

Farleigh PCC meeting minutes

Meeting held on June 9th, 2025

Attendees: Bernard Cazenove, Peter Raine, Lyn Hardy, Oliver Lymington (part), Hannah Houstin-Lacey, Rev Ian Thacker, Beverly Guinness.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Charles Parker-Tomkinson
2. The minutes from the last meeting in February 2025 were approved.
3. Matters arising/actions from the last meeting, not otherwise on the agenda.

A meeting was held with Bernard Cazenove, Debbie Scholey, Ian Thacker and Tricia (Benefice Administrator) to discuss the best way to manage invoices and fees for church events such as funerals and weddings. It was agreed that going forward Tricia would be responsible for these activities as guided by Ian. In addition, it was agreed that Tricia would also be responsible for compiling the service rotas, following outlines provided by Ian, and that Tricia would also ensure these are reviewed by the CW's before submission to Hill and Dale.

4. Treasurers report

The Financial data for the Charity Commission has now been uploaded to their web site but there needs to be changes to the appointed officers on the web site, ie the Gift Aid officer and Stewardship Promotor.

Action Hannah will phone the Charity Commission to change the names of personnel.

(note- the Parish Portal web site lists Hannah as both the Gift Aid Officer and the Parish Stewardship Promotor). **Action Hannah to confirm the correct names and Debbie to make changes on the Church Portal as necessary.**

Fees due for funerals and weddings were paid to the Diocese last week. The annual report is now completed and was uploaded to the church Portal. The additional financial information is also being uploaded by Eamonn and Hannah. (note, now completed).

St Leonards church recently received a gift of £1000 through a draw entry with Easy Funding. This will be paid into the general fund. Small amounts of money are received through easyfunding. Sumup is used mainly at St Martins, contributing £100-150 per month. The current bank balance is £83,150.81. The dispute over electricity bill is now completed and monthly meter reading are ensuring that bills are not estimates.

CW's are asked to complete the Energy Footprint form for each church, due by the end of June. This should now be possible since the dispute over electricity bills has concluded. **Action. CW's**

5. Common mission fund payments. Two thousand pounds was recently paid towards our CMF. Hannah anticipates for that further payment could be made in July.
6. Church wardens Report
 - a. Cliddesden- Peter

The low gas pressure problem was finally resolved, and we obtained some funds (£185) from the gas network company for the damage to the footpath outside the church as a result of their many visits and the cost of hiring the hall for two services. 2 tons of shingle were purchased and laid to the footpath.

A men's group has been formed – known as “shed heads” with the purpose of refurbishing the large shed to enable it to be used for the children's work. This is a means of outreach to young fathers.

The fellowship group continue to meet weekly during term time and is currently studying Isaiah. A comment made last week is that the group meetings do provide a real oasis from the busyness of life.

The youth group (with ages 10 to 13 years) continues to meet after the Family Communion services and is growing in numbers.

The children's singing group continues – they are currently learning songs about Noah and his Ark. They, plus others, have also had an Easter Eggstravaganza, with a horse in lieu of a donkey, and a kite party to celebrate Ascension Day.

We had a good well attended Easter Service with communion by extension and a number of compliments about the service afterwards.

We have had two funerals. Dawn Hooper, who lived next door to the church and Doreen Ilsley whose funeral was today.

Memorial Bench

We have been offered a bench by the son of Eileen Stiles, whose parents and brother are buried in St Leonard's, in memory of his mother.

I propose the resolution to obtain a faculty for this bench to be purchased and placed in St Leonard's churchyard in memory of Eileen Stiles.

Proposed by: Peter Raine Seconded by Lyn Hardy. Approved by the PCC.

b. Dummer- Lyn

A card machine has been placed in the porch mainly for visiting walkers participating in the ST James' Way. Money from these gifts are going into the Dummer fabric fund. The net income is currently small once the costs of running the machine have been offset.

The first Sunday of the month service is sometimes augmented with young people and includes playing instruments etc.

Thanks were given to IDT for providing an 08:00a.m BCP service on Easter Day which enabled us to have a separate service at 09:45 which was very well attended.

The July fellowship month service will include a speaker from the St James Way.

c. Ellisfield- Bernard

A faculty was recently approved to temporarily remove 3 or 4 pews from the rear of the church. Fold away chairs have been purchased for use in this space. This allows some open space to be used for socialising after services, for the Wednesday prayer group and for increasing seating capacity on busy services. Feedback is generally positive. A tree in the church yard is being surveyed as it is by the road and may be unsafe.

The annual bluebell walk around the Farleigh estate was held on May 5th. The turnout was slightly down on previous years but about £900 was raised to contribute to the CMF. It was thought that more advertising should be done for next year.

d. Farleigh- Oliver/Bernard

Damp in the church is being repaired and redecorating is ongoing. Thanks were offered to Oliver for use of his land to host the annual Bluebell walk held in May.

7. Safeguarding report.

There are no safeguarding issues to report within the Parish. CW's are asked to read and understand the COE's paper on 'Promoting a Safer Church' followed by the Safeguarding Policy statement of the COE. This information should be displayed on church notice boards inside the church . **Action CW's to post these documents and ask Caroline if further information is required.**

Members of the PCC were reminded that DBS checks need to be done every 3 years and forms were provided for those members who need to review the check. **Action all PCC members to ensure DBS information is current and if not complete a further application.**

8. Playgroup update. A report is included in these minutes.

9. Hill and Dale . Back copies of the magazine are now on the web site for reference. The service rotas are now reviewed by CW's before going to print. However there remain some inconsistencies between the rota and the table of duties which is compiled from information provided by the CW's. **Action Debbie to review the process to ensure accurate information is printed.**

10. Appointment of new vicar and timetable. Bernard confirmed that Jennifer Wright has been offered and has accepted the post of Rector, subject to necessary checks. No start date is confirmed, one reason being that the work on the rectory has not yet been completed so the house is not ready to be occupied.

11. Fund Raising plans

A number of events are planned, including a wine walk and quiz at Cliddesden, a musical evening.

12. St Andrews Antennae . the antennae is now functional and annual rent has been paid. A supplemental licence is being finalised to allow a third party to transmit via DAB's equipment. This will be managed by DAB and in return POF will receive additional rental income

13. Future Dates for meetings in 2025 September 2nd , November 10th

14. AOB. We are required to submit the annual figure for the community of worshippers. **Action CW's to complete the form and send to DS for compilation of the figure for the Parish. (post meeting note- received from Cliddesden)**