**Church of St Nicholas Remenham**

 **Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting**

**Thursday 7th March 2019 in Remenham Parish Hall**

Present

Father Jeremy Tayler (Chair)

Charlotte Every, Churchwarden

John Laing, Churchwarden

Nigel Gray

Anthony West

Sue Laing

Paul Sermon

Mandy Sermon, Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Hugh Whitfield, Sarah West.
2. **Minutes of last meeting held on 22nd November 2018.** The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Acceptance proposed by John Laing and seconded by Charlotte Every. Father Jeremy signed the minutes.
3. **Matters Arising** None
4. **Finance Report** Nigel Gray reported that the draft accounts had been received from the auditor and that they had been forwarded to Father Jeremy. One date relating to the number on the electoral roll was felt to be incorrect as the number for 2019 will not be known until the APCM in April. Names listed as being members of the PCC were checked and updated. Nigel Gray will check the figures and make any changes. The revised draft will be circulated and agreed. It was noted that the balance of Church Funds was about £14,000 as the DCMS had been received, but a number of invoices remain to be paid.
5. Parish Giving Scheme The idea for this started in Gloucester and is becoming very popular particularly with rural parishes. As the video was proving difficult to hear in the hall, Charlotte will send the link to everyone to watch at home. This scheme was discussed at length. There are some misgivings although the scheme is not thought to increase the Treasurer’s workload. However, despite the fact that the scheme would undertake most of the gift aid work, it will add another layer especially if the Friends Scheme also goes ahead. The idea of asking a parishioner to take over the responsibility for the gift aid envelopes was discussed.
6. Legacy giving Charlotte will also send the link to this idea as it is generally thought to be a good source of income to help maintain the Church.

Charlotte and Sue were thanked for attending the conference and for their hard work researching and reporting on these schemes.

 **5. Parish Hall** The Letters evening was a great success and it might be repeated. TheHall committee are planning a Gardening talk in April and the Quiz evening in October.

1. **Churchyard clean-up** This will take place on March 16th at 10am. It is also a time to make a list of what is required in the Churchyard in the near future.
2. **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** This was discussed and will take place on 14th April. This is Palm Sunday so Holy Communion will be said with hymns and a short sermon. The APCM will follow. A sign will be placed in the Church Porch.
3. **Henley Choral Scholarships Plan** It has been suggested in St Mary’s that some student choristers come to enhance the voice of the choir. Some funding has been set aside for this for the next 2 years. An idea to fund this in the future is to add a small surcharge to wedding fees but Father Jeremy said that this would not be charged for weddings already arranged this year. Father Jeremy asked if it would be a good idea for perhaps one student to be paid to come and help the singing at St Nicholas. This was thought to be a good suggestion if the cost was not too great.
4. **Any other business** Father Jeremy is having lunch with John Halsall (Chairman of the Parish Council and a District Councillor) next week.

**Next meeting date (after the APCM) May 23rd**