



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee - 6 November 2023

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

745. The meeting opened with Psalm 92 and prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 3 September

746. These were agreed unanimously.

Awayday

747. The awayday had concluded that the church should concentrate on increasing the amount of teaching given (including reviving the third Thursday sessions), on prayer, on communication and on additional social events, possibly on Sunday afternoons. The churchwardens would prepare a paper for the PCC. Cath Beech had discussed with Anne Scull whether she would take forward the prayer element. This would be subject to PCC agreement.

Action: Churchwardens

Communications

748. It was agreed that Keith Hilton-Turvey and Stephen Cheetham would meet Sarah Whitelock (Diocesan Director of Communications) to consider how the church might improve its social media presence.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey/Stephen Cheetham

749. David Houghton will have the noticeboard at the entrance to the churchyard brought up to date. He and Ian James will find an upholsterer to tidy up the noticeboards in the outer porch.

Action: David Houghton/Ian James

The Great Switch-Off

750. BT were to discontinue the use of analogue telephones (“landlines”) from 2025. This will not affect the church, as the church phone is digital.

Finance

751. Stephen Cheetham reported that income is ahead of budget, with Parish Giving, use of the electronic giving box and cash giving all strong. The new box is now operational; the spare Goodbox will be given to St Mary the Virgin, Bishop’s Frome. It was noted that the provision of temporary heating will affect church finances.

752. It was agreed that Stephen will continue to do Eastnor’s diocesan returns whilst their existing treasurer is in place.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Performing Rights Society (PRS)

753. Keith Hilton-Turvey had completed the 2022 return; Cath Beech will complete the 2023 one. Keith will contact PRS to determine whether a flat rate payment would be more appropriate for the church.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey/Cath Beech

Temporary heating solution

754. Both quotes for the hire of temporary boilers were very high (the lowest being £31,000 (plus fitting) for a six month hire (the minimum period available)). Hiring radiant heaters was also expensive, and it would be cheaper to purchase them. Hiring a marquee to sit outside the Chapter House as an overflow to the Chapter House, was also very expensive, at £125/week for a minimum six month contract.

755. It was agreed that the purchase of eight Herschel Colorado 2.5kW heaters, together with stands to support them, would be recommended to the PCC. These could subsequently be reused as part of the permanent heating solution. David Houghton will discuss how the proposed heaters would be wired in with an electrician. Andrew Beech pointed out that diocesan permission would be required. He will discuss this with Stephen Challenger (DAC Secretary).

Action: David Houghton/Andrew Beech

Permanent heating solution

756. The Fabric Sub-Committee had met. To secure a faculty for any solution we will need to show that all possible options had been considered. The Sub-Committee were working on this. It looked, tentatively, as though under-pew heating for the nave (but not the side aisles) might become the preferred option, with the radiant heaters purchased as part of the temporary solution being available for redeployment elsewhere, such as the Chapter House, Trinity and St Anne’s. A heat curtain might be deployed above the north door to cut out draughts and provide a more comfortable space as people enter the church.

757. Andrew Beech had sought advice from the diocese about increasing the number of solar panels on the church roof. The response was not encouraging. Opposition on grounds of the visual impact (any additional panels would be visible from the ground and neighbouring properties) would be certain and the granting of a faculty was unlikely.

Fabric

Roof valley repairs

758. The gutters and tiles on the eastern upper room had been repaired. Work on the main roof valleys was highly weather dependent, and this work might have to wait until Spring 2024.

Pews

759. Work on this was ongoing.

Action: Andrew Beech

Trinity altar

760. A faculty to allow the transfer of the altar to Sussex had been applied for.

Catering Unit

761. A meeting with Richard Smith to consider what might be possible had been arranged for 11 November.

Action: Andrew Beech/David Houghton

Sound system

762. Two quotes had been received. Keith and Benjamin Hilton-Turvey will seek to compare them and make a recommendation to the PCC.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey/Benjamin Hilton-Turvey

Church silver

763. J B Gaynan & Son (Ledbury jewellers) had lent David Houghton a book of British hallmarks. He and Andrew Beech would seek to identify those currently unidentified.

Action: David Houghton/Andrew Beech

Safeguarding

764. Nothing to report.

Matters arising

765. Keith Hilton-Turvey will chase up responsibility for the clock on St Katherine's chapel in the event of the lease being transferred to LEAF. It was noted that Herefordshire Council had withdrawn the Community Grant Fund funding, but that LEAF still wish to go ahead with the St Katherine's Hall project.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Forthcoming dates

766. It was agreed that meetings up to the end of 2024 would take place on: 28 December 2023, 4 March 2024, 6 May 2024, 1 July 2024, 2 September 2024 and 4 November 2024.

Other business

767. All but one of the regular congregation at the 08.00 Communion service had asked that the service be moved to St Katharine's chapel until such time as heating was available again in St Michael's. It was agreed that Andrew Beech would consult the PCC by email. If agreed the service would transfer from Sunday, 12 November.

Action: Andrew Beech

Date of next meeting

768. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 28 December at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.

The meeting closed at 9.44pm with prayer.