

# 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 Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, at 7.00pm in Christ the King  
Community Church

The meeting opened with a prayer by Ian.

Present: Ann Beaton (Chair), Alison Drury, Steve Potter, Klaus Reidel (part-time), Carolyn Sanderson, Mandy Sleight, Stephanie Warren, Ruth Maxey, Ian Pearce, Jonathan Bailey and Matt Trendall

Apologies for absence: Susan Ringsell, Emma Tyler, Sue Wilson

## **1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024, AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA.:**

The minutes of the meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, were approved. There were no matters arising.

## **2. MINISTRY:**

### **BRIEF REVIEW OF:**

**THE VISION DAY ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** had been well attended and had a very positive feel to it and gave pointers for the formation of the advertisement. Mandy reported on the meetings of the Search Group and said that they were meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November to finalise everything and send to Lisa Kerry, the Baptist Regional Minister, before Christmas. It will also be presented to the congregation to keep them 'in the loop' and there will be a congregational meeting on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

The Partnership Council suggested the following wording for the advertisement:

**WCP would cover the costs of housing and related expenses and we seek a Baptist Minister of 60% scoping with flexibility.**

This was proposed by Mandy Sleight, seconded by Ann Beaton and agreed unanimously. It was hoped the advertisement would be published in January 2025.

The congregation had accepted that the post would now be part-time but the salary would include the Twinflower manse and all council tax and water rates would be paid plus expenses.

Ian was doing more than half time in his current role and he was sincerely thanked for all his efforts.

### **ALPHA COURSE UPDATE**

Matt said the course was going well. There were ten people on the course: 7 guests with Ian, Matt and Alise.

## **FAITH MATTERS UPDATE**

Ruth said that there were young people from Zoom Kids and Relax Teens and 4 or 5 attend the Faith Matters Course. Ruth has doubts that she will have the capacity to keep it going after Christmas.

**RELAXED TEENS:** Ruth said that Relaxed Teens was very strong with 15/16 young people attending.

**ZOOM KIDS:** Ruth reported that Rachel and Beth from All Saints had been a marvellous addition to Zoom Kids but Ruth doesn't think there is the capacity for growth due to the demands of the children unless there was someone in a congregation that could lead. The Children's Choir at All Saints is doing very well.

### **AUTUMN EVENTS AND INITIATIVES:**

**ECUMENICAL CONFIRMATION SERVICE 24<sup>th</sup> November:** The Bishop of Oxford will be officiating at this service at Christ the Cornerstone. Matt said he will confirm how many people from Walton wish to be confirmed this week but it will only be 2 or 3.

**REMEMBRANCE AND ADVENT:** It was felt that these services were the responsibility of each church and was not a Partnership matter.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES/CHRISTMAS LEAFLET**

The Christmas services had been arranged and the leaflet printed. A big thanks to Ruth for organising the printing.

### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2025**

Ian had suggested a Pilgrimage for this Week beginning at St. Mary's and ending at the pub at Broughton for lunch. The suggested date was the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. The order of churches would be St. Mary's, Christ the King, All Saints and CWW. There would be refreshments in the churches as people stop (say half an hour) and some spiritual and reflection time. A Risk Assessment would be carried out by Matt and Ian.

If the route went through the new estate it was estimated it would take 3 hours in total for the Pilgrimage, including breaks. People would have to make their own arrangements about where they left transport.

The Pilgrimage would begin at 10.00am and finish at 1.00 at the pub. A sign-up sheet would be put in each church. Each church would need an organiser to keep the event upper in people's minds especially at the Christmas Services.

Ruth would organise a poster and find a suitable name for the Pilgrimage: Milton Camino!

All the paperwork would be made available in an electronic format.

## **3. CONGREGATIONAL ROUND UP**

### **Staff Updates:**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **CHRIST THE KING COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Steve reported that positive things are happening with the Advent Faith Group and a joint service with the Roman Catholic church on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. Straight after Alpha finishes the church is carrying on with Life Groups. Mums and Tots is beginning in the new school term. There have been adjustments made to the Renew staff time: it is a resource issue. There is a joint Carol Service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December and oranges etc. will be needed. Steve will look for sponsors.

Ian is holding three Christingles and Steve would speak to the Children's Society re candles etc. The local schools are re-organising and are joining the same group so communication will be easier. Heronshaw, Heronsgate and Kents Hill. They are all keen to see Ian. Ian was congratulated on how well he had integrated with the local schools since he had been with us.

A question was asked about the Chinese Crossways Church. They were booking the church for a baptism. They have been open since 2019. There are three Chinese churches in this area.

### **CWW:**

Mandy and Alison held their first indoor Forest Church which went ok and was well received and fun!

They have had a few families join recently – people who have lived for a long time in the community. Things are chugging along and they are managing without Ruth. They have held a suggestion survey asking what help people could give. There will be a Beers and Carols evening on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December with carol singing on the 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Pavilion, Wreath Making on the 1<sup>st</sup> December (£15), Talking Point busier, Warm Welcome doing really well and Christmas Hamper Donation.

### **ST. MARYS'**

Jonathan said that the congregation continues to grow; the church ran out of service sheets on Sunday. Everything is going well. We held an audit of talents recently and Matt is looking at them and organising a spreadsheet. They had 50 replies. There is a lot of energy and a lot to give thanks for. The Lighting of the Christmas Tree on Hindhead Knoll will be on 7<sup>th</sup> December at 4.15pm and Matt and Alise will be leading this service.

### **ALL SAINTS:**

Carolyn said things are very positive and the congregation is growing. They had a new group: Pondering in the Pub! It is a relaxed discussion group held on Thursday nights at the Swan pub. 6 or 7 people are attending and getting to know one another. There is the Children's Church and Choir and they held a successful Macmillan Coffee Morning.

The Harvest display held by the schools was wonderful. Nearly 200 people attended the exhibition and it was particularly good.

Tuesday Afternoon Tea continues and there is Wreath Making with Gloria on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 10.30am £20.

## **4. FINANCE REPORT**

**Finance Update:** Ann hadn't spoken to Emma to obtain the current balances for which she apologised.

**Appointment of Auditor: WCP Treasurer Update:** We had missed previous years auditing our accounts. St. Mary's accounts have not been completed yet and so the consolidated accounts for the WCP cannot be done – this doesn't reflect well on us, but can only be addressed by St Mary's.

Ann has asked if Patsy Young would take over the Gift Aid application. She is going to speak to Emma and David Harbey.

Parish Giving Scheme: Alison asked if we had considered joining this scheme. It automatically calculated gift aid and automatically increased giving if the person was amenable to this. Our Gift Aid was primarily re the giving of CWW as their accounts are merged in with ours. We could consider running the scheme as a hybrid one. More information would be asked for.

### **UPDATE ON TWINFLOWER**

Ann thanked Steve for keeping an eye on Twinflower now that it is unoccupied. There had been an enquiry from a neighbour about renting the property on a short term but it was decided that with all the Tenant Security Laws it would be too complicated to consider this.

### **PARISH SHARE 2025**

Matt reported that our Parish Share is the same next year as this year which is very good news. We can cover this comfortably.

Also the Deanery deficit has been resolved now that we don't have to pay for an Area Dean.

We need to agree to what we ask Newport to pay for Ruth's home. An accurate cost would be £10,800 per year with 2% inflation say £11,000 so we pay £5,500 each for the year. We must advise the Newport Treasurer of this amount. We will pay the Diocese but how Newport pay us is up to them. The Manse in Newport is now on lease.

Ann will write and formally tell the NP Treasurer this.

Talking about Congregational Contribution Steve said that CtK had dropped by £5,000 this year and asked if it will hold steady next year.

Potentially it could be the same next year. It was agreed that if there is a surplus £1,000 CtK should keep it for the time being: their share could stretch from £25,000 to £27,000.

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

Our Reserves were significant now and we must look at investing some of the money. We need to take advice on this although Matt said that other funds he was associated with had invested with the CCLA and made 10% which was very good indeed. We could talk to other LEP's about where they invest their money.

CWW were aiming for £15,000 share this year but have made £14,000 so far. They need eventually to get to £25,000.

### **NEW MISSION FUND**

There is a new fund in Milton Keynes which will give small seed grants of up to £500 but they must be missional and lay led.

## **5. SAFEGUARDING**

No concerns have been raised. Mandy was trying to get her form signed by Rachael so she could become the DBS verifier for CWW.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES**

**Energy Audit for Christ the King Community Church:** The report has been passed to the Catholic Diocese responsible for the building.

Matt said that in 5-10 years' time St. Mary's would need a new boiler and a new electric system would cost in the region of £50,000. He wondered if the Diocese would allow us to have solar panels on the church roof. They were certainly being more sympathetic to this and we should follow this up.

## **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: Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> October:**

Ian had attended this meeting: there were about 25 people on the zoom discussion. The message was that they wanted everyone to be part of it and what it was there for. The Council discussed it and agreed that the idea was a good one but that Milton Keynes was too big for one organisation. It needs to be broken up into smaller areas. The LEP's have a history of working together but there is no history of other churches working together.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **CONFIDENTIAL:**

Matt reported that there will be major investment in Milton Keynes by the Church of England in 2026: £6m just for MK. There is a huge amount of work to be done between now and the summer of next year. There will be things to discuss between now and then about people and not just stuff; new positions – just watch this space – Matt will run through things as they come up. The date of Induction for the new Bishop of Buckingham is 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and a house has been purchased in MK.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, in the Board Room at the Wavendon Community Centre at 7.00pm.

## **Walton PCC**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, at 7.00pm at Christ the King Community Church**

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, Mandy Sleight, Stephanie Warren, Steve Potter and Jonathan Bailey

**PCC apologies for absence:** (also churchwardens Roger Hancock, Pat Sawyer and Barny Daley).

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

1. **Approval of Notes to last PCC meeting (24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024):** Approved nem. con.

2. **Matters arising :**

**Deanery news** incl. Deanery Mission Action Plan and Bishop's house: nothing to report beyond the update given at the last meeting.

**Updates on Gardens of Rest at St Mary's** – The work on the Garden of Rest at St. Mary's is still not finished. The large stones need to be placed, and then the top (resin) layer of the path to be added, with some planting needed along the boundary by the fence.

**Pinfold Monument** – The Registrar at the Diocese has asked for the Heirs of Law to be advertised in a full public notice. Steve has been liaising with the OU Archivist and there may be some light as to proving that there are no living relatives. Either way, we need a full faculty, so the paperwork is now with the DAC.

**Roof Repair at St. Mary's Church:** The work does not require a faculty and we will have approval via email.

The Council noted the Resolution already agreed unanimously online on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024: to appoint Matt Leach as the contractor, according to the specification given by Henry Sanders and the quotation provided to us on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

**New Bench in All Saints Churchyard:** All approvals have been given and the church is waiting for the bench to be installed.

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

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.00pm.