



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee – 1 July 2024

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

842. The meeting opened with Psalm 105:1-10 and prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 7 May

843. These were agreed unanimously and signed.

Awayday follow-up

844. Cath Beech was to circulate a paper the following day after a meeting on prayer, to be held at the rectory. No progress had been made on communications – the meeting between the Rector, Stephen Cheetham and Sarah Whitcombe from the diocese had still to take place. The future timetable of Thursday teaching sessions had now been put in place.

Action: Cath Beech

APCM resolution on the role of women

845. The Rector had sent a paper setting out his views and the underlying reasoning for them to the churchwardens. The churchwardens would discuss a date for an additional PCC meeting to discuss specifically this issue with Rev. Chris Moore, Rural Dean, who would be asked to chair it.

Action: Churchwardens

Policies and procedures

846. John Hainsworth had agreed to assist Cath Beech in completing the church risk assessment. A lone working policy will also be drafted. Policies on finance and safeguarding will be presented to the July PCC. It was recognized that it might not be possible to have the health and safety policy ready in time.

Action: Cath Beech

Net Carbon Zero Demonstrator Church

847. Will Wake, appointed church green champion at the previous PCC, had met Lorna Theophilus from the diocese to discuss the way forward.

Volunteers

848. Tim Keyes will speak to the July PCC about how to address the lack of volunteers within the church to take on the various roles needed. This was a problem widely faced by a number of (but not all) volunteer organisations.

Finance

849. Stephen Cheetham had submitted a finance report. A legacy of £20,000 and reduced expenditure on maintenance had produced a surplus. It was, however, acknowledged that expenditure on the church roof might be expected soon.

Fabric

850. Andrew Beech reported:

Permanent heating solution

- A document for presentation to the PCC (a) setting out the present position, and (b) recommending acceptance of a quote for consultancy work on the project was agreed;

Roof valley repairs

- There had been no further developments. The architects continued to chase the contractor;

Upper rooms

- It was agreed that work on this project would be suspended until the heating had been attended to, unless further work on the floor of the room over the north porch revealed the need for emergency strengthening of the joists;

Pews

- Public consultation on the faculty application was under way;

Trinity altar

- A decision from the Diocesan Chancellor was still awaited;

Catering Unit

- Work on this project was suspended until progress had been made on the heating;

Bells – noise abatement

- Tim Keyes would address the PCC. He wishes the PCC to allocate the money left over from the bells project to noise abatement measures. Some neighbours had complained about increased noise from the bells, and had approached the local councillor seeking a Noise Abatement Order. In discussion it was agreed that the case for a Noise Abatement Order was hopeless, as the bells were being rung centuries before the neighbours moved in. Tim would be encouraged to negotiate, perhaps, that the bells be rung on fewer occasions, if this is the real reason for the neighbours' concern;

Funerary monuments

- A survey carried out in 2019 had revealed four monuments in need of attention, two of them in the Biddulph tomb area. Lord Biddulph has now shown interest in paying for those two to be repaired. The PCC would be updated on this, and asked to pay for the repair of the other two.

Church silver

851. No action to report.

Action: David Houghton

Safeguarding

852. Nothing to report. Changes to the DBS rules meant that the PCC now had to approve all appointments to posts within the church that required a DBS check. Annie Lindon would submit two for approval at the July PCC meeting.

Other business

853. The PCC will be asked to approve an increase in the Director of Music's fees from £450/month to £500/month. Stephen Cheetham declared an interest and will not vote.

854. It was agreed unanimously that the PCC should be encouraged to agree that Max's Fish Stall be set up in the churchyard on 10 October, during the Mop Fair.

Action: Andrew Beech

Date of next meeting

855. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 2 September at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm with prayer.