

## **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 2024**

**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](http://www.farlingtonparish.co.uk)



**Parish of Farlington**

**Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
at Church of the Resurrection after the 10 am service**

**Agenda**

**Meeting of Parishioners**

Minutes of Meeting of Parishioners 2024

Election of Churchwardens

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

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 2024 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

Other Reports

Rector's remarks

Any questions about parochial church matters

## **Minutes of the Farlington Parish Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

**Present:** Rev. Canon Paul Gully [PG] in the chair and 34 parishioners - Marina Horner (Minutes Secretary), Michael Horner, Christine Watkins, James Booth, Mervyn Doyle, Elaine Beeby, John Upton, Linda Upton, Mo MacFarlane, Michele Voysey, Geoff Wilson, Anthony Purser, John Burwood, Paul Wells, Amanda Wells, Mark Emerton, Hannah Emerton, Tom Mather, Jaye Warren, Amber Vincent-Prior, Richard Jempson, Andrew Walker, Hilary Walker, Sheena Day, Simon Lemieux, Marcus Saunders, Sarah Saunders, Jill Collings, Chris Batstone, Maretta Nelson, Paul Harrison, Ruth Taylor, Len Taylor and Ann Howells.

PG opened the meeting with prayer at 11:22.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Fiona Jordan-Harrison, Karen Lemieux, Miriam Sampson, Phillip Sampson, Jan Boucher, Di Allen and Caroline Harper.

### **Minutes of Meeting of Parishioners 2023:**

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 posts in the Parish and that was for Amanda Wells, proposed by Paul Harrison and seconded by Paul Wells. There being no further nominations, Amanda Wells was duly elected **unanimously** as Churchwarden with particular responsibility for St Andrews.

There being no further business for the Meeting of Parishioners, PG closed the meeting at 11.25.

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024** **immediately following the Meeting of Parishioners**

**Present:** Rev. Canon Paul Gully [PG] in the chair, and 34 parishioners - Marina Horner (Minutes Secretary), Michael Horner, Christine Watkins, James Booth, Mervyn Doyle, Elaine Beeby, John Upton, Linda Upton, Mo MacFarlane, Michele Voysey, Geoff Wilson, Anthony Purser, John Burwood, Paul Wells, Amanda Wells, Mark Emerton, Hannah Emerton, Tom Mather, Jaye Warren, Amber Vincent-Prior, Richard Jempson, Andrew Walker, Hilary Walker, Sheena Day, Simon Lemieux, Marcus Saunders, Sarah Saunders, Jill Collings, Chris Batstone, Maretta Nelson, Paul Harrison, Ruth Taylor, Len Taylor and Ann Howells. .

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Fiona Jordan-Harrison, Karen Lemieux, Miriam Sampson, Phillip Sampson, Jan Boucher, Di Allen and Caroline Harper.

PG opened the meeting at 11:22.

### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023:**

The minutes were presented in written format. There were no questions arising from the minutes.

### **Electoral Roll Report and Appointment of Roll Officer:**

The number on the updated roll is 109. Marcus Saunders is happy to continue as Electoral Roll Officer. PG reminded the meeting that next year will require a complete renewal of the Electoral Roll.

### **Election of PCC members:**

PG announced that three members of the PCC are to stand down this year – Geoff Wilson, Lynne Runham and Richard Jempson. Therefore, there are currently 8 vacancies on the PCC.

Three nominations for the PCC have been received as follows:-

- Michael Horner was proposed by Geoff Wilson and seconded by Mervyn Doyle.
- Anthony Purser was proposed by Richard Jempson and seconded by Hilary Walker.
- Christine Watkins was proposed by Richard Jempson and seconded by Amanda Wells.

All were duly elected **unanimously** for a 3-year term.

PG thanked Anthony Purser for all his hard work over the last three years as he stands down from the role of Churchwarden and moves to the PCC.

In answer to a query from Hilary Walker, PG stated that on completion of a term on the PCC/as Churchwarden etc, it is a requirement that a person stands down for a year before re-election as per the Parish Constitution.

### **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 continue as Treasurer **unanimously**.

### **Appointment of Secretary to the PCC:**

There have been no nominations for Secretary to the PCC, therefore PG proposed from the Chair that we continue with the current Secretarial team which was set up following last year's APCM and currently consists of Marina Horner (PCC Minutes Secretary), Hannah Emerton (Standing Committee Minutes Secretary), Jan Boucher (monitoring official Parish Secretary's email account) and the Office Team (Geoff Wilson, Di Allen and Jean Nicholas) assisting with administrative duties, supported during the last year by John Upton. The meeting was **unanimously** happy with this arrangement and PG thanked the team for its work thus far.

### **Appointments to the Deanery Synod:**

There are currently Marcus Saunders and two ex-officio members - Simon Lemieux and Mark Emerton who are members of Diocesan Synod/Bishop's council. There are 2 vacancies for Deanery Synod and one nomination – Mrs Marion Coles, nominated by Simon Lemieux, seconded by 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. John Upton suggested that we consider an alternative as a fresh pair of eyes but, as it is a different person actually doing it this year, the meeting agreed to the appointment of Morris Crocker for the coming year **unanimously**. The Finance Team/PCC to consider alternatives for the future to also ensure value for money.

### **Appointment of Deputy Wardens:**

Paul Harrison has affirmed his willingness to continue serving as deputy churchwarden at St. Andrew's church. However, Chantal Bodsworth, who has also been Deputy Warden at St Andrew's, has expressed her wish to stand down from the role. PG proposed that Anthony Purser, as outgoing Churchwarden, also serves as Deputy Warden at St Andrew's. Accordingly, the APCM appointed Paul and Anthony for the next 12 months. There was one volunteer for the role at COR – Michael Horner. Michael was also duly appointed by the APCM for the next 12 months.

### **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 2023 accounts:**

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

The Treasurer also presented the accounts in a visual form by means of printed slides, outlining past and current planned giving, along with other principal income sources/expenditure. Our expenditure still currently outweighs our income and is therefore resulting in a gradual depletion of reserves.

### **Questions related to the Accounts :-**

- ? £50 legacy – established to be carry over from previous year.
- ? Rector claiming full expenses – PG confirmed that he is claiming what he is entitled to.
- ? Why no donation shown from Nugee foundation – Foundation donated the cost of a new defibrillator nearly 3 years ago which was considerably more than the Foundation normally donates on an annual basis and have directly set up an extra fund in the meantime to assist with Ministerial Expenses (covers two other churches as well).
- ? improvement in giving since getting card reader machines – slight, but not a dramatic increase; but more efficient.

John Upton reminded the meeting about the use of 'Easyfundraising' when shopping online, letting family/friends know of your wishes if you are planning a funeral in church and asked everyone to think about how they could help with planning/executing a Summer/Winter Fayre as a fundraising exercise.

Simon Lemieux offered thanks on behalf of the Parish to Hannah and the Finance Team for their work looking after the church finances in the past year.

### **Safeguarding Policy Statement:**

The Safeguarding Policy Statement had been included on pages 20-22 of the Annual report. One minor change has been made since last year pertaining to training. 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 Churchwarden:**

The churchwarden's report was included on pages 11 - 13 of the Annual Report. The Archdeacon (or their representative) to inspect fabric later this year. There were no questions to the Churchwarden.

### **Report on the proceedings of the PCC by the Secretary:**

The report was included on page 13 of the Annual Report. There were no questions to the Secretarial Team. In the absence of any nominations to fill the post of Parish Secretary, the Secretarial Team will continue to carry out the functions of this post.

### **Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod:**

The report on Deanery Synod proceedings was included on pages 13 - 14 of the Annual Report. There were no questions to Deanery Synod representatives.

### **Chair's remarks:**

The Rector's remarks were published on pages 10 - 11 of the Annual Report. There were no questions to the Rector.

### **Other Reports (not on agenda):**

Reports from the various church committees/congregations/ groups were published on pages 14 – 19. These include reports from the Fabric Committee, Spirituality, Worship and Discipleship Committee [SWDC], Eco Church, Messy Church, Drayton Film Club and the 'Looking After Each Other' Initiative.

The Men's Breakfast was also brought to the attention of the meeting by James Booth and support encouraged.

Marina Horner apologised to Amber Vincent-Prior for inadvertently missing her report of The Friends of St Andrews out of the Annual Report. The report was read to the meeting and is attached at the end of this document.

Anthony Purser expressed his thanks to the Fabric Committee and all the people who have helped him in his role as Churchwarden.

There were no questions about the reports.

### **Any questions about parochial church matters:**

There were no further questions about parochial church matters. PG closed the meeting at 12:15. Simon Lemieux thanked PG for his leadership of the meeting.

### **Friends of St Andrews report – erroneously not included in Annual Report**

We did not hold any Sunday meals adjacent to services or other social events during the Covid-19 pandemic due to government restrictions.

Since then our volunteers have ensured the brass and the church is occasionally cleaned, plus flower arrangements are provided in church when necessary.

In the 2022 calendar year The Friends of St Andrew's hosted lunches in the hall on 4 Sundays, the proceeds for the one held on 31<sup>st</sup> July was given to the Parish Defibrillator Fund. We also bought a Platinum Jubilee Cake that was served at St Andrew's after the main Sunday Service on 5<sup>th</sup> June after being ceremonially cut by our oldest member to celebrate Queen Elizabeth 11 having been our Monarch for 70 years, we passed the other half of the cake to the Church of the Resurrection to use at a Tea Afternoon later that week. We also hosted a Harvest Lunch in September, a St Andrew's Brunch in November, provided refreshments after Sunday services and supported the provision of Church Flowers.

In the 2023 year we held lunches in St Andrew's hall on 2 Sundays, provided the food for the Evening Maundy Thursday meal, hosted a Harvest Lunch in September, a Brunch in November to celebrate St Andrew's Day, as well as supporting Church Flower arrangements and Sunday after service refreshments. We are grateful that the Men's Breakfast on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 donated funds to us.

The Friends of St Andrew's

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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, Drayton, 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

Assistant Curate: The Revd Deb Henning-Vears (from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

Readers: Mr Simon Lemieux, Mrs Amber Vincent-Prior. (now with a licence to the parish not PTO)

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

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

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Paul Gully

Reader: Mr Simon Lemieux

Wardens: Mrs Amanda Wells – St Andrew's (Vacant)- Church of the Resurrection

Secretary: (Vacant) - covered by a secretarial team

Co-opted Members

Treasurer: Mrs Hannah Emerton

Fabric Committee Convenor: Richard Jempson

Deanery Synod representatives:

Mr Mark Emerton – Vice chair, ex-officio Diocesan Synod member and Bishop's Council (until December 2024)

Dr Marcus Saunders

Mr Simon Lemieux, ex-officio Diocesan Synod member and Bishop's Council

Mrs Marion Coles (until October 2024)

### 2022/25                      Representing

Marina Horner              CR

Jan Boucher                CR

Vacancy

### 2023/26

Philip Sampson            CR

Thomas Mather            CR

Vacancy

<u>2024/27</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Christine Watkins	SA	Parish Safeguarding Officer
Anthony Purser	SA	
Michael Horner	CR	

As the Electoral Roll number is less than 100 the PCC elects nine members instead of twelve. So, at the 2025 APCM there are available three places for three years (to serve 2025/28) and one vacancy for one year (to serve for the remainder of the 2023/26 term)

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 members will be elected to take their place. Marina Horner and Jan Boucher's term ends at the 2025 APCM.

### **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 two sub-committees which oversee the business of the parish in the following areas: Fabric, Finance,

There are two Working Groups:

Work similar to that of a pastoral care committee is currently undertaken by the 'Looking After Each Other' working group.

An Eco Church working group meets and undertakes projects and work on our 'green credentials'

Separate reports from these committees/working groups are included below.

### **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.

2024 saw the revision of the roll. The number on the roll for 2024 was 109

There has been a new Roll prepared in 2025. The Number on the new roll is 86

### **Occasional Offices**

Over the year, there have been twelve funerals conducted by the clergy/Reader team in church or at the crematorium/cemetery. There were three weddings, and twelve Christenings.

Canon Paul Gully, Rector

## **Rector's Remarks**

It is particularly appropriate at this time of the year as we look back and look forward to thank people. I hope you don't believe it is the only time I do Thank you to Amanda Wells as key lay officer post of Churchwarden, as she has now completed the first year of her third term as Churchwarden in my time here. A special thank you as she always looks out for my wellbeing. 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 promised I would ask anyone saying so, if they themselves will stand for Churchwarden – and I did.

Thank you for Marina Horner, Jan Boucher, and the office team of Jean, Di, Caroline 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 – that committee has the significant role of attending to the work presented by the 2024 Quinquennial inspection report from our new inspecting architect. Geoff Wilson and Mervyn Doyle along with others, have continued to help us all explore our responsibilities in 'looking after each other'. 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. Thanks to Deputy Wardens, Paul Harrison, Anthony Purser and Michael Horner, 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 who has stood down as Vice-Chair of the PCC, Bishop's Council, Diocesan Synod and Deanery Synod. 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. 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 especially into achieving our Silver Award this year, developing and leading our musicians and singers.

Ann Howells, after many years of involvement as Hall Manager stood down from that post this year.

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.

We welcomed The Revd Deb Henning-Vears as Title Curate at the end of June whose impact has been instant and ongoing. For Linda, Simon and Amber continuing. For Elaine as leader of the Messy Church congregation and her team – seeing the largest ever group of grandparents, parents and children attending especially in one particular month this year.

The Men's Shed group have been granted their planning permission from Portsmouth City Council and PCC and the Men's Shed Charitable Incorporated Organisation, have petitioned the Diocesan Chancellor for the Ecclesiastical planning consent. Their funding is looking to be in place. Film Club (about, I believe, to be showing the suddenly a very topical film – sorry licencing

reasons mean I can't tell you the title but do ask John Upton. Both of these continue their work supporting our wider community supported and coordinated by church members. Thank you.

One of the vital and welcome marks of the life of this parish has long been 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. However, please do offer to volunteer in parish posts where you might, and suggest to others they might where you can't. 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 heard reported an overspend budget of 15K for 2024. Fortunately, as you will see elsewhere in this report the outcome was somewhat better than we had hoped but there is little reason to relax quite yet particularly over the work identified as required for our buildings.

The Diocesan strategy re-start continues with ...

1. REVIVE: In line with the diocese desire to revive the spiritual leadership in our diocese, we will continue the work of developing relationships across the deanery, developing meaningful partnerships which are Jesus-centered and Kingdom-seeking.
2. REVITALISE: In line with the diocese desire to develop a culture where churches create pathways to discipleship, we will continue to invest in the work taking place to rejuvenate areas of the city with Jesus at the centre.
3. RENEW: In line with the diocese desire to see places with little effective gospel presence, we will continue to do the work of identifying areas of the city which need further rejuvenation and work, and building on the work of partnerships to seek to develop new work with Jesus at the centre.

Our challenge with the other two mainland parishes, one having successfully granted funding for buildings and staff, the other now vacant, is to explore and discover ways in which we, together, might support the others and build on individuals' strengths. Do pray for them both and for successful appointments soon at Wymering and Cosham.

PCC have agreed a consultation with congregations on a possible second joint service at St Andrew's Church on fifth Sundays with the involvement of the music group. Do look out for this.

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 now quickly approaching fifteen years.

Paul

### **Churchwarden's Report**

The year commenced with Anthony Purser overseeing the final repairs resulting from the storm damage and consequent insurance claim for St Andrew's Church. We then prepared for the Archdeacon's Inspection, which covered the state of repair of both churches and hall buildings, the records kept, registers, the inventories of silver and brass, whether we had sufficient insurance, our energy footprints, the certificates held for PAT testing, electrical, gas, fire extinguishers and Smartwater. They also reviewed our social media and websites and all were found to be satisfactory.

A new parish architect was appointed (see Fabric Conveners report) and an energy audit was undertaken. Richard Jempson reviewed the Terms and Conditions (T&C's) of hire documents and Health and Safety (H&S) documents for both churches and halls. The revised T&C documents have now been issued to all hirers. It is hoped to conduct fire drills during the services shortly to comply with our H&S commitment.

## **CoR**

A lot of maintenance work was undertaken at the Church of the Resurrection, work was done on the electrics (lighting). The tower louvres were repaired and mesh fitted to discourage entry by pigeons or doves, all works were undertaken by certified pest control officers in accordance with legislation. The Eco-church Team spent a considerable amount of time in maintaining the wildflower meadow, and also within the church fitted foil behind the radiators, obtained a food waste bin, a curtain in the choir vestry and reviewed the kitchen and cleaning products to ensure they were environmentally friendly. They worked hard reviewing where we could improve and were rewarded with a silver Arocha Eco Church award, plaques to celebrate this are displayed in both churches.

The PCC reviewed the maintenance of the grass and hedges that surround CoR and a decision was made to pay for them to be cut and trimmed professionally, as we do not have enough volunteers to keep on top of this job. The proposal for a Men's Shed is now moving forward and it is expected that they will take care of the land surrounding the building, perhaps as an allotment, but this is still within the early stages of planning.

There is currently an issue with a leak in the heating system at CoR, hopefully this will be resolved by the time of the APCM and will do no further damage.

The Quinquennial document for CoR has now been received and it includes expected roof repairs, and work needed on the windows and surrounds amongst other items. The Fabric Committee is in the process of creating a list of the works required in order of urgency/importance.

I would like to thank all those who have given their time and effort to keep the CoR church, hall and green areas clean, tidy and safe. Thanks are also due to the team who set up the chairs and tables for the services and other events. Special thanks to Michael Horner who has been invaluable as deputy churchwarden at the CoR.

## **St Andrew's Church**

The Quinquennial Report for St Andrew's Church has not yet been received but it is expected to include repairs to the roof and pointing. Fundraising continues to pay for the work at St Andrew's and CoR. The electric lights in the church hall have been replaced and now have brighter bulbs and are more energy efficient, we have had good feedback from the craft groups. The hall has been redecorated and new roller blinds have been ordered. Several 'blown' window panels have been replaced, and at this point in time two more are due to be replaced in the near future. Work has been done on the hirers storage cupboards to treat damp and improve air circulation by adding a

meshed vent to the top of each cupboard. The outside kitchen door threshold has been replaced as it was rotten and letting out heat.

A new security lock has been installed in the hall and keys distributed to the hall users. PAT and boiler checks have been done and the fire extinguishers will be inspected shortly, as we move to using the same company for both sites. Smartwater marking has been re-applied to the silver, brass and electrical (media/audio) items in the church. Shelves have been installed in the church storage cupboard in the hall to reduce the items stored on top of the vestry cupboards.

The Men's Shed is to build a bespoke cupboard for the vestry where we can keep items such as the hoover, spade and mop, this will mean that the area looks tidier and we can ensure that the wheelchair access point is never restricted. Running man exit signs have been added to both church and hall. We have fire assembly point signs but we are investigating how we can display these as there is no convenient post or wall to attach them to.

The Eco-church Committee have also reviewed the St Andrew's site and bird feeders have been obtained, cleaning products and lighting reviewed and a cycle rack has been purchased and will be installed in due course. The church step's handrail and the yellow edge markings have been repainted. The hall handrails are in the process of being stripped back and repainted.

The first aid boxes have been checked to ensure that no items are out of date. The fire shutter in the hall kitchen has been inspected and repaired. It will now be inspected annually, in accordance with the new parish maintenance plan. Anthony Purser has undertaken the important monthly inspections of the defibrillators. Jim Booth has put a lot of work into keeping the green area around the church beautiful and tidy, thank you Jim.

I would like to thank the deputy churchwardens Paul Harrison and Anthony Purser for all their help over the past year, Richard Jempson, who as Fabric Committee convener has done sterling work in the maintenance of both sites, Ruth Taylor for arranging the flowers, playing the organ and sorting cupboards (and a lot of other things!) and Christine Watkins for cleaning the church and the brass, and very importantly for the vital work she does as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. I would like to thank Ann Howells as she has stood down as hall manager after many years of devoted service. I couldn't undertake my role without a lot of help and all the volunteers have made it so much easier, my heartfelt thanks to you all.

### **PCC Secretary's report**

The PCC continues to meet every other month, with the Standing Committee meeting the alternate months in between to deal with any urgent business.

In the continued absence of any volunteers at or following last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting to take on the role of Parish Secretary, the Secretarial Team has continued to fulfil the needs of the Parish Secretary's role, and I have continued as Minutes Secretary to the PCC. 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, Caroline Harper and Geoff Wilson who assist with the general administrative duties. 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 now has just two lay reps on the synod, Marcus Saunders, and myself plus our Rector Paul and Debs our curate. In fact, we are entitled to more lay reps, as one 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, as usual, three times during the year at St Jude's (June), St Luke's (Oct) and St Simon's (Feb). Each meeting has involved updates eg. parish share and the deanery plan and good news stories from across the city. Among the highlights have been:

Updates/good news stories include Choir Church currently being run out of St Mary's Fratton and Paulsgrove, and Anna Chaplaincy. The latter has involved a financial contribution from the Deanery funded out of subs alongside other grant sources. Jude Badham was appointed to the role of Deanery Anna Chaplaincy Coordinator and has been working alongside and encouraging the volunteer Anna chaplains in the deanery.

The Deanery also agreed to meet half of the medical costs for Bishop Matthias from our link diocese of Ho in Ghana, in connection with a surgical procedure undertaken in the UK. The other half came from the Bishop's discretionary fund. Another worthy use of Deanery subs.

Nearly all the incumbent posts in the city are filled, though there are a couple of vacancies imminent including Cosham/Wymering. In terms of personnel, Annie McCabe took over from Bob White as Area Dean last year but will be retiring later this year, so we await a new appointment. Paul, our Rector, serves as one of the two Assistant Area Deans, the other, just appointed, being Darren A'Court from St James Milton.

Respectfully submitted,

Simon Lemieux

### **Fabric Committee Report**

We aim to maintain the fabric of the two churches and their halls on behalf of the PCC, and the committee has worked well together to complete planned work and manage day-to-day matters as and when they arise. The members of the Fabric committee met regularly during 2024, and our activities, views and recommendations were shared at each PCC meeting. Some of the team also directly support the Eco working group.

Our hall managers, Di Allen and Ann Howells, have worked hard behind the scenes to manage all aspects of church hall life. It is their work and commitment that the operations of our halls run smoothly and seamlessly. Ann has recently stood down as hall manager of St Andrew's Hall after a great many years of dedicated service. Over the years she has been the face of the parish to all our regular and casual hall users and I'm sure has become friends to many. Her work has been invaluable. I thank Ann and Di for their significant contribution to our parish life and mission.

It is pleasing to report that the insurance work covering the repair of the damaged roof at St Andrew's following storm Eunice in February 2022 was finished in 2024. Tony Purser oversaw the repairs, liaising with contractors, insurers and architect from start to finish, and I wish to thank him for his work.

In 2024 we were again without a Churchwarden at the Church of the Resurrection and as a consequence, it was not always easy to deal with, and resource work we would like to carry out to maintain the fabric of the church in the condition we would like. However, I wish to particularly thank Michael Horner with support from Chris Batstone and Paul Gully for their continuing work maintaining the church buildings.

Each year presents its challenge, and 2024 was no different with the continuing financial and resourcing constraints. We introduced a maintenance planning tool to help make sure we at least consider maintenance activities throughout the year and that they were not overlooked. We also created a tool to capture the work we do to maintain health & safety. A couple of our planned H&S activities were not completed but are in hand. Quite a lot of work was generated by the general and fire risk assessments carried out at St Andrew's church and hall. This led to the redecoration of the hall, the replacement of the lighting and the planned installation of roller blinds to name but a few. We believe this will improve customer experience and lead to an increased level of hall bookings. The hall at the CoR was also redecorated, and new lighting will be installed shortly. And as for our feathery friends; they have kept us occupied in the church!

I'm pleased to report that after a long process, we appointed a new parish architect, Fred Gardiner of Re-Format LLP. Fred completed an inspection of our four buildings which we are required to commission every five years. At the time of writing, we have received the inspection report for the Church of the Resurrection and are digesting all 97 pages of it! The report confirms our view, that most aspects of the church roof – nave, tower, vestry and north aisle - require attention along with several areas of repointing and expert review of our windows/surrounds. We await the inspection report for St Andrew's which is expected by the end of April. Our planning will also take note of the suggestions made in the Energy Audit Reports.

Our parish H&S representative, Daron Blackmore, stepped down from the role at the end of the year and I wish to thank him for his service. If you think this is a role for you, then please speak to me or Paul Gully.



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

Richard Jempson

Fabric Committee Convenor

**Financial Report and Accounts for year ended 31 December 2024**

*See separate document*

## **Eco Church**

The Eco Church group has been very active this year, culminating in the achievement of the Silver Eco Church Award for both our churches in December 2024. The plaques are now on display in the church halls.

We have now completed the Energy Footprint Tool for two consecutive years, so we are beginning to get a consistent picture of our energy usage. In January, a professional energy audit was carried out in both churches and halls, paid for by our patron, and we now have a comprehensive report with recommended actions to take to reduce our carbon footprint. One of the easiest changes to make is replacing old light fittings with LEDs, and we were recently awarded a 'Quick Wins' grant from the diocese to do this in both church halls and in St Andrew's church. The lights in St Andrew's Hall have already been changed and the other work will take place shortly. Once complete, this should significantly reduce our energy usage, and also our bills.

We have taken other steps to reduce our energy usage, by placing foil behind the radiators at the Resurrection, to reflect heat back into the building, draught proofing the door in the choir vestry and hanging a heavy curtain in front of it. At St Andrew's the heating controls have been adjusted to prevent wasting heat. Looking ahead, we need to plan for the time when the gas boiler at the Resurrection will come to the end of its life, probably about 5 years from now, when a combined electric heating and lighting solution may be required.

We continue to promote recycling and have obtained a food waste bin for the Resurrection, which is being well used. We have publicised the new recycling scheme for blister packs at Boot's, and encouraged people to make use of this. Tips to reduce waste at Christmas and Easter have been shared in the pew sheet.

Outside the churches we have taken steps to increase the biodiversity on our land. At the Resurrection Linda and her gardening team have planted bulbs, filled tyre planters with seasonal flowering plants to attract bees, and created two new beds, one planted with shrubs and the other developed as a gravel bed. Last summer we let much of the grass grow long, allowing the area to develop as a meadow, and we plan to do the same this year. Most of the trees we planted in December 2022 appear to be doing well. A bug hotel has been installed and 3 bird boxes mounted around the church land, to encourage nesting birds. Bird boxes have been mounted on trees in St Andrew's churchyard, and we have obtained a cycle rack to be installed outside the hall.

We have continued to focus on creation care in our worship and teaching. A special Cafe Church service with a creation care theme took place in *Great Big Green Week* last June, when we made pledges to 'swap' something in our lifestyle for a greener alternative. Messy Church at the Resurrection focused on creation that week too. Prayers about creation care regularly feature in our intercessions, and reminders of how we might connect with nature through prayer and action have appeared in our pew sheets during Creationtide and throughout Lent.

*Great Big Green Week* coincided with *Love your Burial Ground Week* and the *Churches Count on Nature* initiative. Amber organised a team to identify flora and fauna in St Andrew's churchyard, and the Brownies who meet in St Andrew's Hall joined in an activity where they identified trees in the churchyard and looked for "mini-beasts". This counted towards one of their badges. These initiatives related to the community and global engagement strand of the Eco Church award, as did our involvement in *Fairtrade Fortnight* in September, when we showed a video, and enjoyed goodies made from Fairtrade ingredients after the service at the Resurrection, sharing the recipes. Several of us also attended a service marking 20 years since Portsmouth became a Fairtrade city. We also engaged with the community by hosting a hustings for the general election in June, under the auspices of Churches Together in Cosham, when around 200 people attended and questions were asked about climate change. In October we hosted a Carbon Confidence Seminar for Portsmouth Deanery, led by the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Officer. Two of the Eco Church team also attended the NZC day conference at the cathedral in January, which was very informative.

Information about climate change, and steps we can take to combat it, is regularly displayed in both churches, and the creation care section on our website has been expanded and updated recently. Do check it out.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of the members of the Eco Church group from both churches, and the support of the PCC and the wider congregation. Thank you.

*Miriam Sampson*

### **Messy Church**

The year at Messy Church has as always been interesting and sometimes surprising. In January we welcomed lots of people making 60 of us altogether. Apart from that month, 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 and as we become more experienced many of our own ideas. As we meet regularly the team can share ideas and tailor them to our congregation. We regularly sing lively action songs now – thanks to a well-known website.

Our themes have been:

- Eco green
- Creation
- Olympics
- Workers in the Vineyard
- God's Love

- The Nativity
- Jesus the Boy
- John the Baptist
- Jonah
- Philip & The Ethiopian
- Holy Week

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 heartfelt thank you to all those who take part and to those who pray for us and our congregation. A mention to our resident photographer who records the sessions (do have a look & note the happy smiling faces!) – these pictures 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 February 2025

### **Drayton Film Club**

It has been 7 years since we first opened our doors on the first Tuesday of the month and we haven't run out of films to show yet. Our numbers are still increasing and in the past year we have shown, among others, *The Great Escaper*, *One Life*, *Quartet* and now the traditional musical month which this year was *The Jazz Singer*, starring Neil Diamond. The interval refreshments are proving almost as popular as the film where we all enjoy a cup of tea, coffee, biscuits, cake, choc ices and a good natter.

We have held 2 pre-film lunches during the year and raised £313 in donations for The Raise The Roof Fund. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the cooking, serving and washing up. We have also donated £648 to Parish Funds to help with the cost of the heating, lighting and the license.

Lastly a big thank you to Ruth and Len for helping with the serving of the refreshments and the washing up each month and to Rosalie who has often baked us some yummy cakes to enjoy.

Come and join us, the more the merrier. 2pm first Tuesday of every month, no charge just a donation towards the cost of the refreshments.

Linda Upton(usherette) and John Upton (projectionist)

## **Looking After Each Other**

Following the set-up of the Looking After Each Other initiative some 18 months earlier, 2024 was the year in which this really became a significant programme in the life of our Churches. We were able to build on the information provided by the survey of our Church congregations at the end of 2023 in a number of different ways.

At the February Café Church sessions, the survey results were presented to show the most strongly supported action areas and together with our Stewardship programme focus, discussions seemed to confirm that:

- There was a recognition that this had a clear basis in scripture with Jesus words “a new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you”
- “Looking After Each Other” was everyone's responsibility
- There was a need to establish this as a more formal, higher profile programme

The Steering Group established to develop and manage this initiative, sought to build on these ideas and as a result, over a period of weeks the following elements were introduced:

1. A Notice Board which identified the various activities was established in both Churches. This invited everyone to engage in one or more of these activities.
2. A logo was drawn up to promote the programme
3. A leaflet was produced which described the aim, spiritual basis and activities of the programme
4. A referral box was also placed alongside the Board into which individuals with particular needs could be referred for our Rector's support

In all of the above the PCC gave their full support to the programme and it was formally announced in September.

In an attempt to reach out beyond our Church family, the Steering Group decided that we would design and deliver Christmas Cards to our Church contacts and neighbours. The cards were distributed by a variety of individuals in early December and whilst it is difficult to measure precisely the impact, there are suggestions that it was received positively by many in our wider community.

Overall, the Steering Group of the Looking After Each Other programme feel a degree of satisfaction about what has been achieved in 2024 but we also recognise that there are opportunities to build on this in 2025 in a number of ways and we hope to do this.

Geoff Wilson 9/4/25

## **Friends of St Andrew's**

We have been continuing with our focus on hospitality in 2024 holding bi-monthly meals after the main Sunday service, plus each week ensuring we have mostly fair-trade products available for our after-service refreshments, sadly the small rectangular Lotus

Biscoff biscuits are not Fair trade certified but are much loved. After our main Sunday service each week we sit and chat whilst eating premium quality biscuits washed down with coffee, tea and squash, plus cake for individual and notable celebrations. Our weekly discussions include health issues of congregation members and what we can do to help, keeping up to date with others holiday plans & what happened on our holidays, family news, and deciding what we plan to serve at the next meal we are hosting. Sometimes our after service refreshments take longer than the service on the day.

We also give cash to the St Andrew's Flower arrangers

Amber Vincent-Prior

## **Safeguarding Report**

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church. At Farlington Parish we are committed to promoting a safer environment and culture, and support for those who come into our churches. Ensuring the safety of all children and vulnerable adults in our community is a shared responsibility.

Safeguarding policy is the responsibility of the PCC and is an item on each PCC agenda.

## **2025 Safeguarding Policy**

The Parish Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed, revised and approved by the PCC. It is displayed in each church.

## **DBS Checks**

The Church of England revised its recommendations to ensure it is in line with National recommendations and reduced the period of cover for DBS checks from 5 years to 3 years. In response to this all those requiring an update have been duly processed.

## **Safeguarding Training**

The level of training required depends on the role in the church community. There are specific training requirements for each role. This training needs to be updated every three years. All those qualifying for a DBS check are up to date with training.

Face to Face and on-line training are available for anyone wishing to improve their understanding of Safeguarding and is accessible via the Diocesan website.

Messy Church helpers completed a Declaration of Suitability Form and basic training this year.

## **Reporting Safeguarding Concerns.**

We should all be alert to potential harmful situations and report any concerns to an appropriate person.

The current Safeguarding Poster ('Promoting a Safer Church') is displayed in our churches, halls and toilets. Contact details for those to report to in the parish and also for outside agencies are displayed on these posters.

Christine Watkins, Parish Safeguarding Officer



## **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)



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)
- ...Cont

*(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 family members.

There are 3 distinct roles for volunteer church members who support Messy Church.

Messy Church core team/leaders –

Messy Church assistants/helpers.

(Assistants and helpers should not take unaccompanied children to use the toilet.)

Kitchen assistants who do not assist with Messy Church activities.

DBS checks (enhanced without barring) are required for core team/leaders, one of whom should always be present, and are required to complete the online safeguarding Basic Awareness and Foundations training programme and the Domestic Abuse training.

Enhanced DBS checks are not normally necessary for assistants and helpers, but if a parish wishes to undertake a basic DBS check on people fulfilling these roles, they will be required to pay the fee. Assistants and helpers are required to complete the online safeguarding Basic Awareness e-learning programme. It is also recommended for kitchen assistants but not mandated.

All should complete the declaration of suitability form.

Core team/leaders should deliver an induction session with all new assistants/helpers, prior to them assisting at a Messy Church service. This should include a discussion on the role and a briefing on how to raise safeguarding/domestic abuse concerns. The PSO may usefully assist in the delivery of these sessions.

### 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 January 2025 Meeting.      Date of Review January 2026.
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