

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 9th November, 2022*, at 7.30pm in the Board Room, Wavendon Community Centre (opposite St. Mary's Church)

Opening Prayer by Ann

Present: Ann Beaton (Chair), Ruth Maxey, Stephen Potter, Klaus Reidel, Susan Ringsell (minutes), Carolyn Sanderson, Mandy Sleight, Revd. Matt Trendall,

Apologies for Absence: Jonathan Bailey, Revd. Ruth Gookey, Ayokunnu Otunla, Emma Tyler, Stephanie Warren and Sue Wilson

- 1. Approval of minutes to last meeting (28th September, 2022) and Matters Arising from these minutes not covered by the Agenda:** All confirmed. Matt gave one brief Matter Arising: we did not have any Confirmation Candidates this Autumn (although we may have a couple of baptisms as a result of the Apprentice Course).
- 2. Review of CIO** – looking to register in early 2023.
- 3. Safeguarding** –
Matt reported that no concerns had been raised since our last meeting.
With regard to training it was agreed that Ruth M, Matt, Ann and Rachael if she is available would meet in the New Year and decide the best way to offer the safeguarding training that people need. When this has been agreed we can contact Rebecca at the Diocese to book whatever is necessary. The drawback is that the Diocese only train 10 people at a time and we would have more people than this. The idea was also suggested that we could gather people to do the online training together which would mean no diocesan trainer was required.
- 4. Finance: Emma has very kindly given a written finance report**
I am sorry I cannot be with you this evening.
As of 9 am on the 9th November 2022, the accounts are as follows
£25,952.33 in our current account, and £78,883.11 in our reserves.
I have no concerns for this quarter.
Ruth G has had to purchase a fire for Twinflower as the one installed has broken. The cost of £178 and has been approved by Ann and Matt. I will Ruth G pay via a BACS payment.
I am sorry I haven't had a chance to book that meeting with the treasurers but I only got a response from Ann, Matt and Ruth. I have been in contact and everyone seems ok. I will send out another email within the next few days to ask again about any issues for next year.
Update on proposed Parish Share for 2023: there is no update on this.
Christ the King share includes Ruth's full salary some of which is now being covered by illness insurance via Aviva, but we can go back to this when the situation is clearer. There may be a potential refund.
Heating our Buildings this winter: Matt said he didn't think we would qualify for the Government scheme as we are too small but the Diocese is awarding grants to all churches based on 2019 usage and given out on a pro rata basis. St Mary's and All Saints will receive a grant automatically; Matt

advised Steve to contact the diocese re: Christ the King, as the ecumenical congregation (which is Anglican as well as Baptist, Methodist and URC) pays 50% of the fuel bill, so they may also qualify for a grant. Matt has also advised treasurers to keep an eye on this.

All Saints were switching off the storage heaters and just using the overhead heaters but this was being monitored due to damp.

5. **CWW Reference Group** – to note: Report on the Way Forward Meeting 1st November, 2022: next Reference Group meeting 30th November.
Meeting on 1st November : Ruth – thought it was a very good meeting apart from the torrential rain 😊 Huw Humphreys chaired the meeting exceptionally well. It reflected on desires and hopes going forward. Second half of meeting looked at what was possible in terms of ministry, both URC and Anglican (incl. curate). There was optimism about the way forward.
Ruth goes on sabbatical in the summer next year. The sabbatical was viewed as a very important time when CWW will learn a lot about their needs. It was recommended that, alongside congregational gifts and organisation, an ‘administrator’ was needed to pull together the numbers/data and as a centre point for the congregation.
The Way Forward group will re-convene in 12 months after Ruth’s sabbatical.
6. **Environmental Update** – new Creation Care draft leaflet – attached for review.
Rosie (All Saints) had produced this draft. Everyone thought it was very good. Ruth asked if it would be possible to have it in a .jpg format and Matt will ask Rosie.
7. **Ministry:**
 - i. **50th Anniversary of the United Reform Church** – WCP Celebration – Sunday 30th October
Ruth – Lovely having everyone there and the choir was great. A good celebration.
 - ii. **Angel Tree** : This charity asks people to buy presents for children who have a parent in prison. Lynn from CtK is once again organising this. They have set a target of 30 presents and Matt said that St. Mary’s and All Saints had each set a target of 20. Each present costs £20 and you can either pay this or buy a present. Steve said that smaller donations are ok as these can be combined to make up to £20. Saturday 3rd December is the wrapping day. Ruth said that CWW raises funds for The Salvation Army but will look at this charity next year.
 - iii. **Christmas Leaflet and other advertising**
The meeting discussed the best way to get news of the Christmas services to everyone. Targeted leaflets printed for specific locations and jpegs for schools to send out. Matt to check with the schools if they are willing to send them out.
Klaus will let Ruth know the timings of Christmas services in the Catholic Church.
 - iv. **Warm Spaces update**
Steve said that they had registered the Renew Cafe at Christ the King.
Ruth has registered a weekly Warm Space 10.00 – 12 noon in the Broughton Pavilion.
Steve said there was also a Young Persons Club in Walnut Tree on the same basis as Renew after school on Tuesdays. Matt said St. Mary’s were considering what to do.
Talking about food larders and food banks: Matt had visited the Woughton Community Fridge: they are receiving 700 kgs of food per week and giving out 680 kgs. Matt was in contact with David Hopkins to see if something like this could be placed in the Community Centre in Wavendon or in Glebe Farm School.
 - v. **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 2023** – theme ‘Do Good; seek justice (Isaiah 1:17) – plans for hosting at CtK Wed 25th Jan : Steve had received a long email from Ann Wilson who we assume is the administrator for this event asking numerous questions such as insurance

and stewarding. Matt, Steve and Ann all felt this was 'over the top' and was not necessary for a church service, as we held these every week. Matt has sent a response and is waiting to hear back. Thousands of leaflets have already been printed so what will happen if agreement can't be reached we don't know.

Ruth apologised but said this was her Taize visit week so she would not be here for the service.

8. Congregational Round Up

Staff Updates

Steve said that the OT has recommended Ruth does not start work until New Year. Suggested she do some work hardening activities to help understand the phasing in of a return to work.

It was felt that someone was needed on the pastoral side to help for the next six months. Ruth will have a conversation with Stephanie about picking up the pastoral side and will speak to Ruth before this to allay any concerns she has about this.

Community Church: Steve said that the services and finance all OK. For the harvest we did a collection for the food cupboard in Bletchley. Matt kindly led a service for Heronshaw School, and they have asked if they can come back for Christmas.

Ruth will lead a Christingle service. From training undertaken we identified networking opportunities was a weakness.

We now have a healthy congregation in 40s rather than 30s but there are still a few people not confident to come back.

CWW

Mandy said their numbers had remained steady through the pandemic. Ruth said that they are planning to run an online prayer for Advent. This is the first Christmas of doing everything again and all the information is in their Newsletter. They are also holding a Christmas Wreath Making event.

St. Mary's

Ann and Matt said that St. Mary's was back to normal offering quizzes, coffee mornings at the school and in church and the language classes. They are having a Ladies Night on the 18th November. Matt said that numbers are great with residents from the new estates and he is encouraged.

All Saints

There were 50 in the congregation on Sunday, the second time in 3 weeks. Numbers are good, but with different people. They are holding their Christmas Fayre on the 19th November. They are also holding a Christmas Wreath Making event.

Roman Catholic Church

Klaus said that numbers are up but not quite like they used to be. It's a different congregation. First communion classes have started.

9. Ecumenical Oversight Group – LEP Reviews: Special meeting in 2023

10. Churches Together in Milton Keynes : Matt said that they are organising the Week of Christian Unity in January.

11. Any Other Business – our website and communication

Website

Matt said we will be moving over to a different web host and that meant that the websites had to be redone. CkK's was ready, St. Mary's was nearly ready but the WCP one hadn't been started. Paul North will continue to manage hosting but not the existing contract. It was agreed that we

would move the information on the WCP website to the new provider and improve the design later. Matt was able to do this.

Communication

Ann wondered if we should be looking to have a newsletter type information sheet across the Partnership. Both Ruth and Matt said this had been tried before and hadn't been that successful. Ann said it was difficult for people to understand the concept of the Partnership

12. Date/Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 11th January, 2023 at 7.30pm.

It was felt a later meeting would bring us closer to discussing Lent so the meeting has

NOW MOVED to Wednesday 1st February, 2023 at 7.30pm. The 11th Jan slot has been left open for a brief catch up with a small group if there are urgent things to discuss.

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 (28th September, 2022)

2. Matters arising: St. Lawrence Churchyard wall – update on safety and potential repair: Matt has been in touch 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. Awaiting Ray's feedback.

All Saints: Matt asked for agreement to remove three yew bushes at the side of the path leading to church. They had grown over the path which was now single file, so represented a health and safety risk, and disability access issue. All Saints also has many other yew trees in the churchyard. All Saints DCC (known as the Stewards Council) had unanimously agreed to remove them (subject to permission) at their last meeting. The PCC was now asked to approve the same resolution: that these three yew trees should be removed, subject to permission. This was proposed by Carolyn Sanderson, seconded by Steve Potter and unanimously agreed.

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