

Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting

26th September 2018 at 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Wavendon

Present: Matt Trendall (Chair), Rachael Jenkins, Joyce Fennell, Rev. Ruth Maxey, Pat Sawyer

Apologies: Bode Akinbiyi, Ann Beaton, Tyrone Darrell, Julia Davie, Sister Yvonne Pilarski, Klaus Reidel, Rev. Keith Straughan, Roger Taylor, Sue Wilson.

Welcome and apologies

The meeting began with a welcome and prayer led by Matt. Several apologies had been received for this evening's meeting.

From each of our five congregations, there was at least one rep. in attendance, apart from the Catholic congregation. The meeting was declared quorate, and we began.

Matt mentioned that another rep from All Saints would be joining the Council at the next meeting in November. This would be Ayokunnu Otunla.

1. Approval of Notes to last 'virtual meeting' agenda – July 4th 2018

No comments were made concerning the above. Therefore, the Notes were approved.

2. Matters Arising

Donation to St Michael's Priory. At the 'virtual meeting' in July, it was proposed to give St Michael's a £75 donation for all of their good will with regard to the Week of Guided Prayer. Everyone agreed a donation was fitting but suggested £100 as more appropriate. **Julia to Action.**

WCP laptops update Rev Ruth Maxey had notified the WCP Council that the laptop provided to her five years' ago was no longer fully functional. She had sought permission to purchase another laptop, which had been agreed. Ruth has since purchased a Dell laptop at a cost of £699. Her husband has transferred all of the hard disk material to this new computer. Matt will now use the 'old' laptop to display Powerpoint presentations at All-Age Services.

Christmas Fliers. It was agreed to use the same format for the leaflets as for 2017. The main point for discussion was when they should be printed. Local Councillor, Sam Crooks, had not been in favour of them being distributed too early last year. It was agreed that the fliers should go to print by late November – price to be confirmed, but should be around £200-250. Ruth will update the flier and perhaps generate a new design.

There was a discussion on Christmas services. Matt felt the Joint Service went well last year. Ruth agreed and proposed that we do this again, this time at Christ The

King on 23rd December. Pat said that that Sunday was the 4th of the month and therefore their usual 'Go Forth' Sunday. Matt suggested that all WCP congregations could be invited to All Saints on 23rd December at 11am – 12 noon to take part in some Community carol singing.

Rachael said there would be a New Year's Eve party at CtK as happened last year. All were welcome.

3. Updates from around the churches

Christ The King – Rachael

The absence of a minister was still making things difficult, and there was a lack of cohesion and harmony as a result. Rachael brought a number of requests from CtK members to this meeting:

- a. The Stewards had requested a **Job Description for an LEP representative.**

With regard to this, the WCP Council agreed that an LEP rep should:

- Attend their own church meetings;
- Attend WCP meetings and report back to the appropriate people within their congregation;
- Review and decide on matters by email, in between Stewards' and WCP Meetings.

- b. **Twinflower** - Peter Laws has 3 quotations for the floor covering including carpet and laminate supply and fix, for the supply and fix of curtains and blinds for the windows, and for painting of walls and ceilings and woodwork throughout the house.

The house will need to have a deep clean throughout at an appropriate time.

The alarm system which was decommissioned has been restored and the building is therefore safe.

Could the WCP communicate with the Baptist Union insurance department to that effect?

The WCP Council noted this.

Also, with regard to Twinflower, can CtK have a final total of monies spent on extending/restoring Twinflower?

Matt responded that Julia will be able to give a full account of monies when her budget report is complete. However, in approximate figures, the total will be around £110k.

- c. **Can you raise the issue of when we are going to do membership renewal?** It has been suggested that for us (CtK) a good date would be the covenant service in January and that gives enough time to get it organised. Matt responded that this needs to happen within the first quarter of 2019.

- d. Rachael asked if there is any progress on the charity status of the Mission Partnership. Matt reported that there was no news to date.
- e. Rachael had been asked at CtK why she hadn't spent the **budget allocated to the Youth Club** yet. Matt was keen to clarify that the Youth Club is a WCP event. It may be located at CtK but the budget for youth was to be used across the WCP.

All Saints – Pat Sawyer

- a. With regard to 'Go Forth', there had been a bit of a lull over the summer. At present, members at All Saints were discussing ideas to take this forward and build momentum again. Matt responded by reminding the Council that there were still plenty of projects in the community to address. For example, in connection with the new housing at Oakgrove, and making connections with the secondary school there, during the week;
- b. The 'Ride and Stride' event on 22nd September had been successful. With regard to All Saints, in particular, several horse riders had popped in for coffee;
- c. The summer had been very busy with lots of weddings which were happening almost back to back;
- d. There had been some changes within the congregation as several long-term members had moved away from the area, as well as a dearly loved member passing away. On the positive side, there had also been a fair amount of new faces joining.
- e. Pat was conscious of a considerable amount of fabric repairs to the building which needed addressing. She had received several quotations, which were all in five figures!

St Mary's – Joyce

- a. There were several physical changes going on at present.
 - New speakers had been installed recently to improve the quality of our sound system;
 - A Wi-fi system had been installed a week ago, and had already been useful in supplying music for a wedding at the weekend.
 - We have been awarded a grant from MK Council's Section 106 fund to have our Chancel roof repaired. The work will begin in Spring 2019;
 - The same fund was also allowing us to have some derelict land in the graveyard cleared. The MK Council architect had already provided 2 x designs for our proposed Garden of Rest on that same piece of land.
 - We've recently learned that we will have to purchase a new boiler very soon;
- b. In terms of mission within the community, we were hosting/organising:
 - A Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday, 27th September;

- A Harvest Quiz on 6th October;
- A themed 'Peace' exhibition on the weekend of 10/11th November to coincide with the 100 years' celebrations of the ending of World War I.

Church Without Walls – Ruth

Ruth's most pressing concern was about membership. Very few of her congregation seem to understand the concept of what it meant.

The pattern of CWW's four Sundays: Cafe Church, Forest Church, Quiet Church, Dinner Church continues.

Matt gave an update on Julia's behalf regarding **Finance**.

- a. Julia will present the accounts at the next WCP meeting in November. Julia has found it difficult getting all the Treasurers together to receive updates. Therefore, there is still information outstanding that she needs before collating everything.
- b. If there are any monies left over from budgets, then it was agreed that it would be distributed to whichever of our churches are in need of extra cash. Perhaps an issue for discussion in the future is if we should have a kind of 'money in hand' fund. Ruth commented that when her tenure is complete at CWW in five years' time, there is a possibility that CWW will need financial support.
- c. Matt broached the topic of how we could secure grants from public bodies. Ruth suggested talking to councillors such as Sam Crooks or Dave Monk, whom, she was sure, would listen and be sympathetic. Matt praised David Hopkins, an MK councillor, who lives in Wavendon Village. David had been a great advocate of St. Mary's, particularly with Section 106 monies, although much of the motivation came from the new housing currently being planned and built up to the M1, which would need graveyard facilities in the coming years.
There was much community growth in all of our areas: All Saints had Oakgrove, CtK had Kents Hill Park and the new secondary school there. Matt indicated that there are different Section 106 pots of money relevant to us – £3.75 million for voluntary organisations, £3.6 million for heritage projects and £1 million for churchyards and cemeteries.
- d. Matt reported that he had been notified by the Diocese that our share to be paid to them had been raised by 8% for 2019. When everything was taken into consideration, he was fine with this.

4. Mission and Ministry

Update on Search for a Baptist minister

The Search Group had met on 6th September to interview another candidate who was offered the opportunity to return and preach at CtK at a later date. This was scheduled for 21st October.

Pioneer Minister Development Post in Wavendon

The Diocese have put money in their budget for Summer 2019 to cover this post. However, the Area Dean, Tim Norwood, and Matt have been asked to submit more information to support this post. The Bishops' Council will meet on 10th October.

We agreed that a sub-group should be formed to help develop the job profile. Matt offered to chair it and will set about the task of convening it.

Remembrance 2018 – Prayers for Peace and other events

Ruth had contacted members of all congregations in Walton. She had put together a leaflet, and suggested advertising St Mary's event on the reverse side. Ruth was proposing to print 500.

Renewal of membership across the WCP

Ruth had drafted a 4-page leaflet for all WCP congregations, to explain what membership meant. The key message is that as well as being a member of your chosen church, you are automatically a member of the WCP. The leaflet was discussed and a few changes made. Ruth will revise her draft and circulate to the WCP with a view to having a final version agreed by the end of 2018, ready for the 2019 membership renewal. Each church can add a little information about their own church.

5. Data Protection legislation – documents for review and approval

Matt wanted to minute a huge thanks to Lynn Atkinson who had done most the research and putting together of documents with regards to the new GDPR Regulations. Thanks also to other individuals for their input, namely, Moira North, Ann Beaton and Ruth Maxey. WCP congregations had been able to make minor changes relevant to their own activities.

Privacy policy – This was agreed. Matt will upload to the website

Guidelines - Agreed. No comments

Procedures - Agreed. No comments

Data Audit Draft - Agreed. No comments

Cookies policy – This was agreed. Matt will upload to the website

Note regarding how this relates to the congregations – Approved. This will be done at congregational level as well as at WCP level.

6. Date/time of Next Meeting

Date: 21st/28th November 2018 – tba

Venue: St Mary's, Wavendon

Time: 7.30pm