

Minutes of Combined Groups of Walking Together
22nd May 2025 at 7.30pm. in Our Lady's Hall

Present: Liz Mottram LM (Chair), Gill Parker GP, David Tye DT, Margaret Dimambro MD, Claire Walsh CW, Veronica Drumgoole VMD, Anne Elson AE, Anna Godwin AG, Jenny Armstrong (JA), Jenny Hayden (JH), Mary Holden (MH)

Apologies: Father Stephen Day, Father David Hartley, Jonathan Holden.

The meeting opened with the Synod prayer

Matters Arising from last Minutes (of 30th January 2025)

(numbers in brackets refer to actions list in the Walking Together Phase 2 report)

(44) Mary Holden is still proposing to hold a meeting of welcomers and devise a training course following devising a set of recommendations.

(42) Regarding helping non-Catholics at funerals and weddings to understand the form of the Mass, Father Stephen is giving instructions as to whether to sit/stand/kneel

The children's liturgy at SP is going well.

Social Media - MH reported that there was someone interested who has had a meeting with Father Stephen.

The minutes of 30th January were agreed

Matters arising from other meetings – Walking Together Team

Minutes of WT Team 15/5/2025 had been circulated.

Matters discussed were

- Ecumenism. It was felt that there was poor engagement with local ecumenical activities and the same group of people went to the events – ie the raising of the cross on Good Friday, the Week of Christian unity service, Churches together walks or the Women's World Day of Prayer. It was felt it needed more promotion – from the pulpit by priest or lay person, in the newsletter and word of mouth. Again the possibility of Social media. The possibility of asking couples who attend different churches to give guidance was raised but not resolved.
- School for synodality workshop book club – MH reported that Jonathan Holden had attended the session on 21st May - to carry on with this.
- Paul Hayden has put a synopsis of the final report of the Synod on the Catholic Leamington website.
- Priorities from Walking Together Phase 2 action list discussed below.

Lenten Study Group Review

This was held in St Joseph's hall for 5 weeks of Lent. The feeling was that it was very successful and well organised.

Good input from several people. Parishioners from all three Leamington Churches attended 10 (St Joseph's) 14 (St Peter's) 10 (Our Lady's) and 2 from Kenilworth. Fr David and Fr Stephen also attended at least one session.

There was discussion on whether to repeat the sessions next year, get a different course? Also whether the notes may be available as a resource. LM had a suggestion as to another course that might be suitable. (Sycamore video which is from Farm Street Church in London). She will circulate a link to this. Publicity was discussed and pulpit promotion ideally by the priests was thought to be most effective. Another suggestion was to make the sessions ecumenical and widen our potential audience. The venue was discussed as it was understood that St Peter's hall may be closed by next Easter. Our Lady's is not disabled friendly and does not have wifi. St Joseph's is very suitable and could be used again. There was also a realisation that we could offer lifts which might encourage others.

Something Greater

The group had an email from Father David regarding a potential new training module for any enquiring Catholics, 'Something Greater' This is designed to be used in parishes or deaneries to help prepare people to take on roles and responsibilities within the Church surrounding catechesis. The meeting thought it a good initiative and would be interested to find out more and possibly attend such a course.

MH is doing a course through the Diocese on helping those children with special needs.

PPC request for our top priorities

The group assessed the list and decided on the following:

(numbers refer to actions list in the Walking Together Phase 2 report)

- 46 and 75 Special masses for groups such as those bereaved in the last year, or celebrating a special anniversary, linked with keeping touch with those who have been bereaved.
- 48 and 50 Promotion and support of ecumenical activities, Christian Unity Week, Street Pastors
- 58 Issues related to and of interest to young people -- social action, climate change
- 92 Joint working for sacramental preparations between parish and school. (This might be linked with promotion of the training of more people in catechesis)
- 24, 35 and 41 Multi cultural events on a regular basis to engage minority groups
- 94 Disabled access to whatever premises we shall be using in the medium term

AOB

MH reported that on 7th March 2026 the Hand in Hand group will perform 'Hosanna' in the Cathedral.

9 pm Meeting closed with a reading from the Gospel of John and a prayer.