

Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting

22nd November 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Sister Yvonne Pilarski (Chair), Ann Beaton, Julia Borodolina, Tyrone Darrell, Joyce Fennell, David Harbey, Rachael Jenkins, Ruth Maxey, Klaus Reidel, Keith Straughan, Roger Taylor, Matt Trendall, Sue Wilson

Apologies: Bode Akinbiyi, Catherine Held.

Opening Prayer – Sister Yvonne invited Ann to open with prayer.

1. **Minutes of last meeting** (20th September 2017)

Sister Yvonne highlighted some inaccuracies pertaining to *Item 8 – Updates from around the churches* – with regard to the Catholic congregation at CtK.

- There will be three permanent priests. Mention of a priest, who will travel into Milton Keynes, has not come about.
- Father Pius is part of the team here, and not from Ghana.
- Bishop Peter from Northampton will be visiting CtK to celebrate the feast of Christ the King. He will also celebrate 25 years of the Community Church on Kents Hill.

2. **Matters Arising**

Christmas fliers – these are now printed, and were presented at the meeting. Ruth has had 2 x versions produced:

- Sam Crooks, councillor for Middleton and Broughton, has offered to deliver 5,000 fliers door-to-door, with his own leaflets. As he is doing this from today until 10 December, Ruth omitted the dates for Advent and other events;
- Another 5,000 have been produced including these dates.
- The cost for 10,000 fliers was £205.00.

'The Call' Prayer event - Sunday 26th November 7pm at Christ the Cornerstone – the first such event, on 24th September, proved very successful with 250 people in attendance. It is an excellent initiative for promoting Christian Unity.

Advent Daily Prayer – Keith has generated a booklet of daily prayer for the season of Advent. It will be in our churches from Advent Sunday.

Opportunities for carol singing in the community –

- there is to be an event supporting Barnardo's on 3rd December at 3pm at Broughton Pavilion. There will be some brass players present to enhance the atmosphere;
- Peter Laws, at Ctk, is recruiting another group to sing outside Tesco.

- The Catholic congregation are holding a carol singing event on 17th December at 5pm. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Christmas Eve Sunday morning – there will be a joint service at St Mary's at 10am. A second group leading Community Carol singing will start off from All Saints at 10.30am.

3. Updates from around the Churches

All Saints

The Go4Forth event is a real success, and there is much enthusiasm for it. It has been agreed to extend it to the end of 2018.

CWW

- 'Quiet Church' now takes place at Broughton Pavilion on the 4th Sunday of the month in the morning. It is now more successful and there is a really good feeling about it.
- 'Café Church' has moved to the school from the pub.
- There will be a Meditation course starting in the New Year led by the new pastoral assistant, Michael. This will begin on Tuesday, 16th January at the Broughton Pavilion between 8pm and 9pm.
- On the first Monday of the month, a new Study Group will meet at the Priory. Michael will lead this, using a book called "Holy Habits".

CtK – Ecumenical congregation

The search for a new minister continues, leading to uncertainty. However, there are plenty of others who are developing their gifts to lead the congregation. Planning for Christmas services is underway. The Prayer Group continues to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month.

CtK – Catholic congregation

- Three priests are taking it in turns to serve the congregation on Sunday mornings. This has been very positive so far.
- This coming Sunday (26th November) the Bishop will be visiting us.
- A Reconciliation Service is planned for 18th December.

St Mary's

- First of all, we would like to thank the WCP for all of the support and practical help we receive from them.
- As last year, we have signed up to the 'Angel Tree' charity initiative once more. This initiative calls upon churches to buy a gift, to the maximum value of £10, for a child with a parent in prison. 15 gifts have been supplied to the charity for wrapping.
- We have recently purchased our second Church banner for our external church wall. This is very colourful, eye-catching and thought-provoking for passers-by.
- Our Coffee Morning on Thursdays continues to be the highlight of the week, among other gatherings. It is a very popular event, attracting mothers dropping off their children at the school opposite, as well as people from the village who do not usually attend church. There is

definitely a lively community feeling as a result of people coming together for a chat over fresh coffee and home-made cake.

- An initiative is currently moving forward to persuade Health Visitors, who organise the Baby-Weighing Clinic on fortnightly Thursday mornings, at Wavendon Pavilion, to consider using our Church building.

We plan to give them use of the Vestry for the actual baby weighing. The young mums will be welcomed in with a coffee either before or after the weigh-in. This would raise the profile of St Mary's and make more people aware of where, and who, we are.

The Health Visitors have visited St Mary's already and are in favour of this going ahead. They have already delivered approx. 40 fliers to mums with whom they have contact.

- Our new PA system is now fully operational and has made a considerable difference to our services with the improved quality of sound. Our Harvest Quiz on 23rd September helped to raise the last of the monies needed.

4. Twinflower Project –

Update and progress – this is going well. The builders, Lumina, are currently, not only ahead of schedule, but also coming in under budget! The dry, mild weather has helped, and all of the external work is now complete and waterproof.

Quotes for additional work after extension completed

Attention is now focused on the internal fitting-out. Peter, as the Project Chair, has prepared detailed costings for this evening's meeting. (Please refer to handout of costings). Our finances are looking good, so pressure is off for the moment.

- There were questions raised regarding curtains, carpets and painting estimated at approx. £8.5k. Was it really necessary to provide these in advance of any occupant moving in? We need to go back to the Steering Group for review.
- The conservatory roof also caused some controversy - currently estimated at just over £7k. A thermal proofed roof had been chosen – was this necessary? Again, would it be better to wait until the house was occupied, to see how the new person would use that space?

The motions proposed for approval are:

- a) that curtains, carpets and internal painting are put on hold until the new occupant arrives.**

Proposed by Roger, seconded by David, passed unanimously

- b) that the conservatory roof is sent back to the Steering Group for further review.**

Proposed by David, seconded by Ruth, passed unanimously

David also remarked that it would be useful to have the Steering Group Chair present, at WCP Council meetings, whenever the Twinflower Project was on the agenda. Sister Yvonne agreed.

5. Youth and safeguarding

New youth groups within WCP – after much time and effort, we have been unable to recruit a trainee youth worker. Nonetheless, there are several members who are stepping up to the challenge, and launching some new and exciting initiatives:-

CWW is currently starting a new youth group, fortnightly on a Wednesday, for Year 7 and up children. This is held at the Priory and led by Michael, our pastoral assistant. Six children have attended so far. Five children attended the Synod weekend recently and, as a result, two of them are going to the URC Assembly in January 2018.

A second group is also starting this Sunday for teenagers (yr 9 and up) in the other congregations. Steve and Jenny Potter are hosting and Taiwo Adesanya and Ope Ayileye are leading it.

Appointment of Ros Bird as Responsible Adult for 'WCP' – safeguarding rules state that every church should have a Responsible Adult (previously known as a Children's Advocate). Currently, we have Ann Beaton to represent St Mary's, Sandra Mills at All Saints and Ros Bird at CtK to represent the other WCP Congregations. However we need an overall rep to cover 'cross-WCP groups'.

The motion proposed for approval is:

that Ros Bird should be the Responsible Adult for the WCP

Proposed by Matt, seconded by Rachael, approved unanimously

Ann and Sandra would still continue as at present.

Safeguarding update – there was a major Training Day on 30th September which was well attended. Everyone who needs a DBS check has now had the process completed.

Matt wants to minute his thanks to Rachael for all her hard work, and especially on the Training Day.

Sister Yvonne added that the Catholic congregation have their own safeguarding processes in place.

Keith added that if anyone wants to have a portable DBS, then they must apply within 30 days of the usual DBS process, and pay £13. They will be provided with a code.

6. **WCP joint events early 2018**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – an event is planned for the WCP churches on 21st January 2018, 5pm, at CtK. Each Church is to choose their favourite hymn. The event has been named “Songs of Praise”.

Ash Wednesday – all 5 congregations will join together at CtK on 14th February, 7.30pm.

Lent Course Material – the clergy team are currently looking at this. They hope to involve Father Alan at Woodhill Prison, and are seeking to finalise plans within the next week.

Lent fasts – Over the past few years, Lent lunches have been the norm, so it would be a change to offer Lent fasting instead, and come in line with the real meaning of Lent. Plans are still vague at this point, but perhaps the Partnership can meet together, agree to miss at least one meal, and donate money.

Lent Quiet Day – this will be all day on 3rd March 2018, at the Priory, and is open across the Partnership.

Lent Charity – this is still to be decided. Perhaps we could look at the Lent Course Material, or perhaps there may be a current humanitarian crisis happening somewhere in the world that needs our attention. Perhaps we could also choose a closer-to-home charity in Milton Keynes.

Ruth had prepared a poster of our key events as 5 x congregations, for WCP approval. Rachel requested that a New Year’s Eve party at CtK should be included, too. Rachel will send Ruth details of this event. Ruth will produce A4 and A5 copies of the revised poster for each WCP Church to display.

7. **Finance –**

Independent examination of the 2016 Accounts was successfully completed with no comments.

Over the past months, David has been handing over to Julia Borodulina, who will take over as WCP Treasurer with effect from 1 January 2018. David will continue to work alongside Julia and support her for a period.

Gift Aid -

- David Harbey will manage the 2016/7 and 2017/8
- 2016/7 reclaim received - £1165.12 (£250 Twinflower / £915.12 CWW)
- Gift Aid reclaim processes for WCP (includes CWW and Twinflower)
- To hand this on for 2018/9 reclaim.

Bank Mandate

- Resolution required to appoint Julia Borodulina as an authorised signatory in place of Patricia Rosewell. **Agreed unanimously.**

- David Harbey, Steve Potter and Patricia Sawyer will remain as the other signatories.
- Will remain as any two to sign in all cases.

Online Banking

- Currently available to David Harbey on a read only / transfer between accounts basis.
- Barclays Online Banking has the capability to make payments with two separate authorisations.
- Steve, Pat and David happy to move to electric payment and all have the required PIN pad based on other accounts held.

Process for payments

- Treasurer will set up payment and complete first authorisation (same as writing and signing cheque).
- Email to second signatory with scan of invoice / evidence of need for payment plus any supporting comments – second authorisation completed and payment released (same as asking for details of purpose of payment and writing second signature on cheque).

CWW (number 2 account)

- Paul Lindsay will continue to provide support as book-keeper for CWW.
- Will send payment requests to Treasurer (with supporting documentation) for payments out of the number 2 account.
- As now, Treasurer will send Paul a list of transactions on a monthly basis (no donor names shown).

2018 WCP budget

- Consulted with congregations on budget now presented.
- Positive, collaborative spirit.
- Agreed –
 - Wedding revenue and costs to be managed at congregational level.
 - Contributions amended to take account of congregational circumstances.
 - Share for 2018 agreed with Treasurers - All Saints up; St Mary's slightly down; CtK down.
 - Still looking to reach balanced income and expenditure by 2022.
 - JB will continue to meet with Treasurers / churchwardens / stewards to monitor budget.
 - Principle established that consideration given to rebate to congregations at end of each year where WCP expenditure below budget / congregational reserves need boosting for cash flow purposes.

Sister Yvonne wanted to thank David, on behalf of the whole WCP, for his diligent and faithful service over the past six years as WCP Treasurer.

8. **Various WCP and personnel updates**

- *Search for a Baptist Minister* – The Search Group are currently awaiting notification of new candidates. Update (as 23/11/2017): three new CVs were received. The Search Group decided to invite two of these candidates to interview. They are currently negotiating dates.
- *Renewal of Ruth's post* – the application was submitted several weeks ago. No news so far.
- *Pioneer Minister Development Post in Wavendon* – no news to report.
- *Trainee Youth Worker* – unable to recruit over past 18 months+. (Please refer to Item 5.)
- *St Michael's Pastoral Assistants* – Michael completes his assignment at the end of March. The Priory continue to be very generous to us. They have told us that two new pastoral assistants, Peter and Esther, will be joining them in the New Year.

9. **AoB –**

- Matt reported that, after waiting for 3 years, Woughton Ecumenical Parish have finally secured a new Anglican Rector. Rev Ian Herbert will be moving into a new home on Monkston Park very shortly.
- With regard to who will open the next meeting with prayer, Roger volunteered.

10. **Date/Time of Next Meeting** – Wednesday, 31st Jan 2018 at 7.30pm at St Mary's.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.