

The Parish of Farleigh Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday April 26th 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Meeting opened with worship and prayer

2. Present:

Revd. David Chattell	Debbie Scholey	Eamonn Harding
Lyn Hardy	Sylvia Raine	Beverley Guinness
Caroline Allen	Peter Raine	Oliver Lymington
Val Gofton-Salmond	Lynda Plenty	Bernard Cazenove
Ross Palmer	Shirley Powell	Nicki Palmer
Lucinda Rule	Martine Bell	Charles Palmer-Tomkinson
Hannah Houstin-Lacey	Susie Deane	Ben Maunder

Apologies:

3. **Minutes for APCM** May 2022 were circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.

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

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

St Leonards – Lynda Plenty proposed by Gill Palmer and seconded by Julian Nunn. In addition, Peter Raine had offered to become a church warden to support Lynda. Peter was proposed as the second church warden by Ben Maunder and seconded by Val Gofton- Salmond.

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

St Martins – Bernard Cazenove (proposed by Marcus Rule and seconded by Gordon Dunse).

St Andrews – Viscount Lymington (proposed by Sallie Paravicini and seconded by Caroline Cazenove).

6. Electoral Roll

St Leonards – total of 47 members on the role, 2 new members and 2 have moved away.

All Saints – total 49 (down one from last year).

St Martins, total 48 (down by 2 from last year with 2 new members), all are residents.

St Andrews –total 8 (10 last year, 2 moved away).

Based on this information the total number of people on the electoral roll in the Parish of Farleigh is now 152, reduced from 159 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 to Ben Maunder who manages the distribution of the magazine to all the villages, and to all the local village distributors. Particular thanks to Nicki Palmer who has just retired as the Ellisfield distributor and subs collector after at least 20 years.
- 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 will be reduced accordingly.
- An electronic PDF file of the magazine is available on the Benefice website, but it is not intended to replace the paper version.
- As a result of the increase in printing costs this year the advertising rates have been increased slightly. This has not had a detrimental effect on the number of advertisers.

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

(c) **Churchwardens' reports** on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church were provided for the meeting. Key points are summarised as follows and the full reports are included in the overall Annual report attached to this report.

St Leonards. There was a flood in church early in the year due to a ruptured water main, which led to the replacement of the vestry floor and inspection and repairs to the organ. The heating costs for the church have been high and the giving in collections has reduced along with the reduction in congregation numbers. We continue to invite ideas to raise numbers and encourage new villagers to bring families into the church. An electronic payment machine has been purchased to facilitate cash-free donations. There have been a number of special event services this year including a carol service given by the Basingstoke Air Cadets, a Christingle afternoon tea and workshop and the usual crib and 9 lessons and carol services. Thanks were given to Peter Raine for conducting regular morning worship services and for running a bible course. Further details are given in the full report in Appendix 1.

St Martins . All the storm damage of February 2022 has now been completed including the removal of a large mound of earth where the trunk of the fallen tree was standing. The Parish Council undertook this task led by Lucina Rule. A Faculty was required for the repair of various stain glass windows and this was granted in March 2023.

The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken by Nick Carey-Thomas in November . Category A observations have been completed ,as have Category B at a later date , thanks to minor snagging work being undertaken by the contractors who undertook the roofing work. Category C work will be completed later this year.

The new notice board was dedicated to Jackie Swann in September. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission placed a small plate close to the notice board to indicate that there are War Graves in the Church Yard.

Tony Matthews continues to play an important role by inspecting and reporting to the DCC about the condition of the fabric and building of St Martin's on a regular basis.

St Andrews "The normal order of services has returned to St Andrew's after Covid-19. While David Chattell was off following back surgery, we had two services conducted by visiting clergy. A Commonwealth War Graves sign had been installed by the Church gates.

There is some internal damp above the Vestry for which a faculty is being sought. The electric heating in St Andrew's has proved very costly. We have taken steps to address this by reducing the hours that the heating is on for, albeit that having seen the condition of the Church when the heating was off altogether, we have decided to switch it on for an hour/day in winter months so as not to cause deterioration of the building fabric.

After the pandemic induced hiatus, it was wonderful to have the Christmas Eve Carols at St Andrew's again albeit that attendance was markedly down on previous years.

No weddings, funerals or Baptisms were conducted at St Andrew's during the year."

All Saints We have had a full year of being without a House for Duty Priest with the majority of the services falling upon Revd David Chattell's shoulders.

We continue to have our excellent Sunday Specials, which are successfully, lay led together with lay led services monthly during 2022. We have retained the normal pattern of Matins quarterly and the other services on the third Sunday of the month, have seen each leader has brought something different and thoughtful to the services.

The Harvest Festival raised an excellent amount for a local Charity and both tinned and packaged goods from the Harvest Festival and Christmas Box giving were delivered to the areas that needed the most help. Once again, All Saints hosted the Good Friday Service.

With an influx of young people in the village we held an extremely successful Christingle and Nine Lessons and Carols, both of which involved many children. It is hoped we can build on this over the coming year.

All Saints Church would not function without it's team of volunteers for which we give grateful thanks.

9. Financial statements/report of the parish

The financial report was circulated prior to the meeting, both electronically and in churches and the following written statement was provided for the meeting by Eamonn Harding our treasurer who was unable to attend.

The General Fund shows a balance of £4,897 (2021: £8,464), a decrease of £3,567, (2021 £321 increase)). The General Fund and Designated fund balance of £12,760 has decreased by £2,364, (2021: £1,103 increase) over the year.

Voluntary income has fallen to £76,306 from £90,943 in 2021, a fall of £14,637. Planned giving and Gift Aid envelopes are the main source of the fall in income. Gift Aid donations have fallen to £39,928, (2021: £42,528), a fall of £2,600 and so tax recoverable has also fallen. Cash collections have risen slightly to £4,518, (2021: £ 3,576).

Because of falling income and enormously increased energy costs, we were unable to pay any CMF after October 2022, leaving £30,000 unpaid of the CMF of £64,317 (2021: £58,105). This is disappointing after the seven previous years that this has been paid in full. The Parish of Farleigh contribution for 2023 has fallen by £4,366 to £59,951.39. The fall is due to donors moving away and no increase in existing donations.

The accounts include an accrual of £3,900 for Independent Examiner payment.

After 10 years as Treasurer, I am standing down at the APCM. We welcome Mrs Hannah Houstin-Lacey to take over bookkeeping and Treasurer roles; approval for this was granted at this meeting. I thank Alice McNair for her bookkeeping services over many years.

The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Eamonn Harding for the years of service he has given to the PCC as Treasurer and other roles.

A proposal to accept the accounts was proposed by Peter Raine and seconded by Debbie Scholey

10. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.

- a. 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, but no one has expressed an interest in this so far.
- b. For many years there has been a link between the Arlesford Deanery and a Diocese in Uganda. This has now ended and there are plans to create a new link with a newly formed Diocese in Rwanda. The possibilities are being investigated with visits. The formal acceptance of the link is expected later in the summer following further visits in June.

11. Election of PCC members from each DCC

St Leonards – Julian Nunn stood down as PCC member so a vacancy exists.

All Saints – Charles Palmer-Tomkinson (proposed by John Holden and seconded by Lyn Hardy).

St Martins & St Andrews - Beverley Guinness, (proposed by Caroline Cazenove and seconded by Susie Deane)

Prayer was made for all those elected.

12. Election of DCC's for each church.

St Leonards the members of the current DCC were re-elected 'en mass'. Proposed by Gill Palmer and seconded by Ben Maunder.

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 Sallie Paravicini and seconded by Bernard Cazenove.

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

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

13. Appointment of the independent examiner

The meeting recommended that we continue with Sheen Stickland for the coming year. This was proposed by Lyn Hardy and seconded by Ross Palmer. This was carried unanimously. Hannah Houstin-Lacey agreed to review the audit company over the coming year.

14. Rector's report

David thanked all who hold office. David gave particular thanks to the Church Wardens and to the PCC and DCC representatives and to those who have helped with lay led services in the past year. The full version of his report is included in Appendix 1. Efforts continue to fill the vacant 'house for duty post' in the Benefice, which was recently re-advertised. It continues to be difficult to get retired clergy through the registry, however there is a possibility of help from a recently retired priest living in Basingstoke.

15. Questions from the floor

There was a question about whether it was generally widely known that money is short and that the parish share was not paid this year. Whilst this was communicated in a PCC summary in Hill and Dale there has not been any further formal communication with parishioners. This will be discussed at the next PCC meeting in June.

16. PCC meeting.

- a. The election of the following to the PCC was confirmed: Bernard Cazenove, Lyn Hardy, Lynda Plenty, Peter Raine, Beverley Guinness, Debbie Scholey, Charles TP, Hannah HL and Eamonn Harding. Julian Nunn was not standing for re-election. This was proposed by Ross Palmer and seconded by Lucinda Rule.
- b. The PCC were asked to approve the fee of £350 for Peter Raine to undertake training from the Diocese for a 'Bishops Commission in Mission (BCM) in Preaching. He is willing to undertake this course beginning later this year, for 12 months. This was approved by the PCC. (it was however suggested that the Ellisfield Education Trust may be prepared to fund the training).