

Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting
7th January 2021 at 7.30pm, via Zoom

Present: Rev. Matt Trendall (Chair), Rev. Ruth Gookey, Rev. Ruth Maxey, Lynn Atkinson, Ann Beaton, Ayokunna Otunla, Steve Potter, Klaus Reidel, Carolyn Sanderson, Sue Wilson

Apologies:, Rev. Keith Straughan, Emma Tyler

Opening Prayer

Reflection: was led by Matt using St Richard of Chichester Prayer

Noted Joyce has left the Council and expects to move soon.

1. Approval of Notes to last meeting (12th November)

Approved.

2. Matters arising

- CIO update – Have signed off all we can.
Remaining issues:
 - Pensions, John Robertson awaiting reply on pensions from Baptist Union.
 - TUPE transfer – Ann reported on transfer of employment rights – we need to take HR legal advice on this. Agreed we should do this. In first instance Ruth G to check with HR people at BU. Otherwise find an HR specialist company.
 - A 10 year extension to registration has been announced to 31 March 2031 (!!). It was agreed we should proceed anyway to get a properly constituted vehicle for WCP. We should aim to conclude by end of 2021 at the latest. There is a CIO meeting on 19th Jan.

- Kids and youth work re-started on Zoom this week.
- Safeguarding policy update – Rachael done a redraft and it has been reviewed by the Staff Team, who have fed back to Rachael.
- Denominational returns for 2020 Steve received a request from the BU which he has shared with clergy team and started to gather data. Matt has URC return forms and will send to Steve. This will now include CWW. Steve checked with Anglicans in October who said there would not be a church census and a pared down request would be issued, but on their website they seem to be asking for the usual information!! It was agreed a partial return would be appropriate. This need to be done by 31 January.
- Timeline for environmental policy work in 2021 – Lynn noted that this mainly focussed around buildings, which is difficult now. Ruth M shared some Cop 26 materials. Lynn felt we should make a start at the congregational level ready for when we are back in the buildings. Council also needs to agree WCP environmental policy. Lynn to recirculate.
- Finance update – We have done much better than we had expected. About a £3-4,000 deficit in 2020. Picture across MK is of more concern with a substantial reduction in share being paid by most LEPs. Please hold other parishes in our prayers who are in serious financial difficulties.

3. Advent and Christmas review

Matt noted that it has been very different this year! Ruth reported that CWW actually did more services later having to adapt from live to Zoom. They sent advent packs to contacts in community. Advent Forest Church was the only non-online service before the third lockdown.

All Saints and St Mary's offered Crafty Church for Advent and Christmas and Online Advent Calendar, plus usual Christingle, Carol, Crib and Midnight Services online. Carolyn mentioned the value of the Advent Calendar which was something people could share. Got lots of people to participate in online services.

CtK had Advent Packs for the congregation. A Nativity Trail was organised and publicised through schools. The weather was awful but there was engagement with some new families. Christingle/Crib service online has had over 140 views. The online carol service included music group recordings. Ruth wanted to thank Barney at All Saints who helped with editing.

Klaus reported that there were online services for the whole RC Cluster (only getting a fraction at CtK masses).

Matt has been recording online school assemblies, which opened new doors.

4. Lockdown – how are we? Any reflections on navigating the next 3 months

Ruth M feels it is harder this time round. Services and activities have moved online, but could resume support groups under gazebo later. Lynn felt it will be harder to get people to engage with church. Ruth G mentioned that at CtK there is a sense of fatigue, so need to think about how to refresh our online activities. Taking this to the congregation. Matt is similarly consulting St Mary's and All Saints' congregations. Carolyn – Compass Course on being a resilient church could be useful. Carolyn will share when available.

5. Ministry

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 Jan) – The Ministry Team have discussed this. Ruth M will use Week of Christian Unity material for daily prayer. Will provide link to all congregations. This will be both live and as a recording. There will also be a Quiz Night on Friday 29th January. These two activities were felt appropriate and welcomed. Ruth M will send links.
- 'New Vine' initiative for Cluster Groups in MK. These Mission Partnership discipleship courses will be launch on 10th February. See MP site.
- Lent 2021 – initial ideas. Ruth M – do we want Partnership level activity? Carolyn felt that cross-congregation Zoom groups could work. What would we do? Perhaps try to invite additional people who have been viewing online rather than the congregational usual suspects? Agreed we explore setting up some Lent Groups and ask congregations.

6. AoB

- None

7. Date/Time of Next Meeting – Review meeting on 25th February (7.30pm) looking to an AGM on 22nd April (7.30pm format to be decided).

The meeting closed with the Grace.