

## Farleigh PCC meeting minutes

June 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Attendees:

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Rev David Chattell  | Hannah Houstin-Lacey |
| Bishop David (part) | Eamonn Harding       |
| Debbie Scholey      | Peter Raine          |
| Beverley Guinness   | Lynda Plenty         |
| Bernard Cazenove    |                      |

1. Apologies for absence were received from: Oliver Lymington and Lyn Hardy
2. The new members of the PCC, Peter Raine and Hannah Houstin-Lacey were welcomed to the PCC.
  - a. **Action Peter Raine** agreed to update the web site with details of the new members.
  - b. **Action Debbie Scholey** to update Hill and Dale with the new member details
3. The minutes of the last PCC meeting on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 were approved.
4. Bishop David provided some feedback on the HFD post, which has now been advertised for 6 cycles with limited interest. A recent applicant withdrew and took a similar post in the Basingstoke area. David is now re-thinking and looking at alternatives. A recently retired prison chaplain, living in Basingstoke called Ian Thacker, has offered help on the first and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. He has done a few services and the feedback is very positive. He will be included on the rota's in the Farleigh Parish for a 3 month experimental basis and this may extend to other churches later.

Bernard Cazenove raised the topic of funds with the Bishop and the fact that we have not been able to pay our full Parish share last year. Parishioners were probably reluctant to pay more to the Parish given the reduction in clergy in the benefice since Stephen retired, and knowing that the sale of the rectory brought considerable funds to the Diocese. David explained that the church are cutting costs with a reduction in lay posts. In addition, there are other Benefices that are not paying their share and these areas are effectively being subsidized by other more affluent parishes. In effect rural areas are contributing to the urban populations. It is generally the case that 80% of the funds are paid by 20% of the people. The issue of falling numbers needs to be addressed, Bishop David noted that churches with less than 100 people are not really viable. There was some general discussion and Bishop David left the meeting around 8pm.

5. Treasurers report. Eamonn provided his last update as Treasurer and will step down from the PCC after this meeting. There has been considerable effort required to respond to Nat Wests request for a new business case to support the Farleigh Parish Account and charity status to ensure it is kept open. This has now been completed and the PCC thanked Eamonn for his persistence with this request. It is now possible to complete the hand over to Hannah. Hannah is moving the accounting system over to Xero, and has requested that she attends a training session to fully learn the system. The costs of this would be £550 plus VAT. It was suggested that it maybe possible to cover these costs from the Farleigh Educational Trust. **Action: Bernard agreed to review this option within the Trust.** However if this is not available the PCC agreed to support her training costs for this system. The PCC were asked to approve a request to release funds from the CCLA funds to pay for the organ repairs at Dummer, which was approved. **Action Lyn Hardy to contact Hannah to action this request.** The first payment of the Parish Share , £10k can now be paid. (post meeting note- Hannah has now made this payment). David presented a thank you gift voucher to Eamonn for his years of service on the PCC as Treasurer. Eamonn intends to continue as Gift Aid secretary to manage the gift aid envelope giving for the Parish
6. Parish Giving proposal. David explained that this is a central process for electronic giving that is administered by a group in Gloucester. It reduces the work load locally to claim gift aid. However it does not apply to cash giving or envelopes so these would still need to be managed locally. Some churches in the Candovers use this scheme. **Action Eamonn to research the parish giving scheme and report back to the PCC.**
7. Financial situation and action required to increase giving. This topic was discussed but there was sensitivity to the fact that its difficult to ask congregations for more money when there is a reduction in the clergy in the Benefice. David agreed however to write a piece to explain the current situation for Hill and Dale.
8. Church wardens Report
  - a. Cliddesden

Lynda reported that there was an incident earlier in the year where snowdrops were removed from the church yard. The building work has now been completed including repairs to the vestry floor and replastering. The church yard has been cleared of builders rubble by Peter and Ross. A faculty was approved for the repair of the stain glass window.

Peter Raine hosted a meeting aimed at developing a growth plan for the church, aimed at families. A community picnic event will be organised and Peter is also planning to set up a prayer group in Cliddesden. There is a group formed that will plan for next years 'Thy Kingdom come' events during Pentecost to engage with the village. David is planning to attend the next DCC meeting at Cliddesden to discuss.

b. Dummer

Lyn provided a written report: All Saints will be hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in July. (Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.) Our organ is being removed for cleaning during August. Alex is prepared to take the service, as usual, on August 6<sup>th</sup> and will sort something out re music. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> is 08:00 a.m BCP and does not require music - if this suits David's holiday plans. If the organ is returned in time, we will have Matins on the 20<sup>th</sup> August and HC on 27<sup>th</sup> if Ian Thacker is

available. The good news is we have received further money for the organ fund and so will only be asking for £2096 from the restricted funds. Stafford is handling this. We have a planned event in aid of the Parish of Farleigh funds in September: provisional date Friday 8th.

c. Ellisfield

The Annual Bluebell walk was a success raising around £1000 for Parish Funds.

d. Farleigh

No report was available

9. Safeguarding report

The Safeguarding policy was reviewed by Caroline Cazenove and no updates are required.

The new PCC members will be provided with forms to complete for the DBS checks. **Action; Caroline to provide the forms to Hannah and Peter**

10. Playgroup update. This report is attached to the minutes.

**11. Hill and Dale report.** A review of the number of copies distributed has led to a small reduction in print numbers to reduce costs. **Action Debbie to ask Jean to send PDF copies of past issues to Peter Raine to add to the website.**

12. Rectors Report. Some of these topics were discussed earlier. Ian Thacker will do some services on 2 Sundays in the month and he will be introduced in September. David indicated that the numbers at some services were up on last year. Services for Fellowship month in July are as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> July Dummer, 9<sup>th</sup> July Cliddesden, 16<sup>th</sup> July Farleigh, 23<sup>rd</sup> July Ellisfield 30<sup>th</sup> Farleigh. It was agreed that a similar once service format would also be run during August.

Harvest dates: Ellisfield September 24<sup>th</sup>. Cliddesden 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Dummer Harvest TBC.

13. Topics for next meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, Xmas, Parish Giving, Memorial services. Further meeting dates for 2023 November 6<sup>th</sup>

*Post Meeting note: the final figures for the Electoral Role in the Parish of Farleigh for 2023 are 152 and the numbers calculated to be the community of worshippers is 90. (Thanks to Eamonn and Peter for reviewing records and generating this figure). These numbers continue to decline slightly each year.*

Attachment 1.

Report from the Farleigh Playgroup.

## **Farleigh Parish Playgroup report for the PCC**

### **Report from 3<sup>rd</sup> February to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Attendance:** The average numbers attending playgroup for the second half of the Spring term (24<sup>th</sup> Feb – 31 March) were 16 children and for the first part of the summer term to date were 17 children.

We fortunately continue to have very good positive feedback from families. One grandma said that this is the best playgroup she has been to over many years and we know that children are very happy coming to the group.

The 4 new families are from Rev Chattell, Claire attending St. Leonards and word of mouth recommendation.

**Financial:** We have £695 at 12<sup>th</sup> May. This is a great deal of money in our account so it was decided by Claire and Melanie to have a summer outing to Finkley Down Farm on 30<sup>th</sup> June and that playgroup funds would pay the entry for the children and for food to feed the animals.

**Volunteers:** Fortunately, we have the same volunteers and we greatly value each one. Monica was extremely kind and donated craft items and the Easter party and the Coronation party food.

Stacy kindly helps out when Melanie is away (26<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June).

An extra closure date is 16<sup>th</sup> June when the Cliddesden Players have their production and it is tricky setting up the hall for playgroup without clear access to/from the store cupboard.

#### **Activities:**

The Easter party and Coronation party were both a great success and the children enjoy the party food and making an Easter hat and having an Easter egg hunt and making a Crown for the celebrations and having Union Jacks painted on their faces.

We have had a variety of crafts including planting sunflower seeds (kindly donated by a mother) and mixing paint colours (some new painting aprons kindly donated by a grandmother), making a fox face and a furry cat picture and these have all been enjoyed by the children.

#### **Outreach:**

The Singing Group and the monthly Family services at St Leonards are promoted and attended by some playgroup families, as was the special Coronation service.

At St Leonards, Dads and children came to the flower posies and making cards workshop for Mothering Sunday. Families also joined in the fun of the Easter egg-stravaganza, on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Many thanks to Claire for organising these popular events for families.

The playgroup is appreciated by the families and it also serves a purpose for the volunteers who have school age or adult children. They enjoy the friendship of the group and the uplifting nature of being around young children.

Our grateful thanks to Eamonn for all his help and support and we look forward to working with Hannah. Ken and Pat Rampton are wonderful helping us out at the hall.

Claire Nunn and Melanie Gill, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023