

**The Parish of St Nicholas Church, Remenham.**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council**

**Held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 in The Chantry House.**

**Present:** Father Martyn Griffiths (Rector), Charlotte Every, Michael Dowsett (Churchwardens), Nigel Gray (Treasurer), Rosemary Duckett (Secretary), Glen & Ruth Palethorpe, Sue Laing, Ann Shemilt, Eileen Dowsett, Leslie Prescot, Anthony West, Peter Sly, Anthea Prescot (Deanery Synod Representative).

**Prayers:** Led by the Rector.

**Apologies:** None.

**Welcome:** To new member of the council, Mrs Sue Laing.

**Minutes:** One amendment: the date was changed from 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.

Peter Sly queried para 2 'Any nomination to hall committee should come before the PCC'. The Rector stated that this is how it should be and a resolution was put before the council reiterating that any nomination for new members should be confirmed by members of the Council, this was given unanimous approval.

**Church Yard:** Nigel Gray had approached the person who does the hall garden and even though he was slightly cheaper than the present contractor, Symms, it was decided to continue with Symms until the end of the year as they are reliable; the situation will then be reviewed.

**Election of Treasurer:** Nigel Gray was proposed by Anthony West & seconded by Charlotte Every,

**Election of Secretary:** Rosemary Duckett was proposed by Anthony West & seconded by Peter Sly

**Treasurer's report:** The accounts for the first quarter have decreased by £2,700.00, the income was £7,000.00 and expenditure was £9,700.00. , The insurance had been paid which was a one off as was the accountant's fee. Tthe parish share is a monthly payment. The fabric fund and the Strange Fund remain static. Out of the 300 fund raising letters sent to residents and regular members of the congregation, there had been 36 responses:16 of which were one off gift aid donations amounting to £5000; 4 were non gift aided donations amounting to £5,200 and 17 were bankers orders amounting to £3,700.00 per annum. This was quite encouraging. This result will be put in the parish magazine to act as a gentle reminder to those who have not contributed. Anthony West said that a 10% response was quite good but it had not solved the problem and we must remember that it is quite serious. The Rector stated that we could take funds from the parish hall. Charlotte Every said we should try and reduce the parish share. The Rector

stated that the incumbents are meeting with the Bishop of Dorchester and Archdeacon of Oxford on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Nigel Gray explained how the parish share was calculated, and Anthony West asked on what it is spent., The Rector explained that it paid for the stipends and the Church Schools.

**Works:** Work has started on the window guards and should be completed by the weekend. Two quotes were being obtained for the electrical work, although only one had been received by this meeting, and it was not as bad as feared and would be around £5,500. Three quotes should be obtained and a faculty would be needed. The PCC gave authority for the standing committee to apply for the faculty and progress the work if possible before the next meeting.

**Parish Hall:** Since the refurbishment there have been regular lettings, new people are coming in and financially it was looking good. The only outstanding work was the building of the store room, the cost of which was being met by Park Place. A new dishwasher has had to be purchased.

**Father Martyn's Sabbatical:** This will be from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011. All services would be covered by Father John or the lay reader from Holy Trinity and Father Ashley would do one service per month. The office would be manned all day Monday-Friday. Susan Laing suggested we could approach school chaplains as they are not busy during July & August. Charlotte Every suggested that we set the Harvest Festival date. This was agreed as 2<sup>nd</sup> October which would be the diamond wedding anniversary of Leslie and Anthea Prescott; one of the hymns sung at their wedding would be used at Harvest Festival.

**Civil Parish Matters:** There has been a formal consultation from Wokingham District Council designating a public place order to regulate the consumption of alcohol in public places particularly over the regatta, the area covers the whole of Remenham. Peter Sly explained that it would not be the bars and mainly be Saturday nights. The Police have the power to remove alcohol.

**A.O.B.** Father Martyn reported that they have been successful in appointing an organist and the name will be announced on Sunday. The appointee will be asked if they would want to play at Remenham as well for a fee of £1,000.00 per annum. The appointment begins on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011. The present organist is unable to play in any more services in St Nicholas.

The Churchwardens will be sworn in at Dorchester Abbey on 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm.

Father Martyn has completed 70 miles of the Thames Path from the source to Henley.

The meeting closed at 9pm following a blessing by the Rector.