**PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS REMENHAM**

**Sunday 30 April 2023 10am.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

**and THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Present:**  Father Jeremy

John Laing and Charlotte Every (Churchwardens)

Sue Laing

Sarah West

Paul & Mandy Sermon

Nigel Gray

Hugh & Penny Whitfield

Lene de Wesselow

Pat Sly

Nicholas & Sally-Anne Plunket

Anne McDermott

**Meeting of Parishioners**

**Opening Prayers**

**1. Apologies & notification of any other business:**

Anthony West, Jayne Gray, Rosemary and Antony Duckett.

**2. Election of Church Wardens:**

As Remenham is a small parish, a motion was passedto waive the requirement that Churchwardens should only serve for two terms. Father Jeremy then proposed that as Charlotte Every was stepping down, John Laing was re-elected as Churchwarden. All agreed. Both Charlotte and John were thanked for their hard work and support to the Rector. The Rector commented that the work for one Churchwarden this year could be too much and that he hoped to co-opt a deputy Churchwarden to help.

**3. Any other business:**

There was no other business.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. **Minutes of the APCM on 15 May 2022 and notification of other business**

The minutes were circulated and were accepted as a true record of last year’s meeting. Their adoption was proposed by John Laing and seconded by Paul Sermon. All agreed. There was no notification of any other business.

1. **Election of representatives to the Deanery Synod and to the Parochial Church Council**

Anne McDermott had volunteered to be the representative for the Deanery Synod. There were no changes to the existing members of the PCC : Father Jeremy, John Laing, Charlotte Every, Sue Laing, Anthony & Sarah West, Nigel Gray, Hugh Whitfield, Paul & Mandy Sermon.

Anne will become a new member ex officio as Deanery Synod rep.

1. **Electoral Roll:**

The Rector reported that the number of persons on the Electoral Roll was 47

**Presentation of Annual Report and Accounts:**

The Treasurer, Nigel Gray, had submitted his report and he summarised this as follows:

Total PCC income for the year 2022 was £86,850, representing a slight decrease from the prior year. Expenses in the same period were £73,136, up 20% on the prior year. These figures are somewhat distorted by the fact that expenses relating to weddings during 2022 (primarily Organist and Verger Fees) were accounted for, whereas fee income from several weddings was not fully recovered by year end. These overdue payments have now been made. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Net Income for the year 2022 was a reasonably healthy £13,353.

Total funds under management at year end totalled £119,037, 13% above the 2021 figure. The year end values of the individual funds were:-

General £61,643 (Prior Year £26,525)

Hall £25,000 (Prior Year £46,814)

Fabric £24,143 (no change)

Strange £7256 (no change)

Jubilee £875 (no change)

Friends £100 ( no change)

The significant changes in value of the General and Hall Funds respectively result from the transfer of £35,000 from Hall to General towards the year end in accordance with the Constitution of the Parish Hall. (See note in Para. 3 of Financial Review on page 3 of the Accounts.

GENERAL FUND receipts from Gift Aid and Sundry Donations were considerably lower than Prior Year (£45719 compared to £62,617). This reduction in income was primarily due to the special fundraising exercise in 2021 following the 2020 “lockdown year”. Fee income increased by 54%, boosted by a significant number of weddings – even though receipts of some wedding fees were delayed, as noted above. In terms of expenses, our Parish Share of £28,370 was paid in full and the other major contributing factors to expenses were works on the Church Wall (£5k) and expenses relating to weddings etc, as noted above. Electricity costs are rising rapidly, with a rise of 150% year on year.

Parish Hall Income of £25,193 showed a growth of 55% in 2022 with increased lettings. Expenses of £11,666 – more than double the prior year, were impacted by painting work on all exterior and some interior windows (£4200).

In summary, thanks to a reasonably good year in 2022, the PCC finances are in good shape. We anticipate that we shall be able to fulfil our commitment to paying our full Parish Share in 2023.

Acceptance of the Financial Report was proposed by Sue Laing and John Laing. All agreed. Nigel Gray was thanked for his hard work.

1. **Report on Church Fabric and Churchyards:**

John Laing reported that some lights had been replaced and that some maintenance had taken place in the Tower. Charlotte said that thanks were due to Nick Austen for his hard work in the upper churchyard.

1. **Appointment of the Independent Examiner:**

It was agreed to continue to use Villiers Hayward as the independent examiner. This was proposed by Nigel Gray and seconded by Sue Laing.

1. **Deanery Synod Report**

There was no report this year. The Rector acknowledged the hard work carried out at the Synod by Heather Llewellyn who had died suddenly that week.

1. **Churchwarden’s report** See earlier minute (5).
2. **Rector’s report**

Father Jeremy reported that the Church had emerged from Covid better than most and that Remenham at present could stand as a separate entity with a regular Sunday service. There are many areas around the country that are not as fortunate. Finances are healthy due to the generosity and commitment in the parish. The Parish Hall is important for income and for providing a social venue. The alternative would be to combine the PCC with St Mary’s in Henley. He remarked that in general the congregation was slightly thin with a future congregation unknown. Father Jeremy reminded the PCC to make new members feel welcome and he encouraged everyone to invite others to join. He always encourages those who are local and get married here to return and he endeavours to get couples together in their marriage preparation to try to build their relationship with the Church.

Father Jeremy thanked Charlotte for all the support she had given to the Church and the Rector since 2009 and presented her with a gift. Charlotte thanked him and said that she would continue to worship at Remenham and be a member of the PCC.

1. **Approval of appointment of Parish Hall Committee Representatives to PCC**

Approval was given to Pat Sly, Janette Brown, Felicity Rutland, Allan Henderson and Claire Fletcher-Hobbs being members of the Parish Hall Committee.

1. **Any other business:**

Pat Sly mentioned that the £100 offer for car parking at the Parish Hall for events had only been taken up by two people.

Nigel Gray reported that the Church opening daily was well worthwhile. The volunteers, Ron and Angie Emerson, John Laing and Nigel Gray were thanked. John Laing expressed his thanks to everyone involved with the running of Remenham Church including cleaners, flower arrangers and other volunteers. He also thanked the Rector for his service .

1. The meeting ended with a blessing.

The meeting closed at 10.35am.