

Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting

21st November 2018 at 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Wavendon

Present: Rev. Ruth Maxey (Chair), Bode Akinbiyi, Ann Beaton, Julia Davie, Joyce Fennell, Ayokunnu Otunla, Carolyn Sanderson, Roger Taylor, Matt Trendall

Apologies: Tyrone Darrell, Rachael Jenkins, Sister Yvonne Pilarski, Klaus Reidel, Rev. Keith Straughan, Sue Wilson

Welcome and apologies

Ruth welcomed everyone to the meeting, and began by reading a prayerful poem. Several apologies had been received for this evening's meeting.

No one was present to represent the Catholic congregation. Ayokunnu Otunla joined the Council for the first time, representing All Saints.

1. Approval of Minutes – September 26th 2018

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

2. Matters Arising

Donation to St Michael's Priory. Julia, as Treasurer, confirmed that this had been actioned.

WCP laptops update

Ruth's new laptop had been purchased and was working well. Her 'old' one, given to Matt, had not lasted long, so a new one will need to be purchased. A **budget** of £300-£500 was **agreed** for Matt to buy a new laptop. **Action.**

CWW Reference Group report

The Reference Group comes under the auspices of the WCP, and was set up at least five years ago, with Ann Atkinson as Chair. Other members of the Group include

- Pauline Barnes, URC, Synod
- Roger Taylor, representing CWW
- Carolyn Sanderson, one of two WCP Reps
- John Robertson, representing MK Mission

- i) Ruth was conscious that her final five years as CWW's Lead had already begun, and saw an increasing need for the CWW Reference Group to report back to the WCP Council far more often. The WCP will need to have more input over the next five years to oversee CWW's development and, hopefully, the establishment of a new full-time minister.

We need to re-visit the Reference Group's Terms to ensure that it is operating as it should do.

- ii) It was agreed that the CWW Reference Group needs to be an item on the agenda for each WCP Council Meeting in future.
- iii) Since Ann Atkinson has not been a member of the WCP for some time, she is going to step down as Chair of the CWW Reference Group.
- iv) Matt suggested that Steve Potter at CtK was a candidate to consider in taking forward the Chair's role.

Christmas Fliers 10,000 fliers had been printed at a cost of just over £200. They were now at Ruth's house, awaiting distribution to the various WCP congregations.

Joint WCP Service Sunday 23rd December at 9.30am

Ruth agreed to lead this service, and planned to put on a play where the various characters were from our WCP churches. Ruth had already found a good play from the Bible Society. She will be asking for volunteers shortly to take part.

Opportunities for Community Carol Singing

- **Saturday 8th December** – Hindhead Knoll, Walnut Tree. Walton Parish Council have invited Alise to switch on their Christmas Tree lights;
- **Friday 14th December** – Tesco Kingston between 6.00pm-8.00pm. Last year we raised £300 for *Night Shelter*;
- **Wednesday, 19th December** – Broughton Pavilion from 7.00pm. Open to all in the community;
- **Sunday 23rd December** – All Saints – 11.00am – Community carol singing.

Any Other Matters

Matt mentioned the Domestic Abuse Seminar that he, and several members of the WCP, attended on 10th October. At the seminar, the idea was launched that all churches should become sanctuary churches, that is, a place of safety where abused adults could be offered support and welcome. Matt was passionate about all WCP Churches participating in this scheme. It would, however, require discussing with congregations.

3. Finance

Draft budget for 2019 and forecast congregational shares for 2020-2022

Julia presented the Council with two budget sheets where she had itemised all income and expenditure for each individual WCP Church as well as the WCP combined. This included a forecast up to 2022. Julia had met with all the Treasurers of the WCP who were happy with their own individual church's finance. They were all keen to maintain a surplus at WCP level.

From 2019, calculations will change, with regard to the share that each church will pay. Significantly, CWW will begin to contribute more formally. There will need to be formal agreement on the share that each church will pay, according to their individual circumstances.

We need to plan ahead given that CWW will need to fund the salary of their own minister in years to come.

Resolution 1: to agree the budget forecast.

Agreed unanimously

Resolution 2: to grant a £5k rebate to CtK for 2018

Agreed unanimously

Julia confirmed that the figures had been audited.

Julia flagged up two vacancies that needed to be filled very soon

- i) A new auditor – Taiwo is stepping down
- ii) Treasurer – Julia is emigrating to Canada in June 2019

Julia agreed to write a job description for WCP Treasurer by end of November so that we can start recruiting.

CWW Housing 2019 onwards

When Ruth's post was renewed, a year ago, for the next five years, it was assumed that funding for her residence would continue to be funded by the Diocese. It has turned out that this is not the case, as financial calculations had changed. CWW will now need to consider how they will fund a minister and a house, once Ruth's tenure comes to an end.

Funds from Methodist Trust in Wavendon: proposal to the effect that "This Council agrees to withdraw all funds (currently £1003) for the purpose of repairs and maintenance at St Mary's Wavendon"

Since David Harbey ceased to fill the role of WCP Treasurer, he has become Treasurer for the Methodist Circuit in Milton Keynes. As such, he has discovered that there is a small amount of money in the former Wavendon Methodist Chapel funds.

Resolution 1: that the WCP Council agrees to withdraw all funds to enable repairs and maintenance to be undertaken at St. Mary's, Wavendon.

Proposed by Bode Akinbiyi, seconded by Ruth Maxey

4. Mission and Ministry

Update on Search for a Baptist minister

Bode informed the Council that a promising candidate had accepted the opportunity to 'preach with a peek' on 21st October. Feedback from the congregation had been

very positive. As a result, the candidate has been invited to 'preach with a view' on 20th January 2019. If chosen, the candidate will take up the post at the end of July 2019.

This news prompted the question of what to do about the newly refurbished and extended Manse at Twinflower. Should we rent it out for the next six months? After discussions about decorating the property, expected rent, and possible problems with tenants, it was decided to leave it empty. This would allow the new minister to undertake a phased move from her old home to her new one.

Pioneer Minister Development Post in Wavendon

Despite the Diocese meeting recently to finalise this decision, Matt still has no news. Matt emailed the Archdeacon on Monday last to seek information, but to no avail. Without a firm decision, we cannot begin to put any plans in place.

Sister Yvonne

Sister Yvonne is leaving her post at the end of December. She has been given a new role, and will be based in London and in France. This creates much uncertainty for the Catholic congregation. While Catholic priests visit to take the services, there will be no one in a face-to-face position to deal with administration and liaison.

With nobody in place to lead the Community congregation either, January to July, will be a difficult time at CtK.

Ruth proposed that we should give Sister Yvonne a gift from the WCP.

This was **agreed unanimously**.

We can present this gift on 4th January 2019 at 7.30pm which is the occasion of Sister Yvonne's Leaving Mass.

Action: Ruth said she would draft something to publicise Sister Yvonne's leaving.

Renewal of membership across the WCP

Ruth presented her 4-page leaflet, and explained that the blank page was for each WCP congregation to write their own information about their church.

Bode was keen to take the leaflet back to the Stewards at CtK. Bode also announced that he was moving out of Milton Keynes, and therefore was stepping down from the Council. Lynn Atkinson has agreed to take over his place.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Matt proposed that we focus on the Suffering Church around the world in early 2019. There were no firm decisions made on a date or on what form the event should take. A service was not favoured; perhaps there could be daily prayer with literature provided across the WCP? Ann Beaton volunteered to look at this.

Lent and lent groups/courses

Matt commented that last year's "40 Days of Hope" book proved a successful focus for all. There had been much positive feedback. It seemed that enthusiasm to attend Lent events had waned considerably over the past two years at least. It was decided to use the existing Home Groups for some kind of Lent focus. Perhaps we should provide material for daily use (like last year) and consider a couple of central meetings alongside it e.g. a launch event at the start of Lent. Further discussion to be undertaken at the next WCP Council Meeting. **[Note]**

Thy Kingdom Come

Matt felt this had been received well at St Mary's and All Saints over the past two years, and he was keen to continue with it. Matt wanted to see this initiative as a WCP-wide one.

5. Updates from around the churches

It was decided to skip this item as time was getting short.

6. Date/time of Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 22nd January 2019

Venue: St Mary's, Wavendon

Time: 7.30pm

AGM to be held on 3rd April 2019 at 7.30pm