



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee - 28 December 2023

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

Apologies: Stephen Cheetham

769. The meeting opened with Psalm 36 and prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 6 November

770. These were agreed unanimously.

Vision

771. Dates had been agreed for two Thursday evening events thus far. It was agreed that the prayer for the church in 2024 should be turned into a bookmark. Anne Scull had volunteered to assist with the prayer element of the vision, and it was decided to invite her and Georgina Hicks to take this forward jointly.

772. It was agreed that the churchwardens would seek to discuss with Christine Walters her proposal for regular teas.

Action: Churchwardens

Communications

773. Keith Hilton-Turvey and Stephen Cheetham had still to meet Sarah Whitelock (Diocesan Director of Communications) to consider how the church might improve its social media presence.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey/Stephen Cheetham

Review of church procedures

774. It was agreed that this review needed to take place. In addition to existing policies, it was felt that a risk assessment should be produced covering the use of the church for external events, and one to cover lone working on the premises. The churchwardens and

PCC secretary would draw up a list of existing policies and procedures. For the March PCC Meeting.

Action: Churchwardens/Andrew Beech

Prayers of Love and Faith

775. The bishop had issued an *ad clerum* notice about Prayers of Love and Faith. There is concern about potential exposure to litigation arising from church policy on this issue, as it is left up to individual incumbents whether to use the prayers or not. For the March Standing Committee.

Finance

776. Stephen Cheetham had yet to produce a draft budget for 2024. This was now a matter of urgency. Keith Hilton-Turvey had issued Julian Cooke a carbon copy invoice book, to enable him to be paid for digging ashes plots.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Temporary heating installation

777. The installation is in place. A barrier had been put across the armoured cables, to prevent further tripping. A response is awaited from Phil Cutter about how these cables might be covered up better.

Action: David Houghton

Fabric

Permanent heating solution

778. The Fabric Sub-Committee continued to work on this, but had drawn a blank on finding someone to advise on under pew heating. Hereford diocese does not have a heating adviser and those of Gloucester and Worcester dioceses had too much other work on. Andrew Beech will contact Derek Chedzey to see whether the Bristol diocese adviser might be able to help.

Action: Andrew Beech

Roof valley repairs

779. It had been agreed that this work would wait until the better weather (hopefully) in Spring 2024.

Upper rooms

780. Plans for this work were awaited from Caroe and Partners.

Pews

781. The quote for this work was considerably higher than expected. The PCC would be asked whether they are prepared to accept it.

Action: Andrew Beech

Trinity altar

782. Public consultation on the proposal to transfer the altar to Sussex was under way.

Catering Unit

783. The Fabric Sub-Committee will consider proposals from Richard Smith that had been received.

Action: Fabric Sub-Committee

Sound system

784. List B approval had been granted for the replacement sound system. It will be installed on 5-9 February 2024.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey/Benjamin Hilton-Turvey

The old wooden chest

785. The Church Buildings Council, which administers grants from the Pilgrim Trust, had offered £200 towards the cost of a condition survey and restoration proposal on the 17th century oak chest near the north door of the church. It was agreed that the church would contribute the remaining £50 towards the cost of this report.

Church silver

786. No action to report.

Action: David Houghton/Andrew Beech

Safeguarding

787. Nothing to report. Carl Steventon had replaced Mandy McPhee as Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

Matters arising

788. Cath Beech reported that the Performing Rights Society had reduced the amount that the church needed to pay. She proposed that those organising external concerts should be asked to pay any costs arising from those concerts. This was agreed.

Other business

789. Cath will send Andrew a paper from the diocese on a Code of Conduct for PCCs. Andrew will circulate it to the PCC.

Action: Cath Beech/Andrew Beech

790. The 08.00 Communion service will move back into the church from 7 January 2024.

Date of next meeting

791. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 29 February 2024 at The Croft, Woodleigh Road. Please note the change of date.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm with prayer.