

Farleigh PCC meeting 11th September 2023

Minutes

Attendees:

David Chattell Hannah Houstin Lacey

Debbie Scholey Lyn Hardy

Beverley Guinness Lynda Plenty

Bernard Cazenove Peter Raine

Oliver Lymington

1. Apologies for absence were received from Charles Palmer-Tomkinson
2. The minutes from the last meeting on June 5th 2023 were approved unchanged
3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.
 - a. Peter reported that the web site is being updated with new PCC members and Hannah agreed to provide a short bio to be included.
4. Treasurers report

So far this year just under £10K of CMF has been paid and Hannah will be paying the next £10k or whatever is possible following the meeting. It was noted that giving is generally lower in the summer when there are fewer services but that this is likely to increase over the Xmas period. Its unlikely however that we will be able to pay the full share this year. Hannah will reply to the letter from Colin Harbridge accordingly. Next year the CMF will be lower (£57k compared to £59 in 2023).

David noted that the Diocese has reduced its budget substantially and its now less than £9M,? and also noted that the accounts will be made available as a means of increasing transparency.

Peter Raine presented the analysis that he has done on 'giving and parish share' across the Diocese and there was a discussion around the value and significance of the amounts.

It was agreed that Hannah and the CW's would arrange a meeting to propose a plan for targeted giving for 2024. **Action: meeting to be arranged by BC in January 2024.**

In addition, David agreed to write an article for H and D to explain the finances of the Parish and to encourage individuals to consider increasing giving. **Action David to prepare a piece asap for the October H and D.**

The Sumup account has now been re-set up for the Parish of Farleigh account and new QR codes will be provided by Hannah. St Martins will be set up first and then other churches can follow and manage the giving locally. It is recognised that the use of the machine may be limited but it may be useful for visitors and large events. Hannah will look into the cost of the one-stop machine which only requires a single tap with the card. **Action Hannah to review the costs and management of this type of machine.**

The transfer of funds for Dummer's CCLA account were discussed. Action :**Hannah will transfer the funds as agreed.**

It was agreed that it would be helpful if Tricia Knight, the Benefice Administrator, could help with the compilation of the Farleigh Annual Reports going forward. David agreed this should be possible and he would discuss this with her.

It was also agreed that Bernard, as a means of transparency, would review Hannah's Book-keeping expenses, rather than Eamonn.

5. Church wardens Report

a. Cliddesden

Lynda noted that there is some mould in church and wondered if the heating was on more over the winter this could be prevented from getting worse. It was noted that the surveyor Nick Carey-Thomas recommended that the temperature in churches could be maintained at 12 degrees to prevent damage from damp over the winter.

It was agreed, after some discussion that there would be a children's remembrance service at Cliddesden again this year in addition to the normal service at Dummer. It was noted that numbers were down last year at Dummer raising concern that there is a conflict having both services at the same time. It was agreed to review attendances at both services later in the year.

b. Dummer

Lyn is looking at further insulation for the church. The organ repairs are not yet completed, due to delays in getting parts. **Action: Lyn will provide Hannah with the final costs.** Quotes are being obtained for some repairs to the windows in the Clifton room. Although this does not belong to the church it's agreed that minor upkeep should be covered by the church in lieu of rental costs. The restricted funds should cover the cost of this work.

c. Ellisfield

A report has shown that there is a 'dangerous' tree in the church yard that must be felled. The likely cost of this will not exceed £1500. (post meeting note- the tree is not to be felled but reduced in size).

The PCC agreed to submit a Faculty B to cover the work needed on the tree.

d. Farleigh

Oliver thanked Bernard and Peter for helping out with the August service at Farleigh, when he was not available. A faculty is needed for Farleigh to cover work needed to rectify the damp.

Action: Bernard to provide the details to Oliver in order to submit a faculty to the Diocese.

6. Safeguarding -there are no safeguarding issues to report. Hannah was informed that she did not require a DBS check as the Treasurer. Peter's application for a DBS check is ongoing.

7. Playgroup. A report was provided by email. It was noted that in the recent period expenses have exceeded income and the balance on the account is now £219. The

PCC agreed that there are residual funds in the Messy Church account that could support the playgroup if necessary.

8. Hill and Dale . There has been a small reduction in numbers of printed copies, and this is kept under review to manage costs. In addition the page total never exceeds 64 and some months this has been less. This has ensured that some issues can include some colour pages for specific events, eg Coronation and Xmas. At this time there is £5k in the account.

9. Rectors Report

The new Bishop of Winchester will take up his post in October and the enthronement will be on January 13th 2024. The HFD post for the Benefice has been withdrawn following several rounds of advertising and since Ian Thacker is now helping out in Farleigh. He is committed to services on the 1st and 4th Sundays. The rota has been agreed up to Xmas and after some discussion it was agreed that the service leaders would where possible be included in H and D along side the sidesman/readers etc. Remembrance at Dummer will be taken by Stephen Mourant. Xmas services were discussed including the 9 lessons and carols and each church, and Christingle services etc. There will be one Benefice service at St Marys on the Sunday after Xmas, December 31st and this will be taken by Ian Thacker.

Peter and Sylvia Raine are running a Saints Alive course starting Thursday September 14th at Cliddesden. So far 4 people will attend.

David asked whether there may be interest in running an Alpha type course again, and raised the topic of what type of outreach is of interest.

10. Dates for the next meeting is 2023 November 6th.

11. AOB

- a. Lyn Hardy wondered if a church Whatsapp could be helpful for rapid communication within the churches. No action was taken to follow up on this idea, since not all have a smartphone.
- b. Hannah reminded the CW's about the request to respond to the Energy Footprint Tool. Cliddesden and Dummer have provided the information but others have not.