

Minutes of the Walking Together Team meeting

18th April 2024 in Our Lady's parish hall

Present: Jonathan & Mary Holden (SP), Margaret Dimambro (SP), Roger & Anne Elson (SP), Liz Mottram (OL), Gill Ayers-Hunt (OL), Paul Hayden (OL), Susan Chan (SP), Louise Hathaway (OL)

Apologies: Fr. Stephen Day, Fr. David Hartley

Anne Elson acted as chairperson for the meeting, which began with the Synod prayer.

Anne emphasised that she was leading the meeting for this meeting only. On behalf of the group she offered thanks to Peter Dimambro for the work he had done for Walking Together and wished him a speedy recovery.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of 18th January meeting:

Item 2

- Anne will lead the first meeting of the combined groups 1 and 2 on 2nd May.
- The folder of parish groups and contact list is progressing. Jonathan suggested that contacts for St. Joseph's should also be included, since it is part of Catholic Leamington. Hazel will be approached for the necessary information.
- The use of the term 'Mass co-ordinator' was discussed and it was agreed to ask the current St. Peter's co-ordinators to list the various jobs they do regarding the Sunday Mass. Our Lady's has a different system.
- To comply with GDPR regulations contacts need to be asked if they are willing to publicise their email and/or phone number. Additions suggested were Live Simply and funeral and wedding welcomers.
- Collaborating with other churches: Anne advertises joint services happening in other churches but there is a very poor response. The World Day of Prayer was fairly well attended by Catholic Leamington, but is that because it was at Our Lady's? There were very few at the raising of the cross on Good Friday.
- No-one has asked for or offered lifts to Mass.
- Topic group 3 – no meetings but the Sunday Readings group is going well.

Item 3

- Pastoral Council: Fr. Stephen has approached three people so far, with mixed success, and has three others in mind. It was agreed that synodal methodology should be incorporated in parish decisions, to include prayer and discernment with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. A constitution is being drawn up by Canon John Bathula to be adopted by each parish, but it was agreed that it should be able to be adapted to a parish's situation and needs.
- It was noted with sadness that if there is no Mass at St. Peter's the church is not always open.

2. Volunteer forms

Margaret reported on progress with the volunteer forms. 24 have been returned at St. Peter's and 8 at Our Lady's. Age-wise they divide: under 30 = 4, 30-60 = 6, over 60 = 22.

Over half of respondents have been contacted, some with messages left. They are being matched up with the relevant contact. It is encouraging that several younger people are keen to be involved. Several people have offered to help in the parish office or with social media and general communications. Gardening and cleaning were also popular jobs. All these come under infrastructure – topic group 5.

In addition, two people are interested in setting up a children's liturgy at St. Peter's.

It was noted that many people who already do a lot in the parishes did not complete a form.

3. Any Other Business

- Future of Walking Together

Anne asked for a chair person for the next meeting, but no-one offered. Liz offered to be note-taker. Anne reluctantly agreed to chair the next meeting, but we need younger people to take on the task. After discussion it was agreed to reduce the number of meetings by combining the three current topic groups into one meeting. Paul suggested the job of chair could circulate around the group unless the combined group produces a willing volunteer to be chair person. Mary noted that a lot has been achieved since we started and it must continue, as there are many projects to tackle.

Some of the new volunteers could be the core of topic group 5, possibly working in small teams, but keeping the synodal structure.

- Deanery Pastoral Meeting

Anne had attended the recent meeting. She reported that up to two lay representatives from each parish can attend meetings, but a third person may be designated to stand in if one of them is unable to attend a particular meeting.

- Parish visitation report

It is hoped that there will be a parish meeting to discuss the report. Liz was concerned about the statement about our schools and wondered whether the schools have been consulted and how they should react.

Should the chaplaincy responsibility for the schools lie entirely with the parish priest?

There needs to be more liaison between parishioners and the schools.

The next meeting will be a combined meeting, Thursday 6th June, 7.30pm, Davenport Room at St. Peter's. All Walking Together participants will be invited.

The meeting closed with a prayer.