| **Parish** | **Ss John fisher & Thomas More, Burley-in-Wharfedale** |
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| **Parish Priest** | **Fr Michael Mahady** |
| **Facilitators** | **Marian Emley, Ryan Wilkinson, Amanda Labbett** |
| **Date of Meeting** | **Thursday 2nd December** |
| **Number** | **22** |
| **Approx Age Range** | **50-70** |
| **I. The journeying companions**  As we journey together let us look around. Who are you on the journey with and what persons or groups are marginalised and why? | |
| **Companions:**  fellow Christians x3, priests/holy orders/laity x4, schools , Other faiths x6, parish family x4, friends and partners x2  **Marginalised:**  People in care - hospitals/nursing homes. divorced x6, LGBTQ+ x5, people of colour x5, women? x2, victims of abuse within the church x5, members of other faiths x2, teenagers x4, the housebound x2, sensory deprived e.g. deaf/blind, homeless x2, drug users x2, painful lives, people with mental health x2, people not brought up to know God/find hard to make a step towards faith/make a community outside church, young people after they receive sacraments x2, new parishioners, special needs | |
| **II. Listening**  How might our local Church better listen to lay people (and especially young people and women) and minorities and those who are not respected? | |
| Embrace social media - but know how to use and manage it x3  Value everyone’s opinions x4  Listen with open ears and open minds x3  A forum (safe centres, billboard messages)  Ask parishioners to identify the subjects that are important to them x2  Recognise differences in each parish - a one size fits all approach won’t work x3  Identify roles for lay people (especially the youth) x3  Share best practice (what works) with other churchesx3  ?Who is not respected?  How do we identify those who are not respected? Are you asking the wrong people? be mindful of ‘othering’ people!  We need to move into the 21st century  Our church has virtually no 20-30-40 year olds  Faith gets you through - it helps you make sense of the world - helps you not accept everything the media presents  Desire to listen  Be careful what you say  Involve women more. The Church can be too male orientated and self-opinionated at times x2  Involve women in all aspects of church life  Identify those who feel they are not respected and action plan a solution  The Church is the lay people as well as the clergy. Do we not respect people? | |
| **III. Speaking out**  How can everybody be encouraged to communicate appropriately what is important to them? | |
| Regular facilitated parish events x3  On-line facilities - ask young people - must be a safe inclusive environment x2  Widen channels of communication - bishop to priests x2  Empower others x2  Use expertise + skills of communicators throughout diocese x2  After Year 6 Sacramental Preparation & Learning & Understanding stops - what ways & opportunities can we give the youth to continue to participate in the church community x4  We encourage by “listening” x2  Open honest dialogue in risk free safe space - it’s great but hard to do - requires skill  Get feedback from ideas  Some may prefer to write than speak or to be anonymous x2  Tolerance in all aspects of communication x2  Have “church elders” with designated groups/prayer/ Bible study groups | |
| **IV. Celebrating**  How might I be better able to participate in Mass and other liturgies? | |
| I feel Mass is a celebration, peaceful, able to let go of everything x2  How can we make the Mass relevant to families & young people in the parishes?  How do we make the Mass attractive to teenages? - Use of 21st century social media and music x4 Most music is C19th x2  Music should be eclectic (modern + traditional) x2  Listen to the tradition  Prepare x2  Bring today’s questions along with me  More reading of what the liturgy means - ie. Bible studies  Putting liturgy in context  Explanation of the context of the readings  Why is attendance an obligation? we have to nurture and foster our faith as adults rather than by rules to “make” us participate  We should televise/broadcast the Mass - other churches have done this + have been joined by participants across the world. Better use of technology x2  Incorporate technology in children’s liturgy  A good deal of liturgies to be developed for young people  Develop church for tomorrow  Allow choice of music to families/young people each week | |
| **V. Co-responsible in the mission**  How can each Baptised person become a “missionary disciple”, revealing Christ to others through their words and deeds? | |
| PRAY - grow in love: for God, for all people, for myself x2  Recognise we are all different, with different needs x3  By example (this is the most important) and way of life - good thoughts, good words, good deedsx2  acts of kindness  Being open  This is difficult in practice especially for ‘reserved’ English people but acts speak louder than words and if examples of “missionary” tasks can be suggested we may be encouraged out of our shells x2  Having faith & belief is our strength in informing our Christian lives.  Be living examples. be on guard against one’s own hypocrisy  Be concerned and knowledgeable about the wider world (e.g. migrant crisis & welfare, impact of climate change on sub-Saharan Africa, vaccine poverty  Words are easy, actions harder. Nothing worth doing was ever easy!  Taking and making time to understand the needs of others  Each Baptised person must be able to be fully involved in the church - this means women priests + Deacons, married priest - if this is not allowed then where will the Church be in 5 or 10 years time - church closures, ageing priest population MOST URGENT TASKS TO RESOLVE x 4 | |
| **VI. Dialogue in Church and society**  How might we improve our conversations within our diocesan family and also outside of it, (for example with people of different faiths, those who have no faith and those who have particular roles and duties in society)? | |
| By being ourselves and speaking about our religion/beliefs when asked of if the opportunity arises x4  Treat all with respect x2  Break myths  Open + honest dialogue. listening regardless of background, and taking on other people’s views  More prayer for mutual understanding  More dialogue + encouraging greater involvement from others  Witness in all walks of life and encourage listening rather than judgement x2  Enabling families to get involved x2  Be mindful of our language and actions and how it shapes others’ view of us and how it affects other people  Accept our responsibilities to participate  Engage church family in a project: creates involvement;sense of community;pride + lasting attachment to church; can be replicated  Is social media too difficult at the moment?  Imagine a Facebook page for the Youth managed by our Diocesan Youth Leaders at Hinsley Hall  Why have I never been in a mosque despite living so close to Bradford? or a synagogue? or Quaker meeting room?  More events  Visit and invite other churches  Learn what “joins us” not what holds us apartx2  Move with the times! x4  Discover the good initiatives in many parish families in our Diocese - visit their websites - so much that is good is taking place - celebrate what is good | |
| **VII. With the other Christian denominations**  Are our relations with our Christian brothers and sisters good? How might they be improved? | |
| Yes they are - Churches Together/ecumenical services x3  Vome to the meeting of Churches Together  We could do more as a parish family  More of same and encourage more people to be involved i.e. month of Christian Unity x3  More joint working with other faiths in local communities x3  They are not as good as they could possibly be x3  More joint services/projects - e.g. Tereli?  -swapping ministers for talks/swapping churches.chapels x3  Catholics need to see participation inecumenical activity as a central part of their faith x4  There is still a perception amongst other Chhristian faiths that Catholics think they are right and everyone else is wrong - exclusive  Accept we are no better or worse than any others x2  Training in evangelisation techniques  Ask other churches/Christian faiths what they are doing that works well  Catholics don't meet often to talk about religion  Break myth that Catholic religion is only about attending church on Sunday x2  There should be no such term as non-Catholic | |
| **VIII. Authority and participation**  How might we develop teamwork and a sense of co-responsibility in our local Church? | |
| We don’t know, but there is a problem x4  The best teams are usually about 10 people and if they have a defined job to do it gives them a sense of purpose. doing the tree of life in our parish has brought people together x4  “Strong” personalities should not be allowed to dominate the agenda. all voices need to be taken into account x6  Structure of team leams and volunteers to work together - e.g. the success of Tree of Life Project  first Friday Friends - Dementia friendly  Young people need to be involved in any teamwork but need expertise to draw out sense of teamwork x2 - young people do understand teamwork through schools  Personalised approach to youngsters x3  Give young people a voice x3  How do we get non-retired (older) people and women involved?  We need leadership from parish priests  Be clear about accountability  How do we as a parish share what we are good at?  Restrict new projects to new volunteers (exclude the usual suspects!)  Seek out gifts and talents within the parish | |
| **IX. Discerning and deciding**  How might we improve the process of decision-making in our local Church, so that we truly listen and recognise that the Holy Spirit can speak through each one of us? | |
| Could we strike a balance between the authoritarian style of decision-making while listening to the aspirations and beliefs of the people? I do not favour a “voting” democracy x2  For all in the Church to come to understand through the Holy Spirit that diversity of thought, experience and background is a strength, not a threat or weakness (homogeneous culture/groups struggle to survive and thrive) x2  Prayer groups x2  Support teams x2  Open up the decision-making in the Church - but tends to be the same people who volunteer  more lay people/young people involved in decisions  Use professional experience which exists across the diocese (e.g. Laudato Si) x2  The Holy Spirit “speaks” to each of us in different ways x3  Speak in the language of the day - in a tongue all can understand at first reading x2  Latin alienates many, but not always  Support the Synodx2  Support the Diocesan Synod  Believe that things can happen x4  Be honest x2  Be well informed x2  Speak to other people - be obedient to God’s will - take time out to be still and listen to what the Holy Spirit wants us to do | |
| **X. Forming ourselves in synodality**  What formation is necessary within the local Church if we are to become better at listening to one another and sharing our insights with one another? | |
| What is formation?  Being more visible x2  Practical outreach in the community x3  Projects x2  Youth want to engage in projects x2  Greater engagement with other faiths including non-Christian x3  Engagement with Youth x4  Social media x2  Asking the right questions  Everyone to be approachable by all  Choose best person for the job (rethink leadership)  More parish community actions - chance for social conversations especially listening to others e.g. parish walks, family events? x3  Acknowledge our own vulnerability and the need for God’s love  We have a group in Burley village who train volunteers to learn listening skills  Have more social events where we can meet other we may not know due to attending different mass times (from habit and convenience) x2  A more permanent forum at grass roots level to facilitate listening and sharing our insights with each other and leaders | |