

# Walton Churches Partnership Council

## Minutes 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2022: 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church, Wavendon

**Present:** Jonathan Bailey, Ann Beaton (Chair), Ayokunnu Otunia, Stephen Potter, Susan Ringsell (Minutes) Carolyn Sanderson, Mandy Sleight, Matt Trendall and Stephanie Warren,

**Apologies:** Ruth Gookey, Ruth Maxey, Klaus Reidel, Emma Tyler and Sue Wilson

**Opening Prayer by Caroline** – we were especially thinking of Ruth at this time and praying for her full recovery.

### 1. **Approval of minutes to last meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022) and Matters Arising from these minutes not covered by the Agenda**

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising: Jonathan had kindly agreed to be the Anglican Rep. on the MK Deanery Synod. Ruth M. was very keen for a WCP member to attend the URC Synod meetings from now on. Ann said she would be happy to attend them and, as we were allowed two members, would someone else be willing to attend? Please contact Ann if you want further information.

### 2. **Review of CIO**

Ann had looked at the on-line application and had printed off a copy and completed in red the details she could. Steve now has this copy which he will update and then give to Matt who is our lead on this and therefore has to complete our on-line application.

### 3. **Safeguarding**

No concerns had been raised since the last meeting.

**Training:** Ann said that the mandatory requirement to undertake Domestic Abuse training by the Oxford Diocese had been withdrawn.

Ann had written to the Diocese to ask about face to face training and it appeared they were able to provide access to an off-line version of the Basic Awareness course which we could use with small groups. The person facilitating this training must have safeguarding training up to leadership level. For the Foundation Level training the Diocese does have a small team of volunteers who could deliver this to a group of up to 10 people. Matt would liaise with Rachael regarding whether we can organise this.

### 4. **Finance**

Emma had sent the following report:

Good Evening all, please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this evening's meeting.

As of 20th May 2022 our current account has £27,831.68. Our reserves £68,802.56.

Currently I have no concerns regarding this quarter, everything is paid and up to date.

September time to get a feel how this year will end and to look at the budget for next year. I will email the team within the next few weeks to get a date set up.

If any congregation needs any support please let me know; I am only an email or phone call away.

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

Steve reported that the CWW Reference Group meeting scheduled for late May had been postponed.

Ann explained that she had been invited to attend a meeting with Carolyn and Matt of the CWW 'Way Forward' Group looking at how the church will go forward when Ruth leaves in 2025. Carolyn very kindly gave a short history of how CWW had come into being and the story of Hagar was told and the quote 'Where have you been and where are you going?' seemed to be appropriate questions for us to think about as we want to build on the amazing work that Ruth has achieved.

Members of the CWW Group thought about what CWW stood for and what it did not stand for and what the church needed in the future.

Ruth had spoken to people at the recent URC Synod and recounted to the group what she felt was achievable bearing in mind the conversations she had had. I think we need to stress that these were initial ideas to form conversations and put ideas on the table.

The Way Forward Group were asked to consider what Ruth does now and how this could be split to cover worship and the many community activity that takes place.

Matt said that all changes must be considered in the light of the Partnership. It was noted that at the moment the Way Forward Group was made up of CWW members and this was right but when things got on a more formal footing membership of the Group would have to include members of the Partnership. Mandy was part of the Group and said that the Group were looking at all ideas but she was worried about the financial situation when looking for Ruth's successor.

The next meeting of the Way Forward Group was Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Ruth isn't with us tonight so Ann suggested this item was put on the agenda for our next Council Meeting. Everyone agreed with this.

## 6. Ministry

- i. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Reform Church and WCP Working Group: We are going to celebrate the URC's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 30<sup>th</sup> October and need a small working group to make the arrangements. Matt said there is some guidance and marketing materials from the URC that we could use. Please let Ann know if there is someone in your congregation who would be willing join this Group.  
NB: A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 2.00pm at the Broughton Rectory.
- ii. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June: Everyone is doing something in their parish: Matt said there is lots going on in the area. St. Mary's has a programme; CWW are having a big picnic with any profit going to their two charities: Stepping Stones and World Vision.
- iii. Week of Guided Prayer – 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June: Matt said there are spaces available but please let him know as soon as possible if you wish to join.
- iv. WCP Barbeque – suggest beginning of September say Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 1.00pm. Location to be agreed at a later date. Ann will speak to Ruth.
- v. Pentecost Journey: Matt has written the Pentecost Reflections for the Bible Society and you can sign up to receive them by e-mail.

Matt asked the meeting what they thought of the Lent Course: Surprised by Hope by Tom Wright. All agreed it was interesting but difficult!

7. **Environmental Update:** We are going to take the Environment Policy that Lynn drafted back to our individual Councils. Please let Ann know if you need a copy of this.

## **8. Congregational Round Up:**

### **Community Church - Christ the King**

In Ruth's absence Steve is organising services and the web casts have halted. There is audio/pictures on Facebook for their on-line congregation. They are hosting the Baptist Regional Assembly in July. Steve said they are enhancing rather than adding services. Stephanie said Christ the King were very appreciative of all the help they were receiving.

Matt said that all employment details have been taken care of for Ruth.

Matt also reported that Keith Straughan had now officially stood down as a Minister in our Partnership. He has Permission to Officiate from the Diocese but this is for very occasional use. Matt said that this means the staff team is down to three people. The Partnership wanted to show their tremendous appreciation to Keith for all he had done for us. Matt said that Philip Derbyshire had Permission to Officiate and was willing to help on an occasional basis.

### **CWW (Churches Without Walls)**

Mandy said that they were carrying on as normal.

### **St. Mary's, Wavendon**

Jonathan reported that things were back to normal and last Sunday was the first Sunday there was an option not to wear masks. Matt said that everything is now pretty much back to normal.

### **All Saints,**

Carolyn reported that All Saints had also stopped insisting on mask wearing and it was now the congregation's choice. The online choir and exhibitions continue to go well across both All Saints and St Mary's.

### **Roman Catholic Church**

Klaus was not able to be at the meeting.

## **9. Ecumenical Oversight Group – LEP Reviews:**

Tim Norwood, the Area Dean, had given Ann the LEP Review document which we had 12-18 months to complete. Matt suggested we look at which part of the review would be helpful to us.

## **10. Diocese of Oxford: 10 Year Deanery Plan for MK and Closure of Mission Partnership**

Ann said that the Mission Partnership will be formally closed in September. The Deanery Plan will carry on. Ann had attended a Lay Chair/Leaders Meeting with Tim Norwood. These meetings will be held regularly, three times a year, and were a forum for discussions between the LEP on how things were going. Matt would attend with Ann whilst Ruth is on sick leave.

Tim is looking to form a Churches Together in MK but said this could potentially take 2/3 years to set up.

## **11. Any Other Business - None**

## **12. Date/Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in-person at St. Mary's Wavendon. The meeting ended with the Grace. Ann asked if we could use the prayer that CWW used at their end of their meetings to end our next meeting. Ann will send the prayer to everyone.