

Farleigh PCC meeting minutes

September 2nd 2025

Attendees: Bernard Cazenove, Hannah Houstin- Lacey, Oliver Lymington, Charles Palmer-Tomkinson, Peter Raine

1. Apologies for absence were received from Lyn Hardy,
2. The minutes from the last meeting held in June 2025 were approved.
3. Matters arising/actions from the last meeting, not otherwise on the agenda.

Hannah will contact the charity commission to change the names of personnel. Energy footprint forms have been completed for St Andrews, St Leonards. The numbers for the community of worshippers has now been submitted via the portal.

4. Treasurers report

The request for the CMF for 2026 has been set at £63,280.70, which is higher than this current year. Given the reduction in income this year it was noted that its unlikely that we will be in a position to pay the full amount in 2025 or 2026. For this year £12k of the CMF request has so far been paid. Its expected that more will be paid in the later part of this year. The current bank balance as of 2nd September is £93,000 which includes £100,000 for fabric funds, hence the account is running at a deficient at the moment. This is expected to balance out later in the quarter.

Easyfundraising is being used by a small number of members, but each church has its own account. There is a monthly prize draw and each month Hannah enters all the churches into the draw. So far we have received £1000 and more recently £34 from the prize draw's. It was confirmed that all moneys received by Easyfunding goes into the general fund to support the running of the parish and payment of the CMF.

Contactless payment options are available in all the churches via sumup. St Martins receives about £200pm with minor payments received from Dummer via this electronic payment process.

The DAB arrangement with ST Andrews is up and running. £2000 annual rent has been paid plus an additional £500 donation due to the extension of the facility. Going forward there should be an annual donation of around £1000, in addition to the rental agreement.

Church wardens Report

a. Cliddesden- Peter

The Fellowship Service in July was well attended in which a wide range of church members as well as others who are not regular members participated in telling the story of Noah, a big contrast to the 3 who attended the August Family Service.

A couple of issues that are currently giving concern are the rainwater drainage on the north side of the church and the need for trees to be pruned/crown lifted.

1. Rainwater drainage

I have had one of the two drains jetted (the other couldn't be done due to its small size). As a result, it is believed that the soakaway is under an old grave and cannot be accessed to clear a blockage. Therefore, a new pipe run, and soakaway will need to be installed. Nick Carey-Thomas has visited the site and agrees and is able to start drawing up a specification in mid-September.

Peter asked the PCC to approve engaging Nick Carey-Thomas for the drainage specification and to continue to a point of obtaining quotations for the work at which point I propose to ask for agreement from the PCC to accept the best quotation and for the work to be carried out. The PCC approved this activity.

2. Tree work

Yew Tree Landscapes has attended the churchyard and offered the following report regarding trees on the north-western boundary:

Carry out planning application to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Supply of labour and machinery to reduce height of 1 x White pine (Tree ID to be confirmed) by approximately 3 m to help prevent future structural failures. Crown lift and reduce lower overextended boughs to help prevent limb failure. Remove any large dead wood.

Remove cluster of Sycamore trees near base of pine. There are also plans to lift the canopy of the Yew trees at the north-eastern end of the churchyard.

This work was formally proposed by Peter at a cost not exceeding £2000 plus VAT and seconded by BC. The PCC approved the expenditure for this work.

b. Dummer- Lyn

Renovations to the pathway to All Saints porch will commence shortly. It will take about 2 weeks and the DCC will ensure that there is access to the church during this time. This work is being funded by Dummer Parish Council.

In addition a List B application has been made to install a a Taptile on the internal wall of the church porch, adjacent to the existing offertory box. Richard Brand has confirmed that this work can be implemented with out a faculty as long as the work is approved by the PCC.

This work as presented to the PCC was proposed by BC and approved by H HL. The PCC approved the work for the installation of a Taptile machine in the church porch.

c. Ellisfield- Bernard

A proposal has been received from Go Gardening to re-do the soakaway adjacent to the church path in order to reduce to the risk of flooding during heavy rain. A faculty has been registered for this work by BC.

Tree works were recently completed to pollard a horse chestnut tree in the church yard adjacent to the road. This work was proposed by BC and seconded by HHL. The PCC approved this work and expenditure.

d. Farleigh- Oliver

The work has been completed to repair the damage done by damp and it is intended to claim back the VAT on this invoice. Oliver will look into the possibility of locating a notice board on the fence adjacent to the public footpath, to display a QR code for donations from passing walkers.

5. Safeguarding report

All PCC members were reminded to submit an updated DBS form, which should be completed every 3 years.

6. Playgroup

A report from the group is attached to these minutes. They plan to do some more advertising to attract new members. The group are also keen to participate in the preparation of the Christmas cover of Hill and Dale.

7. Hill and Dale.

Advertising numbers remains stable with some lost and some new advertisers over the year. It has already been agreed that the subs will increase from £10 to £12 next year. It will be necessary to change to new publishing software in the next year but this will also apply to Oxdrove and the costs will be shared. There have been some inconsistencies between the church rotas and the duties as the documents originate from different sources. The process will be reviewed when Jennifer is in place. (post meeting note: Jennifer has agreed to write an editorial for the magazines after her installation on September 15th.)

8. Appointment of new vicar and timetable

Jennifer Wright has moved into the rectory and her installation service will be held at Northington on September 15th.

9. Fund Raising plans. Deferred to the next meeting

10. Topics for next meeting.

Fund raising.

11. Future Dates for meetings in 2025/6 to be agreed: November 10th , February 10th (Tuesday?). June 8th

12. AOB. The PCC expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ian Thacker for his service during the interregnum. In addition the PCC wish to thank Bernard Cazenove for chairing the PCC during the interregnum.

Appendix 1. **Farleigh Parish Playgroup report for the PCC on 2nd September 2025**

This report is from 6th June – 11th July.

This covers the 2nd half to the end of the summer term.

1. Attendance

The average attendance of children is 11.8 per week and an average of 9.5 families. The averages are less in the summer when the weather is better and parents/grandparents go elsewhere for the day.

We have not had many new families join us which is disappointing. Perhaps we should try and reach families by social media. Neither Claire or Melanie uses social media, but we have asked the playgroup families if anyone would like to take this on.

2. Financial information

Our balance at 26 July 2025 is £75.00. This figure is based on the weekly book keeping of the playgroup treasurer Laura-Lee to whom we are very grateful.

3. Volunteers

The volunteers make this playgroup happen. We greatly appreciate the regular help of Laura Lee our treasurer, Annie, Monica, Jenny and Trisha. Laura Lee assists with the packing away which helps the key volunteers finish on time.

The friendship of the group and the uplifting nature of being with young children and their families are the positive rewards of being a volunteer.

4. Comments

A mother with 3 young children expressed her grateful thanks for the playgroup for making each child feel so special and treasured. She said that the playgroup has been a lifeline for her with 3 children under four years of age.

5. Activities and events

On 13th June we all enjoyed a wonderful Teddy Bears picnic hosted by St Leonards. We were treated to delicious picnic food by the ladies and children very much enjoyed running along the pathways amongst the grass and wild flowers. We had a very good turnout with 19 children and their families joining in the fun. Our grateful thanks to the kind ladies who hosted us.

On one sunny Friday we had outside water play which was a lot of fun and yes, some children got very wet!

We ended the term with a farewell party to 4 children who will all be going to Cliddesden school. Fortunately, 2 of the children have younger siblings who will continue at playgroup.

The party food contributed by parents/grandparents and volunteers was enjoyed by all. The leaver children were each given a storybook from playgroup and everyone took home some bubbles.

6. Outreach

The children from playgroup learnt about Noah and created a rain banner for the St Leonard's Fellowship service. Some children from playgroup also came to be the 'rain' and 'rainbows' as we retold the story of Noah in the service. It was lovely to have some of the children involved.

One of the children who is leaving playgroup for school is joining the Children's Singing Group when she starts school in September.

We now have an email group of regular playgroup families, so information about church family events can be emailed to families, as well as given during notices.

7. Looking Forward

We have asked for help with promoting the playgroup on social media to try and increase our numbers.

Following on from the Teddy Bears picnic at St Leonards and the wonderful Sunday service presentation of Noah's Ark, Claire and Melanie would like to introduce some crafts connected to Bible stories for the young.

8. Thank Yous

Our grateful thanks to Hannah and Eamonn for taking care of the playgroup finances and to Ken and Pat for their help with the Hall. Thank you to the PCC for taking an interest and supporting us when needed.

Finally, thank you to all the playgroup volunteers who freely give of their time to make the playgroup the success it is supporting young children and their parents/grandparents.

Claire Nunn and Melanie Gill

17th August 2025