

The Parish of Farleigh Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Wednesday May 4th 2022 held at St Leonards Church

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Meeting opened with worship and prayer

2. Present:

Revd. David Chattell
Quentin Portsmouth
Lyn Hardy
Stafford Napier
Hazel Metz
Caroline Allen
Charles Palmer-Tomkinson
Val Gofton-Salmond

Bernard Cazenove
Debbie Scholey
Annabel Portsmouth
Sylvia Raine
Peter Raine
Julian Nunn
Lynda Plenty

Apologies:

Lord Lymington
Gill Palmer
Ross Palmer
Eamonn Harding
Beverley Guinness

3. Minutes for APCM April 2021, which were held by zoom were approved. Proposed by Lyn Hardy and Seconded by Quentin Portsmouth

4. Matters arising – None outside the following agenda.

5. Notification of Churchwardens

Those elected by DCCs:

St Leonards – Lynda Plenty proposed by Ross Palmer and seconded by Ben Maunder.

All Saints – Lyn Hardy (proposed by Stafford Napier and seconded by Claire Wilmot Sitwell).

St Martins – Bernard Cazenove (proposed by Marcus Rule and seconded by Janette Bacon).

St Andrews – Viscount Lymington (proposed by Nicki Palmer and seconded by Sallie Paravacini).

6. Electoral Roll

St Leonards – total 49 (down by 4 on last year).

All Saints – total 50 (down from 53 last year, 2 died and one moved away).3 are non-resident.

St Martins, total 50 (down by 4 from last year), all are residents.

St Andrews –total 10 (11 last year), one deceased. All are resident.

Based on this information the total number of people on the electoral roll in the Parish of Farleigh is now reduced to 159 from 171 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 continues as the editor of Hill and Dale supported by Ros Partridge as the advertising co-ordinator. 11 issues were published last year, with the December and January issues combined. For the second year a Christmas cover competition was held with Cliddesden Primary School. There were over 40 entries, and the Xmas issue included a number of the winners. Revenue from advertising has ensured that there was a small surplus this year. Rates for the coming year remain the same. In December the PCC were able to pay a small honorarium to Jean and Ros for their support for Hill and Dale over the last year.
- (b) Safeguarding. A written report was provided to the PCC by Caroline Cazenove, confirmed that there have been no safeguarding issues in the last year. Safeguarding is a standing agenda topic at all PCC meetings.
- (c) Churchwardens' reports on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church were given verbally by each Church Warden, key points are summarised as follows:

St Leonards. Attendances in church have been impacted by Covid. The quinquennial inspection of the building took place in September. The foodbank continues to be successful with donations going to the Basingstoke branch. Eamonn Harding and Ross Palmer stepped down from the DCC and Hazel Metz was added to the DCC. New members are still being sought. The village hall representative on the DCC is Robert Gofton- Salmond.

St Martins – St Martins church was damaged in storms earlier in the year, when a tree from the church yard came down close to the church building causing damage to the roof and tower. At the time of the meeting the outside work to repair the roof is ongoing and clearance of the tree continues. In the meantime, church services are being held in the Ellisfield Memorial Hall. In general attendances were similar to last year. A farewell service was held for Stephen in September along with a drink's reception at Cliddesden hall. The annual 'off the beaten track' bluebell walk was held in early May. 120 people joined in raising £1400, of which £400 will be donated to a charity supporting Ukraine.

St Andrews – "It is good to have services back at St Andrew's in their normal pattern. We said goodbye to Stephen Mourant for his final service in August and welcomed David Chattell back for the first service under the new regime in September. The Christmas Eve Carol service went ahead, albeit that attendance was impacted by the rise in Covid cases.

There were three weddings at St Andrew's over the course of the year.

Lady Jane Wallop, the long serving former Church Warden of St Andrew's died in December 2021 with her funeral being held on the 14th December. It was well attended with Stephen Mourant (retd.) presiding, which felt appropriate given their long relationship.

There is nothing to report on the building's fabric."

All Saints - a new organist has been found to replace the student that has been playing for the last year. A total of £600 was raised for Ukraine at a Sunday special service.

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 position for 2021 is satisfactory. We have, for the 7th year in succession, paid all Common Mission Fund (CMF or Parish Share), and the income and expenditure just about balance with an excess of only £1,103 giving a carry forward in general and designated funds of £15,124 (Page 14). However, the general fund has only just about balanced with a surplus of £321 (Page 9).

Worryingly, voluntary income (collections and planned giving) has fallen to £90,943 from £106,426 in 2020.

Gift aid donations, hence tax recoverable, has also fallen.

This will be a new challenge unless givers review their contributions. (noting that the total numbers on the electoral role has reduced for the second year running.) for the purpose of the budget the following has been assumed:

Energy costs: Businesses are not protected by any price caps. I have assumed energy costs will double.

CMF: Up 11% to £64,317 despite protests to the Diocesan Treasurer.

Planned giving will be down by approximately £4,000 due to people moving away or deceased, and assuming no increases from givers and no new givers (wrong I hope).

Eamon stated his intention to stand down a year ago and this raises again the need for the PCC to search for and appoint a new treasurer. So far no one has agreed to take on this role. A job description has been prepared by Eamonn. This will be discussed again at the next PCC meeting.

The proposal to accept the accounts was proposed by Debbie Scholey and seconded by Annabel Portsmouth and carried unanimously.

Bernard Cazenove referred to a meeting that was held with representatives from the PCC and Bishop David to discuss the increase in the CMF for Farleigh and whether the profits from the sale of the rectory could in part benefit directly the Parish by supporting the 'house for duty post' by buying a suitable house in the Benefice.

10. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod. A summary of events in the Deanery was given by Rev David Chattell: There has been a lot of pastoral reorganisation in Winchester Diocese in the last year, but at present there are no plans to change to boundaries of the Arlesford Deanery of which Farleigh is part. There were suggestions to split the deanery, but these had been resisted. The main change this year for Farleigh is the reduction in the post of vicar to a non-stipendiary post, known as a 'house for duty' post. The Alresford Deanery's link to Lango, the Diocese in Uganda has ended. Instead, it has been proposed that Arlesford combines with Lyndhurst to support a new partnership in Rwanda. There have been two new appointments in the Deanery, an ex-Police officer, Heather Brearey as Rector of Arle Valley, and Rev Dr Peter Walker to the Itchen valley. There have been some new deanery initiatives including 'Farm Church' – which involves holding services on farms.
11. Election of PCC members from each DCC
St Leonards – Julian Nunn (Proposed by Gill Palmer and seconded by Lynda Plenty)
All Saints – Charles Palmer-Tomkinson (proposed by Lyn Hardy seconded by Jeremy Glyn).
St Martins & St Andrews - Beverley Guinness, Debbie Scholey (proposed by Bernard Cazenove and seconded by Gordon Dunse.)

Prayer was made for all those elected.

12. Election of DCC's for each church.

St Leonards DCC were elected 'en mass' and included a new member, Hazel Metz. Proposed Val Gofton- Salmond and seconded by Eamonn Harding.

St Martins and St Andrews. The DCC were elected 'en mass, as proposed by Gordon Dunse and seconded by Caroline Cazenove.

All Saints The DCC were elected 'en mass' as proposed by Jenny Padmore and seconded by Clare Wilmot- Sitwell.

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 Berndard Cazenove and seconded by Debbie Scholey This was carried unanimously.

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.

Covid is behind us but there continue to be some changes and different approaches to taking communion across the Benefice. David sees that there is growing confidence and that people are coming back to attending church although the financial impact of Covid remains. The PCC needs to look at challenges for giving and fund-raising.

It is now 7 months since Stephen's departure and there is no replacement as a 'house for duty' in after 2 rounds of advertising, and a third due in June. Typically, HfD posts take time to fill as the person sought must want to live in a given place and undertake ministry of the nature particular to the post. It becomes more difficult to appoint than other posts but it's clear that running our benefice with only one Priest is a stretch with our church services and pastoral ministry. We are relying, at the moment, on three laity to take services on a regular basis. It was asked could not the bishop network to find a HfD priest? David pointed out that the Church Times remains the main outlet for advertising church positions as it has a world-wide coverage and is the 'go to' place for clergy seeking a post. (Bishop David has approached several retired priests who have declined his invitation to take this post!)

David asked- What about Mission to get people to come to faith? He asked us to consider, how does that happen in our churches and how does each church reach out to its immediate community i.e village? Each church has different approaches and it would be helpful to discuss the mission/outreach/ evangelism of each congregation, fully aware that the idea of mission connotes different things to people hence the multiple descriptors. A question was asked by PR about whether we need to rationalise our church services so that we have more people joining together in one church rather than being spread across 3 churches? DC commented that there are opportunities for each church, there are changing demographics for example Cliddesden attracts people from Basingstoke. David is also taking regular assemblies in Cliddesden Primary school. There was some discussion about pattern of services and attendances, and it was concluded that this should be discussed further at the PCC level.

15. Questions from the floor
None

16. Final prayer and blessing.