

Walton Churches Partnership Council

Agenda for our Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th April, 2025, at Christ the King, Kents Hill at 7.00pm

Present: Ann Beaton (Chair), Pastor Ian Pearce, Revd. Alison and Julian Drury, Stephanie Warren, Jonathan Bailey, Clare Veal, Sue Wilson, Steve Potter, Trish Rosewell, Carolyn Sanderson, Elaine Maries, Revd. Ruth Maxey, Mandy Sleight, Barny Daley, Revd. Matt Trendall and Rachael Jenkins (Safeguarding Lead).

Apologies for Absence: Pat Sawyer and Alise Trendall,

1. Opening Devotions

Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that Susan Ringsell had resigned as Secretary after nearly three years and we thanked her for all her hard work. Ann would write to her.

She asked Ian to open the meeting with a prayer.

Ian read the opening devotions from Luke 24 v 26 plus prayer for Peace.

2. A special welcome to Pastor Ian and Rev. Alison, who have joined the staff team since our last AGM!

3. Apologies for absence – see above

4. Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of 30th April, 2024, and matters arising not covered by the agenda: The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by Ann. The following Matters Arising were discussed:

- a. **Selection Committee for CtK Community Church:** Mandy said that things were going well and there was another meeting to be held soon.
- b. **Milton Keynes Area Dean:** Matt said there had been two significant appointments in MK this year: Paul Oxley had been made part-time Area Dean (remaining part-time Minister at St. Mark's church). We have a new Bishop of Buckingham: Bishop Dave who has a particular focus on MK as a priority. He will be living in MK from 2027.
Matt said he felt they were two good appointments.
- c. **Walton LEP's registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation:** We haven't done it yet. The two particular reasons were to harmonise our accounts across all our congregations and secondly that we have a lot more people now and we have to have 20% of our membership to be quorate at our meetings. Our membership stands at 259 which means we need to get 52 members for a meeting! This will be challenging!
- d. **Churches Together in MK:** their latest Newsletter had some interesting articles in it!

5. Confirming Congregational Representations to WCP (2 per congregation) and of other WCP Council Officers for 2024-25 –

St. Mary's:	Jonathan Bailey and Ann Beaton
All Saints:	Carolyn Sanderson and Charles Robertson
Community Church:	Steve Potter and Stephanie Warren
CWW:	Mandy Sleight and Sue Wilson

Election of Chairman: Only one nomination: Ann Beaton elected unanimously

Election of Secretary: Susan has resigned. We need a nomination for Secretary. Please ring or email Ann or Matt.

Election of Treasurer: Emma resigned at the 2024 meeting. Clare Veal has very kindly stepped up to the mark. She gave a short acceptance speech. She has worshipped with CWW for the last two years and was brought up in the URC. She works as Head of Finance for a charity and feels it is just a case of finding her feet and getting up and running.

All the above were proposed by Rev Matt Trendall, seconded by Rev Ruth Maxey and carried unanimously.

6. Finance Update and Receipt of 2024 Accounts:

Formal accounts are not ready yet, but we hope to have them available shortly. Matt said that our results are healthy and we are in a strong place with £150,000 + in reserves.

We are considering taking some adventurous steps but in the short term no concerns.

Walton LEP Housing Limited – approval of 2024 accounts: Steve presented the accounts for 2024 and these were approved. This was proposed by Ann Beaton, seconded by Mandy Sleight and unanimously approved.

Appointment of Treasurer and Independent Examiner: We need an Independent Financial Examiner for our Accounts. Please contact Ann or Matt if you know of anyone that would like to know more about this role.

7. Safeguarding Updates: appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer and Responsible Adults and approval of current policy – <http://www.wcpmk.co.uk/children-and-young-people/safeguarding>:

Rachael said we are in a good place. The new hub is proving really useful. Rachael said there was a copy of the policy on the website to fit your purpose. The 2025 policy is the same as 2024 (full review next year) – Rachael proposed and Carolyn seconded that we receive/adopt this policy – approved unanimously.

DBS checks: Rachael asked if people would email the person responsible at your church to see if your DBS was due for renewal. It is every 3 years renewal not 5.

Safety Training under WCP: Please see the person dealing with training at your church. There is nothing for disabled people on the website which is a big disadvantage. We are also looking at offering some face-to-face training where needed.

Rachael said there is a safeguarding lead for every congregation:

Rachael looks after Christ the King

Beth Smith looks after All Saints

CWW: two safeguarding leads: Phil Wall and Becky Nolan

St. Mary's: we will be finding someone as soon as possible!

Appointing our safeguarding officer and congregational leads: proposed by Ann Beaton, seconded by Rev Matt and approved unanimously.

8. Mission and Ministry Updates: Brief highlights of ministry and mission from each congregation

Ruth said a lot has changed at CWW: Ruth gave the meeting of how things have changed now she part-time at CWW and Newport Pagnell URC. After a year of consolidation, this is the year that we hope to get all the congregation together for an Away Day and look outwards for growth!

Steve Potter said that a lot has changed for the Community Church too! Ruth Gookey gave her last sermon on the 5th May 2024 and since Ian arrived last summer things have been very different indeed! Ian said that he had no intention of doing what he is doing now but he found himself with a group of people in mourning for what had been. He felt this church wanted to thrive in the community. The local schools were in twice last week and that as much as anything has given the church hope!

Matt: All Saints: They have had a good year of growth and have a new vision 'An Oasis of God's Grace and Peace.' The Children's Choir are doing great; there is Ponderings in the Pub; Café Church is back and we have a fully trained team of Bellringers! The last Café Church recorded 70 people. There is a lot of energy around the place! These are wonderful things to think about!

Matt: St. Mary's: Matt said we have a big congregation on a Sunday morning! He feels it is all about simplicity: people are coming and growing and staying! We have plugged our finances and last year we held a Skills Audit and have doubled the size of our Stewards Council.

We hold a Language Class twice a week and both are full, with a significant number of people from Hong Kong.

Matt said that there was lots of good news around the Parish!

9. Youth and Children's Work at Christ the King Community Church:

Ruth said that **Zoom Kids for primary-age children and Relax Teens for teenagers** were held fortnightly. Both groups always needed more leaders. There are gaps in the years and there is a Review Meeting at 4.00pm on the 18th May.

Matt said that the Church of England were now offering FREE online children's church leaders training.

SUMMER ALPHA – Matt said Watch this Space! Matt is going to speak to Ian. *Addendum: Alpha will start on Wednesday 20th May at 7pm at St Mary's.*

BBQ Sunday 27th July 3.30pm at the Rectory: cook a lot of meat on the BBQ and salads! Steve has volunteered to man the BBQ!

Ruth said she is taking a party of young adults (18-25) **to Taize**. She may have space for 1 or 2 more people. URC will pay their travel.

40th anniversary of LEP 1st October 2025:

Ruth suggested a small working group, taking somebody from each congregation to organise this. Perhaps organise a Ceidlh or something. We will wait for the Team Meeting! Please see Ann or one of the clergy if you would like to join or know more.

10. AOB

Rev. Alison's Priesting Service – will take place on Saturday 28th June at 3pm in Great Missenden

Matt's Sabbatical: Matt is going on Sabbatical from the 22nd August to the 21st November inclusive. He is planning with key people to minimise the impact. For General Enquiries the Church Wardens will be looking after this. He will be having five weeks on the North Devon Coast as a retreat. He should be back in time for Advent!

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting for Walton, Milton Keynes

PCC Attendees: Rev. Matt Trendall (Rector, Chair), Barny Daley, Jonathan Bailey (Churchwardens), Ann Beaton (Lay Chair of Ecumenical Council), Carolyn Sanderson, Steve Potter, Stephanie Warren, Mandy Sleight, Rev. Alison Drury.

Other attendees: Rev. Ruth Maxey, Pastor Ian Pearce, Rachael Jenkins, Sue Wilson, Elaine Maries, Trish Rosewell, Clare Veal, Julian Drury.

Apologies from PCC members: Pat Sawyer, Roger Hancock (Churchwardens), Charles Robertson.

Apologies from others: Alise Trendall

1. **Minutes of 2024 APCM** – no amendments were suggested. Mandy Sleight proposed and Stephanie Warren seconded and these minutes were approved nem. con. as a true record of the previous APCM.

Matters arising:

- a. St. Mary's Garden of Rest is pretty much done, and looks terrific; just some planting of the borders. We will need extra help in the church yard. We hope to do a similar thing at All Saints.
 - b. St. Mary's has completed their roof repair and paid for it.
 - c. Matt said that with the Pinfold Monument he is having problems with the chosen Contractor. He seems to have disappeared!
2. **Note about individual churches' Annual Reports** – copies of individual church reports, including St Mary's Wavendon and All Saints MK Village, are available for other congregation members who wish to read them. These are posted on the individual church websites.
 3. **Note about 2024 accounts** – since the parish bank accounts are managed by the Ecumenical Partnership (LEP), our accounts are scrutinised and approved by the Partnership's Ecumenical Council. There has been a delay in getting final accounts ready for the AGM – these will be completed and presented as soon as possible.
 4. **Note about election of churchwardens** – following established protocol, St Mary's and All Saints elect their churchwardens at their respective AGMs (although fully ecumenical, these congregations meet in the two Anglican church buildings, so it is most helpful to have parish wardens sited in these two locations). Therefore, the meeting enthusiastically noted the elections of:
 - Roger Hancock & Jonathan Bailey (St Mary's)
 - Pat Sawyer & Barny Daley (All Saints)

Matt thanked all four wardens, who are doing an excellent job!

5. **Note about election of PCC and Deanery Synod reps** – to align with the composition of the Ecumenical Council, the PCC constitutes the Anglican members of that Council, plus Churchwardens, Anglican Clergy and WCP Treasurer as ex-officio members. Since all WCP Council reps have been re-elected for 2025-26, and we remain in the Deanery's 2023-26 Triennium, the only changes to PCC membership since last year's APCM is that Charles Robertson is now the second rep for All Saints. The new WCP Treasurer Clare Veal will be co-opted onto the PCC in time for the next meeting.

NB Only elected PCC representatives can vote on item 6:

- 6. Delegation of specified functions to the institutions of Walton Churches Partnership** – as is customary, day-to-day management of the Partnership is devolved from the PCC to the Local Ecumenical Partnership Council. This is presented to the APCM for their agreement each year. The PCC still meets occasionally (usually immediately after the Ecumenical Council) to discuss any specifically Anglican business – all other matters related to mission and ministry are covered by the Partnership Council.

The resolution – that the day-to-day running of the parish is devolved to the WCP (Ecumenical) Council – was proposed by Jonathan Bailey, seconded by Barny Daley, and agreed unanimously.

- 7. Safeguarding update and approval of 2025 policy** – since Safeguarding is managed at the LEP level and overseen by the ecumenical WCP Council, the full update, re-appointment of Rachael Jenkins as Safeguarding Officer and approval of 2025 policy was effected at the LEP AGM which immediately preceded the APCM. The full policy is on the Walton Churches Partnership website for anyone to scrutinise.
- 8. Broughton Trust Report** – Matt presented a short report as Treasurer of Broughton Trustees. The aims of the charity are to support mission, education and other charitable work within the Parish of Walton. The strong financial performance of our investments (thanks to CCAL) means that we are now able to award significantly more in grants – rising from £7-10k a decade ago to £20-25k now. In 2024 we were able to award grants to three new applicants (St Mary’s School, Xtra Special Families and Making Me), and continue to offer valuable support another relatively new applicant (the Youth Café in Broughton). We also support Bridgebuilder with a grant annually, and over the last two years have awarded grants to all four of Walton’s congregations. Matt thanked Steve Potter and Rosie Neale their wisdom, professionalism and pastoral kindness as fellow trustees.
- 9. AoB** – following our 6-yearly membership review (required by the CofE), we have **updated membership totals**. Overall our numbers continue to grow. The full breakdown is as follows:

Congregation	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	RC	Ecumenical	Other	TOTAL	Electoral Roll *
Christ the King	19	6	3	0	4	2	19	53	25.25
All Saints’	45	2	3	3	10	0	10	73	50
St. Mary’s	64	4	8	1	4	0	14	95	68.5
CWW	15	1	3	6	0	6	7	38	18.25
TOTAL	137	17	15	10	17	9	49	259	162

* Formal calculation of Anglican members + 25% of RC, Ecumenical and ‘Other’ members – DO NOT INCLUDE BAPTIST, METHODIST OR URC MEMBERS!

- 10. Date of next PCC Meeting** – 23rd June 2025, to follow the main Ecumenical Council as normal.

The meeting closed with the grace at 8.30pm.

Handwritten signature: Matt Bendall