

The meetings were held in church following morning service by members of the Parochial Church Council with Trustees of the Parish Hall and of the Congregation in attendance.

## VESTRY MEETING

### 1. Prayers

The Rev Tom Owen took the chair for his first AGM at St. Leonard and commenced the meeting with a prayer asking for God's Blessing on those that serve at His Church in Clent.

### 2. Apologies

These were received from Ann Nathan, Natalie Baker (Safeguarding Officer), Anne Thomas (Parish Hall secretary) and Ian Dawe.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting & Matters Arising

The published draft minutes were given approval.

It was noted that Church Warden Nick Maybee had been added to the list of Trustees of the Parish Hall. Also that Church Warden Neill Robb had assumed the function of a Trustee to the Church Lands Charity.

### 4. Election of Church Wardens

It was agreed by the meeting that all three persons currently in post as Church Wardens -Neill Robb, Neil Harvey and Nick Maybee - with no further nominations having been received - should be elected 'en-block'. This was carried unanimously.

The AGM was notified that Nick Maybee was adopting the role of Hon. Treasurer for the church accounts.

The contribution which Jon Prior had made to the church community at Clent was acknowledged and he will be sorely missed.

Ian Dawe was replacing Richard Woolley as the Hon. Treasurer for the Parish Hall accounts and the thanks of the meeting were expressed for Richard's involvement in assisting the hall and for his involvement in the life of the church.

### 5. Accounts

The annual accounts of the hall were presented to the meeting and accepted without demure.

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### 6. Parish Hall Report

Anne Thomas' report was read to the meeting on her behalf by Trustee Paul Timmins.

The meeting expressed their appreciation of the work undertaken by Anne and the Trustees, and by Trish and John Bradbury for running the booking/reservation facility for hall hirers.

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### 7. Hall Trustees

All the church appointed Trustees were voted for 'en-block' with Anne Harris proposing that Paul Timmins and Anne Nathan continue as Trustees representing the Clent community.

This was carried unanimously.

### 8. Election of an Independent Examiner of the accounts

Anne Harris proposed asking Richard Woolley if he would undertake this role through 2025/26 and so the position was left vacant pending receiving his reply.

This concluded the business of the Annual Vestry Meeting.

## P.C.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### 1.Attendance and Apologies

These were carried-over from the preceding Vestry meeting.

### 2.Minutes and Matters Arising

The published draft minutes were given approval.

There were no matters arising.

### 3.Elections

To the P.C.C. – there were no nominations of new candidates received.

The names of the existing members of the PCC, together with their roles, was read out to the meeting and, all being in agreement to a further period in office, were elected ‘en-block’.

As Representatives of St. Leonard to the Deanery Synod (Greater Dudley Deanery) – the church representation (based on congregational size) being two (2) such persons.

The current representative [Harry Grove] wished to continue in post and, there being no other nominations, he would so remain.

### 4.Confirmation of Ex-officio members of the PCC

It was accepted that Martin Whittaker would continue as such a member of the PCC.

### 5.Roll of Sidespersons

This update was deferred to the next PCC meeting to enable confirmation of volunteers availability.

### 6.Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mark Taylor had indicated that he was willing to remain in this position and the thanks of the meeting were expressed for the manner in which he has given so much assistance to St. Leonard.

### 7.Electoral Roll Report

Neill Robb reported that there were sixty-two (62) persons on our electoral roll. He said that we were entering our next cycle of drawing-up a fresh roll of membership and that application forms were to be made available in church. Please complete one (each).

#### 8.a.Rector’s Report

Whereas our previous priests had given their annual reports in lieu of a Sermon, Rev. Owen had been officiating elsewhere earlier this morning and so gave his first such address at this point of the meeting.

He wished to thank both Rev. Richard Newton and Rev. Kim Topham for the work that they had undertaken and in bringing the churches of the Benefice to their present state of physical and spiritual health - he could have enjoyed more support from both Deanery and Diocese administration in taking-up this living but was compensated for by the welcome and introduction he and his family had received locally, as well as from Kim and Bishop Martin – arriving at Christmas, when the churches and their congregations are so involved in ‘coming together’ was a bonus and “*a wonderful thing to see*” – he especially wanted to thank everyone for the welcome given to his family and how it expressed “*how lovely you are as a community*”.

#### b.PCC Report

This was read to the meeting by the Secretary.

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### 9. Submission and adoption of Treasurer’s Financial Reports (2023)

The PCC had made a detailed inspection of the financial papers at their preceding meeting and so a brief outline of salient features was given at this time.

Various parts of our income streams vary from year to year

Income from the card-machine had proved its worth

Fees had risen slightly post Covid

A grant had been received towards the electrical upgrades in the building

As per PCC policy some £35,000 had been ear-marked towards charity donations and appropriate target areas were being discussed

Regarding Parish Share (a.k.a. Mission Share), we were paying more than the obligated amount and so giving assistance to poorer parishes in the Diocese

Care was being exercised over the proportionality of payment of the total Benefice sum in relation to the three churches and the relative 'wealth' (viz. the income potential) of their congregations (as expressed in Government statistics)  
Our costs were rising and areas of outgoing where alternatives existed were being investigated  
Where fabric repairs were necessary our 'Church Lands Charity' were making their contribution  
Although there had not been a deficit declared since 2018 it was possible we might fall short by some £2,000 this year.

The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Mark Taylor for the support that he had received in starting in this role "*.. a true professional.*"

Rose Padmore said that we were blessed to have Nick Maybee with us at this time.

#### 10.Fabric Report

The church had currently one (1) major roof project and two(2) other fabric issues - repairs for which the PCC were pursuing.

#### 11.Deanery Synod Report

This was read to the meeting by the Secretary.

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#### 12.Submitted Reports

In the absence of the Safeguarding Officer (Natalie Baker) this report was given on her behalf.

All were dedicated towards ensuring this policy was working at St. Leonard and throughout the Benefice churches

Some 97% of the 'Dashboard' check-sheets were able to have been completed satisfactorily

There would be 'Face-to-face' qualification sessions in the Benefice to enhance the C. of E. "Portal" system

The Benefice Team comprised two (2) clergy and two (2) Safeguarding Officers who maintained a free-flow of ideas through their regular meetings.

All financial statements, reports and society information received were available of the church web

#### 13.Any Other Business

Rose Padmore emphasised the need to discuss where we, as a church, wished our charity gifts to be directed and was willing to receive suggestion to take to the PCC

Kim Topham drew the meeting's attention to the success of the Community Choir and the Junior Choir, who were making increasing contributions to the worship in church

#### 14.Wardens' Thanks

Neill Robb would make this available on the website following the meeting.

#### 15.Date of 2026 AGM

It was agreed to be Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026, following morning service.

#### 16.Date of next PCC Meeting

It was agreed to meet on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - in church.

The meeting concluded at 1:00pm.