



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Parochial Church Council – 4 September 2024

Present:	Chris Moore	(Rural Dean, Chair)
	Keith Hilton-Turvey	(Rector)
	David Houghton	(Churchwarden)
	Cath Beech	(Churchwarden)
	Andrew Beech	
	Sue Cooper	
	Maria Dineen	
	Ian James	
	Richard Nightingale	
	Anne Scull	
	Peter Scull	
	James Smith	

Apologies: Stephen Cheetham, William Hopkinson, Sue Simpson, Will Wake

1297. The meeting had been called as an additional PCC meeting to consider the resolution adopted by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 10 April, as follows:

“As a matter of urgency, this meeting charges the Ledbury Parochial Church Council with seeking a way forward on the subject of the rejection of Ordained Women Priests, to the detriment of pastoral care for the people of Ledbury. This will require recognition of the democratically taken decision at the APCM 2023 that Ordained Women Priests should not be discriminated against and allowed to preside at services in Ledbury Parish Church”

The meeting was chaired by the Rural Dean, the Rev. Dr. Chris Moore, who opened the meeting with prayer.

Rector’s paper on the ordination of women

1298. Because the APCM resolution had been inspired by the Rector’s views on the ordination of women, it was felt important that members of the PCC should understand what those views were and the reasoning that lay behind them. The Rector’s views had been circulated to PCC members in a paper (see attached document).

1299. Points that emerged in discussion included:

- KHT's view is that only ordained men are able to conduct weddings, to consecrate the elements for communion and to express blessings and absolution in the "you" form instead of the "we" form;
- The CofE permits ordained women to consecrate the elements for communion. However KHT's view is that if an ordained woman were to provide home communion, she would have to do so as an extension of the consecration of the elements in the church service (i.e. by an ordained man), rather than consecrating them herself;
- Those who preach in church must be ordained, or qualify as a licensed lay reader. Up to four times/year other theologically qualified people may preach at the invitation of the incumbent. For these purposes preaching includes teaching. KHT accepts this position;
- KHT's view is that there is a difference between men's and women's ministries. Women, including ordained women, may, for example, evangelise and provide pastoral support (but not shepherd, which provides for leading the flock as a whole) . Women's ministry should not involve eldership or leadership of the church locally or more broadly;
- KHT does not believe that God would call any woman to any ministry from which he has excluded women (see above);
- KHT stated at interview that he would not change the arrangements for ministry in place at Eastnor, and has not done so; and
- Many felt that Keith's paper would benefit from citing Scriptural references to support the arguments therein.

1300. At this point Keith Hilton-Turvey left the meeting.

Next steps

1301. It was agreed that it would not be right to attempt to require Keith to recant any of his views. Any suggestions, therefore, that the PCC could offer Keith for moving forward would need to be within any wriggle room allowed by him. There was, on the face of things, very little of that.

1302. The churchwardens reported that Keith had blocked any attempt to allow ordained women (even of other denominations) to preach in St Michaels. This applies too to the second Sunday non-communion service, to an ordained woman preaching unrobed, and to occasions when Keith himself is not present.

1303. Maria Dineen felt that there were one or two areas when it might be possible to make progress within the constraints imposed by Keith's views. She agreed to write a paper for circulation amongst PCC members setting out what these might be.

Action: Maria Dineen

1304. The meeting closed at 9.40pm. with prayer and the grace.

1305. The next meeting will be on 23 September at 7.15pm in the Chapter House.