

WALTON CHURCHES PARTNERSHIP
Annual General Meeting - 18th April 2018
7.45pm, All Saints Church, Milton Keynes Village

Present: Rachael Allen, Ann Beaton, Julia Davie, Joyce Fennell, Rev. Ruth Maxey, Steve Potter, Carolyn Sanderson, Rev. Keith Straughan, Roger Taylor, Rev. Matt Trendall, Sue Wilson.

Apologies: Bode Akinbiyi, Rev. Alan & Ros Bird, Tyrone Darrell, Catherine Held, Steve & Jackie Norman, Sister Yvonne Pilarski, Klaus Reidel, David Sawyer, Pat Sawyer, Cath Segers, Christine Straughan, Alise Trendall, Lynn Atkinson, Rev. Carole Hough, Stephanie Warren

1.0 Welcome and apologies – Matt chaired the meeting in Sister Yvonne’s absence. All were welcomed to the meeting. Roger Taylor led the devotions.

2.0 Minutes of the 2017 AGM and Matters Arising

Resolution 1: Approval of Minutes of 2017

Proposed by Ann Beaton, seconded by Ruth Maxey, agreed unanimously.

Re. **Matters Arising**, any such issues are already included within this evening’s agenda.

3.0 Highlights of our worship community year – the group discussed their particular church highlights over the past 12 months. Comments included:

- Sue W. – Very pleased at amount raised for CWW charities;
- Joyce – many comments on the welcoming, community atmosphere at St. Mary’s;
- Ann B. – St Mary’s is currently trialling Café Church – 2nd Sunday of month;
- Roger – CWW is growing and developing in a very positive way;
- Carolyn – All Saints is growing, and several new people are getting more involved;
- Ruth – Has been able to relinquish control of basic duties e.g. setting up chairs. There is now a rota;
- Rachael – Youth work is prospering across all age groups;
- Steve – With no minister, many have stepped up to the mark, so there has been no need to invite local preachers to lead services at CtK;
- Julia – On a personal level, has found the Wednesday afternoon Home Study Group very healing and sustaining;
- Matt – Had several highlights, notably, Keith’s Licensing Service. Also the Civic Service when David Hopkins was made Mayor of Milton Keynes. This has built many ‘bridges’ within the community. Also, at All Saints, the GoForth project has already borne fruit. At CtK, the Secret Church event. And personal highlight of Christmas Eve services.

Keith on behalf of Sister Yvonne - There was no one to represent the Catholic congregation at this evening’s meeting, but Keith was sure that Sister Yvonne would have highlighted the appointment of Catholic priests to serve in their area. This has led to more consistency, as well as growth in numbers attending services.

All in all, we had much to be positive about.

4.0 Finance and 2017 accounts – Julia informed the WCP Council that David Harbey was currently finalising the accounts before passing them to our Independent Examiner, Taiwo. Things are going well regarding the handover from David to herself. For example, Julia is now an official signatory for the Barclays account. It seems all concerned with the new budgets are happy. David and Julia will be meeting with the Treasurers on Thursday, 19th April.

5.0 Appointment of Treasurer and Independent Examiner

Resolution 1: Approval to re-appoint Julia Davie for the coming year

Proposed by Keith, seconded by Roger, agreed unanimously

Resolution 2: Approval to re-appoint Taiwo Adesanya as our Independent Examiner

Proposed by Ruth, seconded by Rachael, agreed unanimously

Taiwo was proposed for the time being but, going forward, David was looking for a replacement.

6.0 Confirmation of Congregational Representatives to WCP (2 per congregation) and MK Mission Partnership, and of other WCP Council officers for 2018-19.

For WCP Council, these are:

- All Saints: two vacancies
- St Mary's: Ann Beaton, Joyce Fennell (Joyce is also Secretary for the Council)
- Church Without Walls: Roger Taylor, Sue Wilson
- Christ the King Community Church: Rachael Jenkins, Bode Akinbiyi
- Christ the King Catholic Church: Tyrone Darrell, Klaus Reidel
- Staff team (ex officio): Rev. Matt Trendall, Rev. Ruth Maxey, Sister Yvonne Pilarski, Rev. Keith Straughan plus Baptist Minister when appointed.
- Treasurer: Julia Davie

Matt wanted to record a vote of thanks to Catherine Held for standing as rep at All Saints over the past year. Catherine has recently expressed a wish to step down.

As a legal requirement of the Anglican Church, we must have a Parochial Church Council.

To minimise meetings, it is helpful if these officers also serve on the WCP Council. Members of the PCC are: Ann, Joyce, Keith, Bode, Matt, and Julia – these will be joined by the 3 churchwardens for Walton: Pat Sawyer (All Saints), Ray Holmwood and Roger Hancock (St. Mary's), plus Carolyn Sanderson (Deanery Synod rep).

MK Mission Partnership Reps for this year are: Lisa Rowe & Ann Beaton for St Mary's, and Ann Harris & Sandy Gray for All Saints. There are no reps currently for CtK or CWW.

Resolution : Carolyn Sanderson to be the WCP rep. for the Reference Group

Agreed by Keith, seconded by Rachael, agreed unanimously

By law, Churches must have a Childrens' Advocate. For the WCP as a whole, this is Ros Bird. However, our individual churches have their own reps. as follows:

At All Saints, it is Sandra Mills; at St. Mary's, it is Ann Beaton; at CWW, it is Jackie Bennett; at CtK Community Church it is Ros Bird.

Resolution 2: to minute a huge thanks to Rachael Jenkins for all of her hard work in leading on Safeguarding for the WCP.

Proposed by Ruth, seconded by Roger, agreed unanimously

7.0 Staffing within Walton Churches Partnership – updates

7a) Baptist Minister post – a 12-strong Search Group was formed in September 2016 to recruit a new Baptist minister. Since then, the Group have considered a number of candidates. The process is rather a long-winded one. Baptist ministers seeking a new post send their CV to the Baptist Settlement Committee. Likewise, churches looking for a new minister, apply to the Settlement Committee with their church profile. The Settlement Committee matches candidates with churches, and it is then up to that particular Church's Search Group to consider whether or not to invite candidates to an interview.

At present, we have one candidate on hold, as they are also pursuing opportunities elsewhere. We had one late submission from the March Settlement Committee and have, literally, just received three more CVs to consider. The Search Group will meet on Sunday, 22nd April at 2.00pm to discuss these candidates.

Steve said he was pleased about the way the Search Group was working together, given that members were from different churches. There had been some initial controversy about the Group being as many as 12-strong. As it is not viable for everyone to attend every meeting due to personal life demands, having a selection of 12 people means there are always sufficient present at any one time.

7b) Renewal Process for 2nd five-year period of Ruth's post – within the URC, a Special Category Minister, such as Ruth, is employed for just 5 years, with an option to renew the post for a further 5 years. Carolyn Sanderson, as a member of the Reference Group, had undertaken to complete the renewal process on behalf of Ruth by the end of 2017. Carolyn was very pleased to report that the renewal had been successful; Ruth will be with us for another five years! Carolyn handed over the official confirmation letter to Joyce, as Secretary to the WCP.

Ruth wanted to record a huge thanks to Carolyn for all on her hard work.

7c) Pioneer post in Wavendon's new housing development

Construction of the building works, from the end of Walton Road up to Jct 13 of the M1, is going apace now. There are already some houses on Eagle Farm, one of the furthest points from Wavendon Village. At the end nearest to Wavendon, several householders have already moved into the Gables site, and have received a Welcome Pack from St Mary's.

Matt has been maintaining contact with the Diocese to ensure the Pioneer post remains uppermost in their minds. Matt is pleased that this is definitely a priority for the Diocese. Tim Norwood, Area Dean, and Matt will be meeting with the Diocese in the next month or two.

7d) St Michael's Priory Pastoral Assistants

Keith had been nurturing two pastoral apprentices: Bob had left his appointment early due to ill-health, while Michael finishes this week. Two new Pastoral Assistants have arrived and have been allocated to serve at Christ the Cornerstone in the City Centre.

Ruth said that Michael had been a huge blessing to her. He had helped on Sundays at CWW and led some discussion groups. He was also willing to start up a young people's group from last September.

Matt wanted to thank both Ruth and Keith for looking after the Pastoral Assistants so well.

9.0 Walton LEP Housing Ltd (this is the body which looks after 38 Twinflower, the manse which traditionally houses the Baptist Minister for WCP)

9a) 2017 Accounts – A handout sheet was available for members to read, showing that there is no income and no outgoings. The name, *Walton LEP Housing Ltd*, is purely for the purpose of owning the house, used as a Manse. Since it is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Walton LEP, the cost of redeveloping the manse is not recorded, going instead through the main WCP (Walton LEP) accounts. The development of the 2-storey extension to the original house was £100,000. Monies were derived from the WCP, Broughton Trust and the Methodist Church.

Resolution 1: to approve the accounts.

Proposed by Matt, seconded by Keith, agreed unanimously

9b) Update on Twinflower Development Project – the Project Manager is Peter Laws. We owe him tremendous thanks for all of his hard work. The extension was completed a while ago, and we were very fortunate in choosing Lumina as our building contractor. They finished on time and under budget. All that remains is for the new roof to be completed for the conservatory. Money has been set aside for carpets, curtains, and decoration, once the new occupant moves in, and makes their own choices.

10.0 Building Partnership

10a) Key events coming up:

Week of Guided Prayer – There will be no taster session this year as in previous years. Ruth's appeal for an administrator to come forward, to assist with this event, was fulfilled by a newcomer to CWW.

BBQ – Sunday 15th July – in the Rectory Garden, Wavendon.

'Thy Kingdom Come' – plans are still in production for this event in May.

10b) Hopes for 2018

In small groups of 3 or 4, we discussed our hopes for the coming year.

One group hoped for:

- Appointment of Baptist Minister
- One big event to bring all our WCP churches together per year.
- Opportunities for teaching across churches to bring out gifts
- Better use of new technology. The church to have a bigger presence online.

Another group noted the way that different churches are looking to address different needs in their community, and hoped that would grow in 2018. Likewise our financial stability!

11.0 Any Other Business

- Ann Beaton brought up the topic GDPR – the new General Data Protection Regulations – which become law on 25 May 2018. Ann has already been trained, and will be meeting with several other trained personnel in due course in South Bucks. A group had been appointed at the last Council meeting and was hoping to gather soon.

Next Meeting

No date was agreed for the next meeting of the WCP, but it should be in two months' time.