

Minutes of the Walking Together Team meeting

31st May 2023 in St. Peter's Parish Centre

Present: Jonathan & Mary Holden, Peter & Margaret Dimambro, Roger & Anne Elson., Liz Mottram, Mary Rouse, Fr. Stephen Day

Apologies: Jackie Rabone, Susan Chan, Gill Ayers-Hunt

Jonathan chaired the meeting, which began with the Synod prayer and a reading from Acts 2: 14-21.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of 4th May meeting

Under Matters arising:

- 1a Fr. Stephen explained that the visit by Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will be a parish meeting, where he will explain about the synodal process and its implementation in the diocese, probably linking in with the diocesan vision. It was hoped that he would also meet the WT team. It was agreed that he should be sent a copy of our Walking Together report for him to comment on. Fr. Stephen said that the methodology of the process would be more important to him than the results. The visit would likely be delayed until September.
- 1b Peter had met with Paul Northam, Diocesan Advisor for Evangelisation & Discipleship (with Marriage & Family Life), who is impressed with how well St. Peter's has engaged with the synodal process and would like to be kept informed of progress. He will lend his support and consider sharing with other parishes in the archdiocese the way we actioned the Synod follow-up. It was agreed to delay inviting him to one of our meetings until after the report has been published. He should be sent a copy of the report.

2. Reports on Discernment meetings

- a) **Church reps.** All had gone well. A-frame boards to be returned to St. Peter's parish centre; one needs repairing.
- b) **Topic group leaders (TGLs)**

Group 1 – attendance was patchy, a lot of apologies. 3 meetings were held with a total of 18 participants

Group 2 – 3 meetings were held; total number of participants to be advised

Group 3 – a diverse mixture of people. 2 meetings were held with a total of 24 participants. No facilitators came for the second meeting, so LM and MD stood in.

Group 4 – 2 meetings were held with a total of 17 participants. A Zoom meeting is still to be held. There was a good cross-section of ages and life experience, with many positive ideas to draw on.

It was noted that some who had signed up did not attend and others came who had not signed up.

Jonathan thanked the TGLs for all their hard work in setting up and managing the meetings. It was suggested that it had not been a good idea to have two lots of signing up. It would have been better to have had dates and questions set before inviting parishioners to choose a session.
- c) **Facilitators**

It was difficult to listen and write when the sharing was so engaging.

People were saying similar things and suggesting lots of ideas; some participants were very passionate on some issues.

It was agreed that action points need to be listed.

Peter reported that organising facilitators was a major logistical exercise but had worked out well, apart from no facilitators coming to the final meeting. It was noted that we now have a lot more people trained to facilitate.

d) **Summaries of responses**

Jonathan asked for **TGLs to send him a list of attendees and also those who signed up but didn't attend.**

If possible the synthesis of responses should be sent to him by **12th June.**

TGLs are requested not to throw away the facilitator notes in case they are needed for clarification by the report writers.

e) **Report Writing sub-group**

It was agreed that 2 or 3 people should prepare the first draft, then the whole team to be involved with reviewing and editing. Jonathan to be one of the sub-group. Some names were suggested; **Jonathan will approach them.**

Guidelines will be needed on how to produce the report. Each topic group would be a sub-division. There is bound to be overlap between the groups, so **the 4 TGLs should share their responses with each other** to see where this happens.

The report will provide the groundwork for the next round of Walking Together; some action points can be implemented immediately, others will need more thought and planning.

We should aim for the first draft to be produced by **10th July**, the final one by **24th July.**

f) **Initial actions**

Liz pointed out that people in group 3 had been asking 'What are we going to **do**, as opposed to holding more discernment meetings?' There are some 'quick wins' which could be implemented before the report is published, but should still be in the report. They may be to some extent provisional until they have been tried out. For example, the welcome from the lectern before mass at St Peter's has been reinstated, but what is included is still open to revision, in collaboration with Fr Stephen. Some actions coming from the meetings may be specific to a particular church; others may be relevant to all three churches.

Suggestions for prompt or easy actions: set up a St Peter's parish centre committee; reinstate the book of prayer intentions at St Peter's; send a first wedding anniversary card to couples married at St Peter's or Our Lady's; declutter the back of St Peter's church.

Other ideas can be swapped by email to the whole WT team.

3. Any other business

a) Group 5 infrastructure - covering use and maintenance of church buildings, communications, finance, IT – still to be addressed, in the autumn.

b) Jonathan suggested a bring and share picnic for the WT team and facilitators after the report has been published; suggested dates Saturday 22nd or 29th July, but date still to be confirmed.

The next WT team meeting will be Thursday 20th July, 7.30pm, at Our Lady's. **Mary to book the Lower Hall.**

The meeting closed with a prayer and blessing.