

The Parish of Farleigh Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Wednesday October 21st 2020, by Zoom

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Meeting opened with worship and prayer

2. Present:

Revd. David Chattell
Revd Stephen
Mourant
Eamonn Harding
Gill Palmer
Ross Palmer
Quentin Portsmouth
Lyn Hardy

Bernard Cazenove
Beverley Guinness
Debbie Scholey
Annabel
Portsmouth
Shirley Powell
Sylvia Raine
Peter Raine

Apologies:

Julia Mourant
Caroline Allen
Peter Rowe
Rhona Randell
Caroline Cazenove
Jean Frost
Julian Nunn
Charles Palmer-
Tomkinson
Peter Rowe

3. Minutes for APCM April 2019 were approved. Proposed by Lyn Hardy and seconded by Gill Palmer.

Matters arising - None

4. Notification of Churchwardens

Those elected by DCCs:

St Leonards – Linda Plenty(proposed by Val Gofton-Salmond and seconded by Ross Palmer).

All Saints – Lyn Hardy (proposed by Alex Holden and seconded by Jeremy Glyn).

St Martins – Bernard Cazenove (proposed Caroline Allen and seconded by Caroline Cazenove).

St Andrews – Lord Lymington (proposed by Bernard Cazenove and seconded by Caroline Allen).

5. Electoral Roll

St Leonards – total 55 (up by 4 on last year) of which 11 are non-resident, 44 resident. 5 new people and one died.

All Saints – total 56 (55 last year) of which 5 are non-resident. 3 deceased, 2 moved away, 8 new, 3 not renewing- students no longer living locally.

St Martins, total 54 (two less than last year) of which 4 are non-resident and 2 moved away.

St Andrews –total 10 (11 last year) of which all are resident, 2 moved away and 1 new member.

6. Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC

A written report was circulated prior to the APCM as part of the financial report.

No comments were made.

7. Verbal reports

(a) Hill & Dale (given by Debbie Scholey)– In January the subscriptions were increased to £1 per issue, ie £10 per year. (Eamonn pointed out that those who pay directly to the bank had not increased the payment this year). Unfortunately due to Coronavirus it was not possible to publish issues between March and June, which meant that printing costs were not incurred and therefore the finances of Hill and Dale are more reasonable than previously thought. In the early part of the year Edna Chiltern expressed her intention to retire as the editor. The last issue from

Edna supported by Sheila Brown was in September 2020. Both Edna and Sheila were thanked for their support of Hill and Dale, Edna for over 20 years. Edna was presented with a hamper and personalised picture of the magazine cover and Sheila with plants and chocolates. In October we were able to welcome Jean Frost from Wield as our new Editor, along with Ros Partridge who will manage advertising. Jean and Ros also edit and manage the Oxdrove magazine.

(b) Safeguarding. A written report was provided by Caroline Cazenove. The policies have been reviewed and it was considered that no changes are required. It was recommended that Safeguarding becomes a standing agenda topic at all PCC meetings. Those who are DBS checked and updated. *Action SM to follow up with Caroline Cazenove.*

(c) Churchwardens' reports on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church

St Leonards – The building work has been completed and fully paid. Matthew Jones the former Church Warden, moved to Sweden in July this year. Linda Plenty has stepped forward to become the new church warden, which was welcomed by the DCC, and they also hope to attract new members to the DCC in the coming year.

St Martins – There is nothing to report concerning the fabric, goods or ornaments of the church.

St Andrews – A new bench has been installed in the church yard. Maintenance work on the church roof will commence in the coming weeks.

All Saints - Trees in the church yard have been pruned and shaped. There are plans to repair the notice board and an electrical inspection will be carried out in 2021. The organ maintenance was not able to be conducted due to coronavirus restrictions. Additional copies of the church guide will be printed for visitors.

SM noted his appreciation to all members of DCC's and especially to Eamonn Harding for his work as the PCC treasurer.

8. Financial statements/report of the parish

The financial report was circulated prior to the meeting. Last year the Parish Share was paid in full, although the year began with a small deficit but due to generous giving during church closures the situation has improved.

The parish share payment for this year is up to date and it should be possible to pay the full amount again this year. Next year the Parish Share will be reduced by £5,000, so it should be feasible for us to pay our way in 2021.

The proposal to accept the accounts was proposed by Bernard Cazenove and seconded by Ross Palmer, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was given to Eamonn for all his hard work

The finances of the diocese are seriously low: due to corona virus many parishes have been unable to pay their common mission fund contributions in full; the parish share for 2021 is being reduced and the Diocesan Board of Finance expect a £2M reduction in income next year. Therefore staff reductions are being made including the loss of some clergy.

9. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

David attends regularly as he is now Area Dean. A report prepared by Anne Luneburg was circulated ahead of the meeting. The Deanery have confirmed that they wish to continue to support Lango at least until current projects are completed rather than to join Lyndhurst Deanery to support a project in Rwanda, as had been suggested by the Bishop.

There is a deployment task force who are working on the future deployment of clergy, this group will continue until March next year. In addition to the 4 synod meetings in the last year (one cancelled), there was a Deanery Service in St John's, Northington, with singers from Cheriton joining the Candover Valley Choir. This was considered useful and is planned to be repeated at another time.

10. Election of PCC members

St Leonards – Julian Nunn (Proposed by Eamonn Harding and seconded by Ross Palmer).

All Saints – Charles Palmer-Tomkinson (proposed by John Truman and seconded by Lyn Hardy).

St Martins & St Andrews - Beverley Guinness, Debbie Scholey (proposed by Vicky Read and seconded by Zani Robinson)

Prayer was made for all those elected.

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

12. Appointment of the independent examiner

Sheen Stickland were proposed by Eamonn Harding and seconded by Annabel Portsmouth. This was carried unanimously.

13. Rector's report

David thanked all who hold office and to Stephen for his particular work in the presentation and preparation of on-line services during lockdown. He specifically thanked his daughter Chloë who works in the media production world and was able to edit the videos. The online materials were considered very valuable.

Thanks, praise and a debt of gratitude was given to Gill Palmer as she retires from her role as PCC secretary which she has been doing for over 12 years. The Ellisfield Café initiative, TCC, was thanked. The Farleigh playgroup run by Clare Nunn have continued to do some activities each week although not in the same format as pre-covid. Gratitude was offered to Edna Chilton who has retired as Editor of "Hill and Dale" and also thanks were offered to Eamonn for managing the finances of the Parish.

Looking ahead, the recruitment for the Parish Administrator is ongoing, an application has been received to date.

Worship: it is still not permitted to sing indoors unless part of a choir. Many people valued the outdoor worship that went ahead in churchyards during late Summer and early Autumn. The importance of being compliant with the regulations was stressed, and the clergy are constantly monitoring the guidance as things change. The Remembrance Day service will be outdoors. Christmas services will have to be different to normal, with restricted numbers and possibly ticketed events and outdoors. Clergy are currently exploring options. The Church of England are producing an online resource for the 12 days of Christmas which may be helpful. It is not yet published. David reminded us that we need to put our hope, trust and confidence in God and be more prayerful.

The Diocese has to reduce the number of employees due to a lack of funds which will include a reduction in paid clergy. The indication is that the number of benefices will be reduced from 40 to 20 with one paid person in each Benefice.

The "Registry" of retired clergy available to cover services is not currently active

Stephen announced his intention to retire in September 2021, after which the full time Associate Rector role, will become a house for duty role. The Ellisfield rectory will probably be sold and a smaller house in Cliddesden will be purchased for the house for duty post. A gratitude of thanks was offered to Stephen for his work and support over the years.

There will need to be a new Benefice plan to support services with one vicar, after Stephen's retirement. Discussions about this will be formally initiated in the New Year. It is hoped to have the Benefice administrator in post in January to assist in this process. Further discussions on this topic were deferred to the next PCC meeting. Ross asked if the on line services would continue if necessary, and if so suggested that David and Stephen could combine and either share the services or do one each per week.

14. Questions from the floor

None

15. Final prayer and blessing.