

MUCH WENLOCK WITH BOURTON PCC

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 21st May 2026, 7.00 pm



in Holy Trinity Much Wenlock

PRESENT:

Ms Rebecca Anderson (RA)
Mrs Francine Coulson-Joy (FCJ)
Mrs Ann Craig (AC) (Bourton)
Mrs Gill Davis (GD)
Mrs Alison Dixon (AD)
Mrs Sue Gilling (SGi)

Mrs Sally Grant (SG)
Revd Lisa Harper (LH)
Mr Mark Laws (ML) – Vice Chair
Mr Andrew Ramsay (AR)
Mrs Jan Ratcliffe (JR)
Revd Sam Rigby (SR)

APOLOGIES:

Mrs Caralyn Benbow (CB)
Mrs Susan Crooke-Williams (SCW)
Revd Preb Matthew Stafford (RevdM)

In attendance:

Mr Brendon Quinn (BQ)

ITEM	ACTION BY
The meeting was opened in prayer by SR and was chaired by the Vice-Chair in RevdM's absence on sabbatical. 1. Apologies – received as noted above. Rebecca Anderson was co-opted onto the PCC, proposed by Mrs S Crooke-Williams, seconded by Mrs J Quinn and unanimously agreed and welcomed to the PCC. 2. Approval of minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting – proposed by SGi seconded by FCJ. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th April were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting – proposed by AC seconded by SG. Both sets of minutes were unanimously agreed and duly signed by the Vice-Chair. BQ is to be included on distribution of PCC minutes, as agreed at his annual review with RevdM. 3. Matters arising from the previous minutes 1) We are waiting to hear back from RevdM on an additional quote for window cleaning. BQ also suggested we contact Chris Ball who has previously cleaned the windows and knows what is required. FCJ will contact him. 2) The trees at Bourton have been trimmed today. The cyprus was found to be sound. 3) Potential funding from Cornerstone was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting and 20th August has been arranged for Mark Simmons from the Diocese to come to speak about this. 4. Termly Update from the Director of Music • Organ – we have had visits from various churches trying out the organ. The choir funded an additional voicing before Easter. A full tune of the pipes currently costs about £500 but will not be required for some time. • Three junior choristers will attend this year's RSCM summer school in August, fully funded by the MVEC. • The Saturday lunchtime recitals have been well received with the retiring collections sufficient to pay expenses to the performers and contribute to church funds. The next event is a choral concert at 4pm on 6th June led by the church choir and a visiting choir from Conwy.	AD FCJ

Email: pcc@muchwenlockchurch.co.uk

M. J. M. 16/07/26

• The Gallery Singers will perform in a ticketed concert on 13th June. • Last year's WOOFYT event will be repeated in the next academic year for Cressage, Brockton and Church Preen primary schools. BQ will organise the event but asked that the PCC arrange the funding as part of the church outreach working with local schools. The cost is approx. £600. It was agreed the PCC would help fund the event and approach other PCCs and the MWECC again for support. SR will contact Cound, Shipton and Church Preen PCCs to invite them to contribute. • A Pedals and Pipes free fun event will be run one Saturday morning to encourage local children to come and try out playing a keyboard, date to be confirmed. • Following the successful Come and Sing evensong last year, it is intended to hold another Come and Sing on 4th October on the theme of Harvest. • As part of his professional development, BQ is in the process of preparing to undertake the Associateship Diploma in Choral Directing from the Royal College of Organists.	SR
It is recognised that music is an important part of our local evangelism and outreach.	BQ
5. Holy Trinity Bourton • A parishioner has enquired about funding a bench in the churchyard in memory of her late husband. LH advised there are guidelines for this including for quality, fixtures and plaques. It was agreed in principle by the PCC and AC will forward details to LH to take things forward. • The grass cutters were commended for doing a good job, acknowledging how well the churchyard and car park are kept. • CB is arranging with the John Moore Gallery Choir to hold a recital on Friday 30th April next year, led from the West Gallery. There will be a charge on the door towards church funds.	AC / LH
6. Diocesan Year of Celebration St John the Baptist Pilgrim Trail Booklet: including Hughley, Church Preen and Kenley. Boards are being designed by Isobel Buschell (delayed due to a recent bereavement). Church Preen have been told they will need to fund planning permission to erect a board, making the cost nearly £2000. Andrew Coleman is leading on the project. JR suggested speaking to the Conservation Officer and will give contact details to LH to pass on. The boards need to be in place by September when the Bishop comes to do his pilgrimage walk. AD will look back in previous minutes to see what previous funding was originally discussed.	JR / LH AD
The Hereford Gospels will be displayed in the Lady Chappel 11 – 19 July. FCJ will arrange for this to go into the July Herald. There will need to be people supervising at all times. The churchwardens are arranging the timetable.	FCJ FCJ/SCW
7. Team Vicar Children and Youth Update There are regularly around 30 young people attending, last week reaching a record 60. Eight have signed up to try bellringing on 4th June. Some have asked for an extra half an hour for discussion and enquiry time to discuss faith issues. Three members of the congregation are committed to leading each week. Rod and Lois Wagstaff are away in June so cover will be needed. It was acknowledged it would be good to have a rota of volunteers. SGI will ensure any Safeguarding requirements are met. The diocesan youth coordinator visits once a month. A second oven and a fridge will be required. Funding of £1000 - £8000 over 3 years is available from the Diocese for such projects. We have a request form to complete.	SGI SR

M. J. Lums 16/07/26

It is hoped to invite Much Wenlock Primary School to an introductory Drop In session.

8. Church Walk Access

The gates have now been erected following the granting of planning permission. There is space for access. ML is still chasing up the solicitors regarding the Land Registry.

ML

9. The Wenlock Herald

We now have someone to take over as editor of the Herald. Diane Finlayson lives in Much Wenlock and has a background in IT management with HMRC. Diane will meet with AR and Eirwen Kinna on Saturday for a handover. AR will take over the financial side of running the Herald.

AR

The PCC will write to Eirwen to thank her and present her with a gift on Saturday. £120 was agreed for this and unanimously approved.

ML/FCJ

10. Finance

a. April 2026 Accounts

The latest accounts had been circulated.

- We are delighted that Diane Finlayson has agreed to become the new Editor of the Wenlock Herald. The hand-over process will take place over the next couple of months. The issuing of advertisers' invoices, etc. will now pass to the PCC Treasurer.
- Following the inspection and cleaning of the Tower, we are now aware that it requires substantial maintenance, including pointing the stonework, repairs to the lead roof and lowering the roof to an original position. Approaches will need to be made to various Trusts and to the public to raise the money.

b. Parish Share/Guided Offers for 2027/2028

Our proposal to the Diocese for our 2027 Parish Share is due to be submitted by 2nd June. The Diocese is asking us to increase our offer.

AR

In 2026 we increased our payment from £60K to £65K which meets the Diocesan target of 50% of the parish income. Given the impending requirement for significant expenditure on the Tower as well as other maintenance issues, the Finance Committee proposed that our 2027 Parish Offer remain unchanged at £65K. It was also acknowledged that Much Wenlock has contributed a substantial amount to the Diocese from Fees for funerals. A report on our contributions to the Diocese will be requested from the church office.

11. Fabric

- Modification and re-ordering of pews in the South Aisle and update on the removal of pew doors: this is pending A visit by the DAC.
- Land registration of church boundaries and access: ML is following up.
- Churchyard, trees, garden borders: The memorial garden has been looked after diligently for some time by Val Roberts and Janet Merrick. Thanks were expressed to Val and Janet for all they have done as they step down from this. It will now be included in the general WhatsApp group for tending to the churchyard.
- Quinquennial jobs list: Church architect Tim Ratcliffe joined the meeting and reported that the wall walkers have cleared a lot of loose stone, which showed a degree of deterioration. The tower should now be safe but requires further attention within two years which will require a full scaffolding. The cement render needs to be repointed in lime mortar and some cornerstones replaced.

SCW/FCJ
ML

M. T. Jones 16/07/26

The tower roof leadwork also needs to be replaced and it is recommended that the roof should also be lowered back to its original position below the level of the parapet while scaffolding is up.

With scaffolding, stone repairs at c. £70,000 and the roof repairs at c. £40,000, TR estimates the work will cost c. £170,000 and including fees and VAT the total will be about £225,000.

The PCC agreed this is a major project which needs to be done properly. We have funding for about 33% so fundraising and grants will be required.

It was proposed we look to start the work in March 2027. The PCC agreed to instruct TR to prepare the initial specification and schedule of work at a cost of c. £2000 to cover the initial assessment - proposed by FCJ seconded by ML and unanimously agreed. TR should be able to start in about a month's time.

Advice will be sought from Mark Simmons of the Diocese during the visit on 20th August, whether it is best to establish a new restricted fund for this project.

In the meantime, some volunteer work was proposed for doing minor pointing and defrassing.

- e. Heating/Green agenda: will be discussed during the proposed visit of Stephen Chandler (DAC).

12. Green Agenda

GD proposed having a separate area on the website and a mechanism for fundraising for the green agenda. GD will put together something initially for a display in church, as part of our working towards net zero by 2030.

GD/ML

On 23rd July there will be a public screening of the film in the south aisle followed by break out discussion, facilitated by Simon Ross. Shropshire Council are now commending /promoting these viewings too.

ML proposed that if the film is available for viewing prior to 23rd July it will be made available to PCC members, otherwise we can all view it on 23rd July. Anyone wishing to watch online individually on 4th June should ask GD who can send them a link.

Setting up a separate fund for ground zero, having a separate item on the website and a display in church was proposed by GD, seconded by SGI and agreed.

GD/ML

13. Parish safeguarding

1st – 14th June there will be a promotion of how the Church of England is rolling out its approach to Safeguarding. SGI will circulate information to PCC members and put up posters.

SGI will talk to SR and LH about DBS required for the Drop In.

SGI/SR/LH

Any other business

- Information had been circulated about a Martyn's Law Conference being held on 2nd June by Shrewsbury Town Council to discuss holding large gatherings of people safely e.g. against terrorism. SGI is not able to attend on 2nd June but will enquire about other events. **SGI**
- The Rector was wished well for his sabbatical.

14. Dates of next meetings:

Thursday 16th July, 7 pm

Thursday 17th September, 7 pm – with termly update from Director of Music

Thursday 12th November, 7 pm

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm in prayer.

Signature:

Date:

MT. W 16/07/26

