



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Parochial Church Council - 21 September 2022

Present: Keith Hilton-Turvey (Chair)
David Houghton (Churchwarden)
Cath Beech (Churchwarden)
Maria Dineen
Benjamin Hilton-Turvey
William Hopkinson
Anne Scull
Peter Scull
James Smith
Will Wake

Apologies: Andrew Beech, Stephen Cheetham, Sue Cooper, Ian James, Tim Keyes, Lisa-Jayne Lewis, Christabel Panter, Diana Veasey, Peter Veasey

1009. Keith Hilton-Turvey opened with Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 4:1-7 and prayer.

Minutes of previous meetings

1010. The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July and the awayday on 27 August were agreed unanimously.

1011. The minutes of the Standing Committee on 4 September were noted.

Safeguarding

1012. Annie Lindon is in the process of taking over from Jenny Bury. Andrew Beech will recirculate the link to online training to be completed by PCC members.

Action: Andrew Beech

PCC awayday

1013. 19 November is the strongest contender thus far for the second PCC awayday. Andrew Beech will confirm this once responses from all PCC members have been received. A venue needs to be arranged.

Action: Andrew Beech/ ,Keith Hilton-Turvey/Lisa-Jayne Lewis

Pastoral Co-ordinator

1014. Keith Hilton-Turvey will meet a potential candidate for the role on 27 September.

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator

1015. Georgina Hicks has provisionally agreed to take on this role.

Website

1016. Stephen Cheetham expects the new website to be ready in a few weeks.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Warm space

1017. Because of rising fuel prices warm venues will be made available every day for a few hours per day. Much will depend upon how cold the winter is. A number of potential venues in Ledbury has been identified, including the Methodist and Baptist Church Halls. It was felt that St Katherine's Hall meeting room could also be used, as it can be heated. Its lack of accessibility was, however, noted. It was agreed that SMAA supports this initiative, and should be seen to do so. Volunteers will be needed.

Liturgical Plan

1018. David Houghton was elected as Vice-Chair of the Council, and took the chair for this item.

1019. The Council discussed the latest version of the draft Liturgical Plan, which had been updated following the end of Covid measures. It was explained that the Plan would complete the Conservation Management Plan and thus be used (as part of the wider Plan) to attract grant funding for potential reordering measures. A number of points emerged in discussion:

- a) A concern was raised about the intent behind the use of the word "orthodox", and what is meant in the Plan by the use of this word. The risk of misinterpretation and the risk of taking SMAA away from mainstream Anglicanism (as it might be widely understood to be) was expressed. The Rector assured the Council of his commitment to the Anglican Church and that SMAA would remain within the Church of England;
- b) Even with this assurance in place, concern remained that some redrafting was necessary in order to present the church as more middle-of-the-road and less conservative evangelical. The majority present felt that the document did present the church in the correct way. In any event it, it was pointed out, the document could be amended;
- c) The document set out where the church stood now liturgically, not where it wished to be. It was felt that an element of looking forward was needed; and

d) As drafted the plan would prevent the adoption of more liberal practices, such as the blessing of same-sex marriages. The Rector explained that blessing same-sex marriages was not in any case allowed within the Anglican Church.

1020. That the document be adopted unamended was proposed by Keith Hilton-Turvey and seconded by Peter Scull. This was agreed with five votes in favour, three against and two abstentions.

1021. In the light of the absence of many Council members, David Houghton proposed that all Council members be invited to submit structured comments to Maria Dineen in time to be considered at the November meeting. This was opposed by some, as the document had just been adopted. On voting, five members were in favour and five against. The chairman carried the motion on his casting vote.

Action: All Council members

Iona services

1022. The Bishop had agreed to the use of the Iona liturgy, subject to the use of liturgical prayers drawn from Common Worship. The Worship Review Development Group aim to begin on the second Sunday of each month, starting in October. The policy will be reviewed in April 2023.

Finance

1023. Given the high cost of gas and electricity, congregation members would be urged to increase their giving to allow the church to be heated over the winter. The treasurer indicated that, if this does not happen, he would be recommending that the church not be heated over the winter for lack of funds.

Church office

1024. David Houghton will present to the next meeting a proposal for the allocation of tasks currently undertaken by Sarah Williams. Keith Hilton-Turvey expressed his concern that, despite the request for confidentiality at the previous meeting, news of the proposal with regard to the church office had leaked. He felt that the leak must have come from a Council member, which was disgraceful.

Action: David Houghton

Disposal of old hymn and prayer books

1025. The PCC agreed to give 120 copies of the New English Hymnal to Hereford Cathedral, retaining 20 for use at SMAA.

Action: William Hopkinson

Church cleaning

1026. A volunteer is sought to clean the church toilets, which would take 1-2 hours per week. It was acknowledged that the church is untidy and needs cleaning more often.

Points arising from previous meetings

1027. Nothing other than: Some progress in creating a Charitable Incorporated Organisation for St Katherine's Hall, and a proposal to house the Greverade Altar in St Anne's Chapel will be brought to the November meeting.

Other business

1028. The Harvest Festival is currently being prepared. The plan is to provide a brunch afterwards. It is intended that it will be more open, relaxed and accessible than in previous years. The Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts will be invited.

1029. There will be a Parish Meeting on 5 October to discuss the reordering proposals. These will be brought to the November PCC meeting.

Next meeting

1030. The next meeting will be in St Katherine's Hall at 7.15pm on Wednesday 16 November.

The meeting closed with the grace.