St James the Great, Cradley

Minutes of PCC meeting – 22nd July 2026 at 1pm

Held in church

Items for action are marked in **bold.**

Present: Mike Hames [in the chair], the Rector, Jane MacFarlane, Peter and Sue Warner, Sue Ronan, Chris and Di Roberts, Ian and Sue Bailey, Margaret Edgar, Eryl Copp, Jenny Fleming, John Parsons

1. The meeting began with a prayer at 12.55, and Mike welcomed Rosie and Jenny to their first meeting.
2. The were no apologies.
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as an accurate record.
5. Matters arising
   The water butt for the WC extension will have to be funded separately.
   Mike asked Patrick Fleming if he would like to be involved in a more official capacity with the running of the church yard. He said he would, although the churchyard committee does not meet formally at present.
   John reported no volunteers have come forward as a result of Tony's appeal for help in the Newsletter, apart from David Roys, who is coordinating the grass mowing.
   The grass mowing contractor has stood down, and a replacement is being sought.
6. <u>Fabric</u>
   See report
   Mike highlighted a few of the long list of snagging issues regarding the new WC, and the contractor will be asked to return to rectify the problems. **The doorstop into the WC will be replaced** to stop it fouling the intruder alarm, and **Ian will remove the protruding piece of sharp metal in the wall**.

Sue Bailey talked us through the new fire risk assessment which is required due to the WC. John mentioned that a fire had been caused at Ledbury recently because the organ blower was left on all night. He will **draft a notice to be displayed on the organ** console, reminding organists to switch off the organ and the heaters after use.
With regard to the Quinquennial Review, various problems with the roof were highlighted, and quotes are pending. Regarding the damage where the nave roof joins the tower, John pointed out that this damage occurred during the storm at the beginning of the year, and that therefore this should be covered by insurance; **he recommended that this avenue should be explored.**
Everybody was agreed that we are continually grateful to Ian and Sue for their seemingly unending work for the church.

Treasurer

See report
The corrected invoice from the contractor has been received.
The National Lottery Heritage Fund will be sending their final instalment soon so that the contractor can be paid.
All were agreed that the architect's fee will have to be paid from the General Fund.
We have not received the archaeologist's report as yet.
Sue Bailey said that regular donors who are not church members are thanked in an annual Christmas card.
There was a discussion about a future stewardship campaign. Rosie said that we should not rush in to this, but consider wider aims over the next few months and develop a coordinated strategy in due course.

Churchwardens

See report.
The PCC joined Sue Ronan in thanking the church wardens for their tireless work, especially over the last 18 months.

Worship Committee

See report. There were no further comments.

Outreach and Events

See report
Ian thanked all helpers regarding the village festival, which was very successful.
Mike reminded the PCC of the Hereford Histories tours in August.

Ledbury Deanery Synod

See report.

There was a short discussion regarding the relationship between the diocese and the school.

Rosie said the school is in need of volunteers who could hear children read, and that this would help foster stronger links with the school.

The toddler group is moving to the school, and will be run by the Nursery. Volunteers from church to make refreshments would be most welcome, and would be another way of making links.

Eco Church

See comment about the water butt [item 5].

Mike noted that people tending graves and needing water for flowers would be greatly helped by having a water tap nearer to hand. He suggested that we **install a press tap on the old water pipe.** The previous tap was removed because people often left it running. A press tap would solve this problem. This was agreed.

We now have a green recycle bin.

The bins in the kitchen have now been labelled; recycling, and general waste.

Glebe land

The diocese has offered the PCC a 25-year lease on the car park, but the PCC would be liable for the £2-2.5k solicitor's bill. The point was made that we can't, at present, afford this, or the potential cost of repair of the wall. All were agreed however that the church very much needs the car park.

7. Ringing chamber

   See report re the ringing board and bench. It was thought that areas infested by woodworm should be the priority.

8. Organ

   John reported that he has applied for a grant from the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust. Their next meeting is in October.

   John circulated the flyer he recently produced promoting the organ refurbishment project. Although the production of the flyer had been agreed at the previous meeting, it was suggested that it should not, after all, be distributed until the general fund is in a stronger position.

   This prompted a discussion, reflecting differing interpretations of the previous meeting's agreement about publicity, and over changes from

approved minutes, both of which highlighted the need for clarity and consistency in communications within the PCC.
Rosie suggested that requests for donations should be paused until we know more about grants and possible VAT reclamation later in the year.

9. Safeguarding
   Eryl mentioned a new programme of training available from the diocese. **She will circulate details of this in due course.**
10. AOB
    Rosie indicated her intention to offer a Benefice BBQ at the Rectory in September, which was thought to be a very good idea. She said that salads could be provided, and that people could bring their own items to cook on the BBQ. **John said he would brew a barrel of beer** for the occasion.
    Rosie also mentioned the baptism after the C4A service on 2nd August. She intends to buy a couple of books for the candidates, and all were agreed that this should come from church funds.
    Eryl gave a short report on news from the school, and suggested that **school is added to the agenda** on a regular basis. All were in favour. **'Rector's remarks' will also be added to the agenda**.
    Mike reported that the small fault on the chest, after the recent work, will be put right soon, and that the report will also be forthcoming.

11. The next meeting will take place on Friday 25th September at 11.00, in church.

    The meeting closed with the Grace at 15.00

    Signed.....

    Date.....