



# St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

## Minutes of Standing Committee – 5 January 2026

**Present:** David Houghton (Churchwarden)(Chair)  
Catherine Beech (Churchwarden)  
Andrew Beech  
Stephen Cheetham  
Will Wake

**992.** David Houghton welcomed Will Wake to his first Standing Committee meeting.

### Minutes of the meeting on 3 November

**993.** These were agreed unanimously.

### Administrative support

**994.** The churchwardens were to meet Chloe Garner (Administrator) the following day. It was felt important that no-one other than the churchwardens should be allowed to allocate work to her to avoid chaos. A Vonage phone connection will be arranged. Stephen Cheetham pointed out that a better invoicing system needs to be put in place, which was agreed.

### **Action: Churchwardens**

### Vacancy

**995.** The church needs to appoint a small panel to produce the parish profile. It was suggested that these might be: Tim Keyes (Chair), David Houghton, Andrew Beech and Margaret Chapman. Work needs to take place quickly, as the profile needs to be signed off by the March PCC if the post is to be advertised immediately after Easter.

### Volunteering

**996.** Vanessa Skelton has volunteered to run the intercessions rota and to be a vergger. Sonia Bowen had also volunteered as a vergger. The vergger nominations will go to the PCC for approval.

### **Action: Andrew Beech**

## Finance

**997.** Stephen Cheetham introduced the draft accounts for 2025. Giving by the congregation remains low. Andrew Beech agreed to seek increased giving from them, on the basis that running the new heating has to be paid for, and they are the people to do it.

**Action: Andrew Beech**

**998.** Stephen Cheetham will write a draft investment strategy for discussion at subsequent meetings. It was agreed that the March PCC should discuss the charitable donations policy.

**Action: Stephen Cheetham**

## Net Zero Demonstrator Church

**999.** It is a requirement of the faculty allowing for the installation of the boiler that the church become net zero, effectively by Spring 2028<sup>1</sup>. Will Wake will be liaising with the Net Zero Grants Committee towards this end. The Committee had disputed some of the conclusions of the Mather report; Ian Mather's response to the comments was awaited. It was hoped that this would soon be cleared up so that progress could be made. The Committee have quite sizeable grants available towards the cost of a new system, including replacement PV cells on the church roof.

**Action: Will Wake**

**1000.** Will Wake suggested inviting Abi Hiscock (Net Zero team, Church House) and Ian Hill (Diocesan Environmental Adviser) to speak to the PCC about how to comply with Net Zero, and ways in which the central church could help St Michaels. Once the response to the Net Zero Grants Panel's comments on the Mather report had been received, it was agreed that it might be a good idea for Andrew Beech and Will Wake to visit Church House to find a way through any deadlock, should this arise.

**1001.** Given the pressures on the March PCC to agree papers and panels for the appointment process, it was agreed that an additional PCC would be required to consider the Net Zero arrangements.

## Fabric

### Permanent heating solution

**1002.** The boiler was working. A few more steps to complete the commissioning process were required.

**1003.** A meeting with the church architect to discuss other outstanding issues would take place in mid-January.

## Safeguarding

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. Chris Moore (Rural Dean) has confirmed that it is unlikely that General Synod would be able to complete the legislation to put the 2030 date for achieving Net Zero back in time, even were the willingness to do so there.

**1004.** There were no current cases. Maria Dineen will produce job descriptions for the various roles that require DBS checking. Some of these already exist, and Maria will liaise with Annie Lindon about them.

### **Other business**

**1005.** It was agreed that the Romanian church would not be charged for the use of St Michaels. David Houghton will notify Fr. Cosmin of this.

***Action: David Houghton***

**1006.** Andrew Younie had left the WRDG. The PCC will be asked to agree that Val Houghton should join the Group.

***Action: David Houghton***

### **Date of next meeting**

**1007.** The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on 2 March at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm with prayer.