

Farleigh PCC meeting minutes

Tuesday June 11th 2024

Attendees:

Bernard Cazenove (Chair)

Debbie Scholey

Hannah Houstin-Lacey

Lyn Hardy

Peter Raine

Ian Thacker

1. Apologies for absence. Oliver Lymington, Charlie Tomkinson and Beverly Guinness. minutes from the last meeting in February 2024 were approved and signed by BC
2. Matters arising/actions from the last meeting, not otherwise on the agenda.
 - a. Living and love and faith. At the last meeting, CW's were tasked with raising this for discussion with their DCC's. There were no strong views expressed by representatives from St Martins and All Saints and St Andrews. There were views against blessings for same sex couples in a minority of the representatives from St Leonards. Ian Thacker reminded us of the importance of having a view since a request could be made any time at short notice. It was concluded that the default position of the Parish is to agree although this may not be the case for Cliddesden.
 - b. The single donor for the specific Messy church fund was to be contacted out of courtesy to say that given there is no formal Messy church at present these funds are being used to support related children's activities. Hannah will provide the donor details to Peter who will follow up with the donor who is from Cliddesden.
3. Treasurers report -Hannah

The annual report has now been uploaded onto the Diocese and Cof E portals and also to the Benefice web site. The account has current balance of ~ £94, about £60k of this is in restricted funds. As yet we have not paid any CMF payment for this year, but it is intended to make a payment of at least £10 by late July. At present estimates it is unlikely that we will be unable to contribute the full requested share of £56k this year.

There continue to be significant issues with payments and bills received from SSE. Changes in the details of the account from Eamonn to Hannah have been repeatedly provided and not actioned. In addition the smart meter systems in church do not work and have resulted in large inaccurate bills being received by 3 of the churches. This has required a lot of Hannah's time to resolve, and as a result she has now referred the case to the Ombudsman for resolution. In the meantime no bills will be paid until the decision is made. Bernard recommended that Hannah informs the Diocese Legal Department of the situation and if

necessary they can get involved. **Action: Debbie to provide the appropriate contact name for Hannah . (post meeting note- the ombudsman has ruled in favour of the PCC and included actions to be resolved. Therefore no further action is needed with the Diocese.)**

The sumup machine is working well in St Martins which is receiving about £70pm from this source. Dummer indicated that visitors are probably using the QR code. Cliddesden have a card machine available in church, which was unknown to the PCC. **Action Hannah to follow up with Peter.**

Hannah has raised concerns with the accountants. Conflicting advise has been given about the ability to split the 3 sub-accounts and therefore readily see the balance in each account. Work was done and changed to make these changes which were subsequently reversed. Hannah is discussing a refund with the accountants.

The Easyfundraising is working well with a small number of people and will continue to be advertised periodically in H and D. It was noted that its only possible to support one charity so if others are already using this facility cant be used for POF at the same time. About £70 has been received from this source of fee giving.

4. Church wardens Report

a. Cliddesden- Peter

We have had two funerals and a wedding since our last PCC meeting. The children's work continues with Fathers and children making posies for mothers on the Saturday before Mother's Day, an Easter Egg-stravaganza on Friday 22nd March, last day of term before Easter. The Easter Family Communion was taken by Bishop David, who ditched his prepared sermon in order to engage very successfully with both adults and the children. There was also a children's and adults' choir for the service and an Easter egg hunt afterwards in the churchyard. Pentecost was celebrated by the children with a kite party.

The second Saints Alive! course is now well underway, and the fellowship group continues to meet weekly. We are currently doing the Prayer Course which is proving to be encouraging and stimulating. The current challenge is for all the members of the group to spend 5 minutes each day in contemplative prayer.

Work in the churchyard continues with the dead hedge completed alongside the footpath on the north side of the churchyard. Quotations have been sought to lift the canopy of the Yew trees in the North-west corner of the churchyard.

A new laptop has been purchased, thanks to a donation, and an additional cable run from the projector to enable the laptop to communicate with the projector. The TV screen above the choir stalls has been removed to ascertain why it is not working.

A defects inspection is due to be carried in the near future by Nick Carey-Thomas as we come to the end of the defect's liability period for the work that was carried out last year. So far only a couple of minor issues have come to light. It is also intended to seek Nick C-T's advice about the flaking paint over the chancel and washing the walls of verdigris.

Looking ahead to future activities there will be: a Teddy Bear's picnic on the 28th June, a wine walk on 6th July, A BBQ after the Family Harvest Service on 22nd September, a quiz on

the 9th November and carol singing round the pond shortly before Christmas Day. All are welcome.

The PCC were made aware of the change of rules for the Garden of Remembrance at Cliddesden, and the following was minuted :This PCC agreed to the use of the amended Rules for the Garden of Remembrance at Cliddesden dated 11th June 2024.'

b. Dummer- Lyn

Dummer have an electricity contract with British Gas Lite bought through the Parish Buying scheme, which has kept bills very low. Some work is needed following the quinquennial survey but costs are awaited. The PA system is no longer working but this is not going to be replaced in the short term given Ian and other leaders are projecting their voices very adequately without a PA system.

c. Ellisfield- Bernard

The annual bluebell fundraising walk raised about £1100, which given the poor weather and reduced numbers of walkers was considered a great success. Part of the organ was delivered to Holland for repairs and is now repaired including a modification to prevent rodent urine causing the problem again. This bill for this is around £1100 and it will be paid from the church Fabric fund.

Farleigh- no formal report was presented. 1 wedding has been held in the church and there was a concern that the heating, which was only turned on a few hours earlier, was not working. Action: Oliver to check the heating.

5. Safeguarding report- nothing to report
6. Insurance Policy -proposed change of name. It has been noted that the insurance documents for the churches is issued in each church's name. It was agreed that the policy needs to change to ensure that the name of the holder on each church document is Parish of Farleigh. **Action: Bernard to change the name of each policy holder.**
7. Parish Stewardship role. This was a topic discussed at the last meeting. A name is required as a contact for this initiative, previously this was Eamonn. Bernard volunteered to be the replacement contact.
8. Playgroup update- see report provided by email.
9. Hill and Dale. The magazine is being managed by Jean with subscribers and advertisers remaining similar to the last year. This ensures that costs are likely be covered again this year. As in previous years there is a combined copy for July and August. Back copies are not being received by Peter for inclusion on the benefice website. **Action; Debbie to meet with Jean and get PDF copies of back issues.**

10. Status of recruitment of new vicar and revised timetable-

There continues to be delays in approving and advertising for the post due to administrative delays in the DBS checks for David Chattell. This means that technically the post is not vacant and therefore can't be advertised.

11. Service patterns for July/August

July will be the standard Fellowship month format—add

It was agreed that a normal service pattern would be retained for August rather than a single service as initially proposed.

Dates for services in August are:

August 4th Ellisfield 8.00, Cliddesden 9.45. Dummer 11.15

August 11th Dummer 8.00, Cliddesden 11.15,

August 18th, Cliddesden 11.15

August 25th Dummer 9.45 Ellisfield 11.15

Harvest Festival dates were agreed as follows:

1st September Dummer-?

15th September- Cliddesden 11.15,

22nd September - Ellisfield 11.15.

12. St Andrews Antennae project

The faculty to gain approval to erect a radio antennae on St Andrews church tower is progressing.

13. Topics for next meeting- none identified

14. Date for the next meetings is September 2nd time 6.30 at Brocas, and November 12th -to be confirmed at the next meeting.

15. AOB-

- a. Ian Thacker would like to hold a joint PCC meeting with all the PCC's in the Benefice. It was agreed that Ian would arrange a meeting in October.