

Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting

20th September 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Sister Yvonne Pilarski (Chair), Ann Beaton, Julia Borodolina, Joyce Fennell, Ruth Maxey, Klaus Reidel, Carolyn Sanderson (invited for item 1), Keith Straughan, Roger Taylor, Matt Trendall

Apologies: Bode Akinbiyi, Tyrone Darrell, David Harbey, Catherine Held, Rachael Jenkins, Sue Wilson

Roger Taylor was welcomed to the Council as the new representative for CWW. Carolyn Sanderson was invited to the meeting in her capacity as a representative of the Reference Group for Main Item 1 on the agenda.

Opening Prayer – Sister Yvonne opened with a reading from a Christian book.

1. Minutes of last meeting (July 12th 2017)

2. Matters Arising

- Short Term tenancy for Lola Ayodele – Keith had followed up on this, and there was no need to pursue this matter any further;
- ‘The Call’ Prayer initiative starting 24th September at Christ the Cornerstone Church – Matt has leaflets to hand out if required;
- Safeguarding Training on 30th September – this is a mandatory course for all who work with vulnerable children and adults;
- Pastoral Care Training course at CtK on 14th October – will look at grief, bereavement and mental health. Suggestions from the Council included ‘Age’ and ‘Loneliness’. Matt will pass these on to those organising the course.

3. MAIN ITEM 1: Renewal of Ruth’s post (paper already circulated)

The maximum duration for a Special Category Minister is ten years, and Ruth has now served five of these. The Synod is involving the WCP in respect of financial implications. If the WCP approves the motion, the Synod will then take the renewal of Ruth’s post to the Ministry Accreditation Sub-Committee, a national body, who will be meeting in January 2018. It is at their discretion to agree or disagree to extend Ruth’s role for another five years. Carolyn has spent much time completing the lengthy application form on Ruth’s behalf. Within the next five years, the congregation of CWW need to develop from a place where they are being currently led (by Ruth) to a place where they feel confident enough to lead for themselves.

Sister Yvonne asked for more clarification on the financial implications for WCP. Currently, Ruth’s salary and accommodation is provided by the URC and the Oxford Diocese respectively.

The WCP’s liabilities to Ruth are for working expenses. There are no pension liabilities.

“The WCP undertakes to underwrite any shortfall if for any reason the giving [of CWW] should decrease during the second term of the post.” (Question 9 of Application form for extension of Ruth’s post.)

Keith felt that we ought to be looking at training for lay people who want to be more involved, that is, as church-related community leaders. (Carolyn made a note to add this to the application form).

The motion proposed for approval is: ‘*The WCP endorses the Synod’s re-application for Ruth’s post as Special Category Minister for a further 5-year period 2018-2023*’.

Proposed by Matt, seconded by Keith, approved unanimously.

Matt wanted to minute his thanks to Carolyn for her hard work.

- 4. MAIN ITEM 2: Twinflower Project – approval of builder and consent to proceed** (Summary paper already circulated. Copies of full project portfolio to view at meeting.)
Matt gave a brief overview of the project for Roger’s benefit. All due diligence work is complete including a reference from the bank. Matt informed the Council that the Broughton Trust has agreed to donate £40k, bringing the capital available to £90k. They have promised more in time. The Methodist Church has given £10k.

If approval is given by the WCP this evening, then contracts can be signed on Thursday evening, and the builders will start on Friday morning (22nd September). The builders have been given a deadline of Christmas, with a £50 a day penalty for every day they overrun.

Motions for approval at this meeting are as follows: “*The WCP Council:*

- i) *Notes the project plans for the building extension as detailed in the portfolio*
Proposed by Ruth, seconded by Ann Beaton, passed unanimously
- ii) *Approves the Tender Review Group’s decision to appoint Jim Hammett as Building Consultant*
Proposed by Keith, seconded by Klaus, passed unanimously
- iii) *Approves the Tender Review Group’s recommendation to appoint Lumina as the building contractor according to the details of their quotation dated 20th September 2017.*
Proposed by Yvonne, seconded by Ann Beaton, passed unanimously
- iv) *Authorises the directors of Walton LEP Housing Ltd to sign the JCT contracts with Lumina as soon as possible, in order to commence work immediately.*
Proposed by Keith, seconded by Roger, passed unanimously
- v) *Agrees the revised composition of the Project Team as:*
Peter Laws – Project Chair
Clive Piggott – Committee Organiser
Steve Potter – Secretary
Tim Gray – Fundraising
Patsy Young – Book-keeper
Brenda Nield – Church Liaison
Jim Hammett – Building Consultant (as required)
Proposed by Joyce, seconded by Ruth, passed unanimously

- 5. MAIN ITEM : Planning the liturgical year** (Paper circulated)

The text in **red** on the paper is for discussion; the **blue** text represents St Mary’s feedback.

We started at **December – Advent**. We will produce an Advent liturgy for Midday Prayers. This initiative continues to go well, but it would be good to keep refreshing it, e.g. with occasional seasonal liturgy.

As there was no rep. from CtK, discussions could not proceed regarding Christmas Eve morning service.

Ruth is happy to produce Advent/Christmas fliers again.

January – we need to consider some kind of WCP event other than a Taize service or party which were chosen in previous years. A kind of ‘Songs of Praise’ event was suggested. Each congregation could offer something such as a hymn. Gill Farrow from All Saints had suggested remembering the worldwide Church.

We need to fix a date and time. Venue is likely to be CtK.

Who will take charge to prepare it? We need a small team comprising one person from each congregation. We will confirm this at the next WCP meeting in November.

Lent It was agreed that Ash Wednesday would follow this year’s pattern – a morning ashing service with communion, an evening ashing service at CtK. Matt suggested Lent Fasts to replace Lent Lunches, an idea which was warmly received and which will be trialled in 2018.

Holy Week – Will run as last year with no Friday walk of Witness, but including the Easter Fire service on Holy Saturday. Daily/Midday Prayers will also be available Mon-Wed with an Easter focus – perhaps to run early morning and early evening instead?

All **Good Friday** services would be open to all congregations as last year i.e. at 10am at All Saints and St Mary’s, 3pm at St Lawrence and 5pm at CtK (with Holy Communion available to both Catholics and Protestants).

Ascension – keep it as it is.

Pentecost – to be considered later on.

Ruth is willing to draft flyers for distribution.

6. Finance

Julia Borodolina was introduced to the meeting – David and Julia are working together as David begins to hand over the treasurer’s role. David and Julia met with all the Church Treasurers in July. The outturn is not a positive one for CtK or St Mary’s. The Treasurers have been asked to prepare a budget forecast to cover the next five years.

7. Various WCP and personnel updates

- *Finance update* – covered in point 6.
- *Search for a Baptist Minister* – Three candidates have been interviewed so far. The most recent was invited to ‘Preach with a peek’ on September 10th. Following a congregational meeting, the candidate has been invited back again for a ‘Preach with a view’. Dates currently being considered.
- *Pioneer Minister Development Post in Wavendon* - Matt reported that the Diocese are looking to purchase a house on the new Eagle Farm development.
- *St Michael’s Pastoral Assistants* – Keith reported that Michael was doing some very good work. Some very good applications have been received to replace Bob, who took up an opportunity to undertake a Masters degree.

8. Updates from around the churches

CWW

Things are going well. Sustainability is a constant concern. ‘Quiet Church’ has been reviewed over the summer, as it just wasn’t thriving. It was re-launched on the first Sunday in September. It is important to have an event with a contemplative time. The first ‘service’ went well; there were prayer stations, and people could move around them. This kind of church is more appropriate for adults and older children only.

CtK – Catholic congregation

There will be an influx of Catholic staff very shortly. There will be two permanent priests who will live in Milton Keynes, and another priest who will travel into Milton Keynes on Sundays. This will improve consistency, with the same priests taking services every week. With five Catholic Parishes in Milton Keynes, comprising six churches, there are now four priests.

Baptisms have recently been carried out in groups rather than individually. This makes them easier to plan. Currently, there are 12 people awaiting confirmation.

This coming Sunday (24th September), Father Pius will be visiting from Ghana.

On 26th November, Bishop Peter from Northampton will be visiting CtK for an International Lunch, and to celebrate 35 years of CtK. All are invited.

CtK – Protestant congregation

No rep present to give an update, so Matt gave a very brief report. There are many young people between the ages of 11 and 18 years at CtK and, surprisingly, they all appear to have some musical talent. About two weeks ago, the youth group led the service, complete with their own band.

St Mary's

A large Welcome Banner has been attached to our church wall. This draws attention to the church, especially to motorists. Good feedback so far. Intention is to buy another 2 or 3 banners, and interchange them according to the season of the year.

We have had a big focus on churchyard Tidy Up days. This has been especially important as we have had at least 6 weddings this summer.

Mission Partnership Compass courses have begun, and two people from St Marys are attending the 'Faith' course. Instead of a Harvest Supper this year, we are having a Harvest Quiz on Saturday, 23rd September. Thursday Coffee Mornings have started again, and we are having one in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on 28th September.

Prayer Walks have also started once more. We will meet up on October 15th, and November 19th at 2.30pm outside St Mary's. All are welcome.

Our 'Mission of God' sermon series is being supported by Wednesday Home Groups to discuss scripture more deeply. The Mission and Discipleship noticeboards are also refreshed regularly to draw attention and maintain interest on the current themes.

All Saints

Go4th continues to go well - this is our 4th Sunday ministry which starts with breakfast together, then worship, then 'going forth' into the community to run community projects like litter picking, gardening etc

9. AoB

- i) Referring back to Item 5 on Liturgical events, the flyers will need to be ready before our next WCP Meeting. Ruth proposed that we spend £150 on print costs. This was agreed.
- ii) Yvonne proposed that, at the end of each WCP meeting, a different person will lead in a closing prayer. Agreed.

10. Date/Time of Next Meeting – Wednesday, 22nd November at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.