



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee – 3 March 2025

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

903. The meeting opened with Psalm 85 and prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 3 February

904. These were agreed unanimously and signed.

Follow-up to 4 September meeting

905. It was agreed that no further progress could be expected in seeking to resolve the resolution passed at the APCM 2024. Maria Dineen's paper was a good summary of the position. It was agreed that the PCC should be asked to recognise this formally, prior to the APCM being informed.

Action: Churchwardens

Policies and procedures

906. The church risk assessment remained outstanding.

Action: Cath Beech

Volunteering

907. There had been little response to the churchwardens' letter. It was agreed that a working party will be set up to take things forward. 25 May will be designated Volunteering Sunday.

Action: Churchwardens

Finance

908. An amended version of the accounts for 2024 was with the accountants. Giving by church members remains below budget. Money received from the Heaton bequest will be put in a deposit account, where it can be expected to yield some 4% interest. Andrew Beech argued that it should be used to fund the heating, and completion of the work recommended in the current quinquennial report, and the remainder invested. Stephen Cheetham will consult Church of England guidance about the investment.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

909. It was agreed that the PCC will be invited to restore previous levels of Parish Share.

Action: Cath Beech

910. Prior to repayment of the church funds held by them (some £5,700) E.On require payment for disconnecting the gas meter. Andrew Beech will arrange this.

Action: Andrew Beech

Fabric

Permanent heating solution

911. The Fabric Sub-Committee had met to discuss the Ingleton Wood report. They recommend a three-phase implementation of the heating arrangements:

- a) Installation of a new electric boiler and any associated pipework that needs replacing; retention of the existing radiators in the church pending a further assessment of need; wall-mounted permanent installation of four of the radiant heaters already purchased in St Anne's chapel and the other four in the Chapter House;
- b) Review of delivery systems for heat within the church, notably whether to install some form of fin tubed heating within the heating ducts in the nave and (possibly) remove some or all of the existing wall mounted radiators; consider, alternatively, under-pew heating; possible wall panel heater in the vestry; possible heat curtain above north door, possible halo radiant heaters at east and west ends of the north aisle;
- c) Removal of current (almost time-expired) PV cells from the roof; replacement with up to 200 new PV cells, depending upon the reaction of the planning authorities and statutory consultees.

Separate faculties would be applied for each of these stages; the first to enable early implementation, the second to allow for more time to plan, and the third because the third proposal is likely to prove very controversial.

The Standing Committee agreed that the PCC should be invited to agree the three stage approach in principle, subject to greater clarification of installation and running costs.

Action: Andrew Beech

Upper room floor and roof valley repairs

912. The church had lost contact with the inspecting architects to supervise these two areas of work. Two alternative architectural practices had been interviewed, and it was hoped that one of them could be appointed quickly.

Spire

913. It was hoped that the Heaton bequest, together with input from the Friends, might speed this work along.

Pews

914. The joiner was expected to start work the following week.

Trinity altar

915. Keith Hilton-Turvey reported that advice from Chichester Diocese was awaited.

Safeguarding

916. Nothing to report.

Other business

917. There will be a VE Day celebration planning meeting on 11 March. Ledbury Town Council are looking at possible arrangements for a bonfire on the tower parapet. Once the church is content with these, the insurers will need to be consulted.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Date of next meeting

918. The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on 19 May at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.

The meeting closed at 9.14 pm with prayer.