

Notes including formal minute (in bold) from Manresa Link AGM,
held 18th September 2021 at Selly Park Convent.

Hopes and Visions: Enkindling the Manresa Link Flame for a new Decade

(Acts 2: 14 – 18)

Day chaired by ML chair Melissa Pearce.

28 members gathered and several apologies were received.

After being led in a prayer of movement and chant, we watched an audio video collage in which three pioneers, Miss Margaret Brittan, Sr Morag Gardham and Rev Rob Hingley shared the early vision and enthusiasm of Manresa Link, telling how that related to their spirituality and some of the ways in which ML spread.

We were encouraged to find the *word* that captured our response to the video and were led in a lectio divina of our key passage in Acts 2.

This readied us for reports from our chair report and treasurer (Erik Pearse) **The accounts were formally adopted** and the details of both reports can be found on the Members' area of the website. It was announced that Jane Jones, member of Manresa Link, had accepted the invitation to be our Safeguarding Rep and would now be the first point of contact for any safeguarding queries or issues.

After coffee, we built on the foundations we inherited from the past by participating in two workshops, one using art (facilitated by Mary Flitcroft) and one using the breath and movement (facilitated by Juliet Fletcher and Maureen Slattery-Marsh). This encouraged us to start envisioning the future for Manresa Link and our own part within it, as well as providing us with some tools to use in our own guiding of retreatants. All responded in their own ways and some of the art response is below:



Some of the words which spoke to people are another attachment entitled *Tongues of Fire*

In the afternoon, an examen (shaped for us by Max Jourdiar, offering us questions given by Simon Bishop) helped us pray the question *What is God saying to us now?*

Responses to this question included: something new emerging within Manresa Link, something fresh, rebirth, renewal, creative fidelity, time to push out further, beyond our comfort zones, an image of the swirl of sea waves being blown along by the 'woosh' of the Spirit and a sense of happiness at belonging to ML.

Many practical ideas were then offered in a plenary including:

- Manresa Link WhatsApp group (already launched) (Richard Potter's suggestion)
- Forming regional or local groups, to connect/share/meet more often. (Pauline Myers has expressed interest and will be attempting to form one in her area, another will be offered in Moseley/ King's Heath (Esther Heredero and Caroline Homan happy to be contacts) one happens in Stourbridge (Mary Flitcroft and Sue McDermott)
- Reaching out to churches, to promote RIDLs (Pat Callaghan and Gill Jones have voiced this)
- Taster events/days of prayer (Nuala Graham was one who mentioned this, Kathryn Darby offering one in Coventry)
- Being open to share the gifts of Ignatian spirituality in different ways which give people a sense of bearing in their life of prayer
- Outside the formal offering of retreats we can live in such a way that we are open and willing to be shown something new by God (Max Jourdiere was encouraging us to allow this into our very being as well as doing)

The day concluded with a time of prayer for members of the core group and for one another and we received a prayer of blessing by John O'Donohue.

As we made our way home many of us felt refreshed and hopeful for Manresa Link and had found this rather different way of holding an AGM so helpful. We shall consider how we name it next year so that members can continue to find meetings times of blessing and encouragement.