

Walton Churches Partnership Council
31st January 2018, 7.30pm at St Mary's, Wavendon

Opening Prayer

Apologies: Group did not meet. Communication by email only.

1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting (November 22nd)

2. Matters arising

- **Renewal of Ruth's post 2018-23**

Ruth's post has formally been renewed for a further 5 years finishing July 2023. There will need to be discussion in the future as to how to cover the gap in ministry once her post ceases.

- **Review of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.**

There was a joint service of around 70 people at CTK. A joint music group was led by Lucia from the Catholic congregation and there was a testimony from a member of each congregation in the partnership. Some of the comments following the service were that it was very moving to hear such a variety of testimonies and how lovely it was to be part of a joint music group.

- **Social enterprise funding available for MK from The Cinnamon Network**

The Cinnamon Network is a Christian social enterprise charity. We have been advised that they have funding available to support new projects specifically in MK. Up to £2k per project for up to 6 projects is available. Any project which works alongside vulnerable people could be eligible – this could include young people, the elderly, ex-offenders, those in debt etc.

- **Websites renewal in 2018**

Paul North has paid a subscription for years to host all of our websites (except CWW, but including WCP, CtK, AS and SM) on the 1-2-1 platform. However he, has recently found a much more cost-effective hosting platform, which supports Wordpress websites. This will save us hundreds of pounds a year and be easier to use. It does mean, though, that over the next year or so we will need to renew our websites. Paul is happy to create beta sites, which allow us to put something together while the old site remains functional. He is also fairly relaxed at present about timing. All Saints has a new site almost ready to go live, but if reps for the other congregations (SM and CtK) could advise their church councils that this is something to start planning for, that would be great.

- **New data protection legislation** – forming a WCP group to oversee/implement

New legislation comes into force in May 2018 which overhauls how we store and use people's personal data – it's usually referred to as 'GDPR', and all organisations have to make sure their procedures comply with its requirements, including churches. The best way for us to manage this is to have a common approach across the congregations, led by a team of people representing each church. We're delighted to announce that Moira North (AS), Ann Beaton (SM), Mandy Sleight (CWW) and Lynn Atkinson (CtK) have agreed to form this group. They will meet and hopefully by, say, Easter will have formal proposals/recommendations as to what we need to do. We'd like to minute our thanks to all four, and look forward to their feedback in due course. **(NB Ann will be at the meeting.)**

3. Updates from around the churches

4. WCP joint events early 2018

- **Ash Wednesday joint services – 10.30am at St Mary's, 7.30pm at CtK**

Both services will offer ashing to all attendees. The morning service will have Holy Communion and all from the ecumenical congregations are warmly invited. The evening event has no communion/Mass, so all 5 congregations can join us.

- **Quiet Morning Sat 3rd March @ St Michael's Priory**

This will be open to anyone from across the partnership to come and spend the morning in prayer and reflection. Ruth is happy to look into publicising and possibly leading the morning.

- **Lent groups and book/course material**

Summary sheet attached separately with information about the course and the subjects for the weekly groups. There will also be books available for people to take away from the meeting, should they wish to (£2 a copy). The material is called '40 days of hope' and is based on Mark's gospel and stories of prisoners coming to faith. It can be used as both a daily devotional and also a group study book and looks inspiring! Ann Beaton is producing a flier which will be available as soon as all groups can be confirmed – hopefully by Sunday??

- **Lent fasts – proposed approach**

Following much discussion, it is proposed that instead of providing a weekly central gathering to pray, a simple leaflet will be produced which enables people to choose their own day for a lunchtime fast, with a simple devotional liturgy/approach that could be used (which may or may not include the Lent daily study material). Daily prayers could be used for those who attend, so it's possible for individual churches hosting Daily Prayers to make something of that. But we felt the 'individual' approach allows the maximum number of people to give it a try on the best day of the week for them.

- **Lent charity – suggested as Prison Fellowships International**

This ties in with the Lent study material, and is a charity we already support via Angel Tree at Christmas.

- **Holy Week**

It's proposed that we essentially repeat last year's pattern of services, with no WCP event as such, but all services open to all across the Partnership. Conversations with the church councils at SM and AS, plus the WTP group at CtK Community Church, have indicated that these congregations are comfortable with this decision. It is hoped that CtK Community Church and Catholic Congregation will continue with the joint Good Friday service but that is for the two congregations to decide.

- **Week of Guided Prayer 17th-23rd June**

It is hoped that this will go ahead but there is an urgent need for someone to assist Ruth with the administration.

5. Finance update

From David re: Twinflower – attached separately. .

6. Various WCP and personnel updates

- **Twinflower update and progress**

Extension finished on time and within budget. Work beginning on the conservatory roof and bathroom refit. Plumber due to start work on latter w/c 12th Feb. Thanks to the council for the swift responses regarding sign-off of works both before and after Christmas.

- **Safeguarding update**

Rachael sends her apologies – a brief update from her: she has begun a review of the policy. It's not due till next year but she thought she'd get ahead! There is one current DBS check outstanding. She has also received a list of new children's helpers from All Saints which will also need DBS checks asap. Thankfully no safeguarding issues to report.

- **Search for a Baptist minister**

Interviewed Andrew and Dan, neither proceeding to preach – so back to square one. Next settlement team end Feb. No minister will be in post before summer holidays 2018.

- **Pioneer Minister Development Post in Wavendon**

No further concrete developments, but building works now beginning in earnest on two sites in Wavendon. New CofE school still on course for opening Sept 2019. Matt is also beginning preparatory work/research as regards the profile. Having Ruth's original profile document (and recent review), plus the recent work done to create the WCP profile for the new Baptist minister, gives us a huge head start. However, there are also 'Anglican' bits

and protocols that need to be reflected in this document and it's these that Matt is trying to get more of a handle on.

- **St Michael's Pastoral Assistants**

Michael Lester comes to the end of his time with CWW at the end of March. It has been a real addition having him as part of the community and his contribution will be greatly missed. There are now two new PA's but they have been assigned to Christ the Cornerstone. There is hope in the future that the WCP will once again benefit from this generous gift of personnel from the Priory.

- **Joint Council for Walton LEP**

This is something we should have and don't currently – a consultative body which oversees our LEP. It was required as part of our original constitution in 1985, and its make-up was agreed as part of the sharing agreements of the early 1990s – but to the best of our knowledge has never existed! It need only meet once a year and includes reps of all 5 denominations. Matt recruited about half of it in 2016, but the project fell by the wayside as one denomination didn't respond and then other things took priority. However, it is something we should address in 2018. At this stage, I wanted to get it on the minutes to make sure we keep it in view.

7. AoB

- **Taize trip.**

Ruth is taking a group to the Taize Community in France from Sunday 26th August to Sunday 2nd September. If there are any 18 to 30-year olds in the congregations who may be interested (or families) then please get in touch with Ruth. An information meeting will be arranged.

8. Date/Time of Next Meeting – AGM proposed for 18th April at 7.30pm, venue TBC