

Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting 25th January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Ann Beaton, Tyrone Darrell, Joyce Fennell, Rachael Jenkins, Brenda Nield, Yvonne Pilarski, Klaus Reidel, Keith Straughan, Matt Trendall, Sue Wilson

Apologies: Ruth Maxey, David Harbey, Catherine Held, Ann Harris

1. Welcome

Sister Yvonne opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies received from 4 x members of the council

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 23rd November 2016. These were accepted as an accurate record, and approved.

4. Matters arising – Twinflower Update –

- *Planning permission* – the architect has drawn up preliminary plans and elevations. These were submitted to MK Council on 31 December 2016. There is one possible objection from a neighbour who believes the proposed dormer window will overlook their property. It is unknown if the complaint has achieved official status. Peter Laws has invited the neighbour to the Open Day on 28th January. Though Planning Permission has not yet been given, the architect is continuing to work on the drawings in the event of a positive outcome in order to save time later. It is hoped that Planning Permission will be granted by March. The search for a builder can then begin, with work starting as soon as possible thereafter, with completion expected by September (if permission is granted as hoped).
- *Finances* – At present, fundraising efforts plan to raise a conservative £35,000-£40,000 from the congregation (exact sum still TBC). Matt is working with Tim Gray to draft a letter to be sent out in mid-February to the congregation re. fundraising. This initiative will be launched on 11/12 March.
- *Open Day* – a drop-in event on Saturday, 28th January, between 10am and 4.00pm, at 38 Twinflower presents an opportunity to see the plans.

5. Personnel Update

- *Appointment of Keith as Associate Priest* – Brenda had discussed this matter with the CtK Stewards. No one had objected. However, the Stewards were unhappy with the process, as CtK had not been aware of any ongoing dialogue. Sister Yvonne apologised. If such a matter arises again, we will consider a due process to be put in place. Ann Beaton proposed that Keith

should be appointed as Associate Priest. This was seconded by Sue Wilson. The vote was carried unanimously.

Next steps - the Diocese needs to agree and ratify this decision. There will be a special service arranged in a few months for Keith when the Bishop will publicly declare him as a recognised member of the Walton Parish clergy.

- *Search for a Baptist Minister* - Sister Yvonne reported that the first draft of the Profile had been reviewed by the Search Committee. This draft has since been revised, and will be discussed, and hopefully, approved, by the Community Church when they meet on 5th February for a Congregational Meeting. Ruth Bottoms, the Moderator for this project, will be present. The Search Committee will meet again on 23rd February, and hope to start advertising by the end of February.
- *Pioneer Minister in Wavendon* – The proposal for a Pioneer Minister is currently progressing, and was signed off by the [Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee](#) in December 2016. The next step is for formal adoption into the Deanery Plan by February. Then it will go to the [Diocese](#), with a decision expected by May.

St Mary's C of E Primary School was to relocate and open for September 2018, but the decision has now been put back a year until 2019. This change impacts on the start date for a Pioneer Minister. Matt believes that a start date of Summer 2018 should still be maintained as it will give the new [minister](#) time to settle in and establish themselves within the community. Tim Norwood, the Area Dean, is in agreement.

The Western flank of Milton Keynes – with its own proposed housing development, is seeking two Pioneer Ministers, so there is an ongoing conversation on how best to manage this situation.

- *Potential Pastoral Assistant in partnership with St. Michael's Priory* – Brother Anthony, at St Michael's Priory, is doing much work to re-shape the way the Priory works. He wants to encourage the idea of developing Pastoral Assistants by inviting candidates to live at the Priory and providing them with a placement at a church. The plans so far are to have two people, one of which will be placed in [Walton](#). Living expenses will be covered by the Priory, and there is potential for another, as a Brother, to be supported for a year. Matt is very positive and excited by this developing new relationship with the Priory, and would like the Pastoral Assistant to focus on developing a Youth Work ministry.
- *Renewal of Ruth's post* – Ruth's ministry, to set up a Church Without Walls, has been very successful. The United Reformed church, who fund the post, and the Anglican Church, who provide Ruth's house, are both delighted with her progress. The post has already been ongoing for 3.5 years, [and whilst it](#)

has always been planned as a 10-yr post, a review is required after 5 years prior to signing off the 2nd 5-yr period.

At the start, a Reference Group was established to monitor progress and be called upon to decide how to go forward. ~~It would be very beneficial to have a Pioneer Minister for Wavendon, as that person could work alongside Ruth.~~ Ann Beaton asked what would happen after 2023, when 10 years were completed. Ideally the church would be self-sustainable by then, and it might be considered eligible for a permanent appointment.

- *Ratification of Carolyn Sanderson* – Keith explained that Carolyn was a key member of the Reference Group for the Church Without Walls. As such, it would be good if we could occasionally invite her to attend the WCP Council. Keith proposed this, and it was seconded by Brenda.

6. Update from around the churches

- **St. Mary's** - Joyce –
 - Two new groups had been set up in January: -
 - Vision and Strategy group to consider the future of St Mary's outreach work;
 - Front-of-church Taskforce to make the external appearance of the church building and grounds more attractive and welcoming to passers-by;
 - Currently, 4 x members are attending the Compass Course on "Journeying into Prayer";
 - In the Autumn term, at least 4 x members attended the Compass Course "Mission Intro";
 - Following on from our attendance at the J John Evangelistic event in Woburn, on 18th January, 3 x members are considering ideas for a Mission Display Board.
- **Church Without Walls** – Sue
 - There are currently 40-50 members of the church, with 50% being children;
 - There have been 4 x baptisms so far, plus 4 x confirmations. There is a Confirmation and Baptism Celebration service at the end of March at St Lawrence Church, Broughton;
 - Currently have 4 x different kinds of meetings – Cafe Church at Broughton Pub; Forest Church near St Michael's Priory, Willen; Dinner Church, Broughton Pavilion; Quiet Church, Brooklands Pavilion; Ruth has meetings in her house, too, and a Dad & Kids event is planned for March;
 - Prayer meeting at 9.00am every Tuesday;
 - Keith – Sharepoint – 2 x weekly study groups and talking points.
- **Christ The King – Catholic congregation** – Klaus

- Sister Yvonne holds a weekly meeting where anyone can come and find out about the Catholic Church. A new course is planned for Sept 2017.
 - Baptisms are held once every two months, and are group baptisms;
 - There are 33 children who have taken their first Holy Communion;
 - An event is being planned for June to celebrate 25 years of working within a Community Church.
 - **Christ The King – Protestant congregation** – Brenda –
 - Without a minister in post, everyone is taking on much extra work;
 - There are 5 x Home Groups that meet fortnightly;
 - 3 x members are running the “Footsteps” course, one day a month over a year;
 - 3 x members take services on a Sunday;
 - There is a pastoral care and prayer chain;
 - Youth work continues
 - Concerns over level of finance.
 - **All Saints** – Matt –
 - Attendance figures show that since 2013, the congregation has grown by 50% to 63 people on average: 50 adults + 13 children;
 - Membership has not grown, so there is a challenge to draw in attendees to commit themselves to the church;
 - There will be a change to the 4th Sunday of every month from **May**:
The “Go Forth” group will meet earlier for breakfast at 9.30am
The Service will start around 10.15am
Then the Community Outreach will begin at 11.00am.
Hopefully, this change will encourage the ‘fringe’ people to be more involved.
7. Dream Factory on Vision – members who came along to the preliminary meeting on 3rd October 2016 were introduced to the idea of setting up interest groups as a means of outreach to the community. Now there will be 3 x meetings to take this forward, **working through the elements of our Partnership vision**:
- Tuesday, 31st January at 7.30pm at Christ The King – “Seeking Abundant Life” – brainstorming ideas
 - **Monday 27th February at 7.30pm at Christ the King – “Sharing Abundant Life”**
 - After Easter (13-16 April) **a third session on “Celebrating Abundant Life”**
8. Lent – Sister Yvonne expressed her wish to share activities across the Partnership
Lent starts, this year, on 1st March.
- Lent Groups – the idea of different house groups was a popular one. Keith remarked there was a wide range of materials available. Sister Yvonne, Keith, and Matt were willing to lead a Lent Group each over a period of 5 weeks. These would be offered on a Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning x 2, and a Thursday evening. However, there was a need for someone to be appointed as a Coordinator to undertake the organisation and administration of these groups.

ACTION: Ann volunteered to take on this role -

- i. Ann would need to gather contact details of leaders/members of WCP Council;
- ii. Dates/times/locations of meetings;
- iii. Advertise the groups, and ensure the materials were distributed on time;
- iv. Details of Lent Groups would be launched on Sunday, 12th February, to give congregations time to sign up.

ACTION: Leaders to let Ann know by mid February (Tel. 01908 587959)

- *Ash Wednesday* – A morning Ashing service was planned for All Saints and, possibly, could be held slightly later at 10.30am. An ecumenical joint Ashing service was planned for the evening at Christ The King. On Maundy Thursday a service is to be held at St. Mary's, as in previous years. **There will also be a Partnership Pancake Party at Christ The King – 5.30-7.00pm.**
 - *The Way of the Cross* – Matt reported that there had been a low take-up for this in past years – only 15 people joined in 2016. It does not give out a positive message to the public about the Church, so Matt was reluctant to run this again in 2017. **Brenda commented that sometimes it's better to stop something for a while and see what emerges a year or two later.** This was agreed all round.
 - *Good Friday* – Plans were to attend the service at our own home church. As a Partnership, however, we can still publicise each others' services.
9. Week of Guided Prayer – This was a great success in 2016, and is to be rolled out again. **Dates:** Sunday 11th June 2017 until Friday 16th June. The numbers allowed to enrol will depend on the number of Prayer Directors available.
Venue: St Michael's Priory.

Finance – in David Harbey's absence, Matt referred to a document that David had provided:

- David is still finalising the records for 2016, but a surplus for that year, means we have more than was previously ring-fenced, which was £8k, for the Twinflower development. By end of February, he will have a better idea, and will be able to present a full breakdown at the next meeting.
- After much searching, a new Treasurer has now been found – Julia Borodolina, a new person from All Saints. Julia will shadow David Harbey until April/May. David will then move to the Church Without Walls (CWW) to support Ruth. Paul Lindsay, from CWW, is assisting David by managing expenses, and all payments remain under WCP control.
- David is working on a draft budget for 2017, and this was shared with the other WCP Treasurers after consultation in late 2016.
- Donations to Walton Partnership can now claim Gift Aid, and not just the individual churches.
- CWW broke even during the last financial year. Ruth and the management team are conscious of the need to move towards self

sufficiency. The Reference Group seek a positive outlook for the future of this new church body.

- David is grateful to the Broughton Trust and the MK Methodist Circuit for early payment of their contribution to CWW costs. Acknowledgement was also made to the URC for their contribution to Ruth's stipend, and to the Anglican Church for their provision of the rectory for Ruth.

10. Any Other Business

- Safeguarding - ongoing past case review – Rachael – wanted to make everyone aware that there were adverts and leaflets available - for information. Matt thanked Rachael for the great job she is doing.
- Sister Yvonne wanted to add that if anyone wants to contribute to the Lenten liturgies, then please contact her.

11. Date/Time of Next Meeting - **Wednesday, 3rd May 2017 – All Saints, MK Village**

This will be an Annual General Meeting for the WCP Council.