

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH REMENHAM
MINUTES OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
CHantry HOUSE, THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2010**

Present: **Father Martyn Griffiths**
 Charlotte Every (Churchwarden)
 Michael Dowsett (Churchwarden)
 Ruth Palethorpe
 Glen Palethorpe
 Leslie Prescot

Apologies: **Rosemary Duckett (Secretary)**
 Eileen Dowsett
 Nigel Gray (Treasurer)
 Ann Shemilt
 Peter Sly
 Anthony West

1 Minutes of meeting held on 9 November

The minutes were approved.

2. Matters Arising:

RP asked whether arrangements had been made to provide clergy to cover any absence of **MG**. **MG** confirmed that this was in hand and he would be meeting Canon Ratings and Father Ashley on Friday 5 February to plan cover arrangements.

It was confirmed that the PCC was not paying any water rates.

RP drew attention to the gap in the main door of church which is letting in a draught. **MD confirmed** that work was in hand to deal with this.

MG confirmed that the new sound system has been installed with one standing microphone by the lectern and two radio microphones. The system may need some fine tuning.

3. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer the Rector took the PCC through the accounts. As always these were skewed by the inclusion of the Parish Hall figures and the bottom line is that the Church is starting to eat into reserves.

It was **agreed** that **CE** would approach Wokingham Borough Council to arrange a meeting with them the Rector and Church Wardens to discuss the possibility of the Council taking over the responsibility of maintaining the lower churchyard which is closed, thus making a considerable saving. Should this be possible Messrs Symes would continue to maintain the upper churchyard.

CE suggested that on occasions where we have a large number of visitors at services the gift aid envelopes should be handed out with the service sheets. **MD** was against this and it was **agreed** that a rubric drawing attention to the envelopes should be included on the weekly information sheet and that **MG** would make an announcement about the envelopes at services when appropriate.

It **agreed** that the Treasurer would write to existing gift aid donors asking if they might increase their giving

4. **Park Place Money**

MG confirmed that two invoices, one for the repairs to the lych gate and the other for the new sound system had been passed onto Mr Bateman and had been paid in full.

There was discussion on the proposed work to the windows. The DAC needs a more detailed specification before they will let the work proceed. **MG** has this in hand. **MD** pointed out that there was a considerable draught coming in at the bottom of the windows. It was **agreed** that remedial work would be undertaken but it would have to use the correct materials as specified in the quinquennial report.

5. **Any Other Business**

The Hunt Memorial has been approved and will be erected on the North Wall under the Charlotte Cosier brass.

It was **agreed** that **Saturday 13 March** would be the day when a working party would clean the gutters, drains &c around the church. **CE** will produce some leaflets to distribute round the village and ask the Chairman of the Parish Council to send an email publicising the event. A note will also be included in the weekly information sheet. The clean up will begin at 10.30am.

Living Faith – **MG** told the meeting about Living Faith an initiative of the Bishop of Oxford which invites all Parishes, Benefices and Deaneries in the Diocese to look at themselves and then ask where they are; where they want to be; and what their priorities might be. St Mary's have decided to take part and it was **agreed** that St Nicholas would too. The first stage of the process is for the congregation to fill in a short questionnaire and this will be done on the first Sunday in Lent (Sunday 21 February); people unable to attend church on that Sunday will have the opportunity to fill in the questionnaire as well. **MG** will circulate copies of the questionnaire to members of the PCC in advance. **MG** noted that this will link in well with the series of Lent talks that will be given by Bishop Colin.

It was **agreed** that Charlotte Laing and Catherine Rutland would be paid for playing the organ on Christmas Day.

6. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 22 April**. [*Standing Committee at 0930 on Friday 26 March.*]