

Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting
15th September, 2021 at 7.30pm held at the Broughton Rectory

Present: Ann Beaton (Chair), , Lynn Atkinson, Rev. Ruth Gookey, Rev. Ruth Maxey, Ayokunnu Otunla, Susan Ringsell (Minutes), Carolyn Sanderson, Emma Tyler, Sue Wilson, Jonathan Bailey

Apologies: Steve Potter, Klaus Reidel, Rev. Keith Straughan, Revd. Matt Trendall,

Opening Prayer Ruth M.

1. Approval of minutes to last meeting (14th July, 2021) and Matters Arising from these minutes not covered by the Agenda

The Minutes were approved and there were no matters arising

Matters arising not covered by agenda - None

2. Review of CIO - There was nothing to report at the moment.

ACTION: Ruth G, Ruth M, Matt and Ann meet up to look at progress (action carried over from July meeting)

3. Safeguarding

Ann said that we had spoken of the Anglican Living in Love and Faith document at our last meeting as the Bishop of Oxford had asked us to reflect on this. Carolyn said the document was well laid out in distinct sections. Ruth M. felt that we should be aware of the breath of view within our denominations. Ann said that there was a leaflet about Living in Love and Faith which she would send round to everyone.

ACTION: Ruth G., Ruth M., Matt and Ann would get together to look at holding a review of our safeguarding procedures rather than our policy (action carried over from the July meeting)
Ann would send Living in Love and Faith information to members

4. Finance

i. Financial position to date:

As of the 20th September there was £21,225.88 in our current account and £78,798.64 in our reserves account.

Emma said there were no issues and she was arranging a meeting in October/November with our Treasurers to discuss how this year had gone and looking forward to 2022.

Emma and Matt had attended a meeting to discuss a new Parish Share s. Three options were given and the result was that option B was chosen. The proposed share figures for Walton under each option were very similar:

A - £62,866

B - £61,295

C - £62,407

The figures varied much more widely for other churches.

This means that our share for next year will be down by 8.6%. We will still have the MK Partnership share to come but we are still looking at a lower figure than last year.

Ann said that our Deanery is in severe financial trouble. Many of our partnerships had been deeply affected by Covid restrictions and were unable to pay their full share. We were in the fortunate

position of not having to rely on rental income for instance to make our books balance. This loss of share had impacted on the Deanery. It has been suggested that partnerships who were able might consider supporting the Deanery financially. Ann said she would like to put forward that our Partnership pay our present share next year thereby donating the difference from the lower figure we will then be paying.

ACTION: Would members please reflect on this for a discussion at our next meeting

- ii. Reserves Policy; Emma explained to the meeting the figures she had put against the short and medium terms and asked the meeting if they agreed them. After a full discussion the £30,000 was agreed as put in the short term and the £5,000 for the medium term but it was felt that a sum of £10,000 for property repairs should be added. The meeting felt that the long term figure should be the monies in the reserve account.
Carolyn asked if the longer term issue should be something the CWW Guidance Group should be considering?
Ruth G and Ann felt that there were several things that needed to be discussed regarding the longer term policy.
Emma asked if everyone was happy with the individual congregation paragraph (3 months).
Everyone agreed saying they liked the 'review and support' element and that it showed we were one team.

Action: Emma would draw up a draft with the figures discussed for a further discussion at our next meeting. Ann would speak to our Accounts Examiner regarding our Reserves Policy when it had been finalised.

- iii. Insurance: Emma confirmed that we had paid approx. £200 more for our overall changes to the policy the Wellbeing Café being one of them.

Ann thanked Emma very much indeed for all her work on our behalf.

5. CWW Reference Group

The Group were due to meet on the 23rd September. At this time there was nothing to report. Ann asked if it was possible that the Group's meetings could be convened before the WCP meetings so that a full report of any business discussed could be given. Carolyn said she would note this.

6. Ministry

- i. Renew Wellbeing Café – It had rained heavily for the first Café after the break so attendance was down but there has been interest shown by local people. The pilot had gone well. We will use this year to see if the Café is viable to run. We will continue to use the resources of the Wellbeing Family East Midlands Region although there will be a cost for this.
- ii. Week of Guided Prayer June 2022: Possibly looking at the 19th June. A good response from the prayer guides: seven have already signed up. Ruth M will contact them again in the New Year. The big question is a potential venue. We will need a budget for this Week.
- iii. Apprentice Course: This is a course being run by Matt for people who wish to be baptised or confirmed or someone seeking to refresh their faith – rather like a mini-Alpha course. The first meeting is on the 28th September.
- iv. Thanksgiving/Memorial Services
Matt is holding two Memorial Services: one at All Saints at 3.00pm and one at St. Mary's at 5.00pm on the 17th October. On the 1st November there will be a Thanksgiving Service for Partnership members at 7.30pm at Christ the King.
- v. Remembrance
The Services would be on Remembrance Sunday.

- vi Advent
Details for Advent were to be confirmed. It was difficult to plan ahead at the moment.
- vii Zoom Kids, Relaxed Teams and Rock Solid
Ruth M asked if we could confirm that funding for all three of the above should come from the WCP and this was unanimously agreed.
Carolyn asked if there were children from the Partnership attending Zoom Kids and Relaxed Teens. Ruth M. said it was difficult with teenagers to get them to mix.
Emma said she had a couple of parents who've paid for the full year. Should she transfer their monies and it was agreed that she would do so.
- viii New office opportunity in the new Wavendon Community Centre
The site of the old St. Mary's School had been fully revamped and was now available for community use. The opportunity had arisen for us to have a fully equipped office there for a rent of £1,600 per annum. This presented an ideal opportunity for our clergy to have a more 'official' venue to be able to meet parishioners. Ann would seek clarification that it would be large enough for small meetings. The meeting agreed unanimously to ask Matt to proceed with the necessary paperwork to secure the room.
Action: Matt to confirm that we will rent out the agreed room in the new Wavendon Community Centre at a rent of £1,600 per annum.

7. Care in the Creation Group

Work had been directed at events for the Big Green Week so the Group had not met since our last meeting.

8. Events

As above.

- i. Ride and Stride – it was felt this had been very successful. Opening our churches had a very positive effect.
- ii. Great Big Green Week : lots going on for this week: Christ the King are working with local schools and on an art display with St. Bernadette's RC Primary School to highlight climate change. They had a week long education station and recycling point. CWW are doing Forest Church and more and St. Mary's having a churchyard trail looking at trees. A super effort by our Partnership.
- iii. Camino (COP) pilgrims – Ruth M said it was very interesting listening to the young people talking about their pilgrimage.

9. Congregational Round Up

Community Church

CWW

St. Mary's

All Saints

Roman Catholic Church

Christ the King: Ruth G said they held a Songs of Praise style service on the Sunday of the Bank Holiday weekend which was quite full and worked well. It has been a really good summer with everyone reconnecting. They are using materials from The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity for the next few weeks – living out the Gospel from Monday to Sunday. They are thinking at the moment of how to transition to some form of live streaming. The Prayer Course has gone very well and Carolyn has been amazing helping with the Course. Carolyn said that Peter Greig (who produced the material) is going to produce material for Sunday 26th too. Lynn said numbers had crept up in September too so church is looking very busy. Ruth G said she was getting to know some new faces and it was all very encouraging.

CWW: Ruth M said that CWW remained outside for everything this summer except for Quiet Church. We are gradually reducing the number of gazebo churches now but will put the sides on soon! We held a 'back together picnic' and lots of new people have joined. Café Church will go back inside soon but Forest Church will remain outside. Our coffee morning is growing too. For midweek groups Ruth M said we are using the

'Happiness Lab' on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. Our feeling is that things are very positive.

All Saints: Carolyn said that like Christ the King and CWW we have had lots of new members. We have held some baptisms outside and we have restarted having weddings in church. We are now looking at how we can move forward and have a planning meeting the week after next.

St. Mary's: Jonathan reported that our Quiz Nights will be restarting next week in church. We are holding fortnightly Communion Services in church and looking to begin our church Coffee Mornings again soon. We are looking to slowly transition back to church and have 8 – 10 new members regularly coming to our church service. Children's Church is beginning again next week.

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

- i. The Deanery Parish Share Review: we have discussed this item under item 4 Finance.

11. Mission Partnership News –

The Bishop of Oxford's visit had been very successful. Ruth G. said that people at Christ the King felt really encouraged that he was there. His Chaplain, Paul, did a great job organising the visit.

Carolyn said she felt that it helped the Bishop to understand how ecumenism works in Milton Keynes.

12. Any Other Business

Sue said she was finding it increasingly difficult to attend the Method Circuit Meetings and would regretfully have to tender her resignation as our WCP representative at the Circuit meetings.

ACTION: Let the Method Circuit Secretary know that Sue has resigned

Ruth M was looking for someone from the Partnership to attend the URC Synod with her on Saturday 9th October at the Sherwood United Reformed Church, Nottingham.

ACTION: Contact Ruth M if you would like to go

This year's President of the Baptist Union is Geoff Colmer who is a WCP member and attends Christ the King. We all agreed that it would be fitting to invite him to give his reflections to our partnership at the end of his Presidency.

13. Date/Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17th November, 2021 at 7.30pm – whether this would be on zoom or in-person would be decided nearer the time.

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 (14th July, 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 – 17th November, 2021.

The meeting ended with The Grace.