

The Parish of Farlington

St. Andrew's, Farlington &
The Church of the Resurrection, Drayton

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2023

Incumbent – Revd Canon Paul Gully

Bank – Natwest Bank PLC,
High Street,
Cosham,
Portsmouth

Independent Examiner – Morris Crocker, Chartered Accountants
Station House, North Street,
Havant
PO9 1QU

Charity Number: 1129921

Website – www.farlingtonparish.co.uk



Parish of Farlington

**Meeting of Parishioners and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 21st April 2024 at St Andrew's Church
after the 10 am service**

Agenda

Meeting of Parishioners

Minutes of Meeting of Parishioners 2023

Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

Electoral Roll Report and Appointment of Roll Officer

Election of PCC members

Appointment of Treasurer

Appointment of Secretary to the PCC

Appointments to the Deanery Synod

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Appointment of Deputy Wardens

Agreement that Licensed Readers should serve as ex-officio members of PCC

Treasurer's Report on the 2023 accounts

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church by the Churchwarden

Report on the proceedings of the PCC by the Secretary

Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod

Chair's remarks

Any questions about parochial church matters

Minutes of the Farlington Parish Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 23rd April 2023

Present: Rev. Canon Paul Gully [PG] in the chair, and 36 parishioners. PG opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Rev. Linda Denness, Ed Denness, Simon Lemieux, John Upton, Linda Upton and Caroline Harper.

Minutes of Meeting of Parishioners 2022:

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners were presented in written format. There were no questions arising from the minutes.

Election of Churchwardens:

Only one nomination had been received for the two Churchwardens in the Parish and that was to re-elect Anthony Purser to continue serving as Churchwarden for his 3rd and final year; proposed by Jaye Warren and seconded by Antony Kenyon. There being no further nominations, Anthony Purser was duly elected as Churchwarden unanimously.

PG expressed his thanks to Anthony for agreeing to serve for the coming year. He also thanked Chris Batstone and Michael Horner for continuing to help out with some of the vacant Churchwarden's responsibilities at COR.

Mark Emerton pointed out that a Special Parish Meeting could be convened if a volunteer comes forward to fill the vacant Churchwarden's position sometime during the coming year.

There being no further business for the Meeting of Parishioners, PG closed the meeting at 11.15.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 23rd April 2023 immediately following the Meeting of Parishioners

Present: Rev. Canon Paul Gully [PG] in the chair, and 36 parishioners.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Rev. Linda Denness, Ed Denness, Simon Lemieux, John Upton, Linda Upton and Caroline Harper.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022:

The minutes were presented in written format. Marina Horner pointed out that Revd Linda Denness had been omitted from Michael Horner's thanks to the Ministry team – to be added.

Electoral Roll Report and Appointment of Roll Officer:

The number on the updated roll is 107. Marcus Saunders is happy to continue as Electoral Roll Officer and was duly elected.

Election of PCC members:

PG has received a letter of resignation from the PCC from Chantal Bodsworth whom he thanked for her service, along with Hannah Emerton and Charlotte Saunders as their tenure on the PCC comes to an end.

There are currently 7 vacancies on the PCC. Two nominations have been received as follows:-

- Colin South was proposed by Paul Harrison and seconded by John Upton
- Phillip Sampson was proposed by John Upton and seconded by Marcus Saunders.

Both were duly elected unanimously for a 3-year term. Post meeting note: Since the meeting Colin South has withdrawn his candidacy from the PCC

Appointment of Treasurer:

PG explained that the appointment of the Treasurer for the parish is a matter for the PCC, but that the PCC would wish to be guided by a recommendation from the APCM.

Hannah Emerton confirmed that she would be happy to continue as Parish Treasurer. The APCM so recommended the appointment of Hannah Emerton - ? to be co-opted by PCC.

Appointment of Secretary to the PCC:

The current Secretary, John Upton, who stood down after last year's APCM, has continued to carry out the backroom work of Secretary in the absence of anyone else prepared to take on the role with the support of Marina Horner and Lorraine Carpenter (RIP) as Minutes Secretaries, to whom PG offered his thanks. There have still been no offers of anyone to take on the role, therefore it is for the PCC to appoint a Secretary from its number. The PCC will consider the position.

Appointments to the Deanery Synod (not on Agenda):

There are currently two ex-officio members Simon Lemieux and Mark Emerton who are members of Deanery/Diocesan Synod because they are members of Bishop's council. There are 3 vacancies for Deanery Synod and one nomination – Dr Marcus Saunders, who was duly elected unanimously.

Appointment of Independent Examiner:

It was proposed by the Chair (with the agreement of the Treasurer) that we continue to use Morris Crocker, Chartered Accountants in Havant, as the Independent Examiners for a further year. The meeting agreed to the appointment unanimously.

Appointment of Deputy Wardens:

Paul Harrison and Chantal Bodsworth both affirmed their willingness to continue serving as deputy churchwardens at St. Andrew's church. Accordingly, the APCM appointed Paul and Chantal for the next 12 months. There were no nominations for COR.

Agreement that Licensed Readers should serve as ex-officio members of PCC:

PG explained that Simon Lemieux serves as a member of Deanery Synod and so is an ex-officio member of PCC already. Amber Vincent-Prior is a Reader licensed to serve across the Diocese, therefore it is not required for Amber to serve ex-officio on PCC. Amber does not wish to serve on the PCC at this time.

Treasurer's report on the 2022 accounts:

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 were presented as a separate document. Hannah Emerton explained that the accounts had been examined by the Independent Examiners and no matters of concern had been raised. The PCC had approved the accounts on 10th April 2023.

There were no questions about the accounts.

Hannah Emerton (Treasurer) pointed out that, although we are more financially sound this year, the increased fuel charges are likely to have a significant impact on next year's finances. PG thanked Hannah and the Finance Team for their work looking after the church finances in the past year. Also, thanks to Sarah Saunders for sorting out the gift aid.

Safeguarding Policy Statement:

The Safeguarding Policy Statement had been included on pages 19-21 of the Annual report. There were no questions about Safeguarding. PG thanked Christine Watkins for her continuing work as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church by the Churchwardens:

The churchwarden's report was included on pages 10 and 11 of the Annual Report. There were no questions to the Churchwarden. PG thanked Anthony Purser for his work in the past year and thanks to everyone who helps out with attending to the Fabric of the church, particularly in the absence of a Churchwarden at COR.

Report on the proceedings of the PCC by the Secretary:

The report was included on pages 11 and 12 of the Annual Report. There were no questions to the Secretary. PG thanked John Upton for continuing to do the background work during the last year, despite standing down from the post of Secretary at the last APCM. John has re-expressed his wish to discontinue any secretarial role therefore it will be incumbent on the PCC to find someone to fill this post.

Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod:

The report on Deanery Synod proceedings was included on page 12 of the Annual Report. There were no questions to Deanery Synod representatives.

Rector's remarks:

The Rector's remarks were published on pages 9 and 10 of the Annual Report. There were no questions to the Rector. The Rector reiterated that he would always welcome any volunteers to help with ongoing tasks.

Any questions about parochial church matters:

PG drew the attention of the meeting to the other contributions within the Annual Report: Drayton Film Club, Messy Church, Spirituality, Worship and Discipleship Committee [SWDC], Eco Church group and Traidcraft. He thanked all those who undertake these activities for their hard work. He invited questions about these activities and any other parochial church matters. There were none.

PG offered thanks to everyone involved in supporting his ministry and work in the Parish.

There being no further business, PG closed the meeting with a blessing.

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Administrative Information

The Parish of Farlington comprises two churches: St. Andrew's and the Church of the Resurrection. It is part of the Archdeaconry of Portsdown and the Diocese of Portsmouth within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: Farlington Parish Office, Church of the Resurrection, Penrhyn Avenue, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 2AW. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Measure: it is registered with the Charity Commission, charity number 1129921.

The Ministry Team is comprised

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Paul Gully
Reader: Mr Simon Lemieux

Clergy with Permission to Officiate linked with the parish:
The Revd Linda Denness

Reader with Permission to Officiate linked with the parish:
Mrs Amber Vincent-Prior

PCC members who have served from the date of the previous annual meeting are: -

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Paul Gully Chair
Reader: Mr Simon Lemieux

Wardens: Mr Anthony Purser
(Vacant)

Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Mrs Hannah Emerton – Co-opted

Deanery Synod representatives:

Mr Mark Emerton – Vice chair, ex-officio Diocesan Synod member and Bishop's Council
Dr Marcus Saunders Elected by the PCC
Mr Simon Lemieux ex-officio Diocesan Synod member and Bishop's Council

Elected members: *Representing*

2021/24

Lynne Runham SA
Richard Jempson SA
Geoff Wilson CR
Vacancy

2022/25

Marina Horner CR
Jan Boucher CR (from November 2022)
Vacancy x 2

2023/26

Philip Sampson
Thomas Mather
Vacancy
Vacancy

CR
CR

According to the parish constitution (following rule M16 of the Church Representation Rules 2022), those elected members who have served three years on the PCC will stand down and new members will be elected to take their place.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules – a new and simplified version of which came into effect on March 1st 2022. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Standing Committee of the PCC is comprised of the incumbent, the churchwardens, and two others elected by the PCC; it meets every two months in the months between the bi-monthly PCC meetings, with the exception of December. There are four sub-committees which oversee the business of the parish in the following areas: Fabric, Finance, Communications, and Work similar to that of the Pastoral Care Committee is currently undertaken by the 'Looking After Each Other' working group. The Spirituality, Worship and Discipleship are taking a break at the moment. Separate reports from these committees are included below. An Eco Church working group meets and undertakes projects and work on our 'green credentials'

Objectives and Activities

Farlington PCC has responsibility to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for St Andrew's church, the Church of the Resurrection and the two church halls within the curtilages of the churches.

2023 saw the revision of the roll. The number on the roll for 2023 was 109. There have been three additions to the Roll and five people were removed on their death. There will be a new Roll prepared in 2025.

Occasional Offices

Over the year, there have been *thirteen* funerals conducted by the clergy/Reader team in church or at the crematorium/cemetery. There was one wedding, and *five* Christenings.

Canon Paul Gully, Rector

Rector's Remarks

I hope that I can never be accused of only thanking people for what they do just at this time of the year. Though it is particularly appropriate to thank people now.

Thank you to Tony Purser as key lay officer post of Churchwarden, as he now stands down and we will be poorer for the lack of his eye for detail. The other Churchwarden post has still been vacant. Michael, Chris and others have been offering their assistance. We really should have, and do need, two Churchwardens, supporting each other as well as the parish – and enabling the two-way conversations between the bishop and us. I've heard you say that I should be asking people to be Churchwarden. I promise I will ask anyone saying so, if they themselves will stand for Churchwarden.

Thank you for Marina Horner, Jan Boucher, and the office team of Jean, Di and Geoff, who have developed a 'job-share' arrangement to spread the task of PCC Secretary

Richard Jempson has headed up the Fabric sub-committee dealing with the practical 'gutters and downspouts' matters. Geoff Wilson and Mervyn Doyle have helped us all to explore our responsibilities in 'looking after each other'. Thank you.

Thank you to Sheena Day who has stood down over this past year, as convenor of our Worship, Spirituality and Discipleship sub-committee.

Thanks again to Hannah Emerton continuing to lead, encourage and envision the Treasurer team and will have reminded our meeting about our responsibilities – recognizing that there is no solution elsewhere. Thanks to that wider finance team for the way they support her in carrying out their own responsibilities too. Watch out for their presentation at the APCM and our parish involvement with Generosity Week later in the year.

Thanks to Deputy Wardens, Paul Harrison, Chantal Bodsworth, and for all those who serve as Sidespersons and welcomers. Thanks for those who read our readings in worship and those who lead our prayers of intercession. Thanks to Mark Emerton, Vice Chair of the PCC. If you have come to the end of your time on PCC, Thank you. If you are new to PCC, have returned or are continuing thank you too.

Mark Emerton, Marcus Saunders and Simon Lemieux, provide a wider picture of Diocesan life to us and parish life at those other places, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council. Miriam Sampson, encourages us in sharing the work with ecumenical partners, spurring us on in leading the eco group and, this year too leading our musicians and singers.

And for the many, many others who quietly contribute to our parish life.

Thanks to the continued gifts and skills and involvement of all those who minister here. For Linda, Simon and Amber. For Elaine as leader of the Messy Church congregation.

The Men's Shed group (pre-planning application for the shed with the City Council now) and Film Club both continue their work supporting our wider community supported and co-ordinated by church members. Thank you.

Please offer to volunteer in parish posts where you might, and suggest to others they might where you can't. One of the very important marks of the life of this parish is that many people serve in other agencies as part of their Christian commitment. It would be sad to see Christian volunteers only 'operating' in church circles. That does leave us with significant

roles needing to be filled when others have finished their term or are no longer able to continue.

Do follow the parish's financial figures. You will have heard of our projected 15k overspend budget for 2024. Clearly this is unsustainable.

The diocesan strategy has been subject to a re-start. Gone is the emphasis on Team or Group ministries. Bishop Jonathan has reviewed and reduced the number of decision-making bodies. You will have seen his emphasis on engaging with children and families and older people, encouraging us to develop 'discipleship pathways' to help us all grow in our faith. Our challenge with the other two mainland parishes is to explore and discover ways in which we, together, might support the others and build on individuals' strengths.

Bishop Jonathan delighted us when recently he led worship in three of our congregations. I've already suggested he pays a visit to our Messy Church congregation too.

He also asked me to take up the role of Assistant Area Dean for the North part of the Deanery, as part of the changes in the Deanery when Canon Bob White was made Acting Archdeacon.

The House of Bishops of the Church of England did commend materials for use in parishes (withing existing services) to pray blessing for individuals in relationships other than those of Holy Matrimony. Our PCC recently discussed the option of use of these materials in this parish and agreed, as part of a wider dissemination of opportunity for thinking across our congregations, towards their potential use here.

Thank you all for your continuing commitment to these places and their mission. Thank you to you all for the challenging your kindness and encouragement in your continued support of my ministry.

Paul

Churchwarden's Report

At the start of year 2023, Faculty approval was received to replace the existing gas boiler used to heat the Hall at Church of the Resurrection, with a new low emission gas boiler. The existing boiler had given good service, but after about 15 years was becoming unreliable. There was a risk of a complete failure of hall heating during the coldest months, leading to loss of income and possibly driving away our hall users. The urgent need was such that the PCC had decided that although gas (a fossil fuel) will still now be used for heating, a "greener" alternative would have to await the outcome of studies by the proposed energy group, as part of a comprehensive plan for Church and Hall. Thanks are due to Di Allen and Richard Jempson for identifying the problem, obtaining quotes, processing the faculty application, and driving the new installation through to completion.

Repairs to the Organ at Church of the Resurrection were necessary, following damage by squirrels that took up residence and acquired a taste for zinc trunking and electric wiring.

Also in January 2023, List B approval was granted to perform repairs to the roof and spire at St Andrew's Church. This following storm damage that had occurred nearly a year

earlier and was the subject of our insurance claim that had been approved by the loss adjuster on behalf of insurance underwriters.

The start of work had been delayed while the contractor (Williams Roofing Ltd) found a replacement subcontractor available to perform the scaffolding for the project, but from 3rd May, scaffolding was erected to facilitate the works, which included new stonework, tiling and shingles, leadwork and guttering. The scaffolding comprised two independent parts; an eastern structure facing the church north roof and a western structure to facilitate repairs to the spire. Each part was shrouded to a height of 3 m for site security, while keeping access open to both entrances of the building allowing church services to continue. The scope of the repair works was assessed by the main contractor and our architect, Julian Livingstone, and was split between those works that were the subject of our insurance claim, plus additional works necessary to correct defects that became evident during the initial inspection from the completed scaffolding and later.

The scaffolding was dropped in stages, from October, to allow progressive access for repairs from the top down. The scaffolding had been completely removed by early November, with some iron guttering remaining to be installed below the north roof. This work had been agreed as part of our insurance claim. Unfortunately, some incorrect parts had been ordered, and new parts had to be specially ordered. Work stopped while waiting for these parts, and there was a loss of focus as the project manager left the company at the end of February 2024. We are still waiting for the work to be rescheduled, hopefully using the original team.

During inspections from the scaffolding, it was determined that the spire would benefit from refurbishment to reduce maintenance costs well into the future. The shingling had become a patchwork of repairs of indifferent quality, and our architect agreed with Rob Williams (contractor) that the shingles should be completely replaced using shingles of Western Red Cedar to the highest standards. Accordingly, estimates were received from roofing companies, quoting against our architect's specification. Meanwhile, Williams Roofing submitted their own quotation which assumed the use of the existing scaffolding. Unfortunately, this quote did not include all the items in the architect's specification, and so could not be compared directly against the other quotes received. Williams Roofing have affirmed their intention to resubmit a quote against the architect's specification.

A need for additional work at high level on the south side at St Andrew's has since been identified, some of which is mentioned in the Quinquennial Report. This includes:

- Replacement of flaunching between the Eastern Gable and the roof, with Lime Mortar. A leak here is suspected of causing plaster to flake from the chancel ceiling (Southeast corner). A similar repair was done on the Northern side by Williams Roofing Contractors.
- Straightening the line of guttering above the Chancel
- Realign slipped or missing tiles.
- Reattach guttering downpipe to Nave wall.
- Replace the wire mesh covering the roof vent in the Eastern wall.

These, and other items appearing in the Quinquennial Report should receive attention this year, and will require appointment of a new inspecting architect, to replace Julian Livingstone who is retiring.

Quotes were obtained for repairs and improvements to the internal lighting in both churches. However, more detail will be required on the proposed LED luminaires to ensure they are adequate in terms of illumination, efficiency, colour temperature, etc., and suitable in form and appearance.

Exterior lighting is also under consideration. New LED technology should be investigated for the opportunity to adopt novel forms which may be less obtrusive than conventional luminaires.

Anthony Purser.

PCC Secretary's report

In the absence of any volunteers at last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting to take on the role of Parish Secretary, a Secretarial Team has been established to fulfil the needs of the Parish Secretary's role, and I have continued as Minutes Secretary to the PCC in the interim. This team comprises myself, Jan Boucher (who monitors the official Parish Secretary's email account), Hannah Emerton and the office team of Di Allen, Jean Nicholas and Geoff Wilson who assist with the general administrative duties. The team would very much like to acknowledge and thank John Upton for the considerable assistance he has given us this year as we have worked to find our feet. Ideally, the Parish still requires a named Parish Secretary, but this role could be supported by the current Secretarial Team if required. I, or any of the other members of the team, would be happy to talk to anyone who might consider this role.

Marina Horner

Deanery Synod report

Farlington continues to have three lay reps on the synod, Marcus Saunders, Mark Emerton and myself plus our Rector Paul. In fact we are entitled to more lay reps, as two of us sit on the synod due to other roles/'hats'. So, if you are interested in what it involves in terms of commitment, please speak to one of us.

The synod has met three times this year, at St Mark's North End, St Mag's Southsea and St Andrew's Farlington. Each session begins with a brief time of worship together, a financial update and good news stories/projects from across the deanery. The latter this have included presentations about solar panels on church roofs, Anna Chaplaincy and Michael deacons (we have two in the deanery). We have also heard from Philip Poulter, Diocesan Secretary, about the diocesan budget. It is an opportunity too, to be a link between the deanery and the diocese when it comes to items such as parish share where our deanery generally achieves a high collection rate.

One area where some of the deanery funds will be used over the next three years, is to fund roughly one third of the part post for a deanery Anna Chaplaincy co-ordinator, the remainder coming from a central diocesan grant and a local charitable trust. The deanery plan is also a regular agenda item, forged parish amalgamations/team ministries appear to be off the table, in favour of a much more 'light touch' cooperation between neighbouring parishes and collaborating where we can in local clusters. The deanery is also very fortunate that at the time of writing, all incumbent posts are filled following a couple of recent appointments.

Respectfully submitted,

Simon Lemieux

Fabric Committee Report

The Fabric committee met regularly during 2023 with the aim of maintaining the fabric of the two churches and their halls on behalf of the PCC. Some of the team are part of other parish groups and share their knowledge. The Fabric committee has worked well together to complete an agreed schedule of work and to deal with day-to-day matters such as miscreant squirrels! Not all items of work we would like to carry out have been started. Resourcing of work again remains a concern and this, along with our activity and proposals were reported at each PCC meeting.

Tony Purser (Churchwarden) has worked tirelessly; committing himself to many areas of parish life. As an example, he spent hours overseeing the work to repair the roof damage at St Andrew's following storm Eunice and to deal with allied day-to-day issues that arose.

Without a Churchwarden at the Church of the Resurrection it has not been easy to respond as quickly as we would like to maintain the fabric of the church in the condition we would like. I wish to particularly thank Michael Horner with support from Chris Batstone and Paul Gully for their continuing work maintaining the buildings.

Our hall managers, Di Allen and Ann Howells, do a lot of work behind the scenes and much of this goes unseen. In 2023 the parish secured permission to replace the hall boiler at the Church of the Resurrection. It had served us well over the years but more recently had become unreliable. The new boiler was installed this year and will hopefully see us through to at least 2030. I wish to thank Di and Ann for their significant contribution to our parish life and mission.

The work of the eco group is invaluable and they've made great progress. The two teams are working more closely as our objectives overlap. An aim for the parish is to better understand our energy and carbon footprint, particularly at a time when the cost of power is very high. If any member of the congregation would like to join either team, please speak to the Rector.

It was a challenging year with the understandable financial constraints and 2024 will be no different. Both churches are due a Quinquennial building inspection in the autumn and this will result in a further programme of work with allied costs. Our Architect, Julian Livingstone, who completed our last Quinquennial in 2019, is standing down and we will

miss his guidance and sound advice. The Parish is now in the process of securing the services of a new architect.

Specific items of work carried out during the year will be covered in the Churchwarden's report.

Richard Jempson, Fabric Committee Convenor

Spirituality, Worship and Discipleship Committee (SWDC)

The committee met once every three months and consisted of seven members including Canon Paul Gully and convened by Sheena Day.

The committee has continued to discuss church services and make suggestions to enhance the spiritual life of the parish. It also chooses the hymns for both churches on a rota basis, assisted by members of the congregation and we thank Miriam Sampson and Ruth Taylor for their continuing support of the music in both churches. Nick Gleed has continued to play the organ for some services on an ad hoc basis.

In December, a group of church members went to Hamilton House to sing carols to the residents – this was very much appreciated by them.

The SWDC has decided to take a break for the foreseeable future, but will continue to maintain the hymn choosing rota.

Marina Horner, SWDC Minutes Secretary.

Financial Report and Accounts for year ended 31 December 2023

See separate document

Eco Church Report

Over the past year the Eco Church group has continued to meet to consider how we can care for God's creation in our parish. We are now working towards the Silver A Rocha Eco Church award, covering five areas of church life: worship and teaching; buildings; land; community and global engagement; and lifestyle. We have also been considering how we can contribute to meeting the Church of England's goal to be "carbon net zero" by 2030.

During the past year we have created a management plan for the land at the Resurrection and Linda Upton has convened a gardening group which has had several sessions of working in the grounds, strimming, weeding and cutting back hedges. A water butt and compost heaps have been installed and planters (disused tyres) are ready to be planted up. We have acquired some bird boxes which are ready to be installed. Most of the trees planted in December 2022 have survived and we hope will thrive. A compost heap container will shortly be built at St Andrew's and we are researching the possibility of situating a cycle rack by the hall.

Our recycling initiatives continue, but sadly we are no longer able to collect blister packs for recycling due to a change of policy at Superdrug, which will no longer accept bulk donations.

Regarding worship and teaching, we held a climate-focused combined service in the autumn, in the run-up to the UN international conference 'COP28', where we focused on our individual carbon footprints and how we could reduce them. We shared a number of "meat free" recipes on the Eco Church display table at the back of the Resurrection. We also included some "eco-tips" on how to reduce waste at Christmas in our pew sheet in December. Climate issues are regularly included in intercessions in our services.

On the community engagement front, we hosted the Portsmouth Ecumenical Christian Climate Action Group last July, showcasing what we had done to achieve our Bronze Eco Church award and how we were progressing further. We took part in "Churches Count on Nature" in June, when a team recorded wildlife found in the burial ground at St Andrew's. We also encouraged participation in the second 'Big Plastic Count' in April this year. Miriam Sampson is now representing the Portsmouth Deanery on the Diocesan Environmental Advisory Group convened by David Cain.

We are now starting to focus more on energy usage in our churches. The C of E now requires parishes to complete an energy footprint return annually and we did this for the first time last summer. We are currently in the process of commissioning a subsidised energy audit for both our churches from Parish Buying; our patron has offered to pay for this. The gas boiler in the hall at the Resurrection had to be replaced with a new one, but we are starting to look at other 'greener' heating options for the church itself when that gas boiler reaches the end of its life. In the meantime we are looking at other ways to reduce our energy usage, through insulation etc. Unfortunately our attempt to set up a

specific group to focus on our energy usage and to plan for future energy needs in the parish has not been successful, as no volunteers came forward.

We hope to apply for our Silver Ecochurch Award in the next few months. Thank you for your support for these important initiatives.

Miriam Sampson

Messy Church

The year at Messy Church seems to have gone quickly again as we celebrated another year, and I think that the Team would agree that we have continued to grow in all sorts of ways. Our attendance numbers have been consistent, welcoming families each month; developing a real community spirit amongst regular Messy friends as well as growing together as a team to retell and reflect on the Bible themes. It is very rewarding to be with the Messy Families.

We enjoy a varied programme of activities on Bible themes from Get Messy! Magazine, which we are able to tailor to our families and situation. Several of the programmes have been compiled by the team, pooling our ideas and coming up with fun activities. We regularly sing lively songs now – thanks to a well known website.

Our themes have been:

- Bible Roads
- Joseph
- Moses
- Our Natural World
- Peace and Remembrance
- The Birth of Jesus
- Jesus turns the tables over in The Temple
- Palm Sunday

Amongst all these fun activities, songs, animations, interactive celebrations, is the core message of what we believe, which the adults as well as the children receive.

Promotion by email, Facebook groups and the banner are ongoing. Word of mouth is the most powerful advertisement for Messy Church.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who take part and to those who pray for us and our families. A mention to our resident photographer who records the sessions – these have become popular with the families. We could not manage to provide Messy Church without the input of so many people.

I urge you all to come and see- Get messy & have fun, or just come and see what goes on.

Elaine Beeby

Drayton Film Club

Another successful year at Drayton Film Club with numbers increasing and an almost 50/50 split between members of our congregations and the local community attending. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Church of the Resurrection at 2pm and during the past year our films have ranged from 'Belfast' and 'The Book Thief' to 'Mrs Harris goes to Paris' and our, now what's become a tradition, August musical month, this year was 'Les Miserables' and was very much enjoyed by everyone who also enjoyed the choc ices in the interval.

We held 2 pre film lunches during the year and raised £199 for The Paulsgrove Foodbank and Hope into Action charities. In addition to that we made a donation of £368 to Parish Funds towards the cost of lighting, heating and the license. My thanks to all those who helped out at the lunches and a special thanks to Ruth and Len who help with the teas and washing up every month.

We have lots of brilliant films ready to show you this coming year and a lunch planned for June with a D Day theme. So come and join us, bring a friend, spread the word and enjoy a good film, good company and tea and biscuits. There is no charge but we just ask for a donation towards the cost of refreshments.

Linda Upton.

Looking After Each Other

The Looking After Each Other initiative has its origin in a PCC meeting in the second half of 2022 which reflected on the changes which our Church congregations had been through in the past few years largely as a result of the pandemic. The underlying basis for this reflection was to find out how well we as a Church family followed Jesus' commandment to his followers that they should love one another as He had loved them. Our initial focus was to be on the members of our Church congregations but it was recognised that at some point we would need to address those outside our Church family.

At the Café Church in February 2023 individual PCC members led discussions in table groups where the aims of the initiative were explained and ideas and opinions were sought. There were a number of points which emerged from this which could be summarised under three headings

1. Establishing a **structure** within which "looking after one another" could be coordinated and conducted
2. **Launching** this focus within our congregations
3. Considering **activities and initiatives** which could increase interaction

As a result the PCC invited a small group of volunteers to operate as a Steering Group to investigate and develop this aspect of Parish life more fully and explore each of the three areas above.

In November 2023 an announcement was made at all three Sunday services about progress to date. This was followed at the joint service in December by launching the initiative, when members of the congregation present, were invited to complete a survey form. This survey form listed a number of possible actions which individuals might take including taking a pew sheet to someone each week or telephoning someone. Respondents were asked to state whether they strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed or disagree strongly. In addition. Respondents were invited to indicate whether they actually already undertook any of the actions listed.

The results were communicated to everyone present at the Café Church in February 2024. At this service those present were invited fill in a card which included committing to try to undertake one or more of the actions which they didn't currently carry out. The results were felt to be very positive and that there was a need to put this initiative on to a more formal higher profile footing which will be carried forward in 2024.

Mervyn Doyle/Geoff Wilson

Parish Safeguarding Policy

The Parish of Farlington is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of the children and Adults at Risk within our church community, and also to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety.

The Parochial Church Council adopts the Church of England policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' and are committed to the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, the relevant statutory legislation and guidance for the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Parish copy of 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster

The PCC will ensure that the 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster containing the details of who to contact regarding a safeguarding matter is displayed in each church building and hall building.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

The PCC will appoint a Safeguarding Representative who will be responsible on behalf of the incumbent and PCC for implementing the National policy in respect of safeguarding children and adults at risk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative agrees to undertake the key responsibilities of the role as outlined in the National Safeguarding Guide.

Our Children's & Adult at Risk Safeguarding Officer is Christine Watkins

Paid Workers and/or Volunteers

All those who undertake work in a regulated activity with children and/or adults at risk in the parish on a voluntary or paid basis will be required to:

- Complete a Confidential Self Declaration Form
- Provide References
- To complete any necessary vetting application (DBS)
- To complete or renew the appropriate online training sessions.

The Parish of Farlington will seek to ensure that a DBS check is only requested after a risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position (paid or voluntary) concerned. Using the appropriate risk assessment procedures, the following parish posts have been identified as requiring a DBS check:

- *Churchwarden*
- *PCC Member*
- *Messy Church Leader*
- *Organist (when anyone under 18 is a member of the choir)*
- *Head Server (when anyone under 18 is a server)*

(For clarification, we are advised that the requirement for a DBS check for leaders of an activity or group which includes vulnerable adults is only possible where every member of the appropriate group is a vulnerable adult).

All Confidential Self Declarations Forms, references and results of DBS checks will be held securely by the Incumbent. Declarations and DBS checks must be undertaken every three years, or sooner if the individual moves to a new post, (unless the application was obtained in the previous six months and the nature of the work is similar).

Any person refusing such checks will not be allowed to work with or have unsupervised contact with children or adults at risk in the parish.

All those who work with children and/or adults at risk on a regular basis will be made aware of and should familiarise themselves with the National Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, and will be required to participate in the appropriate level of National Safeguarding training every three years.

Children's Activities, Groups and Events

The following children's, young person's and mixed age activities have been identified as PCC endorsed events and activities that fall under the Diocesan Safeguarding Procedures:

- *None at present*

All children and young people wishing to attend the above activities will be provided with a Registration Form, which must be completed and signed by their parents/carers before they take part.

Children who wish to take part in additional events such as church outings, holidays or sleepovers will not be allowed to participate in such activities unless the leaders of such event(s) receive a completed consent form from the parents or guardians of the child concerned, even if the parent or guardian accompanies the child on any such trip or activity. A new form must be completed for each separate activity.

Consideration will be given at all times for the health, safety and welfare of each child and young person, including supervision ratios, transport, first aid, premises and children with special needs.

Other Activities Involving Children

Messy Church

This activity is essentially a congregation of the parish where children always attend and are under the care of their parents/guardians. We will ensure that at least the key leader and one other person have completed the DBS process.

Adults at Risk Activities, Groups and Events

The following have been identified as PCC endorsed groups, events and activities that fall under the National Safeguarding Procedures:

- *Home Communion Visiting.*

Consideration will be given at all times for the health, safety and welfare of the adults at risk.

Hire of Church Premises

All those who book or use the church hall on a regular basis shall be required to sign a copy of the parish booking agreement and a declaration that they have read, understand and will follow the National Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Procedures as well as their own organisation's safeguarding procedures **The national policy takes precedence particularly regarding supervision ratios.**

Agreed at PCC at its November 2023 Meeting. Date of Review November 2024
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