

Minutes of the Walking Together Team meeting
30th March 2023 in the Lower Hall, Our Lady's, Lillington

Present: Jonathan & Mary Holden, Paul Hayden, Peter & Margaret Dimambro, Jackie Rabone, Susan Chan, Liz Mottram, Fr. Stephen Day, Gill Ayers-Hunt

Apologies: Mary Rouse, Anne & Roger Elson

Jonathan chaired the meeting, which began with the Synod prayer and a reading from Jn 4: 35-38.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of 16th March meeting

Under item 5:

Fr. Stephen told us that Canon Paul Fitzpatrick has offered to visit St Peter's after Easter, and has asked Fr Stephen to suggest a date.

2. Topic groups

- a) It was noted that we are behind with the current timetable and it was agreed to postpone the start of meetings to the week of 9th May. The current lists will remain in the churches until after Easter. The revised timetable is attached to these minutes.
- b) Topic group leaders (TGL) are working on emails for group participants and where and when to hold meetings. At least two meetings, possibly three, afternoon and evening, should be booked at different churches. It was suggested that small groups could meet in someone's home.
- c) TGLs to send dates for meetings to the church reps, who will make the bookings with Royce for St. Peter's and Our Lady's and with Hazel for St. Joseph's.
Church reps are: St. Peter's – Anne Elson; Our Lady's – Paul Hayden; St. Joseph's – Jackie Rabone. **Jackie will consult Hazel about vacant slots.**
- d) A complete list of meeting dates and questions will be in churches for 23rd April, with lists for people to sign up for particular meetings. It is expected that more people come to meetings when the dates are known.
- e) Jane Rebika has had to leave the Walking together team, so Group 5 – infrastructure - is without a TGL. After discussion it was agreed to put that group on hold, but not forgotten, until the other groups have met, as practical areas may be raised in the other meetings.
Peter to contact those who have signed up for group 5 and encourage them to join another group.
- f) Meetings
As there is no caretaker for St. Peter's hall, the TGL, or whoever is leading the meeting, will be responsible for setting up and clearing away.
Refreshments will need to be provided by the TGL (or whoever is leading the meeting).
- g) Meetings should be limited to 1½ hours. This will normally allow discussion of three questions, but this may not be possible at every table. Accordingly, once the wording of the questions has been decided the TGL must decide whether one of the questions is so important that all tables should address it first, or whether different tables should take the questions in a different order, to ensure there is some discussion of each question.
- h) Facilitators
There was a discussion as to whether facilitators should facilitate only within their own topic group and, if they wish, give their own thoughts at the end. There would be a risk they might emphasise their own views (which had not been discussed by the participants at the table) in

their feedback. It is important they keep their distance and focus on listening and picking up on the main points. Facilitators are a skilled resource who should be available wherever they are needed for meetings, irrespective of their own topic group. Separately from their duties as facilitators, they should of course attend meetings of their own topic groups as full participants in the discernment process.

i) Peter will be selecting and inviting people to be facilitators. He will be offering two information sessions: Friday 14th April, 2pm, at St. Peter's and Monday 17th April, 7.30pm by Zoom. He will then be central to allocating facilitators to meetings where needed and available. It was agreed that facilitators have primary responsibility for completing the feedback from the meeting, but should if possible ask one of the participants to take brief notes to supplement the facilitator's own notes or memory of key points made; the note-taker may be changed for each question.

j) Timing of meetings

Jonathan has produced a handbook with general information, and guidance for facilitators including a guideline timetable for meetings. It was agreed to cut out the 18 minutes for 'facilitator's feedback' and extend the time for sharing on the questions. There should be some flexibility as to how long is spent on a question.

k) Reporting back

Responding to a question on process, Jonathan said that the TGLs should aggregate the facilitators' feedbacks from all tables and meetings on each separate question, and submit those responses to the W T team for incorporation in the final report on Phase 2, in accordance with the revised timetable.

5. Any other business

Gill stressed the importance of GDPR when contacting people and offered to share with TGLs the paragraph she will include in her email to participants.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

The next meeting will be Thursday 4th May, 7.30pm, in the Davenport Room at St. Peter's. The room has already been booked.