

The Parish of St Nicholas Church Remenham.

Minutes of meeting of the Parochial Church Council

held on 15th September, 2011 in The Chantry House

Present: Charlotte Every Churchwarden (in the chair), Mike Dowsett, Churchwarden, Nigel Gray, Treasurer, Rosemary Duckett, Secretary, Eileen Dowsett, Ruth and Glen Palethorpe, Anthea Prescott (Deanery Synod Representative) Leslie Prescott.

Apologies: Sue Laing, Anthony West, Peter Sly.

- 1. Minutes of meeting held on 12th May.** There were no amendments. Signed by Charlotte Every
- 2. Matters arising:** There were none.
- 3. Treasurer's report:** The accounts were circulated and the treasurer reported that the Assets under management had risen from £103,380.86 in 2010 to £119,468.57 by the end of August. The General Fund stood at £19K, an increase of £15K as compared with the same period last year – largely attributable to the special fund raising exercise recently implemented. The Hall Fund stood at 56K an increase of £8K on prior year – largely attributable to increased rental activity. The Strange & Fabric Funds remain unchanged.

Our fund raising initiative for the Church entailed writing to all those on the Parish electoral roll – more than 300 letters in total. We received 45 responses circa 15% giving rise to:

21 "one off" Gift Aid Donations totalling £6,205.00

5 "one off" donations totalling £5,360.00

19 Banker's Orders generating an Annual Income of £5,184.00.

It was suggested that this information was put in the parish magazine which may prompt those people who had not given to donate. This had been a very encouraging response which explains why the accounts are much healthier.

Grants were rebates from the diocese for payment on time of the parish share.

Funds from the newsletter have risen.

The Rector had raised £1995 for his walk on the Thames Path, of which £1725 was gift aided.

Park Place have paid for all the repairs to the windows, and the grilles were all replaced, and we have £7,500 remaining. The hall had £47,701 remaining to draw down from Park Place. The dish washer had to be replaced and small tables were purchased, the rebuilding of the store room which should be completed by mid November would be £40,000 + VAT The cost for this is high but it is in a conservation area. Charlotte Every has obtained a donation of £150.00 from the organisers of the triathlon to make up for cancelling the service on Sunday, as the roads around the church would be packed with runners.

4. **Parish Church: Electrical quotes.** 2 had been received which were fairly similar. 3 are needed before a faculty can be applied for and the 3rd, although promised by today, had not arrived. It was therefore proposed that the standing committee would progress the matter as it is somewhat urgent that the work is carried out. Charlotte Every will discuss this with the diocese.
5. **Deanery Synod report.** Charlotte Every & Anthea Prescott had attended the meeting. The ordination of women bishops was discussed. The parish share was also discussed and a committee is to be set up to see if there is a different way of raising the money. The diocese says they are down to bare bones and cannot make any further cuts.
6. **Parish Hall:** The work is progressing and will be finished in mid November
7. **A.O.B:** Mr Prescott brought up the matter of St Nicholas having a web site as he had been looking at St Mary's. Charlotte Every will discuss further to see if we can have a link from the St Mary's site until we have our own.
The organist, Jonathan White, has started in St Mary's, we are not sure when he is due to start at St Nicholas.

Future Services: Harvest Festival – 2nd October, Harvest supper – 7th October, Remembrance Service – 13th November, Patronal service – 4th December, Carol service – 18th December.

Date of next meeting: Standing committee 11th November, PCC 24th November, 2011.