

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Walton Churches Partnership

Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 7.30pm Online (Zoom)

Those present: Rev Matt Trendall (Chair), Ros and Alan Bird, Pat Sawyer, Rev Ruth Maxey, Alise Trendall, Lynn Atkinson, Rev Ruth Gookey, Ann Beaton, Sue Wilson, Carolyn Sanderson, Ayokunnu Otunla, Rachael Jenkins, Emma Tyler, Jonathan Bailey, Gloria Terrelonge, Catherine Marangu, Neil Na, Patricia Rosewell and Steve Potter.

Opening Devotions

These were led by Ruth Maxey, including John 13: 34 and 35.

1. Welcome and note of Apologies for Absence

Matt welcomed people to the AGM and noted that apologies had been received from Michael and Catherine Held, Stephanie Warren, Deacon Klaus Reidel.

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM & Matters arising

It was noted that on p4 the text should read Strategic Development Fund

Ruth Gookey proposed approval of the minutes and Ruth Maxey seconded. The minutes were approved.

Matters arising:

It is intended that Walton LEP's submission for registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation will be by end of 2021. This deadline has now been extended by 10 years but we intend to complete submission this year. Our paperwork is ready to go. Watling Valley LEP have agreed to be the MK pioneer and share their experience with other LEPs. We have obtained legal advice on transferring Ruth Gookey's employment (TUPE) to the CIO and on the Baptist Pension Fund issue. Good progress has been made on these matters.

3. Confirming Congregational Representatives to WCP (2 per congregation) and MK Mission Partnership, and of other WCP Council officers for 2020-21

The WCP Congregational Representatives were confirmed as: Ann Beaton and Jonathan Bailey (St Mary's), Carolyn Sanderson and Ayokunnu Otunla (All Saints'), Lynn Atkinson and Steve Potter (Christ the King), Sue Wilson and Emma Tyler (who is also Treasurer) (Church Without Walls), Klaus Reidel (Roman Catholic)

Mission Partnership Reps: Ann Beaton and Alex Dickens (St Mary's), Ann Harris and Sandy Grey (All Saints'), Stephanie Warren and Jo Watson (Christ the King). Church Without Walls is without reps at present.

Matt noted that he is stepping down as Chair of WCP and is also handing over Team Leader role to Ruth Gookey. The meeting thanked Matt for his hard work and achievements as Chair over the last 5 years.

Ann Beaton has agreed to serve as Lay Chair. Steve Potter proposed Ann's appointment and Lynn Atkinson seconded this. Ann introduced herself to the meeting and was unanimously elected.

Finance Update & Receipt of 2020 accounts

Emma Tyler introduced the accounts and noted that we effectively almost broke even in 2020, which was a remarkable achievement given that this it had, of course, been a very strange year. Emma thanked everyone who pulled together that resulted in 2020 ending in a very positive manner.

Emma was thanked for her work as Treasurer. Ann Beaton proposed and Alan Bird seconded receiving the accounts, which were accepted.

a. Walton LEP Housing Ltd – approval of 2020 accounts

Steve Potter explained that the WCP owns a company called Walton LEP to own the minister's house at Twinflower. The accounts have to be approved by the AGM and then sent to Companies House.

Ruth Maxey and Emma Tyler proposed and seconded the accounts which were accepted.

b. Appointment of Treasurer and Independent Examiner

Ruth Gookey proposed and Rachael Jenkins seconded that we reappoint Emma Tyler as WCP Treasurer. This was agreed Unanimously

David Harbey is stepping down as independent examiner after finishing this year's examination and we need to find a successor for next year. The staff team will liaise with Emma about this.

6. Safeguarding updates: appointment of Officer and Responsible Adults, & approval of current policy: <http://www.wcpmk.co.uk/children-and-young-people/safeguarding/>

Rachael Jenkins reported that we have had a policy review this year and there are no problems from the denominations, with there being some minor terminology changes. Training needs have also now been clarified and the recruitment policy for safeguarding has been streamlined. Matt has uploaded latest policy on WCP website. Thanks were expressed to Rachael for her work on this. Lynn Atkinson proposed and Trish Rosewell seconded the approval of Policy which was accepted unanimously.

Ruth Gookey proposed and Lynn Atkinson seconded the proposal that Rachael Jenkins be reappointed as safeguarding officer. Ruth Gookey proposed and Lynn Atkinson seconded the proposal that Ros Bird be reappointed as Responsible Person. Both approved unanimously.

7. Mission and Ministry updates

a. Re-opening church buildings and future plans, both in-person and online

Ruth Gookey reported that Christ the King Community church had restarted services in the church last week and has retained the online facebook service. Also thinking about livestreaming services. The congregation is in a quite an exciting 'pioneery' time, exploring new ways of doing things.

Ruth Maxey reported that CWW has started back outdoors in the front garden gazebo since Easter Sunday. They are doing live streaming on Zoom which is low tech but works! CWW have managed to

reconnect with a number of families since restarting in person. A new mental support group called Chit Chat has started. There is a need to sort out venues for services after the summer.

Matt noted that the circumstances had resulted in effectively combined services for St Mary's and All Saints'. Online reach has surpassed all expectations and will continue to be provided. Some things have worked very well online (e.g. quiz night). Starting from 2nd May services will be held at the church buildings. Matt records online assemblies for schools which have worked very well and demand for them has grown. Five local schools now take these. Also have a Thursday night virtual choir who record for the online services.

Across the WCP, the Lent Groups also worked very well online.

b. LEP Vision and Mission Action Planning for 2022-25

At some point we need to review the direction of the partnership. The Staff Team suggest we could probably start this in the autumn.

c. Update on new estates in Wavendon

The new estates in Wavendon are now rapidly growing, particularly along A421. Matt reported that we are pursuing organic ways of developing mission here, which included contributing to 100 Easter packs distributed to families. Have some people and links developing, both in evangelism and community building.

d. Renew Wellbeing Cafe

Ruth Gookey reported that a Wellbeing Café space is to be run in the Kents Hill Community Centre in partnership with mental health services. Planning pilot scheme in June/July. This will be café style where people bring things/activities/talents to share. There will be a monthly Zoom prayer slot to support this.

e. Thy Kingdom Come

...Is not far away. A number of options exist as well as the core prayer for five people.

f. WCP summer picnic

Historically we have had a BBQ; but to be Covid compliant this year, a bring-your-own picnic is planned for 4th July. Details to follow.

g. Other events

There is the 'As One' national initiative to get communities together post lockdown. MK Partnership is putting a bid together for this in July or September. We need to get involved – and this provides real opportunities to link to local communities and businesses.

Climate Action – ahead of November's CoP26 conference a lot will happen in September. 5th September is Climate Sunday. A pilgrimage will pass through MK on 11th/12th September and there is a call to accommodate walkers and host events on 12th Sept. 18th – 26th September is *Great Big Green Week*. Matt suggested we have a group to plan events linking to local community groups. Could include schools events, Walton Community Council etc.

8. AoB

The Mission Partnership is undergoing a review and could be facing a serious cut in finances – prayers would be valued. Matt is representing our views at the review meetings and is liaising with other key stakeholders in our Partnership.

Date of next meeting of WCP Council

This was agreed as Thursday 27th May at 7.30pm to replace the earlier date of 16th June.