



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee – 6 July 2026

Present: David Houghton (Churchwarden)(Chair)
Catherine Beech (Churchwarden)
Andrew Beech

Apologies: Stephen Cheetham, Will Wake

1044. David Houghton opened the meeting with Psalm 105:1-7 and prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 4 May

1045. These were agreed unanimously.

Vacancy

1046. The announcement of the appointment of Sarah Hillman as rector had been well received. The timing and completion of the remaining pre-appointment checks were for the diocese to resolve. The churchwardens hope to have a Zoom meeting with Sarah in early August.

1047. It was noted that one or two people might have reservations about appointing a woman as rector. Val Houghton will be asked to have a word.

Action: David Houghton

Finance

1048. It was agreed that the Stewardship Sunday needs to be revived, to challenge members (and others) to give more to the church. This could take place in October. Numbers attending were increasing, which was felt to be a hopeful sign. It was agreed that Stephen Cheetham should organise this, in conjunction with Ayo Adewale.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Catering

1049. Other developments having taken centre-stage, no progress had been made. Andrew Beech has still to ask Maggie MacKenzie whether she would be willing to join the group in place of Sonia.

Action: Andrew Beech

Projector

1050. APi appear to have ironed the bugs out of the projection system, which now seems to be working properly. It will be used on Sunday. A dedicated sound desk has been recommended. It was felt that this might lie adjacent to the second pillar on the north side of the nave. There is little footfall there, so it would be in no-one's way. David Houghton will email Andrew Beech details of a proposed confidence screen that would enable the celebrant to see what is on the main screen. The proposed sound desk is already covered by the original faculty. Andrew will consider whether one might be required for the confidence screen, which is not.

Action: David Houghton

Net Zero

1051. Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Buckland KC, Third Church Estates Commissioner, and Julian Atkins, Director of the Church of England Net Zero Programme have asked to visit Ledbury to discuss the implications of the Mather report for the wider church. Other churches have also arrived at similar conclusions about the cost implications of moving to Net Zero. Andrew Beech and Will Wake will represent the church, and Stephen Challenger and Ian Hill the diocese. The meeting will take place on 6 August. It is not yet known whether the meeting will discuss the technical aspects of Ian Mather's estimates of cost, or whether it would stick to the broad-brush issues. Andrew Beech will ask Ian Mather whether he could be available, if needed¹.

Action: Andrew Beech

Fabric

1052. Work to repair the floor of the room over the porch will commence on 13 July, and last five to six weeks. From Monday to Friday, whilst the work continues, entrance to the church will be via the Chapter House door; at weekends the north porch will be back in use.

1053. A contractor has been found who will investigate the condition of the lead in the roof gutters, and the underlying woodwork. This will enable a more precise estimate of the cost of repairing the flashbanding in those gutters to be made.

1054. Andrew Beech will chase Matt Vaughan for the plans to install ramps into St Anne's Chapel that are Equality Act compliant.

Action: Andrew Beech

Storage

1055. Cath Beech suggested purchasing temporary shelving for the meeting room to resolve some of the church's storage problems. The shelving might be moved upstairs if

¹ Ian Mather has confirmed that he will be available to attend, if needed.

current plans for the upper room materialise. She will find out what Ledbury Food Bank have done as regards shelving.

Action: Cath Beech

Safeguarding training

1056. David Houghton confirmed that every PCC member needs to complete online Basic Awareness and Foundation safeguarding training. This takes two whole hours, and will need to be renewed every three years.

Action: All PCC members

Churchyard

1057. The misunderstanding in the Town Council about greening the churchyard appears to have been resolved. It was agreed that Maria Dineen will be asked to lead for the church on this, in conjunction with Will Wake and other interested people. Two planters on the west front of the church, and one on the south wall are being replaced free of charge, except materials, which will cost c.£150. This was agreed. Richard Nightingale is coordinating.

Action: Cath Beech/Richard Nightingale

Other business

1058. David Houghton had yet to ask the WRDG to discuss whether Latin should continue to be used in services.

Action: David Houghton

1059. The WRDG will also be asked to consider giving celebrants the choice of using books or the screen to aid worship. If books are chosen, only hymns in the books would be used. There would be no further use of separately printed sheets with hymn texts on, as to produce them was proving too time-consuming.

Action: David Houghton

1060. Kevin Hewison is organizing a concert by Bromyard Wind Band at Ledbury Rugby Club. He hoped that it would raise money for the catering project. It was agreed that the PCC should be recommended to accept a gift from the Wind Band, but also to agree that the church could accept no liability for the concert itself, or any financial loss, should there be any.

Date of next meeting

1043. The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on 7 September at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.

The meeting closed at 21.07 with prayer.