

PARISH OF FARLEIGH

PCC MEETING

18th FEBRUARY 2025

MINUTES

Present: Bernard Cazenove (Chairman: Church Warden, St Martin's, Ellisfield); Peter Raine (Church Warden, St Leonard's, Cliddesden), Lyn Hardy (Church Warden, All Saint's, Dummer); Hannah Houstin-Lacey (PCC Treasurer); Charles Palmer-Tomkinson (Elected Member); the Rev Ian Thacker.

In attendance: Colin Harbidge (Diocesan Secretary & Chief Operating Officer, Winchester Diocese)

1.Apologies: Debbie Scholey (PCC Secretary) ; Oliver Lymington (Church Warden, St Andrew's, Farleigh Wallop); Beverley Guinness (Elected Member).

2. Colin Harbidge' s presentation: Colin explained his role within the Diocese and the reason for him wanting to talk to as many PCCs as possible to establish relationships with the Parishes, to explain the difficult financial position the Diocese was facing and to encourage all parishes to pay their Common Mission Fund (CMF) in full, if at all possible. He gave a brief summary of the current state of Diocesan funds: the reduction of £700,000 in the target for CMF this year , the need to have £8.5 million as annual income , the fact that the Diocese has £184 million as capital but only £7 million in unrestricted funds , and the role of the Church Commissioners in aspects of finance and governance of the Church of England. He went on to talk about the poorly presented ring fencing of £100 million that is to provide income for anti-slavery compensation.

There followed a free flowing and frank discussion in which members of the PCC expressed their concerns about the perception of the Diocese and Church Commissions finances. He was reminded that this Parish had paid its CMF share in full up right up to three years ago when the Assistant Rector retired, the Rectory and glebe land sold, and a House for Duty Priest could not be recruited. It can be seen that these actions have contributed to over £¼ million in income being added to Diocesan funds over the past three years. He was also told that a number of major contributors to Parish funds had left the area.

Colin told the PCC members that we were a Benefice that for many years had more full-time clergy per head of population than almost any other parish in the Diocese. He reiterated the advantages of the single parish, something that had been achieved in Farleigh nearly 15 years ago. After 45 minutes, Colin was thanked for the time he had taken to come to the meeting and his comprehensive and open presentation. He was informed that we would continue to pay as much as we had available, of our own "free" funds, to the Diocese.

3.Approval of minutes from the last meeting on 12th November 2024: These had been circulated after the meeting and were agreed.

4.Matters arising and actions from the last meeting that were not on the agenda :

a. Following on from a meeting that Ian had held on 12th February with representatives from across the Benefice, a schedule of services had been drawn up by him and distributed by email. Various changes to these schedules were discussed and Ian agreed to reissue the document. In particular he wanted to emphasize the importance of the Ash Wednesday service at 7.00pm at Brown Candover on Wednesday 5th March 2025.

ACTION. Ian to reissue the schedule as soon as possible. All to be aware of the Ash Wednesday service and to take every opportunity to publicize it around the Benefice.

b. It was agreed by the PCC that there would be two services in the Parish on 30th March , Mothering Sunday; one a Parish Communion at St Andrew's at 11.00am and one, a special Mothering Sunday service at St Leonard's at 11.15am.

c. Following on from the last PCC meeting, Bernard met Ian to discuss a number of items following Ian's September meeting with members of the Benefice. Notes from this meeting were circulated to members of the PCC.

d. The role and supervision of Tricia was discussed and in view of Julian Gibbon's assumed supervisory position, it was suggested that a meeting should take place as soon as possible between Julian, Bernard and Tricia. Later it was brought up that expenses paid for services were not put through the Parish Accounts, so it was agreed that Ian should also attend this meeting (plus Hannah and Debbie?).

ACTION. Bernard to contact Julian and Tricia plus Ian, Hannah and Debbie to arrange the meeting.

5.Treasurers report : Hannah reported that £42,000 had been paid to the CMF in 2024. This was approximately £17,000 short of what was requested. The CMF request for 2025 is £58,663.91. Electronic giving via Sumup amounted to around £2,000 per annum.

There are still issues with SSE but she believed that they were being resolved. Monthly readings were being given to SSE.

The total amount of cash in the Bank as at 17th February was £87,914.32, all but £1,322 being in restricted fabric and other funds. It was suggested that Melanie Gill might benefit from some gentle spread sheet training to help with the presentation of the Playgroup accounts.

ACTION . Peter to discuss with Hannah how they might approach Melanie and action.

6 and 7. PCC support, visitation and CMF payments. See above

8. Church Wardens reports.

a. St Leonard's. Christmas services, Christingle, nine Lessons & Carols, carols around the pond and mid night on 24th were well attended and better than previous years. There are problems with the gas pressure and two Sunday services has had to be held in the Millenium Hall . The Archdeacon took a service in February. A pancake party was held, and a youth group has met twice after the Family Communion Service.

b. All Saints, (report to follow) Extract from Hill & Dale "A Christingle and Advent service was held on 1st December; on 15th December a Nine Lessons and Carols was well supported followed by a Christmas Day Service. Early in the New Year John Holden gave an interesting talk on New Year Resolutions."

c. St Martin's. Basingstoke bell ringers held a Carol Service taken by the Bishop of Basingstoke on 14th December and there was good attendance at the Carol Service the following day. Over 100 attended the 9.30am service on Christmas Day.

A full faculty is needed for the temporary removal of four pews. This is in progress, but a resolution has to be put to the PCC and formally approved.

The resolution is for the temporary removal of four pews in St Martin's as set out in Nick Carey-Thomas's report:

Proposed by: Bernard Cazenove

Seconded by: Hannah Houstin-Lacey

Passed unanimously

d. St Andrew's. Nick Carey-Thomas and Bob Charlton (the contactor) met concerning the damp to have a pre contract meeting on 18th February . Work will take place from 3rd to 21st March.

9.Safeguarding report. Nothing to report

10.Timetable for revision of update of Electoral Role See bottom of PCC agenda

11.Playgroup update. Comprehensive and encouraging report has been produced by Claire Nunn and Melanie Gill dated 5th February which should be attached to these minutes . Clare and Melanie should be thanked for their efforts.

ACTION. Peter to pass on the PCCs thanks.

12. Hill& Dale report. Received and should be attached to these minutes.

13. Benefice web site. Peter reported that details and events and activities within the Benefice are still not being sent to him. The web site can only be as good as the information that he receives.

ACTION. All to note

14. Recruitment of a Rector for the Benefice. A meeting took place on 17th February with Richard Brand, the Archdeacon of Winchester, and eight representatives across the Benefice in order to update them on progress. So far no one had formally responded to the latest advertisement. However, an individual approached the Archdeacon the night of this meeting and has asked if a brief tour could be arranged over the weekend of 8th and 9th March. The PCC will be informed of any developments.

It was agreed that this group and others in the Benefice would meet every two months with the Archdeacon.

15 . Parish fund raising plans for 2025. The normal and well supported fund raising events such as the Bluebell Walk in early May, the summer fete, wine walk, Ellisfield Christmas Fayre will be organized as in previous years .

16. St Andrew's Antennae. This is up and operating and first payment of £2,000 made to PCC.

17. Topics for next meeting. Electronic giving

18. Dates for PCC meetings in 2025. APCM is April 24th at Ellisfield Memorial Hall at 7.00pm. Debbie to confirm with PCC members June, September and November dates.

ACTION. Debbie to confirm dates as soon as possible

Bernard Cazenove

Chairman