

**Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting**  
**14th July 2021 at 7.30pm (Zoom)**

**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4303922845?pwd=VEVoSUNETIRaM3NGRWRnNVhTVdVaQT09>

Meeting ID: 430 392 2845

Passcode: 3756

**Present:** Ann Beaton (Chair), Rev. Ruth Gookey, Rev. Matt Trendall, Lynn Atkinson, Susan Ringsell (Minutes), Jonathan Bailey, Stephen Potter, Klaus Reidel, Carolyn Sanderson,

**Apologies:** Rev. Keith Straughan, Rev. Ruth Maxey, Ayokunnu Otunla, Emma Tyler (Treasurer), Sue Wilson.

**Opening Prayer** Ruth G.

Welcome to Susan Ringsell who has very kindly agreed to take the minutes of our meetings for the rest of this year.

- 1. Approval of minutes to last meeting (27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021) and Matters Arising from these minutes not covered by the Agenda**  
AB Signed off

**Matters arising not covered by agenda**

None

- 2. Review of CIO**

Matt said there were no updates, still waiting to hear how Watling Valley are getting on. Will chase to get an idea how its going and we're looking to try and do this ourselves in the Autumn. Our challenge is the Baptist pension fund

it was agreed Ruth G, Ruth M, Matt and Ann meet up in early September (before 15th) to look at progress

- 3. Safeguarding**

- 1.** WCP items

- ii.** Safeguarding/Abingdon and Stowe reports

Matt said no concerns had been raised on safeguarding within the Partnership.

Ann said the reports on Abingdon and Stowe had been circulated with the agenda and she appreciated this was a short time in which to read them. She asked if we wanted a discussion tonight? The Archdeacon had asked parishes to reflect on the findings. Perhaps we could have an internal review of our safeguarding procedures. Ruth G said that we didn't want to overload Rachael; it was to make sure that we are following our robust procedures. Matt said the review last year was primarily about our policy;

Carolyn said she had known the gentleman in the Stowe report. She felt that culture is part of the key. The gentleman was ashamed of his own sexuality, but was bright and well liked and without that - he may not have been so vulnerable. Carolyn asked if she could lead on from that - She is reading through the 'Living in Love and Faith' document and there are lots of discussion materials and you can download the pdf and read online. It's very good. I just wonder if ought to be looking at that?

Ann said that it was about having an open culture in our churches. Carolyn also said it wasn't about overloading Rachael but I think people need reminding about who to approach. Lynn said are we actually following it and how to follow it. It was agreed that Ruth G. Matt and Ann would get together to look at holding a review. Matt said that safeguarding was a huge area and it could happen in many situations. So, balance the rigor while being realistic about making things safe. He was in favour of an audit but recommendations need to be workable. It needs to be balanced.

#### **4. Finance**

- i. Financial position to date: Emma was unable to attend and Matt didn't have any firm figures. Ann said Emma had asked for the finances of CWW to be raised as they were struggling to meet their target. Matt said that it was a principle that if one church couldn't pay their share the WCP will have to make up the shortfall. He said our only decision is to honour our commitments to the full but it is really too early in the year to commit.
- ii. Emma had been looking at drafting a Reserves Policy. We had discovered that having such a policy is a requirement of the Charity Commission and say why there isn't one. We need to agree a policy and we can't sign off last year's accounts until we have one. It is an important document; we need long-term decision and not make it up as we go along.
- iii. Insurance: Ruth G said we had updated our insurance and added a few items on. The insurance was now complete and Emma had worked hard on this. Ruth G will ask Emma to confirm the insurance policy is now fully up to date.

#### **5. CWW Reference Group**

Steve reported that the finances had been discussed at their meeting. They were on track to reach their £12,000 target (pre this year's increase) and they have now got a wider group of people attending which was excellent. There were some strategic pandemic issues and Ruth not over committing herself - encouraging others to stand up and take responsibilities. How can responsibilities be a little more spread around. Summer 2023, Ruth is planning a sabbatical time and we need to prepare for that, but a useful target to work towards. We're meeting again 23rd September.

#### **6. Ministry**

- i. Ministerial Supervision – this had been agreed at the last meeting.
- ii. Renew Wellbeing Café – Ruth G said the café had been running for a few weeks. They had welcomed guests. The point of the trail across the partnership was to see how the café was received and it was going well. Everyone who comes along is very positive and Lynn said they are looking forward to how it is going to grow. Advertising has been very low key because the number was capped at 15 in line with Covid rules and people meet mainly outside. Carolyn said she had attended and felt there was a lovely atmosphere. Ruth said they were considering continuing through the summer holidays.
- iii. Week of Guided Prayer June 2022 -  
Ruth said she was delighted to report that between 7 and 9 prayer guides had already come forward. Ann said she thought we were still looking for a venue but this news was very encouraging.
- iv. Post July 19<sup>th</sup> plans for congregations  
Matt said St. Mary's and All Saints would be keeping things in place as they are now. Canvased opinion, people are keen to keep masks, etc. The one thing we might do is say, you can sing - but with a mask. We'll keep that in place now. We will review things regularly.  
Ruth said Christ the King also don't want to move too quickly, most would like to keep masks, singing outside was also popular. Feeling is slow and steady. One thing is important to note is that we share our building.  
Klaus said that they will also take it slowly, but not too many changes. We're not sure about singing, but may be with masks.  
Matt said that Ruth M at CWW is doing very similar things ... masks etc.

Matt said that if we get an opinionated, anti-mask view, we could have an area marked off where they can sit and take part but not make others feel unsafe. Most people that are marrying now have already scheduled their weddings several times between lockdowns. These conversations are difficult but it has to be said. Ruth said they have tried to accommodate everyone and generally people seem to be concerned about each other but she has not had to deal with weddings and baptisms.

- v. Youth and children's ministry; Matt said that the churches have kept several groups going including teens. We're now trying to work out coordinating throughout the group, will be on zoom and centralised in partnership area in Kent's Hill. It's work in progress, but we hope by early August/Autumn we'll have a revamped vision of what we can do together. For the summer there are a couple of ad-hoc things and likewise the youth programme.

## 7. **Care in the Creation Group Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> June / Environment Policy**

Ann said that Lynn has spent a lot of time drafting the environmental policy. Could we look and report back in November? Think of 3 things we are doing or will do? Both Matt and Lynn said that they hadn't fed this into meetings so far. Other things had overtaken it but it can now be brought back to the forefront. For all the things that are happening in September All Saints are working with schools, Christ the King focusing on recycling, St Mary's will be doing bug hotels in graveyards and churches without walls will be doing a guided walk. Over the two weeks in September we'll be doing a reward. Also a plug for Ryans' ride to raise money. As well as the climate crisis, over the month it will feel exciting. Steve asked how will that be publicised as we run into the summer. Matt said has volunteered to produce the flyer in August. We'll make sure it's on all the church emails and it will get coverage. Ann commented on the recycling bins that All Saints and St. Mary's are going to use. Matt said we need to find the right bins!

## 8. **Events**

**As above.**

- i. Ride and Stride – 11<sup>th</sup> September: Christ the King and All Saints taking part
- ii. Great Big Green Week
- iii. Camino (COP) pilgrims – young people walking from London to Glasgow for COP26. Ruth M. is putting some of them up in her back garden.

## 9. **Congregational Round Up**

*Community Church*

*CWW*

*St. Mary's*

*All Saints*

*Roman Catholic Church*

Klaus said the main thing is First Communion. The social aspect has been too big, only immediate family etc. It worked well though. Klaus explained that Father Francis has become a Canon which means they meet a few times a year but also to appoint a new Bishop when that happens. Klaus said it was recognition for all his work around the Diocese.

Carolyn said that All Saints has a lot of baptisms and weddings coming up and so the Stewards have been busy.

Lynn said that Christ the King did a litter pick which they did for the 'Great Tidy Up' and decided they would do this more regularly. She said that parishioners are also trying to tidy up around the church because they feel it looks a little unloved. Ruth said they were still thinking how to move into the hybrid model of live streaming and face to face. Lots of work going on behind the scenes. In person services are going well. We hope Catholic brothers and sisters agree that sharing a building is also working well. When things open up we'll have a think about how it will work going forward. Also worth noting that in last 2 months we've had a couple of cases of Covid. This had a knock on effect of who was around the following week. It focused our minds on how to work with this.

Steve said that this happened to us as well, but everyone respected the situation and it worked.

Jonathan said St. Mary's were thinking of holding an outdoor singing service and were canvassing views.

St Mary's - we're thinking about an outdoor singing service, still canvassing views.

Matt said that the on-line exhibition at All Saints and St Marys had received lots of contributors and also the virtual choir is going from strength to strength. An awful lot of work had also been done in the churchyard and it looks great. Ann said we also had Children's Crafty Church and Matt reported that he was looking to plant a church in the new housing estate and plans had started to take shape.

**10. Diocese of Oxford: 10 Year Deanery Plan for MK: 2 years to go:**

Matt had nothing to report at the moment.

**11. Mission Partnership News –**

Ann said the AGM was well attended and was interesting. The Review that had been held was being looked at by the Trustees and is not publicly available at the moment. AB I thought the review was out, what's happening?

**12. Any Other Business**

Matt reported that all three Ministers were away in the coming weeks but backup arrangements had been made.

Ruth said she was now a grandmother to a beautiful baby boy! Everyone gave Ruth their congratulations.

**13. Date/Time of Next Meeting**

7.30pm 15th September – whether this would be on zoom or in-person would be decided nearer the time.

The meeting ended with The Grace.

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**Walton PCC**

*Note: members of Walton PCC are:*

- *those WCP Council members affiliated to the Church of England and/or who have joined the Electoral Roll – namely Rev. Matt Trendall (chair), Rev. Keith Straughan, Ann Beaton, Jonathan Bailey, Carolyn Sanderson, Ayokunnu Otunla, Steve Potter & Lynn Atkinson*
- *....plus Walton's churchwardens – Pat Sawyer & Roger Hancock*

**1. Approval of Notes to last meeting (27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021)**

**2. Matters arising – to note and agree decisions taken at the Partnership Council above regarding CIO documentation**

**3. Date of next meeting – as per item 13 above**

Notes are approved and dates of next meeting - 15th September.