

# **The Parish of Farleigh Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

1. Meeting opened with prayer

2. **Present:**

Lyn Hardy	Debbie Scholey
Hannah Houstin-Lacey	Tricia Knight
Bernard Cazenove	Peter Raine
Charles Palmer-Tomkinson	Ross and Gill Palmer
Oliver Lymington	Val Gofton- Salmond
Caroline Cazenove	Hazel Mertz

### **Apologies**

Gordon Dunse  
Beverley Guinness  
Eamon Harding  
Sylvia Raine  
Caroline Allen

3. **Minutes for APCM** May 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting and were approved, the proposal to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Hannah Houstin-Lacey and seconded by Lyn Hardy.

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

### **5. Notification of Churchwardens (CW) as elected by the DCC's**

St Leonards – Peter Raine was re-elected as Church Warden. This was proposed by Ross Palmer and seconded by Ben Maunder. Eamonn Harding and Val Gofton-Salmond were proposed as assistant Church Wardens, proposed by Gill Palmer and seconded by Hazel Mertz.

All Saints – Lyn Hardy was re-elected as CW. This was proposed by Stafford Napier and seconded by John Holden

St Martins – Bernard Cazenove was re-elected as CW. This was proposed by Caroline Allen and seconded by Theresa Webb).

St Andrews – Viscount Lymington was re-elected as CW. This was proposed by Caroline Cazenove and seconded by Vicky Tibble.

### **6. Electoral Roll**

St Leonard's – There were 45 members on the ER, a net reduction of 3 from the 2024 roll. The 6 yearly renewal resulted in 9 new members largely from parents of children in the St Leonards Singing group. 12 members did not re-apply. 33 of the new list are residents in Cliddesden and 12 are non-residents.

All Saints – The new total following the 6-year renewal is being finalised but at the time of the meeting there were 44 members, a reduction in 5 from last year.

St Martins, the new total is 49 which is a slight increase from 45 last year. This is combination of some new members although there were some members who did not renew and a few who died during the year.

St Andrews – total 6 which is reduced by 2 from last year.

Based on this information the total number of people on the electoral roll in the Parish of Farleigh is now 144, reduced from 150 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 go to them both for producing Hill and Dale on behalf of the PCC.
- The income was slightly increased in 2024 partly due to a slight increase in advertising rates and a slight increase in the subscriptions recieved. Any surplus from the magazine goes towards the Common Mission Fund.
- An electronic PDF file of the magazine is available on the Benefice website, but it is not intended to replace the paper version.
- At the moment the Editorial text is written by Ian Thacker but it was agreed that periodically other members of the PCC will write the editorials, mainly the CW's. These texts will be reviewed by IT.
- Going forward the service rotas for the magazine will be prepared by Tricia based on the schedule provided by Ian. Tricia will send the rotas to the CW's for review prior to going into Hill and Dale.
- It is intended to raise the subscriptions next year from £10 to £12pa, partly to keep up with costs but also to help increase the income towards the CMF.

**(b) Safeguarding.** No safeguarding issues have been reported in the last year. However there is an ongoing audit of safeguarding procedures and there is a new safeguarding document that should be displayed in churches to provide more information of where to go for further information. All members who come into contact with children should be DBS checked every 3 years. Forms were provided for those who need to complete a 3 year renewal.

**(c) Playgroup.** A written report on the activities of the playgroup is included in Appendix 1. The group continues to thrive with average attendance of 16 children and 11 families. The attendance donation has been increased from £2 to £3, in order cover costs of the hall hire. Laura Lee is now the treasurer of the group and able to keep a spreadsheet of income and expenses. There is a positive balance in the account. They have been successful in outreach and 3 families are now attending church and specific events have been held by the church, such as the Teddy bears picnic, Crib services, Christingle and Mothering Sunday. The group provided paintings and artwork for the Xmas edition of Hill and Dale, including the cover page. The playgroup are now sharing their news and activities in regular articles in Hill and Dale.

**(d) Churchwardens' reports** on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church were presented by the Church Wardens at the meeting and the full reports are included in the Annual report which is available on the web site.

St Leonards. The church is in good order, but work is needed on the interior to repair ceilings and repaint walls. This is on hold until further funds are available.

St Martins. There continues to be periodic and unpredictable flooding into the church, so action is underway to look at improving drainage by the door of the church. A faculty has just been approved to temporarily remove 4 rows of pews at the back of the church and replace them with folding chairs. This work can now be done which will allow this space to be used more flexibly for the prayer group, social events after services etc.

St Andrews The work to repair damage in the vestry from damp is ongoing. A 'flagpole' antenna has now been installed on the tower of the church to provide radio coverage for the local DAB charity radio station. This is now providing a modest rental income towards the Parish general fund.

All Saint's Work is underway to look for grants to repair some windows in the church. A card reader has been installed in the porch for visitors, mainly related to pilgrims walking the St James's way. It is hoped that this will increase donations from visitors.

## **9. Financial statements/report of the parish**

The financial report was circulated prior to the meeting, electronically and at the meeting, and the following points were highlighted by Hannah. Income this year has increased both from voluntary giving and also specific church events. As a result, it was possible to pay a larger proportion of the Common Mission Fund in 2024.

The disputes with SSE over the church's electricity bills have now been resolved, thanks again to Hannah for persisting with the incorrect invoices and for obtaining compensation for the poor service.

**Gift Aid** – Hannah expressed her thanks to Eamonn Harding for continuing to administer the gift aid submissions

A proposal to accept the accounts was proposed by Caroline Cazenove and seconded by Peter Raine.

Hannah was thanked by the Chair for all her work as the Treasurer and Bookkeeper.

**10. Approval of Independent Examiner.** David Saunders a senior partner from Sheen Strickland was recommended to be reappointed. This was approved by the meeting.

## **11. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.**

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. The Deanery's of Alton and Alresford are being combined but there was concern that this is creating a large format meeting that is not very productive.

The Diocese produce a newsletter about the link, and this is now circulated via Tricia Knight.

## **12. Election of PCC members from each DCC**

St Leonards – A vacancy remains for an additional member from St Leonards.

All Saints – Charles Palmer-Tomkinson, proposed by John Trueman and seconded by Susan Swinburn.

St Martins & St Andrews - Beverley Guinness, proposed by Dee Haas and seconded by Jacqui Matthews.

## **13. Election of DCC's for each church.**

St Leonards. The members of the current DCC were re-elected: Val Gofton-Salmond, Julian Nunn, Hazel Mertz and Lynda Plenty. Proposed by Sylvia Raine, seconded by Ross Palmer.

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 Gordon Dunse and seconded by Bernard Cazenove.

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

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

## **14. Appointment of the independent examiner**

The meeting recommended that we continue with Sheen Stickland for the coming year.

## **15. PCC Chairs report**

The Benefice Rectors post has been advertised again, the closing date this the end of this month. One potential candidate came to the parish and visited some of the churches and met with Lyn Hardy. However no formal application has yet been made.

## **16. Questions from the floor**

None.

## **Appendix 1. Farleigh Parish Playgroup report from April 2024 – March 2025**

### **1. Attendance**

The average attendance of children is 16 per week and an average of 11 families. During the Spring months the average attendance is 18 children. The average is less in the summer term (around 13 children) when the weather is better, and parents/grandparents go elsewhere for the day.

Families learn about us mostly by personal recommendations, social media and regular advertising in the Cliddesden Newsletter, emailed by Cliddesden Primary School to the parents, Hill & Dale and Oxdrove parish magazines.

### **2. Financial information**

This year we started with a carry forward loss of £38.69 which was very unusual for the playgroup. However, we have to accept this and our balance on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 is £70.12. The playgroup treasurer Laura-Lee now keeps a financial spreadsheet. We increased our attendance donation from £2 to £3 in September 2024 due to the village hall rent increase, but it has also helped our finances.

### **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 and Stacy (who helps when Melanie is away) assist with the packing away which helps the key volunteers finish on time. Stacy has left the village so is no longer able to help.

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**

Parents and grandparents comment on how much they enjoy the group finding it friendly and welcoming. One comment was that it was the best playgroup they attend. When we ask for help with setting up or packing away, they do so readily.

### **5. Activities and events**

The end of term Easter party 2024 was a success with Easter crafts, an Easter egg hunt and party food. Three children left playgroup at the end of the summer term to start school in September 2024. They were regular attendees, but two children have younger siblings who continue to attend.

MacMillan Coffee and Cake morning plus a raffle in September 2024 raised £87.12 for the charity.

A remembrance wreath was made by the children, and it was part of the Remembrance Day service at St Leonard's.

One of our highlights was for the playgroup to be featured on the front cover (fingerprint robins) and included in the middle pages (sparkly Christmas trees) of the Christmas edition of the Hill and Dale. The parents and grandparents were thrilled and kept copies of the magazine showing the children's work.

Thanks to Debbie for suggesting the idea and for visiting us at our Christmas party and bringing us chocolates. Following this, an article from playgroup is now submitted each month to the Hill and Dale.

The end of term Christmas party, December 2024 was well attended, and it was a fun and happy time for everyone. Father Christmas visited, and each child was given a present. There was delicious party food from Monica and others.

We celebrated Playgroup's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### **6. Outreach**

Thanks to Claire's wonderful work we have introduced three families to church. The Pancake party, Dad's and kids craft morning for Mothering Sunday and Easter Egg-stravaganza were particular events where families who do not currently attend church came along as a result of us promoting the events to everyone at playgroup. This is very positive and encouraging that these children and their families are being introduced to Christianity.

In addition, we have two families who regularly attend services and events who were introduced to church through playgroup.

The singing group, family services and other special occasions such as Christingle, the Crib Service, Mothering Sunday and the Pancake Party at St Leonards are always promoted.

Links between the different children's age groups at church outreach groups are being cultivated, as Playgroup families donated to the Youth Group's fundraising efforts for the Foodbank, in return for sweets made by the Youth Group.

The Teddy Bear's picnic, June 2024 was a delightful afternoon in the churchyard and very much enjoyed by all who attended. The playgroup was hosted by Sylvia, Peter, Monica and Gill who provided delicious party food which we enjoyed along with the music, songs and fun playing games. We are looking forward to coming to St Leonard's again this year on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **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

April 2025