

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 meet held on Tuesday, 24th September, 2024, at 7.00pm in The Board Room, Wavendon Community Centre

The meeting opened with a prayer by Ruth.

Present: Ann Beaton (Chair), Alison Drury, Carolyn Sanderson, Stephanie Warren, Ruth Maxey, Ian Pearce, Jonathan Bailey and Matt Trendall

Apologies for absence: Mandy Sleight, Susan Ringsell, Sue Wilson, Klaus Reidel, Steve Potter

Ann welcomed Alison as our new Curate and Ian as our new Pastor to their first meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA.:

The minutes of the meeting of the 25th June, 2024, were approved. There were no matters arising.

2. MINISTRY:

Brief Review of:

MOVING UP EVENT: Ruth said that 24 children had been involved in the event and thanked Lisa Rowe for all her hard work.

RELAXED TEENS – URC Weekend: Ruth said that there were 36 young people altogether at the URC weekend and 8 of these were from our Partnership, from St Mary's, Christ the King and CWV. There will be another URC event coming up at the end of next March. Lisa's input was amazing.

ZOOM KIDS: Ruth reported that there were two new leaders, Beth and Rachel from All Saints and they are starting a Children's Choir on the weeks when there isn't a Zoom Kids running.

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AIDER: Ruth asked if the Partnership could pay for our two new leaders to go on a Paediatric First Aid Course via the Play Association of which we are members. (This is being checked). Elaine was already qualified but with more children coming it would be good practice to have all leaders trained up. There is a child who may need an Epipen and one with a severe allergy so it is absolutely necessary. The cost is £105 per person and the meeting unanimously agreed to pay £210 for Beth and Rachel to attend this training.

It was felt that as all our churches Sunday Schools were growing, our other congregations should be made aware of this training and that there were three people within the Partnership who were qualified.

WCP BBQ – Sunday 21st July: Everyone thought this was a lovely event. The weather was perfect and it was a very positive event for the WCP. Thanks were given to Matt and Alise for all their hard work preparing the Rectory for the BBQ.

INDUCTION SERVICE FOR IAN: This was an absolutely fabulous service for Ian's Induction as Pastor at and Christ the King and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

WCP QUIET DAY: 13th September: Ruth reported that 12 people attended the day which was another lovely event. Many of the people were from the Newport Pagnell URC which was very good to see.

WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER 2025: Ian is a trained Spiritual Director. It will go on our next agenda.

RUTH'S INDUCTION SERVICE: 14th September: This was another lovely service. It was very well organised and the music group in particular were excellent. Some of the players were from CWW.

TEAM LEADER'S/LAY CHAIRS MEETING: 30th July: Ann attended this meeting: News was given on Barry Lotz's retirement at Watling Valley: no Presbyter will take his place but a Deacon with preaching. At Stantonbury, Chi is being installed as Rector but there is still an Anglican post to fill. Two more Methodist Ministers are leaving the LEP's.

Autumn events and initiatives:

CHRIST THE KING COMMUNITY CHURCH: CONGREGATION VISION DAY 5th October: There was some trepidation, but also largely acceptance, from the congregation when it was announced that the post would become part-time or slightly more. The post does come with the house which is an advantage and does make the post more attractive.

ALPHA COURSE: The first session is tomorrow night; Matt is not sure how many people will attend.

FAITH MATTERS: This is a young people's Confirmation Course which is being held on alternate Tuesdays. Three of the five attendees were ill tonight so the session was postponed.

ECUMENICAL CONFIRMATION SERVICE 24th November: The Bishop of Oxford will be officiating. We have one candidate so far.

REMEMBRANCE: Ruth said that there will not be a Remembrance Service on the 11th November at St. Lawrence's Church and she has let the Trust know. Ian said that Christ the King is linking up with the Roman Catholic Church at 10.55am on Remembrance Sunday and Ian is meeting with Fr. Francis.

Ian said that he is taking an Assembly at Heronshaw School on the 11th November.

ADVENT: Ruth reported that Broughton PC are holding a lighting the Christmas Tree event on 30th November. CWW have been asked to join – could All Saints support it as well? They usually sing Carols outside whilst the Tree is being lit and lead the Carol Singing. Ruth wondered whether Rosie's Virtual Choir could help, but Rosie is not available at present.

Ruth also reported that CWW are having a Beers and Carols Evening outside the pub at Broughton.

Matt and Alise are waiting for an invite to the Walnut Tree Carol Concert. This will be their 10th year if they are asked to lead it.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES / CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS; We did make a Resolution last year that this year the leaflet would be electronic only for the WCP. Individual churches could do what they wanted to. The price for printing for 500 would be £44 or for 250 £36. It was agreed that printing would be on demand and up to £50 could be spent on the printing costs.

3. CONGREGATIONAL ROUND UP

Staff Updates:

Nothing to report at this time.

CHRIST THE KING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Stephanie reported that Steve had planned the Services until Christmas time so the church was well organised. She said that having Ian has made a vast difference to the congregation; they felt more secure now that a pastoral leader is here. They will hold their Christmas Eve Carol Service at 4pm.

Ian spoke of the plans for schools: Heronshaw is coming to church for this Harvest Festival. Ian is going in to Heronsgate for their Harvest Festival. Also Kents Hill Infants are all booked in for Christmas. Ian is also going in to Kents Hill Park Junior School and he is popping in to Slated Row Secondary next week. Walton High have a new Headteacher. Their performance of Godspell in February was fabulous.

Stephanie said she was very pleased that the schools are coming in again because they have the room if parents want to come as well.

Ian said he will make himself known to other schools in January. He is quite happy to do that.

CWW:

Ruth said that the church was chugging along. Most things have now been moved to the new storage unit although Ruth has kept some in her garage predominantly those used on Sundays.

ST. MARY'S:

Jonathan said that all things had returned to normal: Coffee Mornings, Quiz Nights, Language Classes. The congregation continue to grow. He said the physical issues are: work has finally started on the new Garden of Rest on the east side of the church; stones have fallen off the gable end of the roof and there are cracks on the other side: the work is out for tender: the congregation has raised £5,500 and a grant from the BHCT has been applied for.

Matt said a major issue in the village was the amount of traffic that is coming through and that at peak times the road is being used as a rat run. Some of the villagers are pushing for a full closure of the road at the S bend but a compromise is for ANPR cameras to be sited at both ends of the village and if you drive through in a stipulated time at peak times you will be fined through the post. Those who have legitimate business in the village will therefore not be fined. The village is split down the middle. No decision has been made yet.

ALL SAINTS:

Carolyn said it was lovely to see a lot of Alison at All Saints. There are also many more children attending church. Beth and Rachel are leading a Children's Choir but the vestry does need sorting out now, and there was a wet carpet on Sunday morning, thanks to blocked drains (note: all fixed now). Congregation numbers are keeping up.

Matt said that the church is going through a Vision Process; they are looking at a draft vision which is going out to the congregation in the near future.

Ann asked about the Deanery Mission Plan and did it affect the parishes MAP. The Deanery one is concentrating on the 5 Marks of Mission and has a rolling focus on youth work. The new Area Dean is Revd. Paul Oxley with 2 Assistant Area Deans: Revd. Gill Barrow-Jones and Revd. Catherine Butt.

4. URC POST FOR CWW AND NEWPORT PAGNELL – update

Ruth said that everything officially begins from the day of her Induction – although the new financial arrangements, including our M&M contribution, began on the 1st July, 2024. Her fixed car allowance will continue to be paid via CWW.

The Terms of Settlement for Ruth were signed at her Induction Service on the 14th September, 2024. Matt said that we have to agree a figure for 2025 for the Broughton Rectory: 2024 has already been settled, since our parish share is not affected by Ruth's new role. Newport Pagnell will be paying 50% of this: it will be about £6,000 for the year but may be less. Walton will pay the Diocese and the URC will be paying us. CWW will pay mileage 50% and WCP will be paying 50%.

5. FINANCE REPORT

WCP Treasurer Update: Emma has agreed to continue in post for the next six months. During this time we will look again at the Treasurer's job description. We need to pay the LEP Assessment to the Methodist Treasurer. It is £4,596.

We still need to find an auditor for our 2023 Accounts. Ann will contact Rachael who said she would ask someone at our AGM.

Matt and Ruth would look at the Fact Find page of our Insurance Policy to ensure it is correct.

6. SAFEGUARDING

No concerns have been raised.

Matt said there are some DBS's outstanding as we are renewing them every 3 years. Mandy has agreed to be the DBS verifier for CWW.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

Energy Audit for Christ the King Community Church: The report has been received and has gone to COG at Christ the King.

8. GOVERNANCE

Review of CIO: Nothing to report at present but Matt said we had been right to hold off on this for the time being.

CTMK Covenant: We need to consider whether we want to sign this document and do we continue to support them financially? (£1,300/pa).

Would we be better off keeping relationships between the LEP's? There has been an email exchange between Ann Harris and Matt regarding the Team Leaders/Lay Chair meetings. Matt said he was struggling to see where these meetings 'fit' now we were without the Mission Partnership. It didn't seem to be about primarily mutual support as the contents seems to be about business but we don't have enough business to warrant an agenda. It usually open only to the LEPs and not to the wider CTMK community. A question was asked about who served on the EOG now and whether they had any validity now that the Mission Partnership was no more. They were supposed to have broad ecumenical oversight but it was questioned whether they have a passion with LEPs.

Was CTMK going to be viable long-term? We need a group for ourselves which genuinely reflects us as LEPs.

George Mwaura had replied to Matt to say that the original and ongoing purpose of the meetings was for mutual support, sharing good practice and organising joint activities for example LEP confirmations. He felt it was also good practice for the denominations to work collectively with the LEPs through the umbrella of the EOG. In the absence of this forum, we would have to find another body that would allow the mentioned activities to take place.

The clergy agreed to review the current LEP meeting and any other possible future arrangements at their next team meeting, and would feed back to the Council in due course.

It was understood that Christ the Cornerstone was having a Visitation this week.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 7th November, 2024 at 7.00pm at Christ the King Community Church

Walton PCC

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th September, 2024, at 7.00pm at the Board Room Wavendon Community Centre

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), Rev. Alison Drury, Ann Beaton, Jonathan Bailey (also a Churchwarden), Carolyn Sanderson, Steve Potter, Stephanie Warren, Mandy Sleight
- plus Walton's other three Churchwardens – Pat Sawyer, Barny Daley, Roger Hancock.

PCC members present: Matt Trendall, Alison Drury, Ann Beaton, Carolyn Sanderson, Stephanie Warren and Jonathan Bailey

PCC apologies for absence: Mandy Sleight (also churchwardens Roger Hancock, Pat Sawyer and Barny Daley – though each had been consulted on the Pinfold Monument proposal and approved the resolution via email).

Other WCP Council members present: Ruth Maxey and Ian Pearce.

1. **Approval of Notes to last PCC meeting (25th June, 2024):** Approved nem. con.

2. **Matters arising :**

a. New Area Dean update and Deanery Mission Action Plan – The new Area Dean is Revd. Paul Oxley with two Assistant Area Deans, Gill Barrow-Jones and Catherine Butt. The new Bishop of Buckingham will reside at a house in Kingsmead, in the Watling Valley LEP Area.

b. Updates on Garden of Rest at St Mary's and reclamation of NW corner of churchyard at All Saints – The work on the Garden of Rest at St. Mary's has now started, due to be complete by mid-October. No decision on the work at All Saints will be made until St. Mary's is completed.

c. Pinfold Monument – Matt gave a history of our responsibility for this monument. The Pinfold family were major benefactors of Walton and have no living relatives. Although not listed it is an historical monument in our parish. It is our responsibility, but the OU have looked after the monument and landscaping for 50 years for us so we must bear the cost of repairing the monument. We are very grateful to the OU for all the work they have put in on our behalf. The cheapest quote from Steve Todd is for £8,316 with VAT to be added, received by email. There are also £336 of architects' fees to be paid. A summary and all tenders submitted had been circulated via email to all PCC members prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION: "This PCC approves the repair work on the Pinfold Monument and appoints Steve Todd as the contractor, according to the quotation provided to us on 12th August 2024."

This was approved unanimously.

Some £4,200 of the cost has been found so far: £2,200 from an old Trust Fund and £2,000 matched funding from the Broughton Trust. We are looking at applying for grants from other charities for the remainder of the cost (approx. £4,500) – otherwise the WCP will cover the balance.

d. Tree trim in Broughton Churchyard – no further progress on this.

e. Roof Repair at St. Mary's Church: The gable end of the roof has collapsed. The work will not cost the WCP any money directly, it will be paid for by St Mary's. The congregation have raised over £5,500 and further grant money has been applied for.

f. New Bench in All Saints Churchyard: All approvals have been given – a team from the church will install the bench in the near future.

3. Date of next meeting – as per item 10 of WCP Council meeting i.e. Thursday 7th Novembre, 2024, at 7.00pm at Christ the King Community Church

The meeting closed with a Celtic blessing at 9.00pm.