## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN

## Registered Charity No.1145155

## Minutes of the 774 $^{\rm th}$ meeting of the Parochial Church Council At 7.30 pm on

Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 In the coffee lounge

PRESENT Rev Michael Roper as chair, Mike Broome, Liz Pullen, Lynn Sanger, Margaret Barrington, Peter Wickenden, Steve Dyke, Stuart Goodden.

Marilyn Burkett (Secretary)

Apologies: Peter Chugg, Richard Burkett

	Apologies received and noted.	Action
	Opening Prayer – Fr Michael.	
7777	AOB – i. Parking, ii Streaming	Mike B
	lii War Graves	МСВ
7778	Minutes of the previous meeting – no corrections.	
	Minutes agreed and signed.	
7779	Matters arising:	
	7775 Fr Michael has signed 7 letters for Holy Cross applicants, and I for St	
	Cecilia's at Southfields.	
	7768 The Parish Share pledge for £72k has been sent to the Diocese and	
	acknowledged. No volunteers for the Reserves Working Party to assist Peter	
	Chugg, Peter Wickenden and Richard Burkett – so the matter will be brought	
	back to the PCC in January.	
	Thank you letters to donors to Restore Fund: Fr Michael has thanked	
	Waitrose and Jane Bransgrove has written to all those who have donated	
	£50+	Fr. M
	One letter outstanding to family of Miss Alexander who has left £5k in her	
	will to St John's.	
	7771 Nature Hub Working Team – nothing received as yet. Any grants	
7700	available? Not eligible for Fresh Expressions.	
7780	Finance:  i. Non-statutory fees for 2025. No changes except for the increase	
	<ul> <li>i. Non-statutory fees for 2025. No changes except for the increase in organist's fees for funerals to £150 (in line with weddings).</li> </ul>	
	ii. Proposed 2% rise in payments to Parish Administrator, Organist	
	& Choir Director.	
	All approved by PCC.	
	Stewardship update: congratulations to Richard, Jane & her daughter for the	
	excellent leaflet. 99 leaflets were distributed: 13 received back, I new person,	
	3 remained the same, 1 cash donation of £10 and 5-6 increases. So far that	
	has led to an increase of £1,200 pa (however we have a loss of £500 per	
	month due to those reducing or stopping their giving).	
	There are now 48 on the PGS scheme of whom 15 have elected to increase	
	their giving.	
	It would be good if PGS donors returned their pledge cards so we have an	
	indication of monies pledged.	
	Jane still trying to encourage 20 core donors to join PGS.	JB
	(Interesting to note that All Saints Kingston, St James & Christchurch are not	
	yet in the PGS scheme.)	

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	One person indicated that there will be a legacy.  Our Gift Day (green envelopes) resulted in donations of £1,800.				
	There will also be a cash gift from the De Lannoy family for the Restore Fund.				
	Transition handover between Alastair Harris and Peter Chugg progressing	AH/PC			
	and hopefully will be completed by the end of the year.	,.			
7781	Vicar's Report				
	Good feedback on Season of Creation this year. Harvest attendance down				
	and Parade numbers not as good as expected.				
	Annual Memorial Service – approx. 26-27 people attended and it was really				
	appreciated. Undertakers experiencing problems with 'Direct Cremations'				
	and fewer funerals/services coming through. Maybe we need to work				
	closely with local Funeral Directors.				
	Safeguarding Sunday on 17 <sup>th</sup> November – Fr. Michael to address	AP/Fr. M			
	congregation after Tony's sermon.				
	Christ the King on November 24 <sup>th</sup> will see celebration of 1 <sup>st</sup> Communions				
	(teaching session on November 17 <sup>th)</sup> .				
	Advent Carols on 1 <sup>st</sup> December at 4.00pm. Unfortunate clash with Plough				
	Green Tree lighting. Paul Henry has a stall but a missed opportunity for				
	Restore. Our Angel Project has been adopted as the 'Charity of the Year'.				
	Hopefully some MPS children will attend as they did last year.				
	Messy Christingle on 15 <sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm with two volunteers				
	committed to help so far.				
	Our Annual Christmas Carol Service will be on 22 <sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm.	F . N.4			
	Christmas Eve: we hope to include The "Peace Light" - an initiative from the	Fr M			
	Scouts in collaboration with the Orthodox Church at the Church of the				
	Nativity in Bethlehem. A lamp is lit from the perpetual light burning over				
	the traditional site of the manger and set around the world in the run up to Christmas.				
	Crib Service: Margaret willing to prepare.	Margaret			
7782	Hall Committee: Minutes have been circulated. Training course on new	iviaigaict			
7702	defibrillator undertaken, new back door installed, infestation of flying ants				
	resolved. There is a new regular booking for a 'Rock' project/bass guitar				
	session. Looking to run a week-long summer school in 2025.				
7783	Restore update. Bricks are ready but Architect's view that a Spring start				
	would be better due to possible adverse winter weather.				
	Jane has a thank you template letter for Restore donations: We have raised				
	£49,076 and have £20k in conditional grants (total £69,076). We have spent				
	£66,822 so far with £2.5k still to pay on architect's fees for this stage of the				
	works. The VAT payment on building work will be £93,689 which we shall				
	have to pay if the VAT Govt. reclaim scheme ends on 31 March 2025. Write				
	to Lisa Nandy! If that is the case, then churches will have to draw back on				
	community work on which the Govt. depends.				
	Update on NHLF application: Peter referred to the document circulated on				
	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct for discussion at this meeting. There are 5 main categories: Capital				
	works, Environmental Activities, Heritage, Inclusion and Organisational Sustainability. Peter asked for personal commitment from each PCC member	PCC task:			
	to help lead one or more of the activities on the list as well as going out to	to set up			
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	the wider congregations for additional help and ideas. Mike Broome to lead  Capital Works, Fiona to lead Environmental activities, Marilyn to lead	working teams			
	Capital Works, Fiona to lead Environmental activities, Marilyn to lead  Heritage, Fr Michael to lead Inclusion and Mike Broome to lead	teams			

	Organisational Sustainability (Streaming). PCC members elected to join one or more of the groups. Peter W will update list.				
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7784	Safeguarding: no issues to report.				
7785	Governance: a proposal from the Standing Committee for the new Teams				
	and Working Parties was circulated. As some members of the PCC were not				
	present to vote on and accept the new proposal, an extra meeting of the PCC				
	will be held on Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Coffee Lounge.				
7786	AOB				
	i.	Parking: Mike met with Mr Gloag from Merton College. The lane			
		is Merton's responsibility. Merton will provide 3 notices			
		indicating 'No Parking' Merton College, Oxford. Geoff			
		(Maintenance Committee) has obtained a quote of £390+VAT for			
		the poles to erect the signs. As there is money in the	Geoff L		
		Maintenance Budget, the work will go ahead.			
		Merton not willing to pay for a tree survey.			
		A new Estates Manager at Merton College will take over from Mr			
		Gloag from Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 2025. Maybe we should get a quote for			
		improving the lane and then send them the bill?			
		Streaming: a company has been invited to come and give a quote			
		for a better camera and improved equipment. Geoff and Sally J	Geoff		
		to review proposal. We do have a sound system and existing	/Sally J		
		Wi-Fi. Quotation of £1,900+VAT (£2,200). There is a small	,		
		amount of money left from 'Covid Streaming' – maybe the			
		Diocese could help?			
	iii.	Commonwealth War Graves: as a consequence of research on			
		one of the War Graves, Marilyn has made contact with the son of			
		one of those buried in our churchyard. He described how deeply			
		moved he was when he saw the poppy cross on his father's			
		grave. In addition to the poppy cross, the young people put			
		posies of flowers on the graves. A photo of his father's grave will	Marilyn		
		be sent to him on Remembrance Sunday. The little things we do			
		can have great impact and show that we care.			
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