



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee – 4 May 2026

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

1027. David Houghton opened the meeting with 1 Peter 1:3-9 and prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 2 March

1028. These were agreed unanimously.

Vacancy

1029. The Parish Profile and Statement of Needs had been well received. The Orientation Day will be on 23 June, with interviews taking place the following day. It was agreed that Kevin Hewison might be asked to organise the Orientation Day; even though he is relatively new to Ledbury, he has been lay co-chair of the Ledbury Deanery for some years whilst based at Withington. It was thought that Val Tatham and Margaret Adowale might be the other Ledbury representatives, together with one from Eastnor. David Houghton will sound out the above, and Jo Potts at Eastnor, prior to the names being put to the PCC for agreement.

Action: David Houghton

Finance

1030. Giving remains weak. Stephen Cheetham had been encouraging people to give by drawing their attention to the collection plate. It was agreed that this might be a job for the new welcoming team in future.

1031. The audit has yet to be completed; Stephen Cheetham has chased and will do so again. This may mean that the printed Annual Report and Accounts are not available two weeks before the APCM on 27 May as is normal practice. If this is the case, Andrew Beech will offer to email the report and unaudited accounts to any who ask to see them.

Action: Stephen Cheetham/Andrew Beech

Parish Offer

1032. The PCC will be asked to agree that the Parish Offer be maintained at its current level. In discussion, Andrew Beech felt that it should be reduced to help meet the cost of greening the church.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Charitable donations

1033. Discussion was deferred to July because of Jan James' illness.

Relations with LEAF

1034. The churchwardens had had an inconclusive discussion with Tim and MaryAnne Keyes about St Michaels' own outreach, and the use of church premises by LEAF. Andrew Beech mentioned that LEAF had been asked to clear their material out of the meeting room by 13 July to allow the upper room floor work to go ahead.

Catering

1035. Ian Stainburn had agreed to join the catering group, but Sonia Bowen no longer had the time to contribute, being busy on other activities. It was agreed that Andrew Beech will ask Maggie MacKenzie whether she would be willing to join the group in place of Sonia.

Action: Andrew Beech

Projector

1036. The company that had ironed the bugs out of the sound system have looked as well at the projector. The problem seems to lie with the cable, and the company will investigate further. A dedicated soundboard has been recommended. It was felt that this might lie adjacent to the north-easternmost pillar in the nave. There is little footfall there, and it would be in no-one's eyeline.

Action: David Houghton

Fabric

1037. Will Wake is seeking to arrange a meeting between the CofE Net Zero team's Technical Advice Service, the diocesan environmental officers of both Hereford and Worcester, and Ian Mather. Hopefully this meeting will agree a way forward to achieving a Net Zero solution for SMAA. Once done, the signing off on the solution by the Net Zero Grants team would be virtually a given. Fundraising support will also become available.

Action: Will Wake

1038. Will Wake confirmed that the cost of the architect's work on the PV cells is eligible for recovery under the Net Zero grant already offered to the church. This work is still underway. A meeting with the architect was to take place on 8 May.

1039. David Houghton pointed out that the churchyard gate pillars needed attention. Andrew Beech will ask the architect for advice.

Action: Andrew Beech

GDPR

1040. It was believed that the church complied with GDPR as regards the collection of data, but the processes for its removal might need attention. Abi Wake will write round to members.

Action: Abi Wake

Carnival float

1041. The church had been offered a float in the Ledbury Carnival on 31 August. It was felt that the churchwardens would be too busy this year to progress things. But if someone else were to wish to take this on, and to do it well, the Standing Committee wished them well. To the PCC.

Other business

1042. David Houghton had yet to ask the WRDG to discuss whether Latin should continue to be used in services.

Action: David Houghton

Date of next meeting

1043. The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on 6 July at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.

The meeting closed with prayer.