

The Parish of St Nicholas Church, Remenham.

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council

held on Thursday 22nd March 2012 in the Chantry House

Present: Father Martyn Griffiths, Chair, Charlotte Every, Mike Dowsett, Church Wardens, Nigel Gray Treasurer, Rosemary Duckett, Secretary, Eileen Dowsett, Ruth & Glen Palethorpe, Leslie Prescott, Anthony West.

Apologies: Anthea Prescott (Deanery Synod Representative), Ann Shemilt.

1. **Prayers:** Led by the Rector.

2. **Minutes of meeting held on 24th November, 2011.** The minutes were approved: proposed by Leslie Prescott and seconded by Anthony West.

3. **Matters arising:**
 - 4.1 Website: Charlotte Every to progress and Antony Duckett to take photos.
 - 4.2 Electrical works: Charlotte Every had received an email from the DAC and there were several questions to be answered. Antony Duckett will visit Sparkes, (electrician) who can hopefully clarify matters and have answers by beginning of April for the next faculty meeting.
 - 4.3: The lightening conductors have been inspected and passed.

4. **Finance Report.** The treasurer presented the draft accounts with an explanation. Anthony West felt that they should be more transparent so that they could be easily understood without explanation for the record. The PCC approved the accounts to be presented to the A.G.M. There was one abstention. The Parish Hall accounts were also presented and show a healthy profit.

5. **Parish Hall:** The Rector had found a copy of the Constitution of the Parish Hall originally drawn up by Anthony West. It is not known if they were formally adopted. A subcommittee will be set up to investigate matters. The sub-committee will be: Anthony West, Nigel Gray, Sue Laing & Mike Dowsett.

6. **Jubilee Celebrations:** Charlotte Every reported that there is to be a Flower Festival in the Church, a concert to be held on Sunday June 3rd, a street party on Monday June 4th followed by a hog roast in the Parish Hall. There is to be funding by Culham Court, HRR, and the Rewind Concert. The hog roast and concert will be ticketed. Mugs and bags have been designed by Judy Fraser. A clergy person will be needed to take the service as the Rector will be in St Mary's Church.

7. **Deanery Synod:** The Rector reported that he had attended a lively meeting of the Deanery Synod and summarised 4 main points:

1. To introduce a scheme based on ministry costs/unrestricted income/ church attendance in equal proportions.

2. as 1, but capping a parish's percentage increase.

3. To introduce a scheme based on ministry costs/unrestricted income/ church attendance in the proportions of 25/37.5/37.5

4. As 3, but capping a parish's percentage increase.

5. Any scheme introduced should be phased in over a period of 5 years.

Tables were shown based on 121.10% & 110% of ministry costs St Nicholas would have to pay £28361 at the higher rate and £25761 at the lower.

The Area Dean is to have a further meeting with the clergy. The Rector felt that Church House could do more to cut administration costs and that they were stifling the ministry, leaving clergy without resources: therefore the lower rate of 110% should be paid. The Synod took note of the motion, the figures and the request to reduce to 110%. The PCC accepted this and Anthony West proposed and Charlotte Every seconded the motion and the proposal was unanimously approved that £2836 be paid over the next 10 months, whilst seeing how other parishes responded to the call for an "ordered default".

8. **Any other business:**

8.1 The Rector reported that the organ had been tuned and repaired that day.

9.2 Anthony West reported that he had had some items of silver in his safe. These were produced and the Rector felt that he would use some of the items and should be kept in the Church safe.

9.3 Leslie Prescott felt that the carol concert had been very disappointing last Christmas with the same carols and very poor readers, there was agreement with him and it was decided that it should be on the agenda next September.

9. **Dates of future meetings** were given and approved. The AGM will be held on 22nd April 2012 following the service. It was felt that the meetings should be in the Parish Hall, Rosemary Duckett will contact Jenny Law to see which days are free. The next meeting of the standing committee will be on 4th May in the office and the next PCC meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th May in the Parish Hall.**

The meeting closed with prayers at 2215.