

The Parish of Farleigh Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday April 22nd 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Meeting opened with prayer

2. Present:

Lyn Hardy	Debbie Scholey
Caroline Allen	Shirley Powell
Hannah Houstin-Lacey	Martine Bell
Bernard Cazenove	Eamonn Harding
Charles Palmer-Tomkinson	Lynda Harding
Beverley Guinness	Tricia Knight
Oliver Lymington	Rev Ian Thaker

Apologies

Val Gofton- Salmond
Gordon Dunse
Peter and Sylvia Raine
Ross and Gill Palmer

3. **Minutes for APCM** May 2023 were circulated prior to the meeting and were approved, proposed by Lyn Hardy and Seconded by Beverley Guinness

4. **Matters arising** – None outside the following agenda.

5. Notification of Churchwardens as elected by the DCC's

St Leonards – Peter Raine, (proposed by Gill Palmer and seconded by Ben Maunder). Eamonn Harding and Val Gofton- Salmond were proposed as assistant churchwardens by Ben Maunder and seconded by Gill Palmer.

All Saints – Lyn Hardy (proposed by John Holden and seconded by Stafford Napier).

St Martins – Bernard Cazenove (proposed by Caroline Allen and seconded by Gordon Dunse).

St Andrews – Viscount Lymington (proposed by Nicki Palmer and seconded by Caroline Cazenove).

6. Electoral Roll

St Leonards – total of 48 , one more from last year, (2 new members and one died).

All Saints – total 49 (unchanged from last year, 3 are non-residents).

St Martins, total 45 (down by 3 from last year, one died and two transferred to St Leonards), all are residents.

St Andrews –total 8 (unchanged from last year).

Based on this information the total number of people on the electoral roll in the Parish of Farleigh is now 150, reduced from 152 last year.

7. Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC

A written report was circulated by the Benefice Administrator prior to the APCM as part of the financial report.

No comments were made at the meeting.

8. Verbal reports

(a) Hill & Dale

- Jean Frost and Ros Partridge continued this year as Editor and Advertising Co-ordinator. They have efficiently managed the timely production of 10 issues of H and D over the year. Thanks go to them both for producing Hill and Dale on behalf of the PCC.
- The circulation of the magazine has declined in recent years and is now about 400 including general copies that go into local churches/shops and pubs etc. The print run was reduced slightly in line with the reduction in distribution. This has led to savings allowing some months to include colour pages for specific events.
- An electronic PDF file of the magazine is available on the Benefice website, but it is not intended to replace the paper version.
- The income from advertisers remains good and the magazine produced a small surplus this year.

(b) **Safeguarding.** No safeguarding issues have been reported in the last year.

(c) **Playgroup.** A written report on the activities of the playgroup is included in Appendix 2. The group continues to thrive with average attendance of 17 children and 11 families. They remain financially strong but are considering increasing the donation of £2 per child to cover the increased costs of hall hire. They have been successful in outreach as some families are now attending church but regular services and specific events.

(d) **Churchwardens' reports** on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church were presented by the Church Wardens present at the meeting and the full reports are included in the Annual report attached to this meeting report.

St Leonards. This summary was given by Eamonn Harding in the absence of Peter Raine. All the outstanding work as required by the quinquennial inspection has been completed, and there was a legacy that provided funding for some of the work.

St Martins. There are issues with the organ as a result of mice. The organ parts have gone to Holland for restoration. Most of the work required by the quinquennial inspection have been carried out and some minor painting to be completed. The flooding that occurred periodically under the main door, in the earlier part of the winter, has not returned so no further work is proposed to modify water flow etc.

St Andrews There is some damp in the vestry which is in hand and a quinquennial inspection is due this coming year.

All Saints Most of the work required from the quinquennial has been completed. The work to restore and clean the organ has been finished, and was largely funded by grants.

9. Financial statements/report of the parish

The financial report was circulated prior to the meeting, electronically and at the meeting, and the following written statement was presented by Hannah.

The General Fund income has decreased; the continual increase in church running costs and the drop in voluntary income and donations in turn impacts the gift aid, making it hard to balance the books and contribute the full requested sum to the CMF (£56,599). Sadly, we have not made the full request for several years now as the cost of living continues to rise above inflation for all, as well the decline in church attendance.

easyfundraising – we introduced easyfundraising to the community last November via Hill and Dale – it's a way of raising some extra cash to help with church running costs. It is free to the individual, as donations are raised from shopping online with a supplier. See May's edition of Hill and Dale for more information if you are not already aware from previous publications.

Sumup – transactions via Sumup are working well in St Martin's Church with giving totally £70 to £80 per month. All transactions are treated as cash and gift aid is claimed. Hannah asked for all Sumup laminated codes to be positioned a convenient and easily seen position in the churches to encourage use, not just for services but to allow anyone visiting the churches to make a donation if they wished, in support.

Gift Aid – Hannah expressed her thanks to Eamonn Harding for continuing to administer the gift aid submissions

Hannah also, expressed sincere thanks to Eamonn for his support and to PCC colleagues for their generous support in her first year as PCC Treasurer and Bookkeeper.

A proposal to accept the accounts was proposed by Caroline Cazenove and seconded by Eamonn Harding.

Hannah was thanked by the Chair for all her work in the first year of taking on the role of Treasurer and Bookkeeper.

10. **Approval of Independent Examiner.** David Saunders a senior partner from Sheen Strickland was recommended to be reappointed. This was approved by the meeting.

11. **Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.**

The Deanery Synod representatives from the Parish of Farleigh are Bernard Cazenove and Lyn Hardy. There is a vacancy for a third member to participate in the Synod. The Parish is charged £25 per representative to support the work of the Synod.

The link with Lango has now been terminated and a new link has been formed with a Diocese in Rwanda. The Diocese produce a newsletter about the link and this will be circulated via Tricia Knight.

12. **Election of PCC members from each DCC**

St Leonards – A vacancy remains for an additional members from St Leonards.

All Saints – Charles Palmer-Tomkinson (proposed by Stafford Napier and seconded by John Trueman).

St Martins & St Andrews - Beverley Guinness, (proposed by Lucinda Rule and seconded by Jacqui Matthews)

13. **Election of DCC's for each church.**

St Leonards the members of the current DCC were re-elected , Val Gofton-Salmond, Julian Nunn, Hazel Mertz and Lynda Plenty. Proposed by Sylvia Raine, seconded by Eamonn Hardy.

Proposed by Sylvia Raine and seconded by Eamonn Harding.

St Martins and St Andrews. The DCC were elected 'en mass' as follows: Martine Bell, Susie Deane Edward Fellows, Beverley Guinness, Dee Haas, Jacqui Matthews, Vicky Reed, Lucinda Rule and Debbie Scholey, as proposed by Teresa Webb and seconded by Bernard Cazenove.

All Saints The DCC were elected 'en mass' as follows: Alex Holden, Mervyn Mann, Stafford Napier, Charles Palmer Tomkinson, Susan Swinburn, John Trueman as proposed by Jenny Padmore and seconded by John Trueman.

13. Election of Deanery Synod representatives – Lyn Hardy and Bernard Cazenove are happy to continue. There have been no other nominations.

14. Appointment of the independent examiner

The meeting recommended that we continue with Sheen Stickland for the coming year.

15. PCC Chairs report

David Chattell moved from the Benefice in March 2024 to take up a new role in Holybourne and Alton. The Benefice is currently in an interregnum. Bernard Cazenove was elected as the Chair of the Farleigh PCC during the interregnum. The process for the selection of a new Rector is underway and a Parish profile is being prepared with a combined team from all the PCC's in the Benefice. The deadline for this profile is April 30th. The post will be advertised during May and the closing date for applications in June 6th with a shortlist being compiled around June 10th. Interviews are planned for 26/27th June.

16. Questions from the floor

None.

17. PCC matters.

A proposal has been received from DAB Basingstoke who support local charity radio stations, to install an antennae on the tower of St Andrews church in Farleigh, in exchange for an annual rental of £2000 plus installation costs. A site meeting was held in April with all parties including the Diocese and since then a survey has been carried out by the potential tenant resulting in a detailed plan of the installation. The PCC agreed to go ahead with seeking formal approval for this with the Diocese.

Appendix 1. Annual report

Appendix 2 Playgroup report