

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 of the Walton Churches Partnership Council on Thursday 30th January, 2025 at 7.00pm in the Board Room at the Wavendon Community Centre

Present: Jonathan Bailey, Ann Beaton (Chair), Revd. Alison Drury, Revd. Ruth Maxey, Revd. Ian Pearce, Steve Potter, Klaus Reidel, Susan Ringsell (Minutes), Carolyn Sanderson, Revd. Matt Trendall, Stephanie Warren and Sue Wilson

Minutes

Opening Prayer

Apologies for Absence: Emma

1. The minutes of the meeting of the 7th November, 2024 were approved. There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda this evening.
2. **Ministry:**
Brief review of:
Christ the King Community Church: Search Group Advertisement.
An update on the advert from Mandy which closes at the end of February, and no responses so far. There are scheduled weekly meetings, but if they're not needed they are cancelled. Once the end of February arrives, the Baptist Union will be informed and the deadline for applications extended if needed. The advert is being paid for by the Baptist Union.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Pilgrimage 18th January 2025
Approximately 50 people took part in the pilgrimage and all congregations were represented. 24 seats were reserved at the Broughton Arms which was adequate as not everyone stayed for lunch! Stephanie commented that she stayed at the service at Christ the King led by Ian's wife and how lovely it was – well done.
Discussion took place on holding another pilgrimage in the summer and on the possibility of a walking group being formed on the back of this success.

Ecumenical Service at Christ the Cornerstone
Ann and Alison attended one of two services for the Week held by Churches Together in MK at Cornerstone. There was only a small attendance but there wasn't much notice so that may have been an issue. There were lots of other things going on in the area during this Week so resources/manpower was stretched.

Ecumenical Confirmation Service 24th November, 2024
Everyone who attended said that the Service was lovely and had a sense of occasion.

Spring events and initiatives

9th March, 2025: MK Welcome Reception for new Bishop of Buckingham

The Bishop's Induction is on the 1st March at the High Wycombe Parish Church and then a Civic Reception at 3pm on the 9th. We await more info.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This is on Friday 7th March featuring the Cook Islands. Leanne is happy to run it this year but then is stepping down from leading this day.

Faith Matters update

This is a separate group which is currently not meeting. It might be good at a future date to add in more discussions on this at the end of relaxed teens, which is a good strong group at the moment.

Zoom Kids and Relax Teens

This is fortnightly and is strong at the moment.

Children's choir

This is going very well. It's got a lovely atmosphere, and the parents attend for tea and coffee afterwards helping with conversations. The singing level is good but we're still keen to build it up. Rachel's produced songs and hymns, musical information etc. The age range is 7-12 years.

Taize – 10th – 27th August

Next summer, Ruth is taking a group of children (18+) from the URC East Midlands Synod to Taize and has accepted the help of a Curate from elsewhere in MK to enable her to take young people aged 15+. On the 9th February there will be a meeting.

Lent Groups and material

As always, the challenge is to seek a course that's engaging. There is one that's been proposed 'The Rest is Worship' which has 40 daily devotions and is in book and online versions. There are also weekly group studies for use up until Palm Sunday. If we buy in bulk the paper books are £6 and the online option is £3. Matt can make a bulk order if we're interested.

We viewed a sample booklet by Engage Worship (used during the pandemic and was well received). The meeting felt that hard copies would be better received and that 100 should be purchased. It was proposed by Matt and agreed unanimously to order 100 hard copies of the book.

Existing Groups would continue and use the book but a list of groups needed to be made so that people could see where there were groups with spaces that they could join. One or two new groups would be formed. Matt agreed to collate group info, and Ruth M will produce a flier.

Week of Guided Prayer 2025

Ruth recognised that it's too late for 2025 as there's a long lead into organising this especially looking for prayer guides. However, we can look for 2026. In the first instance, we need to find a suitable space – so we'll look at options.

It was proposed that we hold a Week of Guided Prayer in 2026 and this was agreed unanimously.

3 Congregational Round Up:

Staff Updates – 3pm 28th June St Peter & St. Paul Church at Great Missenden will be Alisons's ordination date.

Matt is taking a sabbatical (August to November 2025). Everyone felt this was long overdue.

Community Church

Activities are developing a lot due to Ian's work in the parish. A stewards and leaders meeting was held last weekend and things are gelling together albeit with a small core of those leading and this is getting smaller. Steve said that from March onwards the Church is likely to need some help with coverage. Matt said that there were people in the Partnership who would lead worship so please ask. Steve also reported that they have been reestablishing links with local schools successfully. Steve has completed compiling the attendance statistics and they are holding up: not quite as well as St. Mary's!! Ian is holding a Sunday Night zoom service which is accessible for everyone but especially those that may not be able to attend in person on a Sunday morning. 'Chat and Pray with the Pastor': Ian is beginning this on the first Sunday in March – 8.15pm to 9pm – just praying and talking to him. It will finish with Compline.

CWW

We had a good Christmas, with family service at St Lawrence, a joint service in NP which was packed. Our numbers are roughly the same as normal, day groups still going too – motoring along bearing in mind NP is also in the frame now.

St. Mary's

Attendance was very high at all the usual Christmas services. We even ran out of carol sheets. We've had some great sermons and the next series begins with A Day in the Life of Jesus. The east end of the roof is hoping to be fixed in the next few weeks. We are waiting for the stone and we are planning to have an audit of the large trees in the churchyard.

All Saints

Positive vibes at All Saints and still growing in terms of the congregation. There was also a large attendance at Christmas, and a wonderful nativity from the children's choir. Carolyn said that the church had recently launched their vision and it will be developed over weeks and months. Café church once a month in the summer months will be part of this. Plus, some welcome events for newer people in the hope of helping them integrate. Our vision is 'an oasis of God's grace and peace' and we've booked our quinquennial. We'll need to find the finances for this. Communion does need more than two stewards because of the options of 'cup' and 'communal cup'.

Roman Catholic Church

Klaus said that the main event was the Bishop's visit in December during the terrible storm weather but all went well. Jon Walls is taking time out.

4. Finance Report:

Ann told the meeting that it had not been possible to obtain bank figures for tonight's meeting. She apologised that this was the second meeting this had happened and asked us to hold Emma in our thoughts at this time. Ann said that our top priority is to appoint a new Treasurer. Matt confirmed our financial situation is good.

5. Safeguarding

Matt welcomed Rachael, our Partnership Safeguarding Officer to the meeting. The new 'How to Respond' leaflet was shared – this explains what to do if you have a disclosure or concern with a chart to work through. It tells you who to contact depending on who you are worried about. The

first point of contact should be Rachael unless it is about a Minister and then it is the Oxford Diocese (who will contact other denomination(s) if required). Our policy is the Church of England one.

In the document it states a 'set' of concerns which is different for children and adults. It was suggested to use the wording 'multiple' (if concerns repeat).

Once the final version is ready, the leaflet will be handed to all the congregations.

Matt proposed and Mandy seconded that the Safeguarding Leaflet be adopted with these minor amends and this was agreed unanimously.

It was noted that the Methodists have introduced a rule that if you've got a history of safeguarding training you only need to do one of the units. The Oxford Diocese are considering this at the moment for those who've worked with children e.g. school teachers, governors etc.

New posters have been sent out to all parishes, to put on their notice boards.

It was suggested that each congregation have a lead for safeguarding : a deputy Safeguarding Officer. This was proposed by Matt, seconded by Ann and unanimously agreed. Each congregation would elect their own person.

The diocese is releasing information on carrying people in cars. There's a draft that requires various types of insurance and checks. To be confirmed.

Ann thanked Rachael and noted we appreciate all her work.

DBS verifier: Mandy reported that the paperwork was complete for her to become a DBS verifier.

6. Environmental Updates:

The report on the Environmental Audit had been sent to the Catholic Diocese as it has a responsibility for any refurbishments. The boilers needed replacing urgently. They are 30 years old. We've had recommendations for the heating systems, and we'll have to work out a package. Patsy and Steve don't have the time to take on extra work sorting this out.

A supplementary action was to stall infra-red heaters in the church to combat excessive ventilation. The Church were also going to check to see if there is any cavity wall insulation. This was postponed due to the storm.

7. Governance:

Nothing to report on the CIO application currently.

8. Team Leaders and Lay Chairs Meeting:

Ann attended the meeting on the 20th November, 2024 at Christ Church, Stantonbury. Minutes aren't taken at this meeting as it is intended as an informal support meeting for the LEP's. Ann said that there wasn't much to report, but of all the LEP's we are the only ones in a fairly good financial situation.

9. Any Other Business:

Membership – Every six years in the CofE you must renew this, and 2025 is the year. To ease the renewal, it was suggested to contact all members and ask them to confirm their membership/re-sign rather than complete a completely new form. New members will, of course, still need to complete a form.

As mentioned above, Steve collates all the Statistics and gave a summary report. He was given a round of applause for continuing to perform this work on our behalf.

10. Date/Time of Next Meeting: AGM 7pm Wednesday 30th April at Christ the King, Kents Hill

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), Rev. Alison Drury, Ann Beaton, Jonathan Bailey, Carolyn Sanderson, Steve Potter, Stephanie Warren, and Mandy Sleight plus Walton's churchwardens – Pat Sawyer, Barny Daley, Roger Hancock (and Jonathan Bailey – already a WCP Council member)*

1. Approval of Notes to last meeting 7th November, 2024: approved nem.com.

2. Matters arising :

- Deanery news incl. planning for diocesan investment and new bishop – see item 'Spring events and initiatives' for news of the new Bishop's induction and reception. Progress continues on the diocesan investment bid for MK
- Update on Gardens of Rest at (a) St Mary's – the big stones are now in, just awaiting completion of the resin bound path and planting of the borders; (b) All Saints – will only pursue once St Mary's is finished.
- Roof repair – stones will be delivered soon, work should commence early spring.
- Pinfold Monument at the OU – awaiting Faculty approval from the diocese.
- Matt's Sabbatical – see item above – not yet confirmed by diocese, but proposed for 22nd August – 21st November 2025.

3. Date of next meeting – as per item 10 above: APCM 30th April 2025 after the WCP AGM.

The meeting closed with The Grace at 9.05pm.