

DRAFT

Meeting of Laudato Si', 11th April 2024, 12.00 - 1.00 pm

Present: Liz Cullen, Phil Ryan, Keeley Ireland , Anthony Brown, Katrina Harkin

Apologies: Mark Wiggin, Kay Curphey

The group met after a gardening session at SSMJ:

Today we have been raking over the rough ground by the side of the houses and then sprinkling wild flower seeds throughout to aid new natural growth. We then raked the ground again to encourage the seeds to root and grow.

The rest of the group planted violas and pansies at the side of Church as we say farewell to the daffodils and hello to the start of the summer term.



CAFOD Lent Walk:

Well done to Anthony who raised another £500 for CAFOD from completing his challenge. The other Lent walks were well attended and raised some important funds for CAFOD as reported at the last meeting.

Live Simply Plan:

Anthony talked about progress towards achieving the Live Simply Award (see the [Live Simply Plan](#)). The group discussed the prior achievements and ways to move forward with the targets (as this has been ongoing for seven years). We discussed the possibility of updating the plan and the targets and how they could be tweaked. We also discussed steps we need to take to achieve the award over the next few months.

Action: Anthony to approach CAFOD in Manchester to explore an amended plan in the light of changes that prevent achievement of the earlier one. We explored the existing plan to review progress.

Actions to Live Simply:

1. Achieved
2. Not met
3. Hope in the Future Missionary Team have disbanded – unable to achieve.

Actions to live sustainably with creation:

1. Partial met
2. Met – work at SSMJ parish
3. Not met – recycling policies not extended.

Actions to live in solidarity with the poor:

1. Not met – need to carry out parish audit of social action
2. Not met
3. Achieved

Synod – Big Listen (See attached document):

Anthony spoke briefly about the document explaining that he and Joe Howson have put it together as a Deanery response (after the date was extended to 26/3). Anthony and Joe (as Deanery members) are attending a meeting with about 400 people on 18th May where they hope for the outcome after the meeting will be a synthesis of all the voices through prayer, reading, listening, reflection and discernment. It is hoped that the synthesis will be helpful in helping parishes become a missionary parish, guided by the Holy spirit, to create a Church for the modern day world.

Anyone wishing to find out more please speak to Anthony.

AOB:

Katrina discussed an idea mentioned a few months ago about asking members of the parish to donate some planting boxes, with the Laudato Si' group planting in them and distributing them back out into the community. The idea would act not only to bring a ray of happiness to people but would also promote the Laudato Si' group and the work they are doing as part of faith in action.

Action: Liz to ask Betty/Carol to pursue with SVP and other groups for people who might appreciate a 'wellie' or a bedding box of flowers to look after. (This could be members of the community who do not have access to a garden, or who would like a wellie to tie to their fence).

Action: Katrina to speak/email to governors (original idea came from a governor to school) who know members of the community who might benefit. .

Liz Finished with a closing prayer (Thank you):

God, who makes all things new, turn our faces to the light of your freedom, justice and rebirth, breaking through and taking form in us. Plant in us seeds of trust in your presence that grown into the fruit of radical courage. Teach us to delight in possibilities. Lord in your mercy.

Next Gardening Day: Saturday 25 May 10.30am – 12. 00 pm. Next Laudato Si' meeting to follow for one hour from 12.00 pm.