



THE PARISH OF MALDEN, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

*11.00am (or as soon thereafter as possible after 9.45 service)
Sunday 19th May 2024 at St. John the Baptist Church*

Agenda for the Election of Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Meeting

Opening Prayer

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Election of two Churchwardens
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3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 23rd May 2023
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Electoral Roll report
6. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church report
7. Annual Report of the PCC and Committees
8. Deanery Synod report
9. 2023 Financial Accounts of the Parochial Church Council
10. Vicar's report
11. PCC Governance Presentation with Resolutions
12. Election to the PCC
13. Elections to the Deanery Synod
14. Election of Sides People
15. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Church accounts
16. AOB (*to be notified in advance*)

Closing Prayer

Minutes of the 186th Annual Parochial Meeting

Held after the morning service on Sunday 21st May 2023 and live-streamed.

1. Fr Michael welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with Prayer.

2. **Present:** 36 in the church and others on-line.

3. **Apologies** were received from Richard and Marilyn Burkett, Trudy and Suzanna Abbott, Pat and Malcom Sutton and bobby Child.

4. Election of Churchwardens

Lynn Sanger and Mike Broome had agreed to continue and were elected unanimously.

5. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

The Minutes from the May 23rd 2022 Annual Meeting were signed as a true record.

6. The Electoral Roll Report

The Roll stands at 124 – There were 2 people who came off the roll and 3 new people added. The appropriate certificates will be sent to the Diocesan and Deanery Secretaries to inform them of the numbers on the revised roll. A new Electoral Roll will be compiled in 2025.

7. Churchwarden's Report

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church 2022. The report had been available prior to the meeting. Mike Broome asked if there were any questions and there weren't.

8. **PCC Committee Reports** were available in the handout and were duly acknowledged. Fr Michael asked if anyone had any questions and there weren't any. Fr Michael informed everyone that the original Worship Committee had now been revised as a planning group to allow all interested parties to attend meetings etc.

9. **Deanery Synod report.** This report was available prior to the meeting and Fr Michael asked if anyone had any questions and there weren't any.

10. Financial Accounts 2022- Alastair Harris (Treasurer)

Alastair explained all about the finances for the year 2022. At the end Fr Michael asked everyone to accept that we use Neil Dordia as our independent examiner of the financial accounts for another year. This was voted on and accepted. This will be Neil's last year so Alastair asked that we start to look for a new person for 2024.

Alastair thanked Richard Burkett and the finance committee, Tony Davis and Pat Sutton (Cashiers), Sheri Davis (Gift aid), Jane Bransgrove (Stewardship), Fr Michael and the ministry team, Sally Pusey (Administrator), Janet Flemming (OMN), Fundraising team, Duty Wardens, Deborah Harris for her support and everyone who gives to St Johns.

11. **Acknowledgement of all other reports** – Fr Michael asked for any questions. Anne Beales if the church cleaning rota was still run by Claire Baptista and Fr Michael confirmed it was. Chris Benson asked about any continuing work to be done on the church lane. Fr Michael said that Merton College had paid for 2/3rds of the lane but weren't intending to do any further work.

12. Elections to the PCC. 2 new people had come forward to be on the PCC. Stuart Goodden and Fiona Baguley. There was a vote and they were both duly elected.

13. Elections to Deanery Synod- It was agreed that Liz and Tony Pullen and Margaret Barrington would continue to be our Deanery Synod members for another year.

14. Election of sides people- Malcom Sutton, Pat Sutton, Alison Eggitt, Jane Bransgrove, Jackie Parker, Debra Barratt and Kay Gooud were all elected as Sides people for another year.

15. Mission Action Plan – Fr Michael had been contacted about updating our Mission Action Plan. He told the Diocese that we did have a MAP but we called it Initiative 22. Fr Michael talked through the points that we were working on within the MAP and how we needed to keep building on our strengths. The PCC would work on getting Initiative 22 in to the format of our MAP for the Diocese.

Anne Beales spoke about a Diocesan event celebrating Eco Church arranged by the Diocese. The Church of England aims to be Net Zero by 2030. Lots of churches have already joined. We are already registered but need to fill in the application to be able to work towards an award. They look at 5 areas, Worship and teaching, the management of the building, management of the land, community and global engagement and lifestyle. There was lots of information at the celebration.. Fr Michael said that we now have an eco-group who could look at this. Chris Benson mentioned The Green Energy Group and said more people were welcome to join it. They are looking at greener and cheaper ways to buy energy and looking forward to running the church using less and better energy.

16. Vicar's report – Fr Michael spoke about the year ahead. The numbers of people across the country attending church is falling. We are one of the biggest congregations in the deanery. We are lucky we have a school. It can seem that young people come and go but the same jobs still seem to fall the same people but there are young families trying to wiggle their way in. We need to remember people's names so that they know they are recognised and valued. We need to look at our worship so that we understand why we are doing what we are doing so others can also understand. We need to make our worship something not to be missed. The children's ministry needs more volunteers, more support, more input. We need to pray about it and the PCC needs to work on growing the church, we need to be intentional about what we do. Beth mentioned doing a leaflet drop to the entire parish as the Green Lane area etc. may not realise they are part of our Parish. Chris Benson talked about our signage so that people know that the church is a vibrant centre of worship. Tony Pullen also said how important word of mouth is and how we shouldn't be afraid to talk about where we worship.

Fr Michael thanked Mike and Lynn and the Ministry Team and all our PCC and everyone who does all the various jobs.

Mike Broome thanked Fr Michael for all he does and his dedication and enthusiasm for all he does at St Johns.

Milly closed the meeting with prayers.

MALDEN, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT 2024

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, I undertook a revision of the Electoral Roll between 30th March and 21st April 2024.

There were nine additions and two deletions to the roll with a net increase of seven persons and so there are 131 persons on the electoral roll. There were three changes of address.

In accordance with the rules of the Church of England, a new electoral roll will be initiated in 2025 with all members needing to complete new forms.

Steve Clark

Electoral Roll Officer

3rd May 2024

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church – 2023/24

Author – **Mike Broome** - Churchwarden

Restore Project

As mentioned in our Fabric report of 2023, we are focussing a significant amount of our time on the various areas of the church which need urgent repair. They include the Tower, Pitched Roofs, Vestry, Chancel, Nave and the Lady Chapel. During the last 12 months, we have obtained planning permission from both Southwark Diocese and our local authority, and our architect Alex Veal has produced the necessary detailed plans and drawings so we can go out to Tender for each aspect of the project.

We are fortunate to have an excellent team looking for Grants to support the overall project cost, estimated to be around £450k. The team have been approaching various grant making bodies, and we are hopeful that they will be able to raise a substantial amount towards these essential works. In addition, we have formed a Restore Group who are working on all the various communication requirements to gain support from both the Grant making bodies and the community. Details of the Restore Project are now displayed in church and have been circulated to the congregation. The work will start by addressing the Tower buttress which requires the pointing and related brick work to be renovated.

Once again, our Maintenance Committee has done an excellent job in keeping the building and surroundings in good order. They have had significant challenges with both the maintenance of the lane, and the loss of an Oak tree as well as the ongoing challenges in maintaining a Church as old as ours. We are grateful and must thank them for their time and commitment.

Annual Church Inspection

Our annual church inspection was held on 22nd April by John Kiddle our Archdeacon. John was very impressed with our record keeping and church administration. He confirmed that our Fire Risk, and Health and Safety Assessments were complete and our policies were up to date.

Summary

St John's has continued to emerge from the challenges of Covid and concerns that Church attendance might not recover has turned out to be misplaced with the numbers at our services now close to pre-Covid days. We are also seeing a good number of new people including families which is very encouraging.

Our Fundraising committee continue to produce very enjoyable activities. We are very grateful for all that they do.

We continue to stream our services and we are particularly grateful for the expertise and time which Harvey Howlett, Sally Jocelyn and Franklin Barrington have put into this task which has been welcomed by those members of our congregation who are unable to attend St John's on a regular basis.

Janet Fleming our Sacristan has ensured that we have the essential supplies necessary to support our services e.g. wafers and candles etc. We are grateful for her support. We must not forget Graham Burley, St John's Sexton who has done an excellent job maintaining our church yard for many years.

We would also like to thank everyone who has helped us during the year, in particular the Flower team who produce such beautiful flower arrangements. We must not forget our cleaners who keep our church looking so presentable, and those on our coffee rota who provide such welcomed hospitality after our Sunday service. And last but not least, our Servers, Duty Wardens and Sides people who help to make each service run like clockwork, ensuring that everybody is fully welcomed at St John's.

Mike Broome and Lynn Sanger. April 2024

Finance Committee Report for Year 2023 (for APCM May 2024)

The Committee members are Richard Burkett (Chairman), Alastair Harris (Treasurer), Fr. Michael, Sheri Davis (FWO Officer), Jane Bransgrove (Stewardship Team) and Geoff Little. The function of the Committee continues to be setting the budgetary strategy and then managing this for the PCC.

The year 2023 saw major financial challenges with continuing inflation and soaring energy costs, whilst deficits from previous years made it a difficult start to the year. As a consequence, the Finance Committee and Stewardship team implemented a further Red Envelope campaign which was well supported by all members, and in particular Fr. Michael. An important part of this Campaign was to introduce the congregation to PGS (Parish Giving Scheme). We are pleased to say that many people transferred to this new scheme, where the main advantage is that it automatically recovers Gift Aid every month to improve cash flow as well as saving us administration time. It can also provide for an annual inflation increment if this option is selected. Very fortunately, many people responded very well by switching to the scheme as well as increasing their giving, for which we should all be very thankful. We should continue to encourage all people to switch to PGS.

Following the Campaign we are pleased to say that 2024 is the first in recent years to have a balanced budget with a realistic chance of achieving it. Although 2023 shows a deficit, the underlying finances are the strongest for many years. Of course, we still need to face the on going problems of inflation, and also the fact that Southwark Diocese would like us to increase our annual pledge payment which pays for the provision of clergy.

The year saw significant expenditure to start the Restore Project, and this was taken from the Restore Fund and Reserves under control of the Vicar and Church wardens. We should all be grateful for the time and energy that many people have shown to support this project, and it is clear that more help and support will be needed as this project moves into the more active building phase. Please consider how you can help this vitally important project for St. John's.

We should thank the Fund Raising Committee for such good events as Maeldune, the Christmas Fair, as well as other fund raising events during the year which make a critical contribution to our income as well giving enjoyment to so many. Two other new initiatives this year also helped: Epiphany Gits early in the year, and then the £10 Challenge in the summer. We should also recognise the generosity of many to the Angel project; whilst this does not provide direct income to St. John's, it does do a lot of good within the Parish.

I must thank all my fellow Committee members who have again worked very hard this year. Thanks to Fr. Michael for his continuing oversight, guidance and active participation. To Alastair Harris as Treasurer who carefully maintains the accounts to provide advice and guidance to the Committee and PCC as well completing the large annual task of producing the Year End accounts. To Jane Bransgrove who has developed the role of Stewardship Officer and has done a great deal to promote the Parish Giving Scheme. Thanks also to Sheri for continuing the Gift Aid recovery from HMRC which still forms such a significant part of our income. Also to Geoff Little for his help and providing a good link to the Maintenance Committee. I also want to thank Deborah Harris, Sally Jocelyn and Debra Barrett who have continued developing the St. John's webpage, and growing the usage of digital and contactless giving. It is good to report that the Diocese visited St. John's in the autumn last year, and considered us one of the most successful parishes in the Diocese for the use of digital fundraising. The work of the Finance Committee is dependent on a number of people, and it would not be the same without you – you know who you are. If you would like to join the Committee, if you have financial or spreadsheet skills you would be especially welcome, then please contact any Committee member. If you have any questions, then please contact, Jane, Sheri, myself, Alastair or the Wardens.

Richard Burkett

15th April 2024

Little Fishes- Charlotte Budd

After a slow start in 2022, Little Fishes has gained momentum in 2023 and the early part of 2024. Sessions are attended by an average of 8-10 children with a core group that come every month. Occasionally, numbers are as low as five. Focus stories have included Joseph, Noah's Ark, Jesus Walks on Water, Moses and the Parable of the Lost Coin.

I have noticed that the age of the children is starting to get lower with many reception and year one children going upstairs to Children's Ministry either with Siblings or Friends. This means that in the main, with children attending LF around 2/3 years old, they are joined by a parent or carer. The main impact is on the types of craft that are appropriate for this age range because many of the crafts done in recent years targeting pre-schoolers (age 3-6) either aren't appropriate for this age or require parents/carers to assist significantly. I'm happy to continue with this younger group and will continue to rethink many of the crafts that I have done in recent years and find activities more appropriate for a young group. It may be that some of the resources/toys used for the playgroups during the week (building blocks, duplo, sensory toys...) become more appropriate than crafts but I'm happy to discuss that further with the Children's Services group.

St. John's Toddlers Group

Toddlers Group has grown in popularity on a Thursday and we often find ourselves full. It's not always so busy on a Tuesday so we made the decision to run on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. The children enjoy a range of toys and activities, stories and songs. **Jo Hill**

Children's Ministry 2023/24

Children's Ministry continues to run during the Sunday 9.45am. However, children stay in church during the family services and parade services where they are encouraged to take part as servers, readers, collecting hymn books, taking up the offertory and during an interactive sermon. The children love being involved and take on these roles with responsibility and an understanding of the occasion.

There are currently 24 children between the ages of 5-12 years old on the Children's Ministry register but anything from 2 to 14 of those children may turn up on any one week!

We go to the Upper Room after the welcome and first prayer and explore the gospel reading that is being read in church, what it might mean to us today and how we might live out the messages knowing we are loved by God. We do this through discussion, drama, puzzles, a wide range of craft activities and games - the noisier the better. The children also continue to keep in touch with the children sponsored through the Fair Trade stall by writing letters and sending drawings and photographs.

Once again this year, the children excelled themselves when they presented the Crib Service. They read the story, some poems and acted out the Nativity so impressively well, especially as they did not manage to have one run through altogether before the event!

This small part of what is offered to the children is currently thriving and beginning to grow once again - and we do have great fun. But we are in desperate need for more adult volunteers to initially just support on a Sunday morning and maybe to also begin to take on some of the planning for the sessions and even change them up a bit! If you feel you might be interested in supporting this aspect of church life, do speak to me any Sunday, or contact one of the Ministry Team.

Margaret Barrington

Safeguarding report 2023

There were no safeguarding concerns reported in 2023. Joining Marie McGuire and Sally Pusey as Parish Safeguarding Officers was Margaret Barrington in 2023.

The safeguarding status of the PCC and other applicable volunteer roles have all been brought up to date and an audit of everyone's safeguarding training was started and is now almost complete.

The PCC remains committed to keeping up a high standard of safeguarding training and DBS checks and safeguarding is on every PCC meeting agenda.

Marie McGuire is now stepping down and Sally Pusey and Margaret Barrington will continue with Sally doing the Parish Safeguarding admin.

Sally Pusey

St John the Baptist, Malden

Green Energy Group

APCM Report May 2024

Version 4th April 2024

The Group was formed in December 2022 by Chris Benson, Richard Burkett, Geoff Little and Peter Wickenden to answer the following three questions:

- 1) If the gas boilers break down, what should we do?
- 2) How can we reduce our carbon footprint?
- 3) How can we save money on energy?

We're currently exploring eight venues of inquiry, bolstered by informative training courses and enlightening visits to other churches. Our efforts have led us to assess a variety of options, and we are on track to deliver a final report with recommendations to the PCC later this year.

Here is a summary of our findings to date:

With increased volunteer support, we can swiftly implement cost-effective green initiatives for the Church. Replacing the gas boilers with new ones is the most (and possibly only) financially viable option, but will only give a very small reduction in our carbon footprint from improved boiler design and efficiency. Switching from gas to electric heating will reduce our carbon footprint since we already buy 100% renewable electricity. This could be done by replacing the boilers with heat pumps or with electric heaters. Heat pumps are incredibly efficient but would require an unaffordable new electricity supply to the Church. Under-pew electric heaters could be very effective since they would target the heat exactly where we need it – to warm the congregation – and we are investigating what can be done with our existing electricity supply.

While solar panels cannot fully meet our heating needs, they do present potential cost savings.

And here is what we have done to reach these findings:

Cowley Group survey. Cowley Group provided a range of useful information on heating options. St John's Waterloo. Four of us went to visit St John's Waterloo. We had a great meeting with the vicar there and sent a visit report to the PCC.

Solar Panels. Richard has estimated the number of solar panels that could be placed on the south facing roof of the Lady Chapel.

Ripple energy. We considered and rejected signing up for the Ripple Energy share offer for a new wind farm or solar panel farm.

St Andrews by the Wardrobe. Two of us went to visit this Wren City church. The main conclusion was that we should consider insulating the roof of the Lady Chapel.

Training Courses. Richard and Peter attended Church of England training courses on Air source heat pumps and solar panels; both were very useful. Richard also followed the Diocesan Carbon Literacy Project course and met all the requirements for Carbon Literacy.

Installation costs. We obtained quotes or estimates for new gas boilers, a three-phase electricity supply, air source heat pumps, under pew heating, and a professional energy survey of the Church University College London connection. We are collaborating with a senior researcher at UCL who is an expert on energy and conservation

Occupancy Analysis. Peter used the 2023 Church diary to analyse the occupancy of each part of the building.

Greenness of our electricity. We obtained confirmation from Parish Buying that our electricity is 100% renewable (wind/solar/hydro).

Communications Committee Report for 2024 Annual Meeting

Membership: Deborah Harris (Chair), Franklyn Barrington (Secretary), Fr Michael, Mike Broome, Sally Josolyne

The Committee has not met since April 2023, but will be reconvening in May. Over the past year, however, work by members of the committee has continued. The parish website continues to be updated on a weekly basis and last September it was revised using the latest design software offered by our website host, Church Edit. Information about services at St John's, future events and activities and booking the church hall are the most visited pages. The link to Chris Beale's page about the Wasp Spider appeared in search engine results nearly 80,000 times!

Sally, our IT expert, has been looking at ways we can make communications within the parish more secure. Committee members also assisted the Finance Committee in producing resources for last year's successful stewardship campaign, including promoting legacies and the Parish Giving Scheme.

Looking ahead, priorities for this coming year include working with the Restore Group in promoting St John's Restore Project, making the transfer of all private information between members of the congregation more secure and improving the quality of our streaming service.

Deborah Harris

Chair of Communications Committee

April 2024



DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK: REPORT FROM THE KINGSTON DEANERY SYNOD

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MALDEN, APCM MAY 2024

Deanery Synod Representatives: Margaret Barrington, Elizabeth Pullen, Anthony Pullen

Kingston Deanery Synod comprises representatives from 17 parishes within the Kingston area. It is St John's only direct means of being informed about Diocesan matters, and for St John's congregation to have a voice on Deanery, Diocesan, and Anglican Communion matters. Since the last APCM it met three times, co-chaired by the Area Dean and Lay Chair John Dewhurst.

15th June 2023

An informal evening of refreshments hosted by the Revd Alice Pettit Vicar of St Andrew's Church Ham enabled Synod members to meet the new Bishop of Kingston, Bishop Martin. This was followed by a service of hymns and words and an introduction by Bishop Martin to his previous ministries, especially in Asia, and his aims for his ministry in Kingston. Bishop Martin spoke about his ministry as a bishop being 50% supporting clergy and parishes and 50% pastoral.

18th October 2023

- 1) John Dewhurst was re-elected lay chair; Isabel Isaacson, Secretary, Elspeth Coker, Assistant Secretary; Bob Seekings, Treasurer.
- 2) The Area dean reported that the **Deanery Funerals Scheme** had attracted 69 funerals in 2022, 55 to date 2023. The scheme brought together funeral directors and Deanery Clergy.
- 3) **A Kingston Area vision** proposed that parishes should share best practices, work together on joint projects and events, enthuse young people, start a new pioneer ministry in areas of Kingston as yet untouched.
- 4) **The Lay Ministry 'taster' day** at Trinity House on Saturday January 27th 2024 was introduced, presenting opportunities for training as Pastoral Ministers (SPAs), Youth & Children's ministers, Lay Pioneers, and Readers.
- 5) **St James, New Malden** reported that conversations between the Anglican Bishop of South Korea and Revd Katie Thomas were exploring establishing a Korean community church at St James.

7th February 2024

- 1) Revd Katie Thomas (St James) updated synod concerning **the Korean Church project** which will provide space and facilities to host Bishop Moses (South Korean Church) and the local Korean community to establish Korean Anglo-Catholic worship. The aim is to bring St James' and the Korean community closer together in worship and joint activities. Organisation and financial matters will be separate from St James' current structure and responsibility.
- 2) Elspeth Coker updated synod about **the Diocesan Lay Ministry programme**. In open discussion, Tony Pullen SPA, St John the Baptist, Old Malden, spoke about his own SPA experience.
- 3) Synod was informed about grants **from the Diocesan Improvement Plan** directed towards youth work. Open discussion suggested these grants might enable ways to encourage and support local youth (drop-in cafes, a dedicated youth worker, teaming up with Oxygen, training in music).

- 4) Synod was invited to inform and discuss each other about any difficult or interesting issues in their respective parishes. St John's and All Saints reported on their ***Bereavement Cafes***, ***the Restore Project*** was also reported on.

St John's Church Hall

411 Malden Road Worcester Park KT4 7NY

Registered Charity No. 240542

Chair's Annual Report

Hon. Chair	Beth Owen
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Wickenden
Secretary	Pat Lovegrove
Bookings Manager	Pat Sutton
Maintenance	Brian Whaymand Chester Chan

Since the last APCM the hall committee have been busy maintaining the building, and last July the outside area was improved by the re-laying of the forecourt.

Once again, Peter's project managing skills enabled us to get the best value for an excellent job.

Most of the day to day maintenance is carried out by the committee, especially Brian and Chester. After the last Quinquennial report it was noted that the guttering needs to be replaced so that will probably be the main focus for 2024.

We have been advertising the hall to hire in various locations as evening tenants are rare, although weekend bookings are steady.

Pat Sutton looks after all the tenants and the weekend bookings and would like to hear of anyone looking for a regular venue.

The church fundraising committee make good use of the hall and the social activities run for the community are flourishing, especially the Christmas Day Event and Sunday Lunch Club, organized by Pat Lovegrove.

Do drop in any Thursday between 2pm and 4pm for Tea & Chat.

At the end of December our cleaner of 32 years, Rosemary McCann retired and we were lucky to have recommended Mrs Joanne Downs who has settled in well.

Our thanks as usual to Nukunji Dodhia for auditing the accounts and to Jo, our cleaner.

My thanks for the support of the hall committee who all play a significant part in keeping the old building functioning as a part of St. John's on the edge of the parish.

Beth Owen – April 2024

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT FOR APCM 2023

St John's Mothers' Union has had a busy year once again. Of course, there has been fellowship: the branch has met twelve times during the year to hear some lively speakers including Sally Steele talking about the Away From it All Scheme, Alastair Daniel's story-telling, Anthony Pullen's hospital ministry and Harvey Howlett's talk about the origins of Christmas cultures. Members also had a lovely afternoon at the Sunbury Embroidery Gallery and attended a garden party in the Vicarage garden. Members attended the coffee mornings after the Wednesday Communion service, during one of which Lynn Devos was welcomed as a new member.

Mothers' Union, however, is primarily a prayer-led and outward-looking global organisation which works towards a future free of violence, poverty and injustice. The Branch at St John's is very much a part of this and all members have done what they can in the following categories:

Campaigning: Prayers for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence were said at all three of the Sunday services during the campaign and posters were displayed in the church. Members supported the Red Chair Project and MU Rise Up Campaign. The Rise Up prayer was distributed to the congregation.

Crafting: Members have knitted/crocheted/stitched 5 pairs of hats and cardies, 27 octopuses, 15 teddies for tragedies and 4 angel pockets for the Evelina Children's Hospital, 14 cross-in-pockets for adult patients and 3 paired hearts for end-of-life care. A new project has been set up by the knitting and crochet group to supply knitted blankets to the Star and Garter Home: 3 have already been delivered.

Offering Gifts of Love: All members contribute to the foodbank held in church and three are on the rota for delivering the donations to the collection centres. A branch project is to give towards the Christmas Angel Tree which benefitted 3 local families. The branch this year has donated generously towards diocesan MU projects including AFIA providing holidays for disadvantaged families, and SCIP which supports the children of prisoners. Members also donated individually to the MU Make a Mother's Day, Summer of Hope and Christmas appeals.

Offering service: One member runs a knitting and crochet group with an average of 14 members, 6 of whom are from the community. One member is a hospital chaplaincy volunteer benefitting a monthly average of 11 families, and several members visit in hospital and care homes. Three members help to run the monthly Bereavement Café for the community benefitting an average of 7 people. Several members help at Tea & Chat for those who need some respite, benefitting a weekly average of 12 people, most of whom are from the community. The branch was instrumental in running the Lent Lunches in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal. This was attended by an average of 16 people.

Nurturing Faith: One of the branch projects is to give Bibles and cards at baptism. 10 baptisms were attended during the year. 17 baptism anniversary cards were sent. It has been a prayerful, busy and successful year for the branch both collectively and for individual members, and I would like to thank everyone for their continued service, generosity and enthusiasm. We would be delighted to welcome new members, male or female, who hold the same aim, which is to "develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change: serving their communities to build a future where everyone thrives."

Pauline Armour
Branch Leader

Choir Report for the 2024 APCM

As well as our weekly presence at the 9.45am Sung Eucharist, the choir provided additional music at the Patronal Festival, Harvest, our services of Remembrance and also for our Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. A special anthem was also sung for the Coronation, and a new Advent Carol Service at the beginning of December was well received. As usual, Lent & Easter always seem to arrive so promptly after Epiphany and so we always seem to have a full schedule in the diary. I wish to thank all choir members who remain so loyal and hardworking and also thank Barry and Marie.

I have yet to re-start Junior Choir but hope that will be possible in 2024.

You need to be 7+, able to read well, hold a melody and be able to attend choir practice on Friday evening (6.30pm-7.30pm) and sing at the 9.45am service every Sunday. Our Junior Choristers follow the RSCM 'Voice for Life' courses which enable them to learn to read music with basic theory. However, it does also require commitment from parents to give their support.

We thank you for your support and kind comments and we hope that we shall continue to maintain the strong musical tradition at St John's which enables and enhances our worship.

Marilyn Burkett

Choir Director

St John's Reading Group Report for the 2024 APCM

Our Reading Group continues to thrive and we look forward to our monthly meetings when we discuss the current book and any other books which we have read. Refreshments are always popular. Faith is still able to join us on zoom whenever possible and the Wi-Fi works well.

Our book titles this year have continued to be varied and we never seem to be at a loss to find books which we enjoy – crime and historical novels are very popular and I know that a number of people follow the monthly reviews in the OMN. We ended the year with our annual Christmas bring and share 'feast' and of course, the book Quiz.

Another good year for reading! **Marilyn Burkett**

St John's Crochet & Knitting Group Report for the 2024 APCM

We continue to meet on the last Thursday of each month at 2.00pm in the Church Extension Coffee Lounge. We celebrated our 16th 'Birthday' in January with cake, card and balloon! (Thanks to our trusty tea-maker.) Although our numbers average about twelve and need building up again, we enjoy coming together to knit and crochet and enjoy each other's company.

As I reported last year, our links with The Romanian Aid Foundation have now come to an end because of changes due to Brexit and the new customs regulations in Romania. However, I have made a connection with the Royal Star and Garter at Surbiton and have taken our crochet blankets there which were well received. So a good local link.

Our knitting & crochet group welcomes many from the wider community as well as from our own congregation so it is a good example of outreach and welcome. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet – then come along and join us. There will always be someone here

to help you become more creative and there is always plenty of tea and biscuits (and sometimes cake too). **Marilyn Burkett**

The Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee supports the parish by organising events and activities that help to ensure financial commitments are met.

Each event held not only raises much needed income for the parish, they also help bring the congregation together socially and act as a face for the community to see our faith in action.

This past year began by hosting a quiz night with a fish and chip supper, swiftly followed by a St George's Day afternoon tea party at the Church hall both which were well attended.

In June, the Maeldune Fair brought us all together on the green to celebrate and have fun in the sunshine. Support from local businesses and the many volunteers helped the day go smoothly.

Our much anticipated jumble sale in September, gave everyone the opportunity to de clutter and meet up again with people from across the wider community.

The Christmas fair proved to be very busy and it was wonderful to see the children of Malden Parochial coming to sing Christmas songs. They and their families then stayed to enjoy the many stalls and activities.

During the year, the team also managed and promoted the St John's online shop and Easyfundraising promotions.

All of these events would not have been so successful if it were not for the hard work of the committee and for those loyal congregation members who reliably offer their help to set up, volunteer on stalls/activities, donate items and clear up afterwards.

2024 fundraising dates are in the Parish Diary and the committee look forward to everyone joining us for more fun!

Debra Barrett

Chair of Fundraising

Julian Meeting

The St John's Julian Meeting has continued to meet for 30 minutes of contemplative prayer on the second Monday evening of each month throughout the year, during the summer months in the church, or in the coffee lounge in colder weather. We continue to be affiliated to the national Julian Meetings Organisation (<https://thejulianmeetings.net/>).

The meeting is open to all. Although we do not have "members" as such, the list of people with whom I share details of the meetings has grown significantly over the year and now stands at 17, although attendance is usually between five and ten. They are by no means all regular worshippers at St John's, and represent a variety of Christian traditions and none.

Those who come find in the Julian Meeting a place of peace, solace and fellowship.

We are always delighted to welcome new faces at the meetings. If you are interested and would like to more, please talk to me or to Sheila Ellis.

Chris Benson c.benson87@outlook 07881 425277

Maintenance Committee Report 2023

Members of the Maintenance Committee

Geoffrey Little (Chair)
Graham Burley (Sexton & acting Secretary)
Richard Burkett
Mike Broome

People

We've again been fortunate to retain the existing members of the Maintenance Committee throughout the period following providing both continuity and stability.

We continue to look for new committee members, and the female perspective would certainly add to the quality of our deliberations BUT we would welcome anybody who would like to join us. DIY skills are certainly not a requirement although useful on occasion.

So, please do come and talk to any of the committee members - Graham Burley, Richard Burkett, and Mike Broome or to me, Geoffrey Little - and if you'd prefer to keep a lower profile then please join our list of volunteers.

The Maintenance Committee

We meet a minimum of four (4) times a year. The primary purpose and responsibility of the committee is to maintain the fabric of our buildings and plant and the surrounding land within the limits of our personnel's abilities and annual budget; for 2023 this was increased to circa £9,895.

An inventory is kept of all equipment belonging to the Parish together with service records and instruction manuals for all parish equipment. Members of the committee and others oversee the regular scheduled servicing and maintenance of equipment as required.

We have to ensure that we maintain all the equipment used at St John's so that we comply with statutory inspection and safety requirements and regulations. We conduct or arrange for tests and inspections on plant and equipment to comply with statutory inspection and safety requirements and regulations, including:

~ Electrical circuits every five (5) years and PAT testing of St John's equipment, including plugs and earth.

~ Annual Boiler inspection and servicing (two boilers)

~ Annual Fire extinguishers safety and efficacy checks.

~ Water pump - inspection and sump testing.

~ Lighting inside and outside the Church and the emergency lights that we hope you'll never have to see or rely on.

~ Periodic lightning conductor (tests and service).

~ Twice yearly inspection and servicing of our venerable Church clock, now well over a hundred years old.

This is just a sample, the list goes on.

This schedule of work is split between committee members, volunteers and a number of other volunteer helpers over the course of the year and we use a number of contractors as and when needed.

Churchyard: A lot of work is also involved in maintenance of our rural-style church yard: cutting grass, pruning hedges, clearing blocked drainage etc. Graham Burley, St John's Sexton, has looked after this and many other aspects of ongoing maintenance for a number of years with input from the members of the committee, and a number of others too numerous to list.

Graham has begun the process of stepping down from a number of his responsibilities which will have to be outsourced, inevitably increasing costs.

There are a number of "working parties" called throughout the year and these are a great opportunity for everyone and anyone to get involved in maintaining the fabric of St John's.

In September Graham Burley organised a work party to pick up the hay/grass he had previously cut in the two "fields" of the churchyard (North Yards) cut, a big thank you to all those who came and helped Graham to complete this job.

Cleaning: The Committee has responsibility for helping the cleaning team who organise themselves and the cleaning schedules for the church and extension. Our thanks go to Claire Baptista and Janet Jeal.

Claire Baptista leads and runs the Church cleaning team - Saturday mornings. Claire has been running the team for a number of years and has indicated that she is seeking a successor. Please talk to Claire and/or Fr. Michael if you would like to discuss this.

Flower team: Under the leadership of Lynn Sanger, continue their work; thank you all for making the church so beautiful all year round.

We are always keen to recruit more people to join one or other (or both) of the cleaning teams. You can commit to being one of a designated cleaning team weekly or as infrequently as once a month or even once every other month; it depends entirely on how much time you are able to give them.

Please talk to or contact Claire or the Church Wardens at Church, or email if you'd like to find out more about what's involved and/or to help.

Saturday morning - Church cleaning team, contact Claire Baptista.

Sunday & Monday mornings - Extension (coffee lounge) cleaning team, contact Beth and David Owen.

Come and make new friends or team up with old friends.

2023 Review (Some Events)

2023 has been another busy year for the Maintenance Team and I would like to thank committee members and the many volunteers who have helped us to look after our place of worship. It is not possible in this report to list every job that was completed; the full list is available in the Log Book.

Upkeep of the church is always going to be expensive, but help from volunteers and the work parties help to control costs.

Church Lane

We sought and received professional advice and quotations to rectify its condition from F.L. Beadle & Sons Ltd., however, commencement was postponed for a number of reasons until the end of 2022/beginning of 2023.

Urgent work was completed in the week leading up to Christmas 2022 which enabled a safer approach to St John's on Christmas Eve and over the Christmas and New Year period. Work was completed in January 2023.

The results have been mixed, largely due to the time of year when the work was done. Further work on the church lane will be required in 2024, and we will need to put together a work party to get this essential work done.

Priest's Vestry: PJE Contractors replaced the old worktop, sink and tap with smart new equipment, improving function, cleanliness and aesthetics in the process.

Accessibility Project

Accessibility to the upper meeting room was improved by the installation of the chairlift in 2018 (Associated Stair Lifts). In 2019 we bought a wheelchair/mobility vehicle ramp to improve accessibility to the main body of our church and this has been successfully deployed for weddings etc.

This work continues as funds and circumstances permit, e.g. the pew by the door to the extension was removed and the "loop" reconnected/repaired.

Emergency Lights and In-Ceiling Lights in the Coffee Lounge, Choir and Priest Vestry(ies)

We continue to monitor, test and replace emergency lights/battery packs as and when required..

Following the replacement of (9) ceiling lights in the Extension with LED panels (2022), we are continuing the LED replacement programme of the Church's old lighting with LED lamps over the next 12/18 months.

We are currently in the process of replacing the (chandelier) lamps in both parts of/and throughout the Church.

Finally, may I commend to you the work of all the members of the committee and of all those volunteers who have done a fantastic job over the last 12 months with whom it has been a pleasure to work.

I hope very much we will all continue serving as members for 2024

Vicar's Report 2024

The past year has been one of significant development and opportunity for St. John's. In April of last year we shortlisted and interviewed a selection of candidates to take on the role of Head teacher at Malden Parochial, our Church school. Lucy McMullan was duly appointed and took up her new responsibilities in September. Lucy and I have worked closely together to deepen the connections between the School and Church, listening to School Governors, parents, and pupils to develop a fresh vision for the School as well as how it lives out its Christian distinctiveness in an increasing multicultural and secular society. For the first time in many years St. John's has been able to provide and support a full complement of Foundation Governors. Members of our congregations have also been actively engaged and supportive of Lucy and the School community as she implements a programme of changes and renewed links with the wider community. As many of you will know, having a Church school was an important component when I was looking for a new post almost six years ago and Malden Parochial has been a source of energy and inspiration for my own personal ministry as I have been welcomed and valued by the whole School community. Being able to share and shape faith in our School has been an immense privilege. And as we all saw during Lent, the new links have enriched our Sunday worship with the children singing for us especially, sharing their gifts and enthusiasm with us. Let us continue to support and value our School as well as Malden Manor, Green Lane, and Richard Challoner schools.

Community engagement is close to my heart, especially ministering to the residents of the public housing estate at Malden Manor. Despite repeated attempts no one at Social Services or the Council have responded to approaches from me to ask how St. John's might support the most vulnerable in our own parish. What inroads have been made have been through the Angel Project at Christmas and contacts at Malden Manor School. The Angel Project this Christmas raised £4,200 providing an Argos gift voucher for 195 children locally. Children in all three primary schools and all nursery schools in the Parish were included this year for the first time. It was a remarkable outcome, but also highlighted the need for outside sponsorship and/or year round fundraising if we are to maintain this level of giving. It was through the response to the Angels that the Children's Centre at Malden Manor asked me if I knew of anyone who could help collect second-hand clothes for children to be distributed through the Centre. I raised this with the Mothers' Union and they have whole-heartedly taken this on as part of their wider ministry to the community. It seems that in spite of a lack of engagement from the local authorities, God has opened doors to enable our service to those in need around us yet again! So watch this space.

This past year we held two weddings and several baptisms. This year we only have one wedding and two baptisms, though I expect this will pick up as the weather changes and parents plan for their child's big day. Funerals in Church and at the crematorium have declined from a high during the pandemic, but there has been a notable uptake of the support we offer through our own Bereavement Café. We recently hosted Donna Pariser from Princess Alice Hospice who co-ordinates the various Bereavement Cafes and she was very encouraging about how well the group works and the accessibility of the support offered. In October we hosted the Deanery Confirmation service for the first time in several years with a number of adult and young people from our congregations as confirmands. Bishop Martin, the new Bishop of Kingston, took this service and we had the opportunity to get to know him better as well. Last summer saw an opportunity arise and I am now providing casual chaplaincy support to the British Legion in Worcester Park as the Vicar there is not able to cover the commemorations at Armed Forces Day or their own Armistice Day service on November 11th. Several members are actually parishioners here and it feels right to support the work of the Legion among us.

As more people are joining us on Sundays, numbers are also increasing year on year for the big services in Advent and Christmas as well as for Holy Week and Easter. This is very encouraging as it demonstrates that what we offer is relevant to people across the generations as well as helping us all on our own

personal faith journeys. I do hope this is a trend that will continue as we renew our worship and mission in the year ahead.

Of all the challenges of this past year the greatest has been getting the Restore Project off the ground. After many, many months of architectural surveys, expert opinions, and the arduous process the Diocese uses in order to obtain Faculty permission, we finally received that magic piece of paper that acts as planning permission for the much-needed works to repoint our crumbling Jacobean tower and make our Church building watertight. Kirstie Tong and the Grants Committee have been working hard to find much of the money needed from a diverse array of charities. We will soon be applying to the National Lottery for significant funding for the project. Peter Wickenden has come on board as Restore Project Finance Officer working closely with Alastair Harris, our parish Treasurer. The Restore Group has been leading our emerging communication strategy and we have a date for Alex Veal, the Parish Architect, to come and speak to the congregations on 23rd June as part of our big launch for the Patronal.

The Restore Project is not just about the building, but more importantly about using our building and churchyard to engage the wider community through educational projects, especially with our unique heritage and ecological resources. In order for us to succeed we will need everyone to bring their gifts, talents, and experience to the mix so that we can communicate our vision effectively to grant-making bodies, our community, and enable St. John's to take its place once again at the heart of the Parish community. Lack of engagement will lead to failure and the eventual closure of our building, so there is a lot at stake and it is a huge responsibility.

As part of the process we have had to look at our governance and the way we go about doing things in order to be effective and stay up-to-date with current legislation. Earlier this year I asked Harvey Howlett to review our governance and or PCC/Committee structures. His findings will guide the way forward as significant changes are put in place. Defunct committees and under-resourced ones will be revitalised as priorities shift and new initiatives come forward. I do hope a more streamlined way of doing things will encourage others to join the various groups working on specific areas, freeing up creativity and energising our mission and worship. All this remains to be seen, but I am heartened by what we've managed to do these past twelve months. Thanks to everyone who has given so much to get us to this point. Let us trust in God and work together to make his vision for St. John's a reality in the days and months ahead.

Fr. Michael D. A. Roper