



# **St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury**

## **Minutes of Parochial Church Council - 15 January 2024**

<b>Present:</b>	Keith Hilton-Turvey	(Chair)
	Cath Beech	(Churchwarden)
	David Houghton	(Churchwarden)
	Andrew Beech	(Secretary)
	Sue Cooper	
	Maria Dineen	
	Benjamin Hilton-Turvey	
	Ian James	
	Anne Scull	
	Peter Scull	
	James Smith	
	Will Wake	

**Apologies:** Stephen Cheetham, Sue Simpson

**1212.** James Smith opened with a time of prayer.

### **Minutes of meeting held on 15 November 2023**

**1213.** These were agreed, subject to a change in paragraph 1204 to replace “congregational” with “general fund”.

### **Minutes of the Standing Committee on 28 December 2023**

**1214.** These minutes were noted.

### **Safeguarding**

**1215.** Nothing to report. At diocesan level, Mandy McPhee has now moved on and been replaced by Carl Steventon. He is assisted by Lisa Anderson.

### **PCC Code of Conduct**

**1216.** A Code of Conduct for PCCs had been circulated by the diocese. Members were asked to consider it before the March meeting and to send any comments to the churchwardens. The Code is for agreement at the May meeting.

**Action: All PCC Members**

## **Vision and awayday follow-up**

**1217.** Three actions had been agreed:

- a) Teaching The monthly Thursday evening sessions are to be re-established, concentrating initially on exercising and sharing faith to fit in with the Diocesan Year of Faith. Two of the diocesan sessions, in April and July, will be held in Ledbury. Both are Deanery events, the details of which will be discussed at the Deanery Synod in March;
- b) Prayer Ann Scull and Georgina Hicks had agreed to take this forward. Ann explained their current thinking, which is to identify all the sources of prayer in the church ("a prayer audit") and to speak to the house groups. Ideally this would take place prior to the March meeting, so that the conclusions can be discussed at that meeting.

**Action: Ann Scull/Georgina Hicks**

David Houghton rebuffed suggestions that not enough was being done. He had attended many meetings, and been involved in even more email exchanges. The issue was the time available when the church is largely run by volunteers.

- c) Communication Keith Hilton-Turvey and Stephen Cheetham are to meet Sarah Whitelock (Diocesan Communications Adviser) to discuss ideas.

The WRDG were to consider ideas the following day, and a meeting will be held with Christine Walters to discuss her ideas.

**Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey/Stephen Cheetham/WRDG**

**1218.** Will Wake volunteered to post photos of church officers on the noticeboard, so that people can know to whom to turn.

**Action: Will Wake**

## **Finance**

**1219.** Stephan Cheetham had circulated a treasurer's report and an income and expenditure budget for the General Fund (only). Ian James pointed out the need for a budget covering the Building Fund. He proposed, seconded by Will Wake, that any paper presented to the PCC proposing expenditure over a sum to be agreed (£2000 was suggested) should set out the pros and cons of the proposal, and a statement of how it is to be financed. This was agreed with one abstention.

**1220.** Ian James will resume production of the church maintenance schedule that had largely been in abeyance since the start of the Covid pandemic.

**Action: Ian James**

**1221.** It was unclear how the figures for charitable giving had been derived. Ian James will discuss this with Stephen Cheetham. The PCC's decision about giving to external organisations was restated. The church will annually give 10% of General Fund income, excluding the tax refund. Ian James will draft a paper setting out a method for choosing

the recipients of charitable giving, as the group intended to do that had not been convened by the treasurer.

**Action: Ian James**

**1222.** It was agreed that the 2024 Budget should be discussed and agreed at the March meeting. Stephen Cheetham would need to be in attendance.

**Action: Stephen Cheetham**

### **Sound system**

**1223.** A donation of £5,000 towards the cost of the sound system had had to be withdrawn, for personal reasons. However, the church has been notified of a legacy of £20,000, which will more than cover the cost of this, and also the pew reordering. Keith Hilton-Turvey proposed, seconded by Will Wake, that some of the funds be put to these purposes. This was agreed unanimously. The projector has gone back to Sony for repair under warranty.

### **Fabric**

**1224.** Andrew Beech reported:

- a) that the Fabric Sub-Committee were still attempting to identify a suitable heating engineer who could advise the church;

**Action: Fabric Sub-Committee**

- b) the diocese had been given some central funding for minor repairs to churches. Grants of up to 50% were available for expenditure of up to £10,000. Andrew proposed, seconded by Ian James, that the church apply for such a grant to fund the roof valley work. This was agreed unanimously;

**Action: Andrew Beech**

- c) Plans for refurbishment of the upper rooms were still awaited from the architect;
- d) The Fabric Sub-Committee considered that the proposal received for a catering unit would have delivered more than the church needs. They will produce a paper for discussion with the catering team;

**Action: Fabric Sub-Committee**

- e) A faculty for the pew reordering had been applied for; and
- f) A grant of £200 was available towards the cost (£250) of the condition statement and restoration proposal for the wooden chest near the north door. The grant giving body required the PCC to approve acceptance of the grant. Andrew Beech, seconded by Ian James, recommended acceptance of the £200. This was agreed unanimously.

**Action: Andrew Beech**

## **Matters arising**

**1225.** Discussions continue between LEAF and the Dean and Chapter about St Katherine's Hall.

**1226.** St Helen's church, Hangleton, Sussex have received the necessary permissions from Chichester diocese to "import" the Trinity altar. A faculty is awaited from Hereford Diocese.

**1227.** The issue of holding PCC meetings with mixed Zoom and personal attendance had been elevated to the Deanery Synod.

## **Other Business**

**1228.** It was felt that the congregation needed to be made more aware of the Diocesan Year of Faith. A leaflet will shortly emerge, and Mark Melliush will be asked to bring leaflets with him the following Sunday.

### ***Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey***

**1229.** James Smith, supported by several members of the Council, asked that, in services where a greater number of non-church people are likely to attend, there be no communion, as this might be off-putting to many.

**1230.** The disposal of the portable organ will be considered at the March meeting.

**1231.** Cath Beech and Maria Dineen will draft a Church Risk Assessment for consideration at the May PCC meeting, along with the various policy and procedure documents.

### ***Action: Cath Beech/Maria Dineen***

**1232.** Members were asked to pray for Ann Gates and Margaret Chapman, who had decided to give up running Coffee Stop and (in Ann's case) also the intercessions and coffee rota. Pray, too, for other volunteers to take these on.

### ***Action: All PCC members***

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 20 March

The meeting ended at 20.55 with prayer.