

WALTON CHURCHES PARTNERSHIP
Annual General Meeting - 3rd May 2017
7.45pm, All Saints Church, Milton Keynes Village

Present: Ann Beaton, Julia Borodolina, Geoff Dawe, Gill Farrow, Joyce Fennell, David Harbey, Rev. Ruth Maxey, Brenda Nield, Klaus Reidel, Carolyn Sanderson, Pat Sawyer, Cath Segers, Keith Straughan, Rev Matt Trendall, Sue Wilson, **Michael ?? Pastoral Asst**

Apologies: Bode Akinbiyi, Sylvia Bennett, Alan Bird, Roz Bird, Dawn Bromley, Tyrone Darrell, Joy Dawe, Rachael Jenkins, Jane Lee, Steve Norman, Moira North, Paul North, Sister Yvonne Pilarski, Steve Potter, Steve Potter, Patricia Rosewell, Lisa Rowe, David Sawyer, Gloria Terrelonge, Paul Terrelonge, Alise Trendall, Anthony Tull.

1.0 Welcome and apologies – Matt chaired the meeting in Sister Yvonne’s absence. All were welcomed to the meeting, proceedings started with prayer.

2.0 Minutes of the 2016 AGM and Matters Arising – A few minor amendments were made to the Minutes of 2016 i.e. David Harbey’s name misspelled; *Rock Solid’s age* range was not for 14-18 yr olds, but 9-14 yr olds. Gloria and Paul Terrelonge’s apologies for the 2016 meeting had not been noted.

Resolution 1: Approval of Minutes of 2016

Proposed by Ruth, seconded by Brenda, agreed unanimously

Re. **Matters Arising**, any such issues are already included within this evening’s agenda.

3.0 Highlights of our worship community year – the group discussed their particular spiritual highlights over the past 12 months. Comments included:

- Confirmations at CWW;
- The “Go Forth” initiative at All Saints;
- Congregation growing at All Saints;
- Personal gifts being exercised and strengthened;
- The Week of Guided Prayer, and the School of Freedom Course.

All in all, we had much to be positive about.

4.0 Finance and 2016 accounts – David had prepared a finance sheet showing the Partnership accounts, to which all the individual churches contribute via their annual share. He is currently awaiting the accounts being independently examined.

David indicated that the right-hand column on his sheet were the accounts for CWW. They are currently going through the WCP accounts but will be separated out in the near future.

David explained that as there had been no minister at CtK since Lou left in July/August, there had been no salary to pay, and only a small cost for pension contributions had been incurred. Therefore, the WCP have saved approximately £10k which is to be ‘ring-fenced’ for the Twinflower project. Some costs have been realised already for Twinflower, for example, in applying for Planning Permission.

Matt asked why the figure was not the £15k surplus recorded on the accounts. David replied that now that calculations had been done more precisely, it was evident that expenses, received in mid-March, had already been incurred regarding the building of the extension. Matt reported that the cost of extending the Twinflower house would likely be a minimum of £80k.

David explained that for every month we do not have a Baptist minister at CtK, we can add

another £2k to 'ring-fenced' monies towards the Twinflower project.

On another note, David plans a funds review shortly with the other church Treasurers.

By the time the next WCP comes around (approx 3 months' time), he will be able to report on Pledge monies, and Gift Aid receipts.

Matt commended David on his 7 years' hard work in doing the accounts. The WCP has particularly benefitted from David's long-term planning, and Matt thanked him for another great year's work.

Resolution 1: Approval of 2016 accounts

Proposed by Keith, seconded by Pat, agreed unanimously

Resolution 2: Ringfencing £10k of 2016 surplus for Twinflower project in 2017

Proposed by Matt, seconded by Pat, agreed unanimously

5.0 Appointment of Treasurer and Independent Examiner

David has wanted to 'step down' from his post for some time, and a willing person has been found to take over. A member of All Saints Church, Julia Borodulina, is a part-qualified accountant. Julia will 'shadow' David in the first instance, before taking over the WCP accounts. Matt gave a vote of thanks for David.

Our independent examiner, Taiwo, from CtK is still willing to continue with examining WCP accounts.

Resolution 1: David to be appointed as interim treasurer, and Julia as treasurer thereafter (handover in summer/autumn 2017)

Proposed by Ann B, seconded by Pat, agreed unanimously

Resolution 2: Taiwo to be re-appointed as Independent Examiner

Proposed by Catherine, seconded by Brenda, agreed unanimously.

6.0 Confirmation of Congregational Representatives to WCP (2 per congregation) and MK Mission Partnership, and of other WCP Council officers for 2017-18.

For WCP Council, these are:

- All Saints: Catherine Held, one vacancy
- St Mary's: Ann Beaton, Joyce Fennell
- Church Without Walls: Rev. Keith Straughan, Sue Wilson
- Christ the King Community Church: Bode Akinbiyi, Rachael Jenkins
- Christ the King Catholic Church: Tyrone Darrell, Klaus Reidel
- Staff team (ex officio): Rev. Matt Trendall, Rev. Ruth Maxey, Sister Yvonne Pilarski
- Treasurer: David Harbey, who is the only elected lay officer on the WCP Council (see item 5 above)

Matt welcomed Klaus, who had recently joined as the 2nd member from the Catholic congregation, and Bode, who has replaced Brenda Nield this year.

As a legal requirement of the Anglican Church, we must have a Parochial Church Council. To minimise meetings, it is helpful if these officers also serve on the WCP Council. Matt referred the meeting to the chart he had produced of various church members against the respective churches. Names in **green** referred to PCC members, namely: Catherine, Ann, Joyce, Keith, Bode, Matt and David – these will be joined by the 3 churchwardens for Walton: Pat Sawyer (All Saints), Ray Holmwood and Roger Hancock (St. Mary's).

MK Mission Partnership Reps for this year are as last year, namely: Sarah Crane for CtK, Lisa Rowe & Ann Beaton for St Mary's, and Ann Harris & Carolyn Sanderson for All Saints.

Resolution 1: Joyce to be appointed as Secretary to the WCP for the coming year.

Agreed by Keith, seconded by Ruth, agreed unanimously

Matt reiterated that Sister Yvonne remained WCP Chair (agreed till the AGM in 2018), while Matt acted as Vice Chair.

7.0 Staffing within Walton Churches Partnership – updates

7a) Baptist Minister post – a 12-strong Search Group was formed in September 2016 to recruit a new Baptist minister. The Group was, subsequently, split into sub-groups in order to focus on particular processes. Much time and effort was put into the Church Profile which is very thorough. Two candidates have already been interviewed by the whole Search Group. One was rejected, and a second has now progressed to the next stage – they will preach on 14th May at Ctk as an initial ‘taster’. All are welcome to attend at 9.30am. September 2017 is the earliest we can hope for a minister to commence work at Ctk.

7b) Renewal Process for 2nd five-year period of Ruth’s post – within the URC, a Special Category Minister, such as Ruth, is employed for just 5 years, with an option to renew the post for a further 5 years. With over 4 years’ service already, Ruth must have her post renewed by Jan 2018 latest. Carolyn Sanderson has agreed to oversee this process.

Resolution 1: that the WCP appoint Carolyn Sanderson to oversee the process for the renewal of Ruth’s post

Proposed by Matt, seconded by David, agreed unanimously

David remarked that regular updates on progress were necessary. Matt also needs to contact the Diocese / Area Dean to check that housing will continue to be provided on the same basis as it is now.

7c) Keith’s licensing as Associate Priest – for some time, feelings were that there should be some kind of public endorsement of Keith’s work, which he undertakes on a voluntary basis. On the 14th May at 4.00pm, the Bishop of Buckingham will visit All Saints, MK Village, to licence, and formally acknowledge, Keith as a member of the clergy for Walton LEP.

Matt was keen to thank Keith for his invaluable support over the past two years, and in the years to come.

7d) Pioneer post in Wavendon’s new housing development – work has already started on this 2,500-residential housing development in East Wavendon. The Primary School, which currently sits opposite St Mary’s Church in Wavendon Village, will be re-located to the far end of this development in the Summer of 2019. The school roll is set to grow from 100 to 630 pupils, and will be within the heart of the community. As a C of E School, the school hall has already been prioritised, following re-location, to be used for Church purposes on Sundays.

The role of Pioneer Minister, a 10-year post, has been agreed within the Deanery Plan, but is yet to be signed off by the Bishop of Oxford. This post, paid for by the Diocese, would effectively be a £1 million investment for this newly developed area.

Gill Farrow asked what will happen to the ‘old’ existing school building once the staff and children vacate it. Matt replied that this was still undecided; the building had three different owners: George Wells Foundation, the local MK Council, and was also community sourced. It will be vital for the WCP to enter negotiations promptly with the Council as soon as the building is available.

7e) Trainee Youth Worker post – having recently ‘lost’ a first candidate, Matt was pleased to report that a second candidate is now interested. So, accommodation is still sought in preparation for this post being filled.

7f) St Michael’s Priory Pastoral Assistants – The Priory has received funding to support 3

Pastoral Assistants. The WCP has a very good relationship with the Priory and, we have been fortunate to be allocated two of these posts: Bob will work primarily at All Saints, and assist with Rock Solid at Christ the King, while Michael will work alongside Ruth at CWW.

8.0 Safeguarding – update and approval of 2017 policy – since replacing Jane Charman, Rachael has worked hard to ensure all of the DBS documentation is up to date, and has reviewed the Safeguarding Policy. There is also a training course planned for 30th September 2017 for those wishing to learn about safeguarding for the first time, or to refresh their thinking. Matt thanked Rachael for her achievements so far.

Resolution 1: that Rachael should be appointed for another year.

Proposed by Carolyn, seconded by Keith, agreed unanimously

Resolution 2: that the updated Safeguarding Policy be approved for 2017

Proposed by Keith, seconded by David, agreed unanimously. NB As both are PCC members, this motion also represents approval by Walton PCC for 2017 as well.

9.0 Walton LEP Housing Ltd (this is the body which looks after 38 Twinflower, the manse which traditionally houses the Baptist Minister for WCP)

9a) 2016 Accounts - We note the accounts. No comments received.

9b) Update on Twinflower Development Project – the Project Manager is Peter Laws, while Tim Gray is covering PR and fund raising. Planning Permission for the extension has been granted. Some monies have already been ‘ring-fenced’ from 2016. The amount of the Pledge Day on 9th April is still not known, due to a burglary the following day. A second Pledge Day has been re-organised for Sunday 7th May.

Peter has put the building work out to tender. Work will start as soon as possible, with a potential deadline of Sept/Oct 2017 for completion.

10.0 Building Partnership

10a) Key events coming up:

Big Day Out – A Family Fun day to Warwick Castle on 20th May, organised by the URC. Currently 58 people have signed up from across the WCP.

Week of Guided Prayer – Taster session on 16th May at CtK for those interested. Priority will be given to those who did not partake last year.

BBQ – Sunday 16th July pm – venue to be confirmed.

10b) Vision into Action: Dream Factory and other networking opportunities – several successful activities have sprung from our coming together and considering new ideas e.g. Daily Midday Prayer, Tea & Chat, visiting each other’s coffee mornings in order to mix together more. We need to keep the ideas flowing.

11.0 Any Other Business

11a) Proposal for Pastoral Fund for CWW – we need to have a clear set of rules and protocol for this to work effectively. A document was circulated which set out the protocol for agreeing grants from this fund.

Resolution 1: that a Pastoral Fund for CWW is established according to the protocol circulated in the documents pack.

Proposed by Brenda, seconded by Ann, agreed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.