

Farleigh PCC meeting minutes

February 6th 2023

Attendees; David Chattell, Beverley Guinness, Oliver Lymington, Charlie Palmer-Tomkinson, Eamonn Harding, Hannah Houston-Lacey, Lyn Hardy, Lynda Plenty

1. Apologies for absence were received from Julian Nunn.
2. The minutes of the last meeting on November 7th 2022 were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

- a. Feedback on use of card readers

QR codes are now available to use in churches in lieu of cash donations/collections. This is linked to the sumup machines that are available in each church. This is on trial in St Martins and for those with smart phones there are 4 QR codes for different amounts. The codes will be available at the back of the church and possibly on pews. In order for electronic donations to be gift aided the gift aid envelope must also be completed and put in the collection in the normal way. It was also suggested that each church places a note saying that it costs £82/day to run the church.

Action: DS to send the QR code document to Oliver to use in St Andrews.

4. Introduction of Hannah Houston Lacey. Hannah has recently volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer for the Parish of Farleigh and also to take on role of book keeper for the Parish. The current bookkeeper is planning to retire in the Spring at the end of the tax year having supported the Parish for many years. Handover for the bookkeeper role is ongoing and Hannah will fully take over as the bookkeeper from the beginning of the new tax year. She will charge a commercial rate for this work, estimating 1 hour/week. The costs of the software programme used by Alice will now be met by the Parish and Hannah will supply her own PC and screen. Eamonn will continue to support Hannah during the hand over period this year

The appointment of Hannah Houston Lacey to the role of bookkeeper for the Parish of Farleigh was proposed by Eamonn Harding, Seconded by Charlie Palmer-Tomkinson and was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer role requires a formal election at the ACPM in April but the proposal for Hannah to be nominated for the role of Treasurer was nominated by David Chattell and seconded by Debbie Scholey.

5. Treasurers Report

Eamonn reported that in 2022 it was not possible for to pay the CMF in full. Last year the CMF increased to £64k but we were only able to pay £34k. This was generally due to a reduced or flat income and increased energy costs. The Diocese gave a grant of £1000 towards energy costs which was helpful but given the costs increased from about £6400 to £24,000 the grant did not fully cover the increased costs.

The preparation of the Financial Report by EH is ongoing, waiting on the update of the Rectors Report. **Action DC to provide the updated report for 2022.** Eamonn will circulate the final report for approval by the PCC in late March. This will be done via email and signatures can be done remotely. There is no need for an ad hoc meeting before the ACPM in April.

6. Church wardens Report

- a. Cliddesden. Two faculty applications are required for Cliddesden. One for the repairs to the stain glass windows. An additional facility is also required for the necessary repairs to the church roof and porch. The PCC formally approved the repairs to the window and the roof and porch repairs in line with the specification drawn up by Nick Carry-Thomas and appended to this minute.
 - b. Dummer. Last year was reported as a good year with good Xmas services and the lay led services have been well received. The work to the organ is planned for July. A grant of £15k has been obtained including £3k from the Historic Churches Fund. The future of the Clifton Room is uncertain given that the building has been sold. Thanks were offered to David Chattell for his support this last year.
 - c. Ellisfield. The quinquennial survey was done last November and all items have been resolved. The DCC have discussed the need for some amplification for speakers and this is under research. A good Xmas was reported with 91 attending on Xmas day.
 - d. Farleigh. Thanks were expressed to David for his support. Unusually the Xmas Eve carols were poorly attended this year. The leak in the vestry is under investigation. **Action OL to follow up.** A meeting has been held to discuss the heating of the church and it was agreed to have the heating on for 2 hours each day on a low setting to prevent damp. St Andrews now have a smart meter
7. Safeguarding report. No issues to discuss
 8. Playgroup update. A report is attached.
 9. Hill and Dale. The costs to advertisers have been increased by about 6% this year which is in line with the increased printing costs that are planned during the year. A small surplus was reported at the end of last year of £400. Costs are managed by limiting the number of pages in each issue to 60-64 and limiting the use of colour pages. There are plans to update the cover design during the year.

10. Rectors Report. Attendances at the Xmas services were increased this year. There were 3 lay led services on Xmas day and David offers his thanks to those involved. The Lay input across the Benefice allows the current service pattern to be maintained. Another HFD advert is due out this quarter. David confirmed that the second candidate that withdrew his application late last year accepted a position in Sherfield. The number of planned weddings this year is 8, a reduction on previous years and David will therefore run a single marriage preparation day.

At the Deanery level the potential new link with a new Parish in Rwanda is being explored. Alex Green visited the Parish and is planning a further visit. This will be discussed further at the next Deanery synod meeting on February 15th. Farleigh Parish have 2 representatives on this group although are entitled to 3 if anyone is interested in stepping forward. It was suggested that an article in H and D would be useful to raise awareness of the new Rwanda link. **Action DC to prepare an article for the next issue of H and D.**

Easter plans. There will be a single Benefice service on Ash Wednesday at St Mary's. Although there will be no formal Lent course this year David is recommending a book written for Lent by the Bishop of Kensington called 'Failure'. **Action DC to include a note in March H and D about Lent and the book. Deadline 18th February.**

11. AOB. The ACPM is planned for April 26th and Ellisfield Memorial hall has been booked for the meeting.

12. AOB. Bernard requested a vicar led service in Ellisfield on Easter Day. **Action DC to arrange.**

13. Dates for meetings in 2023 Mondays June 5th , September 11th, November 6th. APCM Wednesday April 26th

Appendices

1. Playgroup report
2. Faculty applications for Cliddesden.



Cliddesden
Facility.pdf



Playgroup
report.docx