**Church of St Nicholas Remenham**

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting**

**Thursday 16th November 2017 at the Chantry House**

Father Martyn Griffiths

Charlotte Every, Church Warden

John Laing

Sue Laing

Nigel Gray, Treasurer

Anthony West

Hugh Whitfield

Sarah West

Paul Sermon

Mandy Sermon, Secretary

1. **Prayers**
2. **Apologies** None
3. **Minutes of last meeting held on 21st September 2017**

There was one small amendment before Father Martyn signed the minutes.

1. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising other than those already on the agenda.

1. **Church**

Electrical

The electrical work is being undertaken. The position for lighting up the Church has been selected. The Lychgate light will remain lit for ~10 minutes after activation.

Damp.

2 meetings have taken place with Richard Oxley. The damp appears to be less now that the guttering has been cleared. The position of some guttering needs adjustment to avoid further damp. This will form part of the specification of work to be prepared to avoid damp in the future.

1. **Parish Hall Repairs**

The security lights have been tested under the monitoring contract. The roof has been demossed. The wall continues to be repaired and is greatly improved.

1. **Finances**

The Treasurer presented the finances up to October. The repair to the wall has been the main expenditure and £11,000 has been spent to 10th November. The total cost is estimated to be about £20,000. Asked what would be a sensible amount to have in the accounts the Treasurer estimated that between £30,000 & £50,000 for both the hall and the Church would be reasonable figures. It was suggested that the Remenham Thespians pay for their use of the hall as it is quite substantial. Contactless pay was also discussed and Charlotte will ascertain whether there are any plans by the Diocese for this method.

Community Fundraising

The last time this was undertaken was in 2007 for the Hall project. A list of addresses has been retained. It was felt that the Hall and the Church are vital parts of the community and it is important to have a specific focus for the fundraising. Easter might be a good time for this undertaking.

1. **Any other business**

Plaque

Father Martyn reported that the oak plaque should arrive next week. It has a pictorial link to the original. When positioned it will require small spacers at the back to keep it slightly away from the wall.

Churchyard

A significant amount of clearing has taken place. The paths are losing their gravel and when the work is complete it will be renewed.

Organist The organist is leaving on January 21st. A replacement is being sought. There have been a number of enquiries.

New Incumbent The timetable for Father Martyn’s replacement is set. The next meeting is in April with the formal selection on July 10th. A starting date will depend on the circumstances of the person appointed.

Dates: January 7th Fr Martyn’s last service at St Nicholas

January 14th Fr Martyn’s last service at St Mary’s

February 22nd PCC meeting

Sunday 15th April Annual PCC Meeting after Morning Service

Father Martyn was thanked by the PCC for his guidance and help and for

chairing the meetings.