

Minutes of the Walking Together Team meeting

19th January 2023 in the Lower Hall, Our Lady's, Lillington

Present:

Apologies:

Jonathan chaired the meeting, which began with the Synod prayer and a reading from 1 Cor 1: 4-9.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of 15th December meeting

Under 1.4: regarding people who attended the original WT discernment groups, Paul may contact those who don't sign up for a topic group.

2. Topic Groups

2(a) Newsletter and EXTRA:

- Paul sends a short item each week for SP and OL newsletter. He passes it to SJ but there is limited space, so is not always included. **Paul to liaise with Jackie** over SJ's newsletter entries. Please let Paul know if you wish something specific to be included
- Offers are needed to write an article for EXTRA
- There was doubt that many people would refer to the Synod page on the website. The question was raised as to who is responsible for SJ's website.

2(b) Talks at the end of Mass:

- There are speakers organised to give the talk at each of the Sunday Masses, finishing 4th/5th February. There was discussion about the content of the talks; some thought there was too much detail, others considered it the best way to get information across. Speakers can adapt talks to their own style, keeping within the original framework. **Martin to revise talk 3.** Role of enablers: they could share their views in the first round, but important for them to listen well and keep order.
Talk 4 could emphasise the confidentiality of what is shared and that the groups offer a safe environment to express views.
- Paul will put the talks on the website. He had also devised a leaflet with a resumé of each talk and the topic groups – a chance for people to refresh their minds and give time to reflect on which group to join. **Send feedback on leaflet to Paul.** Mary suggested every leaflet should indicate who had issued it.

2(c) Group control: Jonathan had produced a timetable of the different stages (updated version attached).

- From 6th February signing up sheets will be available in all 3 churches, either spread out on tables or flipcharts. Church representatives to be responsible for this. Offers to do this were made: SP - Anne and Mary; SJ – Chris and Jackie; OL – Martin and one other. Paul had prepared a draft of an A3 sign-up sheet.
Priest to be asked to remind people about signing up at the end of Sunday Masses.
What about those who are only attending on weekdays in SP parish centre?
Those who attend Mass on livestream need to be able to sign up online. A Zoom meeting could be offered for those unable or unwilling to join a physical group.

- There should be a way for the housebound and those without Internet to give a written submission on their views. Eucharistic Ministers could be asked to take the literature to their communicants.
- Those with intellectual disabilities should be encouraged to take part in the groups and express their views. Mary is willing to be an advocate for them.
- Jonathan pointed out that so far only 7 team members have chosen a topic group.
- There needs to be co-ordination regarding the questions, so that we don't have the same questions in more than one group.
- The church reps should be responsible for checking the availability of halls for meetings, so that there is no overlap. Possibly provisionally book in advance.
- Group outcome: it was suggested that the group report form from the original Synod meetings could be adapted for the report from the topic groups.
- Topic group leaders will need to be chosen before our next meeting on 16th March. This can be done by email.

3. Any other business

Peter reported on the Zoom meeting he had attended hosted by the diocesan Office for Mission about Synod follow-up in parishes. Few parishes seem to be doing any follow-up. It may be possible to share good practice.

Jonathan suggested that the Office may be interested in the initial outcomes of our topic groups.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

The next meeting will be Thursday 16th March at St. Peter's. **Peter to book the Davenport Room.** This will be an opportunity to review the process so far and confirm the appointment of group leaders.