

The Parish of St Nicholas Church, Remenham.

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council

held on Tuesday 17th March 2015 in Remenham Parish Hall at 8.00pm

Present: Father Martyn Griffiths, Chairman
Mike Dowsett, Churchwarden
Charlotte Every, Churchwarden
Nigel Gray, Treasurer
Ruth Palethorpe, Secretary
Kim Blythe
Eileen Dowsett
Sue Laing
Glen Palethorpe
Anthea Prescott
Leslie Prescott
Anthony West

Apologies: Hugh Whitfield

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2014 were proposed by Anthea Prescott, seconded by Mike Dowsett and approved unanimously, no amendments being made.

1. Matters Arising:

Memorial Plaque: Father Martyn suggested a piece of calligraphy depicting the additional names be placed either under or adjacent to the existing brass plaque.

Father Martyn advised he will purchase a copy of the booklet compiled by Mike Willoughby for retention in church. **ACTION: Father Martyn.**

2. Finance Report:

The draft accounts for the Calendar Year 2014 were approved after the Treasurer had provided clarification relating to points raised from the floor concerning the difficulty of reconciling the Hall Fund total with the Hall revenue surplus recorded in the accounts. It was agreed that an additional Note to the Accounts was required confirming that the sum of £5,000 was transferred from the Hall Fund to the General Fund during the year. Furthermore it was explained that the Hall bank accounts will never sum to the value of the Hall Fund since, for many years, certain payments relating to the Hall (eg electricity) had been made by direct debit from the main church account.

The Treasurer confirmed that the sum of £6,000 would be transferred from the hall current account to the church current account. This would not affect fund values which are absolutely valid.

3. Parish Hall

Father Martyn advised that the Local Environmental Health Authority had recently checked the Parish Hall water supply and had queried the close proximity of the bore hole to the septic tank, posing a high risk if leakage / seepage occurred. They had suggested a cleansing filament be installed.

Father Martyn reminded the PCC that the new Parish Hall Constitution comes into effect this year and that it was vital that 3 PCC members be elected to sit on the Parish Hall Committee.

Charlotte Every, Sue Laing and Anthony West all put their names forward.

4. Deanery Synod

Anthea Prescott was unable to attend the last meeting.

Anthea advised the PCC that she wished, reluctantly, to resign her position as our Deanery Synod representative with immediate effect.

5. Organist

The 2 regular church organists were no longer available and since Christmas we had relied heavily on engaging organists who had replied to advertisements placed by Charlotte Every on various organists' websites. It was imperative to find a solution. The PCC discussed various options including the possibility of negotiating a contract with Gary Seiling, the organist from St Mary's, at a suggested annual salary of approximately £2500.00. Nigel Gray advised the church funds could bear this extra cost of £500.00 per annum. It was agreed that Charlotte Every would open negotiations with Mr Sieling.

6. Christmas Services

It was agreed the new time of 9pm for the Christmas Eve Communion service had been a success.

7. Any other Business

a) Parish Share.

Father Martyn advised there had been a slight decrease in the Parish Share quota, it was now £2,800 per month, payable for 10 months.

b) Renovation of church organ.

This item would be discussed at the next PCC meeting in May.

c) List of fees.

These were basically the same as 2014 but the legal fees have slightly increased.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 8.00pm in Remenham Parish Hall.