

The Parish of Farleigh PCC Meeting Minutes

June 6th, 2022

Attendees:

Bernard Cazenove, Eamonn Harding, Debbie Scholey, Lynda Plenty, Lyn Hardy, Oliver Lymington

Apologies: David Chattell, Charles Palmer-Tomkinson, Beverley Guinness, Annabel Portsmouth

In the absence of David Chattell, Bernard Cazenove was nominated by the committee to be Chairman for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received as noted above.
2. The minutes of the last PCC meeting in February 2022 were approved.
3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda -none
4. Matters arising from the ACPM. The draft minutes from the AGM have been circulated, and a number of missing numbers were provided by church wardens for inclusion in the final minutes.
Action: Oliver Lymington to provide an overview of the CW report for St Andrews for inclusion in the final minutes.

At the AGM Peter Raine raised the issue of service patterns for discussion. It was noted that this would be taken up for discussion by the PCC. However although in the absence of David further discussion on this topic was deferred to a future meeting David's Rectors report does address this topic.

5. Treasurer's Report. Eamonn had circulated a financial report in advance of the meeting, included in Appendix 1 of this report. The need to replace Eamonn as Treasurer remains open, no one who has been approached was willing to take on the role. Eamonn informed the meeting that he may not be able to provide the comprehensive treasury service of the past, but he will continue to be the Treasurer in the meantime. An advert will be placed in the next issue of Hill and Dale. The current financial position has been boosted by 2 substantial donations which has enabled approximately £24k of the Common Mission Fund to be paid, leaving £40k to pay by the end of the year. Eamonn proposed that we purchase 3 Sumup machines for use in churches, to allow donations to be made by card payment. Although there is a charge per transaction it was hoped that this would be offset by a general increase in giving over traditional cash. **Action: Eamonn** to purchase the machines. It was agreed that going forward utility bills for each church could be simplified by setting up direct debits and installing smart meters at St Martins, St Andrews and All Saints. (St Leonards already has a smart meter). **Action: Church Wardens** to arrange for smart meters to be installed.

6. Churchwarden reports.

- Cliddesden. The replacement organ parts that were damaged in the recent floods is ongoing. Hazel Metz was recently appointed to the DCC and Val Goften- Salmond is now the village hall representative on the DCC.
- Dummer. No significant items to report, except there Rooks in the Belfry so efforts are in place to ensure all church doors are closed to prevent them getting access to the church.

- Ellisfield. The building work ,to repair the roof and tower following storm damage, has now been completed and the fallen tree and others have been removed and trimmed. A facility is required, to support this work, which is in hand, see below. The only outstanding repair is for a small stain glass window and this will require a separate facility at a later date. All costs apart fom the Architect and hire of the memorial hall for services are covered by insurance. These additional costs are expected to be approximately £2000.
 - Farleigh Some damp has been detected in the vestry and this will be investigated by the estate. The application for the commonwealth war grave sign has been made and accepted.
7. Dummer DCC would formally like permission to apply (re-apply) to Hampshire and the Islands Trust for membership at £25:00 per annum. However it was noted that the Parish of Farleigh is most likely already a member so it should not be necessary for individual churches to be members as well. **Action: Lyn** to determine if the Parish are already members.
 8. Dummer Permission to place a St James' Way waymarker on the wall to All Saints Church, Dummer. This request has been withdrawn as the sign will be located elsewhere outside the church grounds.
 9. The PCC approved the request for a Facility B Application for St Martins as follows for: *all storm damage works, internal and external at St Martin's as listed on the Faculty B application*
 10. Safeguarding report and safe guarding policy recommendation. Caroline Cazenove reported that there were no safeguarding issues. It was also confirmed, following a question from our Safeguarding officer, that the PCC have adopted a Safe Guarding policy, as required.
 11. Playgroup. A report on the playgroup activities was provided by Clare Nunn and Melanie Gill, attached to these minutes. The numbers of attendees is increasing and they are looking for additional volunteers to support the group.
 12. Hill and Dale. Financially Hill and Dale is showing a surplus at this stage although there appears to be a small reduction in advertising revenue and a reduction in numbers of subscribers to date although not all subs have been paid. There will be a combined issue for July and August.
 13. Rector's report: a written report from David was circulated in advance and is attached to the minutes. The main point for discussion was the proposed service patterns for August, taking into account the fact that David will still be on sick leave through August. David provided 2 options, a continued 'fellowship' style format similar to July, or a more standard service pattern for August. After some discussion a hybrid format, Plan C, was preferred and is as follows:

Plan C

August 7th, 8th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Ellisfield Holy Communion BCP Registry cover

09.45 Cliddesden Morning Prayer Lay cover P Raine

11.15 Dummer Sunday Special Lay Led

11:00 Northington Holy Communion Rev BP

August 14th , 9th Sunday after Trinity

11:00 Preston Candover Morning Prayer (Anne)

11:00 Farleigh Holy Communion Rev BP

6:00 Wield Evensong Lay led /Registry

August 21st 10th Sunday after Trinity

11:00 Bradley Holy Communion Rev BP

11:00 Cliddesden Family Service (Claire and team)

August 28th 11th Sunday after Trinity

9.45 Dummer Holy Communion CW Rev Brian Pritchard

11:00 Brown Candover Morning Prayer (Lay Led Peter Raine/ Anne / Celia tbc)

11.15 Ellisfield Family Holy Communion Rev BP

(note- services for the Candover valley are included here for completion but are not the subject of this PCC's discussion).

Post meeting note: This format has been provided to David and Ruth Chattell for information but it is noted that in the absence of David the Church Wardens are responsible to ensure the appropriate leadership for the services is in place.

14. Items for next agenda: Remembrance Service plans.

The meeting closed with prayers.

15. Next meeting date: September 12th 2022

Appendices

Financial Report

Playgroup Report

Rectors Report

Appendix 1. Treasurer's Report: 6th June 2022

1. I sent out a copy of the budget with the annual report to the APCM. There is no reason to revise this at present.
2. I am now not able to provide the Treasury service I am accustomed to. There may be delay in responding to the growing number of requests for information. No one has come forward to take over the work. Sheen Stickland have not been able to offer a solution, though they regard it as essential that a Treasurer is a member of the PCC, since it reports to the PCC. Meanwhile I will continue.

3. The financial position is satisfactory at present due to two extremely generous donations; one of £5,000 and one of £10,000. This has enabled us to pay £24,317 of Common Mission Fund, leaving £40,000 to pay. The general fund balance is £11,177.
4. Hill and Dale: income of £4,684.50 and expenditure of £2,462 giving a current balance of £4,604.
5. Messy Church spends very little money. Income has been £755 and expenditure £238, giving a balance of £4,370.
6. Play Group: income £567 and expenditure £277 giving a balance of £476.
7. I would like to propose we purchase three Sum Up machines to enable payments for fees, collections and so on to be made by credit card. These are available from Parish Buying at £14.99 each, or £19.99 with a cradle. Charges are 1.1% for Debit cards and 1.3% for credit cards. They operate through mobile phones, and can be pre-programmed with donations of eg £5, £10, £20 or other.
8. I would like to propose that we pay all utility bills by direct debit. To facilitate this, I highly recommend installation of Smart meters (free of charge) in St Martins, All Saints and St Andrews. St Leonards already has one. I sent through details to all a while back, but can provide contact numbers to arrange if needed.

Eamonn Harding
6th June 2022

Appendix 2 Farleigh Parish Playgroup report for PCC

Report for the first half of the summer term, dated 6th June 2022

The numbers attending playgroup are gathering strength which is very encouraging. New families are few but we have many regular families who greatly appreciate playgroup. An average number of 20 children and 17 families attended during this period.

We advertise in both the Hill & Dale and the Oxdrove, Helen Walker is promoting the playgroup in the Basingstoke Gazette "News from the villages" and parents tell friends about the group.

The number of volunteers continues to be low with Claire and Melanie being the main volunteers taking care of the running of the group, with some help from Laura-Lee and Zoe. Stacy stands in for Melanie when she is away. We have had one new volunteer with Jenny Padmore recently join us. She is super at engaging with children and adults and takes care of snack time. Monica helps us whenever she can and both her and Jenny are a great help to us. We also rely on the willing help from the parents/grandparents who value and appreciate the playgroup. One parent with a new baby recalls the warm welcome she received when they first came to the group.

One exciting morning recently was the visit of a huge John Deere tractor, thanks to one of our families, which was a great thrill for the children and adults.

Our Jubilee celebration was to make shiny decorated crowns and we had a Union Jack Flag themed picnic with tasty food, thanks to Monica.

Outreach work includes some playgroup families attended the family service at St Leonards and took part in the Lent challenge. Ruth Chattell kindly brought us books about faithfulness linked to the Jubilee which we handed out to children at the Jubilee party.

As always, we are very grateful for the support from Eamonn, Ken and Pat and the Cliddesden Hall.

Claire Nunn and Melanie Gill

Appendix 3 Rector's Report Farleigh PCC June 6th

My thanks to members of the PCC for standing again to pursue duties as

“... to co-operate with the minister...in **promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.**”.

First. Following the sale of the property known as the 'Ellisfield Rectory' representation has been made to Bishop David that the Diocesan Board of Finance purchase a suitable property in the benefice to house a House for Duty priest. I advocate that this house be in Cliddesden as the most suitable location for that priest, though it could be anywhere in the Benefice from Northington to Cliddesden but being in the Farleigh parish makes strategic sense and if sited in one of the denser populated villages would facilitate more effective ministry.

2. The challenge was made at the APCM about why we have services in each church when the congregation might not be very high in number. There was a rebuttal to the suggestion that congregations join together and an endorsement of the current pattern of worship through which each village is offered the opportunity to attend with other Christians in an act of worship in their own village on a regular basis. I hope this outlook will be sustained under point number 3.

In my report at the APCM I mentioned mission. There is the 'Great Commission' at the end of Matthew's gospel and I wonder how we might imaginatively engage with that as local congregations relating to each village?

Evangelism, outreach or 'faithsharing', (whatever the name we give it -the question is the same)... How might we intentionally do things that will be part of others growing in faith, coming to faith in Jesus Christ for themselves? Our regular Sunday worship is an act of witness as we gather in our village churches, but how can we find greater engagement with our communities to share faith, explain what we believe and why? This question has been raised over many years- we may need to be more intentional...?

These questions might lead to reflection on how we worship on Sundays, the idiom, content and style.

My belief is that each church community, can offer to their villages an experience of worship and encounter with Christian faith that is attractive across our demographic; from traditional school chapel backgrounds to young families with no church experience.

3. St Leonards church is on the route for parents and children to Cliddesden Primary School where I deliver assemblies every fortnight. God has blessed the church with a good relationship with the school.

The monthly Cliddesden Family services are able to attract a number of young families on a regular basis and clearly has the potential for growth with the provision of the church since the investment in a loo, kitchenette a good sound and projector system.

There is momentum of worship and every effort should be made to retaining the families who have attended and those who continue to support the growing services at St Leonards. This momentum in Cliddesden is due to the vision and hard work of Claire Nunn and her team and is a great example of village-specific-outreach to neighbours led by the villagers themselves, with a weekly playgroup and also young singers initiative led by Sylvia Raine.

In November 2021 ST Leonards enjoyed a Family service of Remembrance which was attended by 60 people; approx. 30 children and 30 adults. This service was carefully planned in content and delivery and also in making adults aware it was not in competition with Dummer's RBL service. On that basis I know of only 1 adult who attended who might otherwise been at Dummer, who commented that he was delighted to be able to attend in his own village. The service was carefully written by the Benefice Reader, who is an experienced Primary School Teacher, who was able to provide explanation, activities and involvement of young children in the service- children who would not have otherwise attended a Remembrance service.

The combined total for the two services of Remembrance was around 140 people. More came to church because we offered two services.

This was an initiative that succeeded because of the good relationship of church with families and should be built upon. It is a prime example of a village church reaching out to its own community and offering villagers worship in their own village which they were pleased to accept. I shall put as an agenda item for PCC a 'Family Remembrance service at St Leonards' for a discussion when I can be present and hope that there will be support for this and that the PCC can see that this is a valuable part of ministry, once this initiative has been better understood.

There was a suggestion that this provision was 'pandering' to people...but mission is not pandering. Rural vicars adapt each week, to each village to deliver a message that can be received by different congregations, with different needs. We all change our way of speaking if we need to be understood- as St Paul did. God the Almighty, humbly became human, lived amongst us to reach us...he did not stay away in His Glory and expect us to understand- he came to his people, he adapted his communication to get our attention. Mission includes reaching to people in such a way as to communicate clearly and effectively and in an enabling way to help others join us in worship and to encounter God in Jesus Christ.

Discussion pending in September!

4. Overseas Deanery Link to Rwanda. Following the termination of our link to the Uganda province of Lango there is an invitation to Alresford Deanery to make links with Lyndhurst Deanery to Rwanda. There is a new Diocese soon to be set up and I have been invited as Area Dean to attend the enthronement of the first Bishop.

I hope to go to Rwanda should I be well enough for that trip and fly on August 25th.

There will be a zoom invite to all Deanery Synod members soon to meet Mark Collinson from School of Mission to discuss the proposed new link.

5. I have sent out options for the service rota in August for the PCC to agree the option they would like.

Please see Plan A for this -which is essentially the extension of Fellowship Month from July into August.

Plan B – a full rota is also included to show the cover requirements by LAY congregants and Registry (to be arranged by Church Wardens – in red) should this be preferred.

6. From the beginning of May I have been appointed as Squadron Leader

Padre to Basingstoke Air Training Corps. I was appointed following the retirement of the Popley vicar.

My commitment will be one evening per months of Padre's hour. If I have the capacity for more- there are further opportunities to be involved.

They will attend St Leonard's Church Cliddesden for their church parades (NOT Remembrance).

David Chattell May 29th 2022