

**Minutes of the Walking Together Team meeting**  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church Hall**

**Present:** Jonathan & Mary Holden, Paul Hayden.

**Apologies:** Liz Mottram, Fr Stephen, Fr David, Anne & Roger Elson, Martin Foley, Kate Tennyson. Mary Grayling and Margaret Dimambro had emailed to say they were withdrawing from the Team meeting because of other commitments.

Paul chaired the meeting, which began with the Synod prayer.

**1. Matters arising from the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> January meeting:**

- Collaborative Parish Council minutes: Good to see the intention of openness and transparency with these minutes being available on CPC webpage within 2 weeks of a meeting. Last minutes referenced were 14<sup>th</sup> January. Reference to meetings on 11/3<sup>rd</sup> and 19/3<sup>rd</sup> found in Parish Building update on the Newsletter page of the CL website.
- Opportunity in CPC of SP's and OL's AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> June for parishioners to be in smaller groups for "spiritual conversations": In absence of AE and MF or Fr S we had no further information about this point.
- Ecumenism should be raised as a discussion item for the Synod Team: Few people seem engaged in attending Ecumenical events – usually the same people. The need to approach any families that find themselves attending different churches to encourage more involvement in Ecumenical events. Perhaps the Synod Study Group 10 might bring new emphasis in time. Jean Daly now helping the SP's and OL's World Day of Prayer event. SJ's have own involvement with Whitnash Churches.  
it was suggested that the Young Adults Group might be asked to help identify any couples with mixed RC-other Christian affiliations.
- Walking Together group to submit to CPC a summary report after completing consideration of the 100 actions in the CL 2<sup>nd</sup> Synod Report with the 10 top priorities: Walking Together Combined Group have started this process, meeting next week.
- Buildings: Mary raised her concerns again about wheelchair access and disabled toilet access when prioritising our building concerns.

**2. Becoming a Synodal Church**

- Small group involvement in discernment can be very fruitful, but consideration is needed on the preparation of questions to use in groups.
- Are there existing parish groups who could make use of the synodal methodology?
- Some big questions being asked of our parishes. Are we thinking enough about the very long term and putting foundation steps in place? Perhaps this will in time bring about more Ecumenical thinking.

**3. Taking note of progress reported by Topic Group:**

- Good to witness use of "spiritual conversation" in Lenten Study groups and in the Sunday Reading Study groups. Both were and are positive and constructive experiences. Ideas for any similar groups in the future were being requested.
- The Topic groups are meeting next week and will be reviewing the very successful Lenten meetings held at St Joseph's.
- Should we be using Social Media more?

**4. Keeping parishioners informed of developments in the wider Church relating to Synodality.**

- On 1<sup>st</sup> April Paul had shared a document with his Synod email, added links to the Synod page on the CL website and provided a reference to it for EXTRA.  
*“As the Catholic Church moves into the **implementation phase of the Synod on Synodality** (or on Walking Together), Bishop Nicholas Hudson, an Auxiliary Bishop in the Westminster Diocese has shared an 8-page guide. It is designed to encourage clergy and laity alike to read the Final Document in its fullness.”*
- Paul contributed a sheet to the meeting that reminded us of the 10 working groups set up by the Synod, expected to feedback in June 2025, referencing also the post-synodal Ecclesial Assembly in 2028 as the Church moves into a Synod implementation stage.
- Jonathan referred to the School for Synodality Book Club help on the internet via youtube - they will be Reading the Final Synod Document Together starting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Other helpful resources can be found on <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/>
- We prayerfully await with interest the priorities of Pope Leo and his continued engagement with the Synodal process at all levels of the Church.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

The next meeting will be Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm at Our Lady's.