

**PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS REMENHAM**

**Sunday 17 April 2016**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISHONERS**

**1. Prayers**

**2. Present:**

Father Martyn Griffiths (Rector and Chairman)  
Mike Dowsett and Charlotte Every ( Churchwardens)  
Ruth Palethorpe (Secretary)  
Anthony and Rosemary Duckett, Leslie and Anthea Prescott,  
Glen Palethorpe, Joan Edwards, Mim Dibley, Barbara Morris,  
John Laing, Sue Laing, Eileen Dowsett, Ann Shemilt,  
Richard Murdoch, Gillian Murdoch, Nigel Gray, Jayne Gray,  
Anthony West, Richard Came, Suzanne Came.

**3. Apologies:** Sarah West, Hugh and Penny Whitfield.

**4). Election of Church Wardens:**

There were only 2 nominations, Charlotte Every and John Laing. They were both duly re-elected as Churchwardens for the year and would be sworn in at the Episcopal Visitation on 8th June at St Mary's, Henley.

**5) Any other business:** There was none.

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

1. **Minutes of last year's meeting:** The minutes of last year's meeting held on 17 April 2015 were presented to the meeting. On a proposition by Leslie Prescott and seconded by Rosemary Duckett, these were **agreed**.
2. **Election of representatives of Deanery Synod and Parochial Church Council:** Glen Palethorpe, Ruth Palethorpe, and Anthony West were due for re-election to the PCC, there being no other nominations the Rector duly advised they all be re-elected.

No new nominations were forthcoming for the Deanery Synod.

3. **Election of sidesmen:** It was proposed by the Rector, as Chairman, that the existing Sidesmen be re-elected en bloc there being no objections or additions all were unanimously re-elected.
4. **Election of Parochial Church Council Officers:** Nigel Gray, Anthony West and Sue Laing all agreed to continue serving on the PCC and were all duly re-elected and ratified.
5. **Electoral Roll:** The Rector advised the number of persons on the Electoral was 72; he thanked Julie Griffin for maintaining the roll.
6. **Presentation of Annual Report and Accounts**

The following report of the accounts was presented by Nigel Gray, Treasurer.

Total funds under management at year end were £108,010, a decrease of 6.5% compared to prior year. The year end values of the individual funds were:

General Fund	£7,029	– a decrease of £2,481 ( 26% ) on prior year
Hall Fund	£5,6543	– a decrease of £3,667 ( 6%) on prior year
Fabric Fund	£3,6638	– no change
Strange Fund	£6,925	- an increase of £55 ( <1%) on prior year
Jubilee Fund	£875	- a decrease of £1,529 (64%) on prior year

Excluding finances relating to the Parish Hall, the deficit for 2015 was approximately £14,000, some £8,000 greater than in 2014. Major contributing factors for the shortfall against prior year were :-

The absence of “one off “ donations amounting to approximately £3,000;

The absence of any contribution from the Parish Council, normally approximately £1,200;  
and  
Reduced fund raising

Parish Hall income exceeded expenditure by £6,500 – an increase of approximately £2,500 on prior year.

The decline in value of the Jubilee Fund resulted from the purchase of the defibrillator now sited at the Parish Hall.

In order to keep the General Fund in surplus, £10,000 was transferred from the Hall Fund during the year, some £3,500 more than the Hall surplus for the year.

In summary therefore, we were continuing to see a weakening of our financial position and this emphasises the need for effective Fund Raising programmes for the church and a healthy surplus in relation to the Parish Hall.

## **7. Report on Church Fabric and Churchyards**

Charlotte Every advised the Quinquennial report had been delivered in October. There had not been a huge deterioration in the church fabric since the last report 5 years ago though problems with damp in the church were still prevalent as was need for repointing some of the outside masonry. Volunteers had recently cleared gutters and generally tidied up the Lower Churchyard, which looked good though fly tipping was still a problem in the Upper Churchyard.

## **8. Deanery Synod Report**

The following report is courtesy of Carol Brooke –Partridge.

The Henley Deanery Synod met three times during 2015. On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February the Synod met at St. Thomas of Canterbury, Goring. The main item was a talk given by the Rev Paul Boughton (Vicar of Goring) on Ethical Investment. He told the Synod that the Archbishop had set up an ethical investment group to advise on investment. The group is against investment in non- military firearms, gambling, tobacco and alcoholic drinks. The policy on climate change is under review and creating employment through investments is to be encouraged. The Area Dean asked Paul how he had become involved with ethical investment and this had come about five or six years ago through his background as a chartered accountant and he now spends an average of two days a month on ethical investment.

In June the Synod met at Bix Village Hall. The Rev Stephen Gray gave a talk on his work as Chaplain at Bradfield College. He said it was very difficult now to promote Christianity and his main work now was with individuals, not only students but also parents, where divorce and

mental health were real issues. He had a small core of pupils who regularly attended compline.

The November meeting was held at Holy Trinity, Henley, the treasurer said that the Deanery was paying a larger percentage of the Parish Share than last year. The Area Dean gave an illustrated talk on his visit to Vaxjo, Sweden. He said there were many similarities between the Church of England and the Church of Sweden, but there were fewer multi-parish benefices than in the UK. John Howell, MP for Henley, was asked questions by the Area Dean ranging from his working week to how his Christian faith interacts with his life as a politician. Heather Llewellyn, the Lay Chairman, reported on the appointment of the next Bishop of Oxford. As no appointment had been made there will be several months delay before the process can start again. The meeting was followed by a Bring and Share Supper.

## **9. Rector's Report**

The Rector began by thanking all those who had worked so hard with the community of the Church, namely the Churchwardens, all members of the PCC, servers, sidemen, flower ladies, cleaners and organist, all of whom were so vital to the wellbeing of the Church.

Fr Martyn especially wished to thank Mike Dowsett who had decided to step down as Churchwarden after many years of loyal service. The Rector proposed Mike be made Churchwarden Emeritus, this proposal was carried unanimously.

Fr Martyn advised the Rt Rev Steven Croft, who is currently Bishop of Sheffield had been appointed the next Bishop of Oxford and that the Acting Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Colin Fletcher had done a great job, always ready to help and give advice when needed.

## **10. Appointment of the Independent Examiner**

It was noted that Villiers Hayward had served us well. The Rector proposed their re-appointment; Anthony West formally proposed this motion, which was agreed unanimously.

## **11. Any other business**

Charlotte Every thanked Father Martyn for all his hard work.

## **12. Prayers**

Meeting closed at 1220

