

Walton Churches Partnership Council

Our Vision: Seeking, Sharing and Celebrating the Abundant Life of God

Our Mission: Thinking small: Generous hospitality: Involving everyone

Minutes of the meeting held on *Wednesday 1st February, 2023*, at 7.30pm in the Board Room, Wavendon Community Centre (opposite St. Mary's Church)

Opening Prayer by Ruth M.

Present: Jonathan Bailey, Ann Beaton (Chair), Ruth Gookey, Ruth Maxey, Ayokunnu Otunia, Stephen Potter, Klaus Reidel, Susan Ringsell (minutes), Carolyn Sanderson, Mandy Sleight, Revd. Matt Trendall, Stephanie Warren and Sue Wilson

Apologies for Absence: Emma Tyler

Ann explained that the agenda had been changed to allow Ruth G to stay for one hour as part of her return to work programme.

1. **Approval of minutes to last meeting (9th November, 2022) and Matters Arising from these minutes not covered by the Agenda:** All confirmed
2. **Ministry**
 - i. **New WCP website launched:** Matt said new website launched successfully. Hosting arrangements have changed and he thanked everyone for their hard work on a big undertaking.
 - ii **Review of Angel Tree:** Matt said this year's donations were better than ever and it was very much a fixture of what we now do. He said thank you to the team for organising this.
 - iii **Review of Christmas, including leaflet:** Ruth M said that CWW crib service had gone well and also their two carol services.
Stephanie reported good attendance at Christ the King services and Steve said they had changed their carol service to Christmas Eve which worked well.
Klaus said their service was held at 7.30pm and better attended.
Matt said St. Mary's Christmas Day was well attended and Carolyn said there was standing room only at their Midnight Mass.
Leaflet: Steve said that the leaflet covering all of Walton was great but finding out what was on at each different location on website was a little more difficult. Church wise might work better. He does a customised version on CtK website.
Ruth M said the leaflet could be church wise as opposed to calendar format. It could do with a re-format. The issue for distribution is that we cover four parishes.
Matt said it feels that post pandemic congregations are staying local.
Note: an agenda item – discuss this earlier in Autumn eg get publicity out by mid-September.
Stephanie said we should give a warm vote of thanks to Matt and Alise for leading the carol service on Hindhead Knoll. It was very well received and a great piece of community work.
 - iv **Warm Spaces update:** St. Mary's had and attendance was averaging mid teens. Jonathan said are we hitting the target audience – we don't know. Matt reported that the one at MK Village Hall on a Tuesday afternoon had really taken off with attendance of 40+. The word was spread on social media groups. Ruth M said their warm space on a Friday lunchtime was slow taking off. Steve said that Renew at CtK on a Tuesday morning is a different space and impact is currently smaller but significant for people that attend. Steve asked what will we

do for the warmer weather. Steve also said that there was a warm space linked to the new Food Bank and they are only having 5 to 6 people and for the first few weeks had none.

- v **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** 18th – 25th January: Theme: Do Good; seek justice (Isaiah 1:17): Ann said there were a mixture of events and all were very well planned. Carolyn said she went to four events and it covered a great deal. It was introducing different church communities with a sense of working together. Klaus said that Tim said he would like to do this again next year. Matt said it was a brilliant week but a lot of work in terms of MK city size. He said there needs to be a sense of purpose and unity with no strings attached. Next step is to pay towards it as we did with the Mission Partnership. It was felt that MK was almost too big to have a Churches Together movement. It was agreed that Ann would write to Tim to say thank you for all his hard work on such a successful week.
- vi **Ash Wednesday Services:** Communion with Ashing at 11.00am at St. Mary's and an evening service for WCP at CtK at 7.30pm. Matt is meeting Ruth G on Friday.
- vii **Lent Course 2023:** 'Let Your Light Shine' and WCP Groups: Matt said he was excited by the booklet; it's really well put together and will work well across mixed groups. This will be a series of five sessions held weekly but not in Holy Week and with daily readings. Matt has purchased 36 copies of the booklet. This can also be purchased on Kindle and Matt is seeking permission to photocopy it. Steve said there will be RC participation and is seeing Philip tomorrow. The idea is to invite the Catholic congregation. Potentially a group between the two services (30 min max). Ruth M has done a draft of the leaflet to be given out listing all the groups.

3. **Congregational Round Up:**

Staff update: Ruth G gave a history of her illness, the treatment she is being given and her phased return back to work. She thanked everyone for their patience and kindness. Steve is working with Ruth on this.

Community Church: Steve said on the congregational side people have come forward and they are well supported and it is an opportunity to build up relationships with others.

CWW: The key thing is preparing for the sabbatical and general sustainability. We've had a flurry of new people attending. The Reference Group has been taken off the agenda for now as Jenny has been ill and we shall wait until she returns to work.

St. Mary's: Jonathan said that we are back to pre-Covid apart from Communion. The new warm space on Friday is still good and numbers in the congregation have gone up.

All Saints: Carolyn said numbers are rising and a diverse congregation. They are starting children's church again with four leaders.

Roman Catholic Church: Klaus said they were similar in terms of moving back to pre-Covid times. They were getting new people too. Communion classes are now centralised.

- 4. **Self-supporting Curate for 2024:** Matt said that a curate is a vicar in training, accepted to be ordained once they have had academic training too. They are put into an 'assistant' vicar's role for 3 to 4 years. The Anglican Diocese pays their stipend. Matt has been approached by someone who wishes to come to him for their curacy. They are known, respected and have the relevant experience. They also have their own accommodation. They address all the reasons we weren't able to have a curate before. The financial cost is small, just expenses. The application has to be with the Diocese by early February and a resolution in favour by the WCP would be very helpful. They are not due to begin until June 2024. They have indicated they would be prepared to stay after their curacy has ended. The WCP Council unanimously agreed a resolution in favour of this application.

5. Finance:

Emma is working on the accounts.

- i. Update of proposed share for 2023: We will have a lower share from the Deanery, £58,500. Last year we paid £66,000.
The insurance for Ruth G has been sorted out with Aviva.
- ii Heating our buildings this winter: a discretionary total grant of £3,489 i.e £1,163 for each of the three church buildings: Matt gave a quote to the Diocese for their website on our award.
- iii Churches Together in MK Trust Payments: We are paying £6 per member and we have approx. 220 members so payment will be approx.. £1,300 : so there will be no budget impact.

6. Safeguarding:

Matt has left a message at the Diocese but looking at the number of people who need to do their training a face-to-face meeting for ten people may be enough.

No safeguarding concerns have been raised.

7. Environmental Update:

Rosie is producing another Creation Care Newsletter which should be with us in the next two days. Matt said it is very good with lots of practical tips.

- 8. Ecumenical Oversight Group – LEP Reviews:** A special meeting has been arranged for the 16th March at Ruth M's home. We will meet at 7.30pm at St. Lawrence's Church for breaking bread and then walk to Ruth's for the meeting to finish at 9.30pm. Ann attended Team Leaders/Lay Chairs meeting. No minutes are produced from this meeting. Confidentially Tim Norwood said that when we have produced our LEP Review we will be visited by the Trustees to see if we wish to remain an LEP.

- 9. Review of CIO – to be looked at later in the year.**

- 10. Churches Together in Milton Keynes :** discussed above.

11. Any Other Business

- i our website and communication: discussed previously in these minutes
- ii Mental Health Friendly Churches: Salvation Army Course 24th February: £12 per person
Location is the Salvation Army HQ Conniburrow.
- iii March 28th is the 30th Anniversary of the opening of Christ the King

- 12. Date/Time of Next Meeting which will be our AGM: Wednesday 3rd May, 2023 at 7.30pm.**

Special LEP Review Meeting : 16th March (see above)

Walton PCC

Agenda for meeting

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), Ann Beaton, Carolyn Sanderson, Ayokunnu Otunla, Steve Potter & Stephanie Warren .plus Walton's churchwardens – Pat Sawyer, Barney Daley, Roger Hancock and Jonathan Bailey*

1. Approval of Notes to last meeting (9th November, 2022)

2. Matters arising:

St. Lawrence Churchyard wall – update on safety and potential repair: Matt has had a conversation with Ray Tetlow regarding the church wall. Matt didn't consider that there was an immediate health and safety risk and has proposed a cheaper solution. Still in dialogue with Ray.

All Saints: Cutting back of Yew Trees. There has been some miscommunication on which trees are protected by a TPO. Matt had asked for agreement to remove three yew bushes at the side of the path leading to church as they had grown over the path which was now single file, so represented a health and safety risk, and disability access issue. The member of the Parish Council had objections to the removal of the trees. Some cutting back of the trees has had to be done for health and safety reasons.

The Garden of Rest at St. Mary's is work in progress.

3. Date of next meeting – as per item 12 above

The meeting ended with The Grace.