

MUCH WENLOCK WITH BOURTON PCC

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 17th July 2025, 7.00 pm



in Holy Trinity Much Wenlock

PRESENT:

Revd Preb Matthew Stafford (Revdm)
Mrs Caralyn Benbow (CB)
Mrs Susan Crooke-Williams (SCW)
Mrs Gill Davis (GD)
Mrs Alison Dixon (AD)

Mrs Sue Gilling (SGi)
Mrs Sally Grant (SG)
Mr Mark Laws (ML) – Vice Chair
Mr Andrew Ramsay (AR)
Revd Sam Rigby (SR)

APOLOGIES:

Mrs Francine Coulson-Joy (FCJ)
Mrs Ann Craig (AC) (Bourton)
Revd Lisa Harper (LH)

ITEM	ACTION BY
The meeting was opened in prayer by Revdm.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies – received as noted above. Approval of minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting – proposed by ML seconded by GD and unanimously agreed and duly signed by the Chair. Matters arising from the previous minutes All are covered on the agenda Holy Trinity Bourton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permission has been granted for the repair and painting work, which will now proceed. Three Wednesday communions have been held at Bourton recently as well as the Ascension Day service. These have been appreciated and will continue. Peter Craig who recently died was remembered. His funeral will take place at Holy Trinity Much Wenlock. There are no current issues with the grounds or parking. Diocesan Year of Engagement This year's Diocesan initiative has been very positive. Activity will be planned with the schools in the autumn including a youth drop in at Holy Trinity Much Wenlock. Revd Lisa reported in her absence that she will be meeting with the Headteacher of Cressage school next week to plan activity for the next academic year. She will also have a meeting with William Brookes, hopefully in September. Revd Lisa has been in touch with Hereford Diocese asking for a visit to come and advise us on setting up a drop in for young people from October. Over the next few weeks, she will also be looking into plans for setting up messy style workshops for kids. Revised idea for churchyard and our monastic focus Revdm shared ideas received from church member Olivia for stone troughs and raised beds in the church grounds. The PCC agreed to explore the possibilities. A sub group will be formed in the autumn to discuss further. 	

7. Social Media Policy

Internet access will be reviewed at the churchwardens' meeting next week.

A small number of people currently have access to the website for editing: RevdM, SCW, FCJ, AD, Revd Sam, Brendon Quinn, Anne Belshaw and Eirwen Kinna, in addition to the website designer who set up the new website.

8. Heritage Day 20th September

A flyer has been produced for circulation about the day and there will be an item in the next Wenlock Herald about church funding. It was agreed to order 3,000 free will giving envelopes for circulation in the Herald and in church on the day. SCW will arrange.

SCW

Further details will be discussed and organised outside the PCC meeting.

9. Confirmation 23rd November

The Bishop of Hereford will be at Holy Trinity Much Wenlock for a Deanery confirmation service on 23rd November.

10. Finance

An substantial collection amounting to £1,000 was taken at Revd Matthew's 25th Anniversary service, which is being sent to his chosen charity, AMMF. The Gift Aid later reclaimed will go into church funds.

Plans are in hand for Gift Day on 20th September to ensure that it will return to its usual success. This includes the provision of envelopes in a different colour to the usual yellow to be inserted into the Herald. The event is linked to Heritage Days and on their website.

Our existing contracts for utilities (via Parish Buying) will come to an end on 30th September. We are currently investigating alternative suppliers, with a particular focus on reducing daily standing charges, especially for the gas supply.

Overall, our income and expenditure are approximately on budget.

The next finance committee will meet on Monday 8th September at 4 pm.

11. Fabric

- **Church boundaries and access**

Ongoing

ML

- **Trees**

Work on the trees has been completed.

- **Church grounds**

SCW will enquire if Councilor Dan's father has a cutter which could be used for removing the bollards.

SCW

The scouts will be asked after the summer break if they would be prepared to help tidy up the grounds as an autumn project.

ML

- **Quinquennial**

A working party is being arranged on 5/6/7th August to help lift and clean under the grating in the church. The congregation will be asked again for volunteers.

Architect Tim Randall is working on sketches for adapting the main doors.

The outside doors on the north side and to the Lady Chapel will be serviced which should help with insulation. Draught proofing should make a difference to heat loss also in the choir vestry.

It was agreed SCW will prepare a faculty for removing the pew doors, which could potentially become a health and safety hazard. **SCW**

Revd Matthew will look into other options for a prayer board as previous enquiries have not materialized. **REVDM**

SCW is enquiring about pew cushions for the main isle initially and will get some quotes. GD suggested we try to incorporate the existing tapestries if possible. **SCW**

- **Heating/Green agenda**

It was proposed to put out a flyer encouraging people to join a sub group for progressing green agenda issues.

12. Parish safeguarding

There has been one ongoing situation with statutory agencies involved. No new issues of concerns were raised. We have an effective process in place which is being followed for safeguarding concerns. SGI was thanked for her expertise in the role.

Any other business

- Christmas Fayre: SCW has confirmed to the Town Council that arrangements planned for last year's cancelled Christmas Fayre can be reinstated for this year.

13. Date of next meetings:

Thursday 18th September, 7 pm – with termly update from the Director of Music
Thursday 13th November, 7 pm

The meeting closed at 20.10 pm in prayer, remembering the church in Gaza which had suffered an attack with loss of life.

Signature:



Date:

18.9.2025