



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee - 6 September 2021

Present: Julian l'Anson (Churchwarden, Chair)
David Houghton (Churchwarden)
Andrew Beech
Catherine Beech

Apologies: Keith Hilton-Turvey (Rector)

424. The meeting opened with prayer.

Minutes of meeting held on 6 July 2021

425. These were agreed unanimously.

Worship - lifting of Covid restrictions

426. Whilst the 08.00 service is to be paper based, it was noted that the rector wishes to maintain things as they are in the 10.00 service for the time being. It was unanimously hoped that the relaxation to the *status quo ante Covid* will take place quickly. It was felt that the production of a paper pew sheet was especially important (more so than the use of paper Orders of Service) as many of the older members didn't use the internet.

Church office

427. Sarah Williams had been issued with a draft contract. Andrew Beech would write to her formally to issue the contract. David Houghton will send Andrew a draft letter for the purpose. Once the contract is in place more work will be needed to sort out the office finances. It was especially important that a proper invoicing system was established.

Action: David Houghton/Andrew Beech

Electoral roll officer

428. Ian James had volunteered to take on this role. It was felt that he would do a good and conscientious job, and should be recommended to the PCC.

Action: Andrew Beech

Reviews

429. The baptism review is under way. Diana Veasey will be invited to produce a note for the PCC.

Action: Andrew Beech

430. It was noted that the LMDG Strategy review was not yet under way. Keith had agreed that it might be chaired by someone other than him, but no chair had yet been appointed. Seeking assistance from diocesan expertise remains outstanding. To the PCC.

431. The team for the youth work review would be: Ian Beer, Jill Jupp, Mary Anne Keyes and Oliver Wake. To the PCC to appoint a chair.

432. The committee to carry out the pastoral care review had been appointed by the PCC, but no chair had yet been appointed. It was not known whether Margaret Neal had agreed to serve on the group, or whether Keith Hilton-Turvey had approached Bill McKenzie about serving on it. To the PCC.

433. The communications study was well under way. A further recommendation would be brought to the PCC and implementation of previously agreed recommendations reviewed.

434. Restarting the magazine would also need to be discussed by the PCC. Helen I'Anson would be invited to speak to the PCC about this, which would be placed as first item on the agenda.

Action: Andrew Beech

Finance

435. A finance report will be available for the PCC.

436. Cath Beech reported that the church had received a legacy of £10,500. Whilst the donor, John Shackleton, was not known to have any particular ways in which the church should use the legacy in mind, Cath thought that it was too large to absorb into running costs, and proposed that this be allocated towards funding the audio-visual equipment.

437. In the absence of David Kirkham, who is unwell, Cath will ask Tony Goodall for advice on defining the role of Stewardship Secretary. It was thought that this role could be offered to Ayo Adewale.

438. Cath Beech reported that the card reader had raised over £600 during August. She wondered whether the resolution of the picture on the machine could be improved by Goodbox (at a cost of £80-100) or Richard Thursby's son-in-law, who produced the original, could be asked to amend it. David Houghton will speak to Vera Thursby to see whether the latter might be possible. Cath also wondered whether a more prominent machine that allows people easily to increase the amount they wish to give might be purchased for the church, in which case the existing machine could go in the tower, or possibly be offered to LEAF. The signage had been improved by Jeremy Jackson.

Action: David Houghton

439. The PCC will need to agree the Parish Share. The figure to be recommended will depend upon the outcome of the review of office finances, which should be available by the time of the PCC meeting.

St Katherine's Hall

440. The business plan is currently with the Dean and trustees. It is hoped that a meeting will take place before the end of October. The church office has been instructed to inform hirers that it is not permitted to park immediately outside the building.

Reordering

441. An architect who gives advisory time *pro bono* to major churches was to visit SMAA the following day to discuss the reordering ideas. It was agreed that lunch for the meeting (cost £78) would be sourced from the Malthouse.

Fabric Sub-Committee

442. Andrew Beech will report to the PCC on progress with the tower parapet work, and repair of the floor slabs damaged by the cherry picker.

Polidoro Last Supper

443. Andrew expressed unhappiness at the promotion within the church of Ronald Moore's book claiming that some of the Polidoro Last Supper painting was by the hand of Titian. The wider art world had not accepted this claim, and he felt that the church should not be promoting such a contentious proposition. Julian l'Anson mentioned that a former colleague of Helen's, from the Colnaghi art dealership in London, had offered to inspect the painting. To the PCC.

Parish registers

444. Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre had asked whether parish registers that they hold could be placed online. This was agreed. Andrew Beech will write to HARC giving the church's agreement.

Action: Andrew Beech

PCC minutes

445. Diana Veasey had expressed unhappiness at the way in which some comments had been reflected in PCC minutes. Andrew Beech said that the minutes were consistent with the advice on minutes in *Practical Church Management* by James Behrens. It was agreed that no further action would be taken.

Church risk assessment

446. David Houghton pointed out that LEAF's insurers required the production of a risk assessment for the hall. Individual risk assessments (e.g. fire) exist for SMAA, but not an overall one. Cath Beech will check with the church's insurers that their requirements are being complied with.

Action: Cath Beech

North porch clearance

447. A letter had been sent to the Archdeacon requesting permission to dispose of material from above the north porch. David Houghton will discuss with Chris Noël the restoration of historic bibles kept in the church.

Action: David Houghton

Church spring clean

448. It was agreed that David Houghton will seek to recruit people to clean the church of cobwebs etc before the Advent services.

Action: David Houghton

Funerary monuments

449. Andrew Beech will chase Mareva Conservation about conserving the monuments most in need of work.

Action: Andrew Beech

Graveyard

450. Andrew Beech will write to the town council asking whether a condition assessment had been carried out in respect of the gravestones within the churchyard, as had been done in respect of those in the town cemetery.

Action: Andrew Beech

Other business

451. Cath Beech will look at charges imposed by other halls in the town, and bring a proposal to the PCC about the amount external organisations (such as Ledbury Choral Society) should be charged for the use of the church.

Action: Cath Beech

452. Julian l'Anson requested that a better place be found to house the choir during Sunday services. Andrew Beech requested that there be less music during communion to allow time for quiet reflection and prayer.

453. It was agreed that David Houghton would approach Shane Howells about replacing the perspex in the church notice board.

Action: David Houghton

Next meeting

454. The next Standing Committee meeting will be held on 1 November at 7.30pm in the meeting room.

455. It was agreed that Tony Hodder should be invited to the PCC meeting on 29 September to update the PCC about developments with LEAF, and that Mandy McPhee should be invited to attend to discuss safeguarding. It was hoped that Keith Hilton-Turvey had already invited her. In Keith's absence on leave, it was agreed that David Houghton would check whether this had happened.

Action: Andrew Beech/David Houghton

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.