



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee - 10 January 2022

Present: Keith Hilton-Turvey (Rector)
David Houghton (Churchwarden)
Andrew Beech
Catherine Beech

479. The meeting opened with prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 1 November

480. These were agreed unanimously.

Worship

481. For the time being the current Covid restrictions remain in place. It would be unwise to lift them until diocesan advice to that effect had been received. Holding the 08.00 service experimentally in St Anne's had been received with some unease about social distancing, so the service will revert to the nave.

482. A number of people had asked for the text of the intercessory prayers not to be shown on screen, to enable last minute changes to be made to suit the circumstances. It was agreed that there was no problem with adding to the prayers shown (as Bill McKenzie had done the previous day), but that those online (and some in the church itself) prefer to see the text on screen.

Living in Love and Faith

483. The course was due to start on Wednesday 12 January. Given the numbers who had indicated that they might attend it was thought that the meeting could be held in the Chapter House; if too many turned up the course could be moved to the nave. Keith Hilton-Turvey pointed out that a letter (in the public domain) to the Bishop of Hereford from a parishioner in south Shropshire critiques the LLF process, and concludes that the LLF process is from the start heavily skewed towards the LGBTQ+ position.

Small groups co-ordinator

484. Keith Hilton-Turvey will organise a meeting of small group leaders to try to find a replacement co-ordinator. Two of the existing groups are large, so a further group might be needed.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Reviews

485. The youth and young people's work review had met once. It was hoped that a meeting with the music co-ordinator of John Masefield School might be arranged. Other reviews will report to the PCC.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Finance

486. A finance report will be available for the PCC. Cath Beech will prepare papers for the PCC on the reserves policy and on the review of investments.

Action: Cath Beech

487. Cath retires as treasurer after the APCM and a replacement will need to be found. It was noted that it would be possible to separate the treasurer role from that of bookkeeper, but that would require two people instead of one. It was noted that both roles would be time-consuming. Keith suggested that this be raised as a matter for prayer by the church.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Terrier/inventory

488. David Houghton reported that further work was needed to bring the inventory to an acceptable standard. It was suggested that he might involve Philip Weaver in this work, or possibly David and Val Tatham.

Action: David Houghton

Banners/temporary hangings

489. It was noted that the PCC agreed a policy on banners and temporary hangings some years ago and that this remained valid. Diana Veasey wished to introduce into the church an icon that was of sentimental value to its former owner. To do so would require a faculty. It was agreed that, as a matter of principle, the church should not accept works of art simply because of their sentimental value to others. Diana had been invited to make a presentation about the icon to the PCC.

Altar frontals

490. The PCC had asked the Standing Committee to "action the need for renewal and subsequent laundering of the relevant plain altar covers and advise on an acceptable colour for the same". After discussion it was agreed that a mid-to dark blue would be an appropriate colour. Keith Hilton-Turvey will ask Lisa-Jayne Lewis and Christabel Panter whether they could organise the new covers.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Archivist

491. Turning out the room over the north porch had revealed a number of historical photographs of church events. Ann Tattersall will be asked by David Houghton to research the photographs, and to record the results. Her research, and the photographs themselves, would subsequently be held with other church records by the PCC Secretary pending their eventual transfer to Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre.

Action: David Houghton/Andrew Beech

Fabric

492. Andrew Beech reported that the quinquennial report had still not been received. It was agreed that a proposal to replace the lights in the Chapter House would be put to the PCC. This will require a faculty. It was hoped that the Friends would contribute a significant proportion of the cost of this work.

Action: Andrew Beech

493. Detailed papers that would allow a faculty to be applied for in respect of the drop-down screen were awaited. Lisa-Jayne Lewis is to investigate whether grant aid might be available.

Action: Lisa-Jayne Lewis

Safeguarding

494. Keith Hilton-Turvey will consult Mandy McPhee (Diocesan Safeguarding Officer) about how the ongoing safeguarding situation should be treated in the Annual Report. Keith will also consult Mandy about handling a regular visitor to the church who some find intimidating.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Concert Committee

495. It was agreed that Sarah Williams would process applications to use the church for outside events. David Houghton will prepare a checklist of things that need to be covered in ensuring that such events take place safely. Keith Hilton-Turvey will speak to Peter Scull about taking on the roll of the former Concert Committee.

Action: David Houghton/Keith Hilton-Turvey

Graveyard

496. It was noted that the churchyard streetlights were now working. The town council had yet to respond to the letter about the condition of grave markers in the churchyard. Andrew Beech would write to them again about an infestation of moles in the south of the churchyard.

Action: Andrew Beech

PCC meeting

497. It was agreed that the PCC should give more time to consideration of the spiritual direction of the church. The onset of the New Year provides a good opportunity to do this. It was agreed that the agenda for the January meeting would be stripped of all non-essential business to give priority to this. All Council members would be asked (in one sentence for each question, to save time) where they see the church as being now and where they would like the church to be now. During the two table rounds no opportunity would be given for comment, this would follow as necessary in the collective consideration of the third question, "Where do members believe Christ is leading us?" If need be an additional PCC meeting would be held in February to transact outstanding business. A further Standing Committee meeting will be held on Thursday evening to finalise arrangements for this item on the PCC agenda.

Action: Andrew Beech

Matters arising

498. David Houghton will register an interest in the church taking part in Ledbury Community Day. It was agreed that the church work with the other churches and LEAF to provide a co-ordinated effort.

Action: David Houghton

Other business

499. None.

Next meeting

500. The next Standing Committee meeting will be held on 13 January 2022 at 7.30pm at The Croft, Woodleigh Road. The subsequent meeting will be on 7 March in the meeting room.

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.