**PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS REMENHAM**

**Sunday 30th April 2017**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

**1. Prayers.**

**2. Present:**  Father Martyn Griffiths (Rector and Chairman)

John Laing and Charlotte Every (Churchwardens)

Mandy Sermon (Secretary)

Mike Dowsett, Sue Laing, Nigel Gray, Jayne Gray, Anthony West, Sarah West, Maureen Holborn, Ausonia Simonds,

Diane Sutherland, Briant Holland, Hugh Whitfield, Penny Whitfield.

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**3. Apologies:** None

**4. Election of Church Wardens:**

Charlotte Every and John Laing were both duly re-elected as Churchwardens for the year.

**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

17th April 2016 were presented to the meeting. They were proposed by Mike Dowsett and seconded by Anthony West. The minutes were **agreed**.

**2) Election of representatives of Deanery Synod and Parochial Church Council:**

No new nominations were forthcoming for the Deanery Synod. Charlotte Every agreed to continue as PCC representative of the Deanery Synod.

Glen and Ruth Palethorpe had asked to retire from the PCC early; they were actually due to retire in 2019 and this created two vacancies. In addition, two others, Sue Laing and Nigel Gray were due to retire by rotation. They were willing to serve another term. They were proposed by Charlotte Every and seconded by John Laing and were duly re-elected to the PCC. Sarah West and Paul Sermon were willing to join the PCC. They were proposed by Charlotte Every and seconded by Sue Laing and duly elected.

Mandy Sermon was willing to serve as PCC secretary; she was proposed by Anthony West and seconded by Sarah West and duly elected to the PCC.

**3) Election of sidesmen:**  It was proposed by the Rector, as Chairman, that the existing sidesmen be re-elected en bloc. There were no objections and all were re-elected nem com.

**5) Electoral Roll:**  The Rector advised that the number of persons on the Electoral Roll was 72, the same as last year with one or two deletions and a few additions. He thanked Julie Griffin, Parish Secretary, for maintaining the roll.

**6) Presentation of Annual Report and Accounts:**

The Treasurer, Nigel Gray, presented the accounts which had been approved by the Standing Committee. He reported:

The total funds under management at year end were £108,784 an increase of 0.7% compared to prior year. The yearend values of the individual funds were:-

General Fund £2,639 – a decrease of £ (62 %) on prior year

Hall Fund £61,675 – a increase of £ (9%) on prior year

Fabric Fund £36,638 – no change

Strange Fund £6,957 - an increase of £ (10.5 %) on prior year

Jubilee Fund £875 - no change

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £58,329. These showed a significant increase on the previous year but the expenses have also increased. Restricted funds continue to be stretched each year. However, a small surplus of £774 is shown at the end of 2016.

**7) Report on Church Fabric and Churchyards:** There were a number of issues with the Church fabric that needed attention. Some of the flint work had come away on the tower; the guttering along the north wall was inadequate; and there continued to be a problem with damp along the bottom of the north wall and to the left of the entrance doors. Quotations had been obtained to do the necessary remedial work and John Laing was in discussion with the Diocese regarding the required permissions and faculties. The electrics in the Church were due to be retested; work was in hand to carry this out.

The walls surrounding the Parish Hall garden were in need of attention and estimates were being sought to do the work.

Both churchyards were in a good state and the problem of fly tipping in the Upper Churchyard had improved.

**8) Deanery Synod Report (provided by Carol Brooke-Partridge):**

On March 1st the Deanery Synod met at St. John’s Stoke Row.  The Treasurer reported that 88% of the Deanery Share was paid to the Diocese. The Area Dean then spoke about the development of St John’s which had had a declining electoral role and was not able to pay its parish share.

A chance meeting between the Area Dean and the Head of the primary school next door to the church resulted in the pews being removed and the church made into a hall which the school paid for and would use. The PCC then managed to raise money for a kitchen and toilets, and the church now looks forward to the future.

On June 22nd the Deanery met at All Saints, Rotherfield Peppard for a celebration of the Eucharist let by the Rev Kevin Davies, the retiring Area Dean. No other business was conducted. On November 17th the Deanery Synod met at St Mary’s. The Lay Chairman introduced the new Area Dean, the Rev Linda Smith, who is vicar of Woodcote.  She also introduced James Stickings, new Rector of the Kidmore End benefice; Robert Thewsey, Rector of Shiplake with Dunsden and Harpsden; Steve Johnson, curate at Goring and Streatley; and Alan Gates, a “house for duty” priest at Ipsden and North Stoke.

The Area Dean announced that Bishop Stephen, the new Bishop of Oxford, would be visiting the Henley Deanery on Thursday 20th July 2017.  A programme of the day was being devised and the day would l end with a short act of worship for everyone so all PCCs should be alerted.

After the business a “bring and share” supper was enjoyed by all the members.

**9) Rector’s Report:**

The Rector began by referring to the long lead into his retirement next January: it had helped him to prepare and had meant that the two parishes would have more time to undertake work towards the appointment of a new incumbent.

Fr Martyn then thanked all those who worked so hard with the community of the Church: the Churchwardens, all members of the PCC, servers, sidesmen, flower ladies, cleaners and organist, Julie and before her Elspeth in the Parish Office all of whom are so vital to the wellbeing of the Church. Fr Martyn especially wished to thank Glen and Ruth Palethorpe for their work for the Church over recent years as members of the PCC and Ruth as secretary, happily they would continue as sidesmen.

Fr Martyn reflected on the way times have changed within the Church since 1974 when he was made Deacon. In 2017 there are woman bishops and the IRA has been replaced by ISIS. Unity between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church is at a sort of stalemate and he considered that the way administration was growing was not necessarily the right way. However, there were a greater number of lay people involved in their local communities and they had a greater say in Church affairs.

Fr Martyn ended his report with the words he has used whenever he has left a parish: **Keep the faith, read the Bible, say your prayers, be faithful in your attendance at the Eucharist.**  He also commended his college motto: **Ad gloriam Dei in eius Voluntate: To the glory of God in his service.**

**10) Appointment of the Independent Examiner:** It was agreed to continue to use Villiers Hayward as the independent examiner. This was proposed by Sue Laing and seconded by Anthony West and **agreed** unanimously.

**11) Any other business:** Charlotte Every thanked Fr Martyn for all his hard work over the last 13 years.

**12) Prayers**

**The meeting closed at 12.18pm.**