



# St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

## Minutes of Standing Committee – 2 March 2026

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

**Apologies:** Stephen Cheetham

**1008.** David Houghton opened the meeting with prayer.

### Minutes of the meeting on 5 January

**1009.** These were agreed unanimously.

### Vacancy

**1010.** David Houghton explained that the Parish Profile group were to meet the next day, and were making good progress. It was agreed that Tim Keyes (Chair of the Parish Profile group) would be invited to the PCC to present the profile and Statement of Needs, and to lead the discussion.

### **Action: Andrew Beech**

**1011.** It was not known when the bishop would call the Section 12 meeting formally to appoint the interview panel.<sup>1</sup> It was agreed that the Ledbury lay members might be the churchwardens; Will Wake proposed that he should nominate them. This will be discussed first at the PCC meeting.

### Finance

**1012.** The Charity Commission had belatedly concluded that a full audit of the church accounts was required this year, given the size of the Heaton bequest. It was noted that the time this would take will require the APCM to be postponed. Recent documents received show that diocesan finances are in a much better condition than previously thought.

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<sup>1</sup> The meeting of the two PCCs chaired by Archdeacon Chedzey on 3 December 2025 was the meeting held under Section 11 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. The Section 12 meeting is the follow-up, at which the interview panel will be agreed.

## **Safeguarding**

**1014.** No new cases had come to light. The position of the Parochial Safeguarding Officer (PSO) had been clarified. In the absence of a rector or PSO, this duty falls to the churchwardens. However, it had been agreed that every case brought to their attention would be forwarded to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (now Lisa Anderson) for action as appropriate.

## **Sound**

**1013.** The sound system is to be upgraded on 16 and 17 March. The church will be closed on both these dates at the request of the contractors. The contractors will be asked to look at the audiovisual system as well, as this has failed. Cath Beech will ask Charlie Peacock for a wiring diagram of the audio system to pass to the contractors.

**Action: Cath Beech**

## **Fabric**

**1015.** Will Wake had responded to the letter from the Church Buildings Council setting the terms for the offer of grant under the Net Zero project. A grant-aided bat survey is required as part of this, and Will Wake will arrange for this to take place.

**Action: Will Wake**

**1016.** A contractor had been tasked with removing the temporary radiant heaters from the nave. The heaters will be redeployed in due course in St Anne's Chapel and the Chapter House (subject to faculty).

**1017.** A meeting with the contractors who are to carry out the work on the upper room floor would take place before the PCC meeting.

## **Churchyard**

**1018.** Men in Sheds (an Age UK project) have proposed that a community bench be erected by them somewhere in Ledbury. Ledbury Town Council had proposed that it might sit in the churchyard. In discussion it was felt that the bench might be sited on the west side of the church alongside the path that runs from the church gates to Cabbage Lane, as this is much used by members of the community.

**1019.** Ledbury Town Council had also suggested that they create a "no mow" area somewhere in the churchyard. It was felt that this was a good idea in principle. Both proposals will be put to the PCC for agreement.

**Action: Andrew Beech**

## **Service books**

**1020.** Some celebrants prefer that the congregation use service books rather than the screen. The PCC will be asked to agree that this may happen on an occasional basis. Whilst the audiovisual system is out of action, this will in any event be necessary at all services.

***Action: Andrew Beech***

## **GDPR**

**1021.** The churchwardens are to look at GDPR (a) to ensure that the church is compliant, and (b) to bring it into the administration portfolio.

***Action: Churchwardens***

## **Other business**

**1022.** A request had been made that some of the church silver held in Hereford be retrieved for use at Easter. It was agreed that this would be a good idea for future years, but this year everyone had too much else to do.

**1023.** David Houghton will ask the WRDG to discuss whether Latin should continue to be used in services. It was pointed out that this seems to contradict the spirit (if not the letter) of Article 24 of the Articles of Religion.

***Action: David Houghton***

**1024.** It was noted that minor acts of vandalism had been taking place in the church. The service book will henceforth be kept in the safe.

***Action: Churchwardens***

**1025.** A request had been made to hold a Graham Kendrick concert in the church. It was agreed that, were the proposers to go ahead, they would need to organise all details of the concert, stewarding, publicity and also to obtain liability insurance.

## **Date of next meeting**

**1026.** The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on 4 May at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm with prayer.