. Do we need to involve other churches or the wider community to take it over? Should we not appeal to the congregation for help as we share God's love through this Event? Pat is requesting that the Vicar, PCC and CWs discuss this and 'own' the Event. [The Sunday Lunch Club receives a lot of help from outside. Tea & Chat is run mostly by members from the church congregation.] People are generous with donations and procuring gifts but the biggest challenge is finding people to help on the day. The Event requires a Christmas Day Event co-ordinator (with a 'job spec') who can set up a team beforehand and then some of the team will be present on the day. Planning starts in Sept, especially to organise cook. Sept-Nov to continue with organising and end Nov the invitations are sent out. Also a need for more drivers as we paid out £70 this year in taxi fares. Other churches face similar difficulties: St James' have stopped due to lack of helpers. This is so important as part of St John's Outreach: we may even need to offer cash to someone to be there on the day. Maybe the job can be shared?	

	<p>Action: (i) Vote of thanks to Pat from the PCC. Suggestion that Pat liaises with Fr Michael to make a presentation to the congregation.</p> <p>(ii) All the helpers need to receive thanks from St John's (list of names required).</p> <p>(iii) New Outreach Committee to recruit a new co-ordinator with an assistant as No. 2 to share the role.</p>	<p>PCC</p> <p>Pat L</p> <p>Outreach Committee</p>
7811	<p><b>Vicar's Report</b></p> <p>Informal meetings held for Committees: for Hospitality, Beth has agreed to co-ordinate rota and volunteers for events requiring refreshments. Not many OMN attendees but Marilyn has agreed to be 'Commissioning Editor' to seek out articles. Good so far.</p> <p>Communications to meet on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Lent begins on Weds 5<sup>th</sup> March: Lent Group to meet on Weds at midday (Only one requested evening meeting) to study Paula Gooder's book: The Joy of the Gospel. Lent Lunches being organised to raise funds for the Bishop's Lent Appeal.</p> <p>Celtic Morning Prayer on Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am.</p> <p>The CofE has suggested 6 themes for Lent 'Live in Hope' but lectionary readings do not follow these themes. 'God Talk' on 29<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April. MPS performing a musical about 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school under Revd Chetwynd Stapleton. 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; 21<sup>st</sup> March Tickets @ £12 through Eventbrite towards the Restore Project.</p> <p>Two Focus Groups on St John's Vision: 20<sup>th</sup> March &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> April 8.00pm.</p> <p>Our MAP was sent to the Diocese some time ago now: we need to examine our new vision: why we are here, our core values to serve the people of God in this community. If our Mission Statement is 'Sharing God's love with everyone', how do we make that happen? How do we make our Eucharistic community sustainable for everyone? As a PCC we should be owning our 'Vision' as we move forward.</p> <p>New Committee Structure: Faith &amp; Nurture – 8 attended. Hospitality and Resources have met. Original plan to have 4 PCC members on each Committee not practicable – but every PCC member should be on one Committee and the Committee Chair needs to be a PCC member.</p> <p>Committee Chairs to publish list of meeting dates as well as circulating mandates to establish purpose of meeting and the task for which each group has been set up. Peter C has written the mandate for Finance.</p>	<p>Beth</p> <p>Committee Chairs</p>
7812	<p><b>Resources:</b></p> <p>Both Gift Aid Secretary and cashier wish to relinquish their posts as under new Governance rules, they are required to attend Finance meetings. Peter C will act as cashier short-term: need to find someone who works/lives close to a NatWest branch &amp; willing to deposit cash every 2-3 weeks. Would have to be authorised by PCC. No response yet on queries for Q4 Gift Aid. PCC records a vote of thanks to Tony &amp; Sheri Davies.</p> <p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> Draft Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 and the Management Accounts to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 had been circulated prior to PCC meeting. There is a surplus of £19.5k (excluding Restore). Although income has dropped, expenditure is down by £4,800.</p> <p>Thanks to Jane B for her work on old Minute books. There is a share account used for general expenditure which could be changed into a designated fund towards a new boiler when need arises. In order to easily monitor our Reserves Policy, we need to consolidate where we have various funds.</p>	<p>Peter C</p> <p>PCC</p>

	<p>Restricted Funds have to be used for specific purposes e.g. use of churchyard</p> <p>Restricted fund can be used to finance removal of the cut down willow tree.</p> <p>This year so far, our income is £1,100 below budget but no Gift Aid received for February PGS (Jane B has chased today and £1,000 due).</p> <p>We received a one-off donation of £2,300 in February.</p> <p>Expenditure well down so far but there will be expenditure on Maintenance and especially Streaming.</p> <p>With a view to our £19.5k surplus, Peter C would like to see £5k put aside each year for boiler replacement into a specific fund. Expenditure on Maintenance was low last year as monies had been moved into the Restore Fund to meet payments.</p> <p>Peter C was thanked for the very helpful graphs illustrating his report.</p> <p><b>Stewardship:</b> very good results last year. In considering the new mandate, Richard looking to PCC for guidance regarding appeals to congregation: e.g. Epiphany gifts. We have to decide each year how we employ changes according to circumstances.</p>	PCC
7813	<p><b>St John's Hall</b> report circulated. Regular and casual bookings continue.</p> <p>Funds in a healthy position at end of 2024 with total cash of £30,127.</p> <p>Year's end report now with the auditor. New fire doors and internal painting planned. New heavy duty lock &amp; keys required for the side gate after Scout van theft &amp; damage to the gate. Some roof repairs may be required.</p>	Peter W
7814	<p><b>Restore Project</b></p> <p>An anonymous donation of £10k has been received. Just under £60k raised.</p> <p>The downside is that the Govt VAT reclaim scheme will probably end in 2026 and it will be capped at £25k. Still possible to claim this year but invoice needs dating/payment before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. In principle, our understanding is that the VAT could be met out of the NHLF grant.</p> <p>The latest email from Nicola now states that match-funding is required (which differs from Kirstie's advice). Now it seems that virtually all grant bodies require match-funding.</p> <p>There is to be a legacy gift of £1,000 from Margery Bangs' estate.</p> <p>Scaffolding to arrive on March 17<sup>th</sup>.</p>	
7815	<p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Sally has almost completed the Southwark Diocesan audit with an action plan which will be sent to the PCC. Margaret &amp; Sally devising a new form. There will be a Safeguarding slot at the APCM. The complaints book has not yet been found.</p> <p>Franklin Barrington's Governorship at MPS requires renewal: agreed unanimously.</p>	
7816	<p><b>Deanery Synod</b> meeting held at St Matthew's Surbiton on 12<sup>th</sup> February. A report has been circulated to the PCC. Liz wishes to stand down as Deanery Synod Rep at the APCM.</p> <p>Request for St John's to host the next meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025.</p>	Liz P.
7817	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Rowan Glynn will be 'shadowing' Fr Michael for 2 weeks for work experience.</p>	
7818	<p>The meeting closed with prayer at 9.15pm.</p> <p>The next meeting of the PCC will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.30pm.</p>	