

## Minutes of the Walking Together Team meeting

20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in the Lower Hall, Our Lady's, Lillington

**Present:** Jonathan & Mary Holden, Peter & Margaret Dimambro, Roger & Anne Elson., Liz Mottram, Mary Rouse, Fr. Stephen Day, Susan Chan, Gill Ayers-Hunt, Deirdre Buckley, Paul Hayden, Royce McParland

**Apologies:** Jackie Rabone

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 31<sup>st</sup> May meeting

#### Under Matters arising:

- 1a Fr. Stephen explained that the visit by Canon Paul Fitzpatrick to our parish is separate from the diocesan/deanery visit by Archbishop Longley or Canon Paul, which will be a consultation process, looking at the future of our parishes. This will take place over a whole weekend, and a report will be made looking at strengths, weaknesses etc. The whole process will take six months. The Diocesan Vision is looking at the nitty-gritty of how the parish and schools work.

### 2. Walking Together Stage 2 draft report

- a) Grateful thanks were given to Jonathan for the many hours he had spent in compiling the draft report. Jonathan extended his thanks to the topic group leaders (TGLs) and facilitators.
- b) It was agreed that the preface was too long with a lot of statistics. JH agreed to truncate the preface and move the process to the end of the report. This is the part of the report which is more relevant to Canon Paul and Paul Northam, who would like to see the report. JH said that as the author he had made judgements, but is open to make amendments. Suggestions for improvement to be sent to JH by 25<sup>th</sup> July. It was suggested that forming a Parish Council could be higher up the list of suggestions.
- c) Hopefully there will be meetings for Topic group 5 in the autumn. These will address strategic issues and raise the question of what relates to each separate parish or to all three.
- d) It was agreed that an extra layer should be added to the report, outlining some of the issues still needing to be discussed. **Fr Stephen was asked to produce a list of the main topics he would like for future discussion.** These will be put in an appendix.
- e) Fr. Stephen explained his vision for Catholic Leamington – broad co-operation across the three parishes; all three working together in some aspects eg. pilgrimages, catechesis; pooling resources.

### 3. Current and proposed action

- a) After discussion it was agreed that TGLs should (if they are prepared to do so) take the lead in implementing any recommendations in their topic area. **They could invite those who attended meetings to be part of a working group**, looking at the group issues and how to implement them. They may use the contact details of anyone who attended a Walking Together meeting in order to invite them.
- b) Communication is always a problem and depends on people being receptive. It was agreed that to make communication more effective, more use needs to be made of social media and the one-to-one approach.
- c) Many issues have cropped up relating to topic group 5, but how best do we approach them? For some we need expertise in preparing viable options eg. communication strategy; use of IT. There are several strands to be addressed separately.

#### 4. Any other business

- a) Peter reported on the Office for Mission Zoom meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July, in which reps from other parishes in the archdiocese took part.  
Paul Northam, the Diocesan advisor, has put our Walking Together meeting guide and facilitator outline on the archdiocese website, as an example for other parishes to use. He is ready to support us if needed and can come to one of our meetings in due course. He would like to receive a copy of the final version of the WT Report.
- b) The Walking Together team and facilitators are invited to a **picnic, to take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, at the home of Jonathan and Mary, midday -3.30pm.**
- c) Jonathan expressed a wish to retire from being chair. **Please consider carefully if you could take on this role and advise Jonathan before the next meeting.**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm at St. Peter's.**