



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Parochial Church Council – 17 February 2025

Present:	Keith Hilton-Turvey	(Rector) (Chair)
	David Houghton	(Churchwarden)
	Cath Beech	(Churchwarden)
	Andrew Beech	
	Sue Cooper	
	Maria Dineen	
	Richard Nightingale	
	Anne Scull	
	Peter Scull	
	Will Wake	
	Carl Stevenson	(Diocesan Safeguarding Officer)
	Lisa Anderson	(Diocesan Safeguarding Team)

Apologies: Stephen Cheetham, William Hopkinson, Ian James, Sue Simpson

1352. Keith Hilton-Turvey remembered Archbishop Janani Luwum, Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, murdered by the Ugandan authorities on 17 February 1977. Keith opened with 1 Timothy 6:3-12 and prayer.

Minutes of meeting held on 20 November 2024

1353. These were agreed unanimously.

Minutes of the Standing Committee on 3 February

1354. These minutes were noted.

Safeguarding

1355. Carl Stevenson updated the PCC on the Makin Review, which had revealed the extent of John Smyth's abuse and the very serious failings in the church's response in the early 1980s and in the decades afterwards. The review had led directly to the resignations of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Liverpool. No victims of Smyth's abuse have been identified in Hereford Diocese.

1356. In response to the report General Synod had adopted a two-stage process to making safeguarding independent of the church. A fully independent body would be set up to which the national safeguarding team would be transferred. For a time thereafter safeguarding officers would continue to be employed by each diocese, but in time (5-6 years) all would become part of the independent body, albeit embedded within each diocese. Parishes would continue to have parochial safeguarding officers.

1357. The diocesan safeguarding team were primarily involved with providing advice and training to clergy and others. Much of their work is preventative. They are contacted regularly by clergy and parish safeguarding officers, but rarely by the police or social services.

1358. It was noted that the existing arrangements for DBS checks were complex and offputting. This was leading directly to difficulties in recruiting volunteers to take on the parochial safeguarding role, and also other volunteer roles where a DBS check was required. It was noted that, for this reason, the Ledbury and Eastnor Benefice no longer had a safeguarding officer in place.

1359. It was stressed that it was important both for potential volunteers and for those actually in post to have clearly defined job descriptions. It would thus be easier to identify which roles required DBS clearance. Some advice is available on the diocesan website. It is the PCC's responsibility to ensure that all necessary safeguarding processes are in place. Lisa Anderson agreed to email "Promoting a Safer Church Action Plan" to Keith Hilton-Turvey.

Action: Lisa Anderson

1360. Andrew Beech read the summary of the safeguarding policy document to the PCC. This was agreed unanimously. It will go to the new PCC, at the July meeting, for agreement by them.

Winter services

1361. It was felt that services in the Chapter House are going well. There is a greater feel of intimacy, and the singing sounds much better in a more enclosed space. Services will revert to the nave on 30 March, when there will be a baptism.

Volunteering

1362. The churchwardens had been disappointed by the response to their letter asking more people to volunteer for roles within the church. They proposed to set up a group to look at how more might be encouraged to participate more fully in the life of the church. Tim Keyes had agreed to join the group, and Will Wake volunteered to do so. Following on from the safeguarding discussion (see above) it was agreed that detailed job descriptions were needed for posts within the church.

Action: Churchwardens

1363. A rapid assessment was made of areas where volunteers are needed. Support for pastoral work was identified, some technical areas (safeguarding officer, data protection officer) and also support for IT, sound and audio-visual. People are also needed to fill in when people who currently occupy posts within the church are away.

Mixed media PCC

1364. In response to a request from Ledbury PCC via the Deanery Synod, the Bishop had laid an instrument permitting PCCs to meet simultaneously both in person and also by electronic means. Maria Dineen proposed, seconded by Will Wake, that the PCC adopt this form of meeting where members were unable to be present in person, but wished to participate from a remote location. This was agreed unanimously. It was agreed that this should commence at the June PCC meeting.

Policies and procedures

1365. There had been no progress on the church risk assessment.

Net Zero

1366. Will Wake reported that St Michael's had been granted EcoChurch status. An application for Net Zero Demonstrator Church status had been submitted. This brought the possibility of grants towards a new heating system. He will report more fully at the March meeting on measures that the church might take to improve its EcoChurch rating.

Action: Will Wake

Finance

1367. A finance report from the treasurer was noted. It was noted that, whilst the church had received a number of legacies, giving by the membership was down. Keith Hilton-Turvey will ask Ayo Adewale to make a presentation on stewardship during a future service.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

1368. Cath Beech proposed, seconded by David Houghton, the adoption of the draft budget for 2025. This was agreed unanimously.

Fabric

1369. Andrew Beech reported that a further version of the report on the church heating from Ingleton Wood (heating consultants) had been received. The Fabric Sub-Committee would meet to discuss it, and it was hoped that a proposal might be made to the March PCC meeting. It was likely that two faculties would be required: one to provide for the new heating, and a second to provide for a much greater number of PV cells on the church roof. Because the latter potentially clashed with listed building rules (but not Herefordshire Council's declaration of a climate emergency) it was likely to prove controversial.

Action: Fabric Sub-Committee

1370. The roof valley work had been postponed to later in the year. In the absence of any effective communication with the church's inspecting architects, discussions were being held with a couple of practices who might take on this role instead.

1371. No progress had been made with persuading the church architect to produce plans for the ramp up to St Anne's.

1372. The joiner who is to fit casters to four of the pews is likely to collect them in the coming couple of weeks. It is not known how long they will be away for.

1373. Plans had been drawn up for the work to repair the upper room floor. It was hoped that one of the architect practices mentioned above will be able to supervise this work. List B approval will be required once a contractor had been appointed.

Action: Fabric Sub-Committee

Community Garden

1374. Maria Dineen is looking at ways to improve the churchyard, to make it more attractive. She will liaise with Ledbury Town Council, who are responsible for the churchyard.

Other Business

1375. The PCC authorised the revision of the electoral roll (due this year) in the form laid down in legislation.

Date of Next Meeting: 7.15pm on Wednesday 19 March 2025 in Ledbury Methodist Church. The APCM will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 10 April in the church.

The meeting ended at 21.15 with prayer.