



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee – 7 July 2025

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

Apologies: Stephen Cheetham

936. The meeting opened with Psalm 70 and prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 19 May

937. These were agreed unanimously.

Volunteering

938. Two meetings had been held thus far of the volunteering group. Illness in the Keyes family had delayed matters.

939. Some suggestions were made as to potential replacements for Benjamin Hilton-Turvey in operating the AV equipment. Cath Beech will discuss with Mary Anne Keyes whether LEAF might provide someone.

Action: Cath Beech

940. It was noted that the sound equipment was experiencing difficulties. This was something to do with the HDMI connection to the laptop. Cath will seek to involve Jason Box (local computer expert) in solving the problem. Mr. Box will also be asked about replacing the office computer, which is past its best. Andrew Beech will check whether the original faculty provided for the installation of a sound desk, as proposed in the supplier's estimate, but which was never actually installed¹.

Action: Cath Beech

941. As the insurance company had agreed to meet the cost of repairing the organ, it was agreed that this work could go ahead. Andrew Beech will inform Kate Cheetham.

¹ It does. The List B approval, granted on 9 December 2023, provides for the installation of the entire original proposal.

Action: Andrew Beech

Services

942. The rector and churchwardens had agreed to re-instate some of the ceremonial in worship that had been dropped since the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020. This will include bringing forward the elements before communion, which it was hoped that the communion servers would do each week (starting in September), occasional use of the processional cross at the start of services, monthly presentation of prayers left in church and giving thanks for offerings.

Finance

943. The meeting noted the finance report from the treasurer.

Fabric

Inspecting architect

944. Interviews of potential candidates will take place during July.

Permanent heating solution

945. Andrew Beech had accompanied Ian Mather to a meeting with Stephen Challenger (DAC Secretary, Hereford) and Ian Hill (Diocesan Environmental Adviser). The meeting had been very positive. The diocesan representatives had found the proposals for a replacement heating system acceptable and hoped that they would be approved. It was agreed, however, that the faculty process can be fairly slow once started, and that therefore it would make sense to apply additionally for a second, emergency, faculty in parallel with the main one, for a short-term solution involving the installation of a second-hand boiler, to provide heat until the air-source heat pumps could be installed. Ian Mather's report to the church was expected within a couple of weeks, and would be presented to the PCC.

Upper room floor

946. This work was currently out to tender.

Roof valley repairs and spire

947. No progress to report.

Pews

948. The work was complete, but the pews to be removed were still *in situ*. Andrew Beech would speak to the joiner about this, and also ask him whether he could repair the collapsed shelving in the music cupboard, and also to install a replacement noticeboard in the north porch (see below).

Action: Andrew Beech

Churchyard gates

949. An offer had been made of volunteer labour to sand down and repaint the churchyard gates. Andrew Beech will speak to the town council, who are responsible for maintaining the churchyard including the gates, to see if they would be content.

Action: Andrew Beech

Signage

950. Some time ago, David Houghton and Ian James were to re-cover the noticeboard at the eastern side of the entrance to the north porch. In practice the noticeboard is rotten and needs replacing. Andrew Beech will speak to the joiner about doing so (see above).

951. Concern was expressed about the visual impact of notices (about concerts etc.) attached to the church gates. It was suggested that a lockable noticeboard might be a suitable alternative.

Safeguarding

952. The PCC will be updated about progress on the previously notified issue. Members will also be reminded to adhere to the PCC Code of Conduct.

Other business

953. It was agreed unanimously that £100 should be given annually for the two Heaton flower arrangements.

Date of next meeting

954. The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on 1 September at The Croft, Woodleigh Road. The September PCC meeting will be chaired by David Houghton, as Keith Hilton-Turvey will be on holiday.

The meeting closed at 9.38 pm with prayer.