

The Parish of Farleigh PCC Meeting

September 13th, Clifton Room Dummer 7.30

Minutes

Attendees:

Revd Stephen Mourant
Debbie Scholey
Lyn Hardy
Bernard Cazenove
Viscount Lymington

Beverley Guinness
Annabel Portsmouth
Rev'd David Chattell
Eamonn Harding

Charles Palmer-Tomkinson
Lynda Plenty
Tricia Knight

1. Apologies: Julian Nunn
2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting: Approved with an amendment to include information about ground works required at Dummer church.
3. **Treasurer's report.** Eamonn circulated a report ahead of the meeting. In summary the finances are in a healthy position, and it is anticipated that the full parish share will be paid this year. The forecast income and expenditure are close so there is unlikely to be much surplus going into next year. There has not been much activity on restricted funds this year to date. The cash given in envelopes has in some cases switched to electronic 'plate' payments but overall donations are up. The parish share is due to increase next year. As a result the following proposal was made by BC and seconded by Charles.

Action BC and EH to send a letter to the Colin Harbidge at the Diocese to request that the parish share for Farleigh should be reduced next year following the retirement of Stephen Mourant.

Although it is understood that its up to the PCC how much they pay to the Diocese its not recommended that we reduce the payment unilaterally but by agreement with the Diocese.

4. Church Wardens reports

St Leonards. Lynda reported that the church was getting back to normal procedures with services now held inside and the congregation getting back together.

All Saints. Lyn Hardy reported that the path work in the church yard is ongoing. A recent village fund raising event raised about £400, half of which will be paid into the Farleigh general fund. Dummer have a new organist for at least a year, who is being paid directly by Dummer with funds provided by a benefactor. He is training to be a professional organist and is very good.

St Martins. A new notice board has been purchased to replace the one at the gate and is awaiting fitting . The faculty to support this work granted under list A is 2021 061807. The notice board will be dedicated to Jacqui Swan at some time in the future.

St Andrews: nothing to report but noted that its good to be back to more normal procedures.

5. Stephen is seeking feedback on the proposal to return to normal procedures for holy communion. There are several options; either retain the use of small cups or revert to a single cup. Dummer and Cliddesden prefer to remain with the small individual cups, and Ellisfield will report back after a church meeting later this week. **Action. For those churches retaining small cups each church will need to procure and wash the cups locally,** (previously managed by Stephen).

6. No names have come forward for the post of Treasurer of the PCC to replace Eamonn who is aiming to step down next spring. In addition Alice the paid book-keeper will also step down at the same time. Eamonn estimates that he spends 16 hours a week and Alice is paid about £600 p.a for her work to prepare the accounts etc. It was agreed that all options need to be considered including paying someone to replace both Eamonn and Alice. It was estimated that this could cost ~£5600 pa.

The PCC also approved Eamonn's proposal to buy a dedicated lap top for the treasurer. The proposal was made by BC and seconded by Lyn Hardy.

Action: Eamonn to bring a proposal to the next PCC for a professional Parish book keeper and in addition to purchase a laptop.

7. **Rectors report: new Rotas and change in service format.** David presented a revised format for services (attached to these minutes). There will be a total of 21 services per month across the benefice. David's aim is to maintain the previous pattern as much as possible. All communion services will be led by David, and he needs confirmation that its possible to manage one Lay led service in each church once a month. The PCC approved the proposal recognising that the revised timelines may be a challenge and that church congregations must be flexible in service times as necessary. It was suggested that at the next PCC meeting the service patterns could be reviewed and any issues discussed.

The lower valley is yet to approve the schedule but this should happen later this week and it's intended to go to print in this month's Hill and Dale.

Action: include a review of service patterns at the PCC in November.

Pastoral care, including funerals, weddings, baptisms and visits will be provided by David. However David is encouraging people to consider attending a BCM course which are available to lay members in a range of topics including pastoral care, in order that a pastoral team could be established. Some individuals from Preston have already done a course. The PCC agreed that expenses incurred by individuals attending these courses can be claimed by providing invoices to Eamonn.

David will conduct school assemblies at Cliddesden school several times a term.

There are 4 posts available in the Diocese as 'house for duty' posts for newly retired clergy. These are to be advertised shortly by the Bishop. The church wardens will meet in October to define the profile of the HFD for Farleigh. The Ellisfield rectory is likely to be sold but there is already a house in Hatch Warren for a HFD candidate.

8. **Lango.** This link has been terminated and no more money will be sent to this Diocese.
9. **Safeguarding report.** Nothing to report from Caroline Cazenove.
10. **Playgroup report.** Clare Nunn and Melanie Gill provided a summary report of activities between June and September. This is attached to the minutes for information. No action required from the PCC.
11. **Hill and Dale.** A proposal was discussed to consider a modest one off honorarium payment to Jean Frost and Ros Partridge, the editor and treasure for Hill and Dale. Based on the small surplus that Hill and Dale is making, a suggestion of between £250-500 each was discussed. It was decided to review

the finances at the November PCC and a payment could be made to both Jean and Ros as a 'Xmas bonus'

12. **Cliddesden family services.** Clare and the team met with Roger Morgan to discuss ideas to grow the service and activities available. Some of these ideas are being incorporated into future services. It was agreed that expenses related to these services would be paid by presenting an invoice to Eamonn.

Action: Feedback to the team by means of the distribution of these minutes.

13. **Diocesan Bishop.** The current Bishop of Winchester will formally retire in February but is no longer conducting duties. An informal Synod meeting was held recently to pose questions and discuss the future changes that are required to improve governance. Stephen may remain involved after his retirement.
14. The Dummer remembrance service will be held on November 14th and a vicar has been booked through the registry, which is now open again so available to us in the event of David's absence /holidays etc. **Action David to provide the details of the vicar to Lyn Hardy**
15. **Xmas service formats.** To be discussed at the November PCC meeting.
16. **Parish records.** A proposal was made to rationalise the Parish documentation, which is currently stored in a variety of homes of PCC members. DS was proposing that, in the absence of a 'Parish office' a place could be found, for a Parish storage cabinet. **Action: LH to check to whether the DCC would allow a cabinet to be placed in the Clifton room.** There is a document defining what must be kept and where, including archive storage at Winchester Records office. All are actioned to review documents held and decide on actions. To be discussed at the next meeting. **Action- DS to circulate the guidance on document retention.**
17. **Items for next meeting on November 1st:** Hill and Dale editorial payments. Xmas services, review of new rota, book-keeping proposal, document storage.