

Laudato Si meeting Tuesday 25th Jan 7.30pm to 9.00pm (Zoom)

Present: Liz and Phil Cullen, Anne and Malcolm Peplow, Jane Davies, Katrina Harkin, Grace Fellows, Mark Wiggin, Anthony Brown

Apologies: Bob Turner, Zoe Mabbott, Susan Fellows, Joan Leeming, Olga Jackson and others.

Agenda

1. Opening prayer and welcomes
2. Actions from the last meeting
3. Plans for the parish grounds
4. Discussion on the on-going synod process
5. Diary dates
6. Summary of action points
7. Date of next meeting

1. Opening prayer and welcomes

Ann Peplow shared the 'synod' prayer; Mark welcomed everyone and apologised for the zoom link confusion that will have excluded some people from joining the meeting including Bob Turner and others!

2. Actions from the last meeting

Malcolm has carried out a preliminary survey of the OLOTV parish grounds and prepared a sketch of the area for discuss at the meeting.

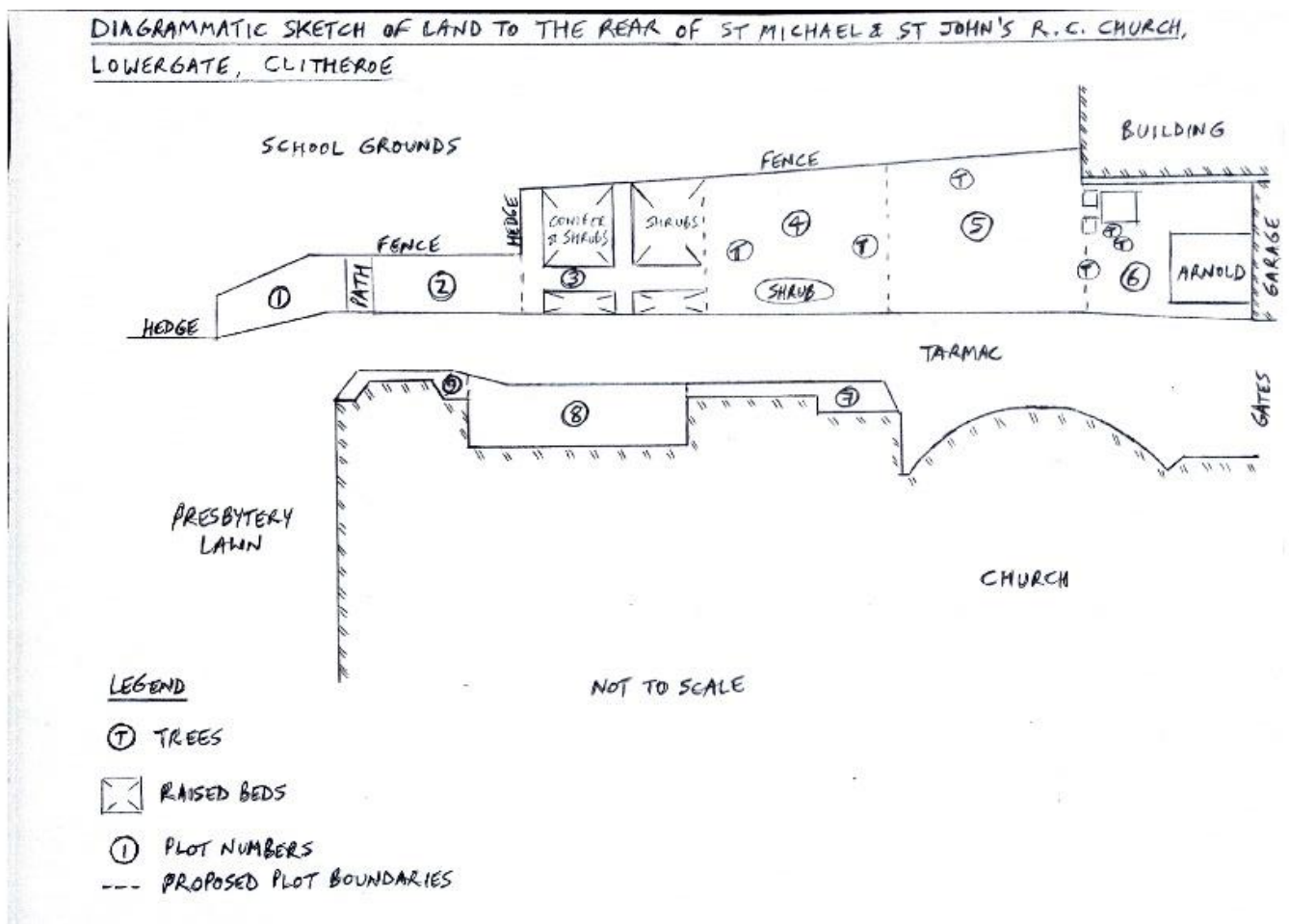
3. Plans for the parish grounds

Malcolm shared his draft plan of the Laudato Si Garden Project plot and sent in photographs presented in a Powerpoint format. A copy of the first draft of the diagrammatic sketch was included and discussed by the group. It gave a general representation of existing features and relative areas and shapes of possible plots. The conversation included:

- a. Clearance and tidy up of the site
- b. Discussion with Fr Paul, Bernard Mercer and Arnold Marsden on our plans
- c. Preparing material to keep the parish informed and invite participation

- d. Consultation and ownership of the project by the parish i.e. not individuals
- e. Plans and costs for the project and use of contacts with skills for pro bono support.

Katrina, following the meeting has put forward some ideas for working together with St Michael & St John's RC Primary School. The school has a Laudato Si group and can help develop Laudato Si in the wider parish.



The offers included a few suggestions for the 'Garden Action Plan' to achieve the Live Simply Award. Katrina writes:

- I am quite happy for my Laudato Si and my class from SSMJ to make/construct any bug houses/hedgehog houses/bat houses etc. that the new garden area would need at the back of the church. As I am forest trained teacher it is something that I feel the children could get a lot from and embeds that love of the environment/nature - caring for our common home within the children.

- Wildflower area - I don't know what the quality (depth/ph) of the soil is like but for the school garden we have spoken about some of the area being a 'wild garden area'
- our school SSMJ leaflet around the parish and I would be happy to encourage bugs/bees etc. within the area - is this something that could be combined with the church's flowers - Do you use wildflowers within church? Could this be used for any areas not suitable for gardening as a natural barrier?
- We have recently been delivering create a leaflet (checked by yourselves) and then organise for some delivery around the parish with the Laudato Si group children from SSMJ if that would help? The local shops were very supportive and happy to display leaflets - could this advertise the garden (behind the church) in the way you would wish and gather support for the project? Could these leaflets be given out after church, could social media Facebook/twitter be used to advertise the garden project? Could these leaflets go home with local school children from the local primary schools?
- If you would like the children to help with clearing the grounds behind the church, please let me know, I am happy to organise my Laudato Si group to give a helping hand.
- We have also just started to use an electronic version of 'Forms' from Outlook to ask for parental opinion on different aspects - this could help to gather parish opinion on our 10 Nuclei? If we would like to know about creating one, please let Katrina know.

The link with SSMJ is very important and in time will yield plenty of fruit for Laudato Si in the parish/community. Linking schools and parishes and reaching the many people who are not directly involved in parish life is a major goal!

4. Discussion on the on-going synod process

Pope Francis has called a Universal Synod which is taking place in every Catholic diocese across the world. The Synod is themed: **“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”**. The diocese wants to hear from as many people as possible, those involved in the church and those who are not. You can take part by completing an online submission following this link: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3D3FXJ2.

Please share this link with family and friends. We have until 1st March 2022 to

make our submissions then, after national and continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard. Our parish contribution is invaluable and can make a considerable difference to the future of the Church in our parish diocese and across the world.

Anthony supplied a paper on the Ten Thematic Nuclei of the Synod (attached) on which the 12 diocesan questions are based and which are a good aid for deeper reflection before completing the diocesan questionnaire.

Pope Francis is asking some big and difficult questions. It was felt that we need to know what Father Paul, the Missionary Steering group and the other members of our Parish are thinking and communicating about this important Journey.

Ann Peplow commented: "I do feel that it would be in keeping with the theme of the Synod to communicate with the other Groups and to listen to their responses before meeting to complete our own Questionnaire. Without this greater feedback I think that our own response will be diminished." This was also the feeling of the whole group.

Two important questions we can ask ourselves are:

1. What is my current experience of the Church and how does this bring me closer to God?
2. How would I like to improve this experience?

Each one of us to attempt one of the 10 Thematic Nuclei questions posed. Anthony will circulate his own responses to one of the 10 questions as an example.

Although we do not propose a further Laudato Si' full meeting on the Synod there are two upcoming meetings (dates below) when we can contribute to the Synod but we will use email to guide further thoughts and opportunities to promote a Laudato Si' response.

5. Synod Diary dates

There are Parish/Deanery opportunities to contribute to the Synod at this stage:

A Missionary Steering Team deadline for responses to Damian Buggy by 4 February (Anthony will check this out. There is no meeting planned as he originally thought.)

Deanery meeting on the Synod in the Parish Hall (Old School Rooms) on 16th February 2022 (time assumed to be 7.00pm).

6. Summary of action points 1

- Follow up the discussions with Fr Paul, Arnold and Bernard
- Develop the next steps for the parish grounds project
- Take up offers from SSMJ
- Each one of us to attempt to answer one of the 10 synod questions (see Anthony's as a possible model) and wait for further guidance on who we might present our contribution – individual and/or group.
- Attend the 2 meetings if possible
- Anthony will find fuller information on what the Missionary Steering Team are doing.

7. Date of next Laudato Si' Group meeting

Thursday 10 February in the Presbytery – confirmation later

You can also find these notes and attachments on the Laudato Si' (Live Simply) Group webpage <https://www.olotv.org.uk/parish-groups/laudato-si>