

The Parish of St Nicholas Church, Remenham.

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council

held on Tuesday 11 September 2012 in the Parish Church.

Present: Father Martyn Griffiths, Chair
Charlotte Every, Churchwarden
Mike Dowsett, Churchwarden
Nigel Gray, Treasurer
Sue Laing
Anthea Prescott
Leslie Prescott
Anthony West (Acting Secretary)
Eileen Dowsett
Ann Shemilt
Glen Palethorpe.

Apologies: Ruth Palethorpe (Secretary) and Hugh Whitfield.

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2012 were proposed by Mike Dowsett, seconded by Leslie Prescott and approved, unanimously.

1. Matters Arising:

- (a) **Electrics:** Charlotte Every said that the work would begin on Monday 17 September and would last for two weeks. Father Martyn would speak to the contractors, before start of the work, to ensure that cabling would not interfere with the installation of the new safe
- (b) **Web site:** Charlotte Every would progress this
- (c) **Choir pews:** Father Martyn would identify a carpenter to quote for the works.

2. Finance Report:

The Treasurer circulated interim accounts to 30 July 2012 and made the following observations:

- Total funds were £117,000; this compared with £114,000 at the same time last year. Funds included a surplus of £2,300 arising from Jubilee activities which had, for convenience, been accounted within Church finances but which did not belong to the Church. A suitable note would be included in the 2012 Accounts and the spending of the amount would be left with the Jubilee Committee.
- The Parish Hall balance stood at £61,000 (31.12.11 - £53,000). Since 31 July, £6,500 had been spent on the French windows and the half moon window.

- Anthony West reported that the Tax Recovery for the year to 5 April 2012 should amount to £7,321 (£3,400 in the interim accounts).
 - Father Martyn reported that, over the next two years, both the Diocese and the Deanery would be changing the method of calculating Parish Shares, in the former case based on algorithmic considerations!
3. **Parish Hall:** Father Martyn reported that the Parish Hall Committee was meeting, shortly, to discuss the Constitution, a term of which should include representation of the Rector and at least two PCC members. He further reported that the Committee was sympathetic to allowing part of the balance of the hall funds being made available for Church purposes, subject to retaining a sufficient balance for contingency items (eg a possible rebuilding of part of the garden wall). He hoped that the outstanding issues would be resolved in time for approval at the 2013 APCM.
4. **Deanery Synod:** Anthea Prescott reported that, at the Meeting held on 20 June, the following matters were discussed:

The Deanery Mission Plan
 Parish share and the cost of Quinquennial Inspections
 Nominations for Diocesan Elections

The next meeting would take place on 7 November 2012.

5. **Any other business**

- (a) **Fees List for 2013** - Father Martyn advised the Meeting that the basis of charging for marriages and funerals would change and that the new fees would incorporate certain charges which were currently charged separately. It would still be possible to charge for heating the church for these services and, on the basis of annual heating costs, a sum of £75 might be suitable. He would produce a list of the new fees at the next PCC Meeting [**ACTION:** Father Martyn].
- (b) **Carol Service:** although it was generally agreed to have readers representing varying aspects of the Parish, it was decided that they must be of a good reading standard and, if necessary, they should rehearse in Church before the Service. It was desirable to have a young person to read the First Lesson and that regular Church readers should also be represented. Each Lesson should be preceded by the traditional introduction and ended with the words "Thanks be to God". It was **agreed** that, as Felicity Rutland organised the Choir, she should have an input to the chosen carols. **Anthony West** would organize mulled wine, after the service.
- (c) **Safe and Church Silver:** Father Martyn reported that the loss adjuster appeared to have accepted the insurance claim, following the burglary, but settlement was dependent upon the insurance company being satisfied with the loss adjuster's recommendation. The safe would be replaced.

A discussion ensued as to the nature of replacement vessels and it was agreed that one each of the essential vessels, in silver, should be contemplated, and that the nature and style should be left to the Rector and Churchwardens.

- (d) **Chancel Repairs:** Anthony West outlined his understanding of the liability of the PCC, from autumn 2013, if it had not made sufficient enquiries as to whether any land within the Parish had Chancel Repair obligations. Father Martyn would seek advice from the Diocese as to what procedures should be undertaken by PCCs, in this regard [**ACTION:** Father Martyn].
- (e) **Donation** Charlotte Every stated that she was expecting a donation of £150 from the organizers of the Henley Triathlon, the holding of which accounted for no Morning Service being held on Sunday 16 September.
- (f) **Lectionary:** Leslie Prescott enquired why the Communion Services did not incorporate the Prayer Book Epistles and Gospels. Father Martyn replied that the readings are all in accordance with the Lectionary, which is published, annually, and a copy of which can be viewed in the Church.

(g) **Future Dates:**

Harvest Festival	Sunday 30 September
Harvest Supper	Friday 5 October
Standing Committee	Friday 9 November
PCC Meeting	Tuesday 20 November
Remembrance Day*	Sunday 11 November at 1055
Patronal Festival	Sunday 9 December
Carol Service	Sunday 16 December at 1600
Midnight Mass*	Monday 24 December at 2330

* Father Martyn will arrange a celebrant.

The meeting closed with prayers at 9.15 pm.

6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 20 November 2012 at 8.00pm (venue tba).