

Minutes of Manresa Link Core Group meeting
Thursday 1st June, 2017, at Manresa House

Present: Rob Hingley (Chair), Juliet Fletcher, Fr Simon Bishop, Maria Price, Mary Quinn, Linda Hills, Stewart Hills, Max Jourdiere, John Price, Margaret Brittan

Apologies: None – all members present.

Introductions: Round of introductions done since Simon didn't know everyone. Recognition that Simon has taken over as the Jesuit presence on the Core Group.

Opening Prayer: Led by Rob

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

Matters Arising:

1. Treasurer issues – it has been confirmed that anyone can pay money into the Manresa Link bank using the account details – either in person or via internet banking.
2. Simon's input at March evening meeting was well received. It was an inspiring meeting with good participation.
3. Logo – to be covered as an agenda item.
4. Increasing RIDLS – Rob has provided details of Anglican Birmingham Diocese contacts, to be added to the newsletter distribution list so that they are reminded of our existence. Also Linda has contacted the Anglican Diocese Communications links for Birmingham, Worcs and Coventry.
5. Further training session – 11 booked so far, plus Juliet and Kathryn leading, John & Maria assisting. The community are keen to host us. A £10 a head contribution has been requested – Manresa Link may need to subsidise.
6. 2017 AGM - Simon will also present at the AGM meeting as planned.

Issues raised by members

Not requested this time.

Reports:

Reports available and had been read regarding

1. North Birmingham Lenten RIDL Feb/April 2017. Nothing more to report.
2. St Martins RIDL was cancelled – only one booking – started too late.
3. Basic Training Course 2017/2018. Still only 2 bookings. Will have to consider cancelling unless significant number of further bookings received by July. This to be discussed with Enid. Advertising was done, and RC Archbishop supported it in his letter to all clergy.
4. Rob gave verbal feedback re his residential retreat at Shallowford – very good attendance and response.

Issues discussed:

1. New Logo – Mary voiced concern that it was not appropriate to discuss this until we have concluded the discussions about who we are etc. This was agreed, and so the subject was postponed.
2. Future Chair – Margaret proposed Max. This was seconded, agreed, and accepted by Max himself. He was recognised as a highly experienced member of Manresa Link, and as a person with wisdom and excellent listening skills. The handover timing will be decided between Rob & Max, but Rob will chair the September AGM since that is about the past year.
3. New Core Group members – Rob & Margaret stepping down. Discussion took place about numbers to invite, and who that could be to try to maintain diversity. Decision was to invite the following, in order, Maureen Slattery-Marsh, Mark Moreton, Sandy Hewatt, Kathryn Darby. Other names considered were Cecilia Jourdiere, Christine Lewis. Rob to start the process of invitations, recognising that some likely to say no.
4. Annual subscriptions – currently £10 per annum, payable in January. There are members who haven't paid for several years. Only 34 members have paid for 2017 (15 of whom were new members from the last BTC). Email reminders have been sent out in the past, with a low response rate. Clive

would try to collect from people attending the two annual meetings. Options were discussed – decided to continue current approach for 2017 AGM (i.e. to try to collect missing payments there) but to announce there that from 2018, we will be more rigorous – emailing everyone, and following up non-responders. There is awareness that some people think we shouldn't charge subscriptions when we have money in the bank, but we need to communicate that we need to preserve funds to subsidise training, retreats etc. Payment of the subscriptions can be by cheque, BACS, Direct Debit, Standing Order, or cash at a Nat West branch. Slips to be available at the AGM giving the bank account details, but these also to be included in an email in January 2018. It has been recognised in the past that some long-standing members want to receive the newsletter but can no longer be active. They could still be included on the newsletter list without paying subs.

5. 2018 meetings – confirmed that Daniel O'Leary is booked to present at the 2018 AGM. (venue to be arranged). The Spiritual Directors Forum declined to share the costs, but we can advertise outside of Manresa Link, and charge £10 a head to non-members. Una Coogan did not accept the invitation to present at the March 2018 meeting, and other options were discussed. What was seen as needed was stimulation and depth, linked to Ignatian Spirituality. Morag Gardham was suggested as another possible speaker, and it was agreed that Rob would approach her. Possible theme would be the Examen.
6. Costs of BTC – given the increased costs from having the residential weekends other than at Manresa House, the issue was raised about whether Manresa Link should subsidise the BTC to keep costs down for trainees. However, it was agreed that since we don't know yet whether Manresa House will be available or not for the 2018/19 course, and therefore what the costing is likely to be, it is too early to decide if a subsidy will be needed or not.

AOB

1. Max reported RIDLS upcoming in Worcs area and Hereford diocese in the Autumn
2. Mary reported a RIDL being planned by a group of 3 parishes (Northfield, Rednal and West Heath) in the Autumn
3. Coventry likely to be running a RIDL in the Autumn
4. Another RIDL with Chaplaincy Plus also planned in Birmingham Centre in the Autumn.
5. Safeguarding – The Forum are planning a session on Safeguarding on 5-10-17. Rob sees it as important that some Core Group members should attend. Rob will ensure more info is distributed in due course. Simon asked if there was an expectation that all ML members will have some form of safeguarding training, seeing that this should be obligatory. Agreed to raise this as a future agenda item.
6. Meeting to discuss "What is Manresa Link" etc – agreed that Core group would meet for this topic alone on 9-7-17 at 2.30pm at Manresa House (booking to be confirmed). Simon suggested asking Vron (as a specialist in communal discernment) to facilitate this meeting.

Next Core Group meeting: Agreed to be 31-8-17 at 7.30pm at Manresa House. (booking confirmed)

Opening prayer to be led by Juliet – John queried if we want to continue arranging the opening prayer in this way – but discussion put off for a possible future agenda item.