



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee - 3 September 2023

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

722. The meeting opened with Psalm 105:1-6 and prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 3 July

723. These were agreed unanimously.

PCC meetings

724. In the absence of an alternative secretary, it was agreed that Keith Hilton-Turvey will chair the September PCC meeting.

725. In response to an enquiry from Maria Dineen, Andrew Beech was pursuing the concept of a hybrid PCC meeting, involving people physically present and others joining by Zoom. This is not currently permitted by the Church Representation Rules, but Andrew is in discussion with the Diocesan Registrar as to whether it could be permitted, should the technical problems also be capable of resolution.

Action: Andrew Beech

726. It was suggested that PCC meetings in 2024 might be held on Mondays in place of Wednesdays.

Awayday

727. A draft programme for the event had been circulated. Cath Beech suggested that it was important for the final session of the day to identify a programme for action.

PCC training

728. Training had been booked in the church from 19.30 to 21.30 on 9 October. David Houghton, additionally, will circulate an email from the Bishop's Chaplain setting out the requirements of a PCC Code of Conduct.

Action: David Houghton

Website

729. It was agreed that work to ensure that the existing website transfers to the new one would be completed by the end of October. The pew sheet will be included each week on the new website.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Finance

730. Stephen Cheetham reported that income is slightly ahead of budget, with Parish Giving particularly strong. Stephen Cheetham hoped to have the new Goodbox in place by the end of October. Discussions are under way about church investments.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

St Katherine's

731. Discussions between LEAF and the Dean and chapter were moving on apace. Subject to their own and the church's interests being adequately protected, the existing lease would be surrendered (but only in favour of LEAF).

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey/Churchwardens

732. The fixtures and fittings in St Katherine's Hall belong to the church. Keith Hilton-Turvey will discuss what might happen to them with Ed Huxley. Keith will also ascertain who is to look after the St Katherine's clock once the lease is relinquished. The Mallon bequest will need to be transferred to whoever takes on this responsibility.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Resource Centre

733. Cath Beech will turn out redundant files from the resource centre. She will also arrange IKnowChurch training for Eastnor. Stephen Cheetham will ensure that the employer's liability certificate in the porch is up to date.

Action: Cath Beech/Stephen Cheetham

Fabric

Church heating

734. Andrew Beech reported that the boiler had failed its annual test. A gasket at the rear of the boiler had failed and was emitting measurable quantities of carbon monoxide. He was to hold a meeting the following day to establish whether the boiler could be repaired, although it was highly likely that it could not be¹. If this was the case he would consult the diocese as to a way forward. Given the Church of England's commitment to meeting a Net Zero target it was thought that an independent consultant should be brought in to advise on possible ways forward. Andrew would discuss this with Stephen Challenger (DAC Secretary).

735. Given the need (a) to decide which heating solution to adopt, (b) to secure a faculty for it, and (c) to install it, it was likely that the church would be unusable for worship for much of the coming winter. The PCC would be invited to agree alternative arrangements, which might include transferring some services to St Katherine's Chapel, and others to either the Community Hall or Burgage Hall.

Action: Andrew Beech

Pews

736. Andrew Beech would consult a joiner to see how easily those pews intended to become mobile could be moved on casters similar to those used on hospital beds. Subject to this being possible, the PCC would be invited to agree to a faculty being applied for.

Action: Andrew Beech

Trinity altar

737. The Diocesan Woodwork Adviser, Rachel Sycamore, had examined the Trinity altar. She said that it was well built of oak, although there was no indication as to who built it. The altar was of 20th century date (probably 1940s-1950s), and is of low significance. The PCC will be invited to apply for a faculty to transfer the altar and its frontals to St Helen's, Hangleton, Hove, Sussex. The diocese had confirmed that the altar would not need to be deconsecrated before its move to Sussex.

Action: Andrew Beech

Catering Unit

738. It was hoped that a catering unit could be established along the west wall of the Chapter House. This would require a water supply to be piped from the toilet block, and a waste water drain too. The whole would require a faculty. Andrew Beech is to meet those organising church catering to establish what is needed before any further decisions are taken.

Action: Andrew Beech

¹ It transpired that the boiler was, as expected, beyond repair

Other fabric issues

739. The contract for the roof valley repairs had been let, but the work had yet to take place. A meeting with the church architect had had to be postponed at her request. It was hoped that it would take place before the PCC meeting. David Houghton will speak to Hugo Mason to see whether other firms of architects might be able to take on St Michael's.

Action: David Houghton

Moveable objects

740. The diocese were unable to offer anyone with knowledge of hallmarks. David Houghton will speak to J B Gaynan & Son (Ledbury jewellers) to see what could be achieved.

Action: David Houghton

741. At the time of her inspection of the Trinity altar, the Diocesan Woodwork Advisor had also examined the 17th century chest near the north door of the church. The bottom had fallen out of this chest due to its being overloaded in the past. Rachel Sycamore said that grants were available to fund a report on the condition and significance of this chest, and to advise on its conservation. Charity grants would also be available to fund the restoration itself. It was agreed that Rachel should be asked to draw up an application for grant aid.

Action: Churchwardens

Safeguarding

742. Nothing to report.

Other business

743. Cath Beech pointed out that the church needed a food handling and hygiene policy. She would work on this for the November PCC meeting.

Date of next meeting

744. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 6 November at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.

The meeting closed with prayer.