

# Walton Churches Partnership Council

## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, at 7.30pm in the Board Room Wavendon Community Centre

**Present:** Ann Beaton (Chair), Ruth Maxey, Klaus Reidel, Jonathan Bailey, Ayokunnu Otunia, Stephen Potter, Carolyn Sanderson, Matt Trendall and Sue Wilson

**Apologies:** Ruth Gookey, Emma Tyler, Mandy Sleight, Stephanie Warren and Susan Ringsell

Sue Wilson opened in prayer.

### **1. Minutes to last meeting (10<sup>th</sup> August, 2022)**

These were approved and there were no Matters Arising

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

It was noted that the registration application is ready to go, so the only decision is when to submit this to the Charities Commission. It was agreed we should look to registering early in the new year. We will then need to focus on operation procedures and financial arrangements. It was agreed we should have a special separate meeting to do this.

### **3. Safeguarding**

Matt reported there were no specific issues. Rachael Jenkins has set us up on the Church of England safeguarding dashboard and we are at level 2, which is fine. Looking to training in 2023. Ann will seek a date for training and co-ordinate with Rachael.

### **4. Finance:**

Emma sent her apologies and provided a written report including:

- As of the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 the Partnership has £18,251.21 in the account with £78,831.11 in reserves. Everything has been paid and up to date.
- Emma has prepared a draft budget for 2023, and once she has spoken to all involved this will be finalised.

It was noted that the cost of living crisis could affect our finances and the need to signpost the help available.

#### **i. Proposed share for 2023**

Noted that a reduced Anglican share is proposed for 2023. Emma's draft budget assumed a higher share, so this will need to be revised. It was noted that there needs to be a second iteration of what congregations can afford and feed this into the revised budget.

ii. Effect of the cost of living crisis – There was an awareness that we need to plan in anticipation of need. All Saints have been exploring the idea of having a weekly warm space drop-in at the village hall. CWW is exploring a 'warm welcome' space in conjunction with Parish Council to amalgamate coffee morning.

There are pockets of funding available if we can offer help to people locally and there is an Anglican 'Warm Welcome Campaign'. Matt is looking at doing something at Wavendon Community Centre. Renew at CtK could be advertised as providing a warm space (when heating is restored!). It was noted that MK Council

have a cost of living support site and congregations can provide link to that. This site is at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk) and go to [Council Cost of Living Support](#).

## 5. CWW Reference Group

Noted that there is a Way Forward Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November involving key denominational people and others to explore options for sustaining CWW when the Special Category Minister funding ends. The Reference Group meeting has been postponed to after this meeting and will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

## 6. Ministry:

- i. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Reform Church – this is coming together, Ruth handed out signup sheets. We should encourage congregations to attend. It was noted that there is also a more formal MK-wide celebration on the evening of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October at Christ the Cornerstone.
- ii. URC Synod – Ruth, Ann and Elaine attended the 10<sup>th</sup> September celebration.
- iii. Autumn Apprentice Course -this started last night. There are 5 people participating.
- iv. Zoom Kids and Relax Teens – both are WCP groups and are underway. Both have made a good start back.
- v. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 2023 - There is a week of events across Milton Keynes organised by MK Churches Together, ending with a service on 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm at Christ the King.

7. **Environmental Update** – Possible Climate Action Event/Meeting. Ann had obtained useful background and Matt talked with David Miller. Matt subsequently contacted Climate Action and said we could not host an event at the moment, but may be opportunity once Churches Together in Milton Keynes are more established.

## 8. Congregational Round Up

Staff Updates: It was noted that Ruth is signed off to 31<sup>st</sup> October. The working plan is for a gentle phased return to work. Ruth is doing occasional therapy activities and has occupational therapy specialist help. Ann and Steve are in regular contact.

Community Church: Steve has been organising services and other aspects at CtK, together with support from the Stewards and others. CtK is also hosting the Baptist Regional Ministers Induction Service on Saturday.

CWW: Had celebration service last Sunday to begin exploring with the wider congregation the way forward and encourage greater congregational responsibility.

St. Mary's: are largely back to pre-covid situation regarding services and activities. Got a good growing congregation and community engagement activities are developing well. Thursday Language Café is going well.

All Saints: Have had a lot of new people coming on Sundays. About half the people there are new. There is a harvest exhibition this Sunday.

Roman Catholic Church: Numbers are recovering well and a lot of new people are attending. The MK Cluster has been reorganised and now has two Priests; The Cluster Office has been unable to move to CtK Presbytery as tenants are refusing to move.

9. **Ecumenical Oversight Group – LEP Reviews:** This needs to be a special agenda item for a later meeting.

10. **Churches Together in Milton Keynes** – Charity Status achieved. Mission Partnership has now been wound up.

**11. Diocese of Oxford: 10 Year Deanery Plan for MK** - Nothing is happening for a while. This can be taken off the agenda until some action is needed.

**12. Any Other Business** – WCP Membership of the Play Association has been arranged by Ruth M. Any congregation can use membership number **W8929** to access scrap store, resources, equipment hire (e.g. summer events equipment) and training.

Matt's desktop is on its last legs. Agreed this should be funded at WCP level – Matt has identified a suitable refurbished machine for £195. It was agreed that he proceeds to buy this.

**13. Date/Time of Next Meetings** 9<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> January

### Walton PCC

#### Agenda for meeting

**1. Notes to last meeting (10<sup>th</sup> August, 2022)** – these were approved

#### **2. Matters arising**

Matt reported that revisions need to be made to the plans for St Mary's Garden of Rest. This involves having a larger area for burial of ashes. The work should be completed by late Spring 2023.

St Lawrence Churchyard: Ruth asked if it is OK to do a churchyard cleanup. Matt clarified that is fine. Ruth asked regarding checking safety of gravestones and walls. Noted this is the responsibility of the PCC. Matt to check with the Diocese about permissions and process.

**3. Date of next meeting – as per item 13 above**

**The meeting closed with the Grace.**

*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*