

**Minutes of Manresa Link Core Group meeting
Thursday 2nd March 2017, at Manresa House**

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

Apologies: None – all members present.

Prayer: Presented by Max Jourdier

Introductions: Stewart Hills (incoming Treasurer) was welcomed, and Core Group members introduced themselves to him.

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

Matters Arising: Rob raised query about previous decision to list Core Group members in newsletter, which hadn't happened. Misunderstanding identified, but list had been put onto website, which had been referenced in the newsletter. List to be included in next newsletter.

Issues raised by members

Not requested this time.

Reports:

Reports available and had been read regarding

1. North Birmingham Lenten RIDL Feb 26th 2017 to April 9th 2017.
2. Basic Training Course 2016/2017
3. Basic Training Course 2017/2018
4. Manresa Link membership database
5. New Treasurer/Account signatories
6. Website expansion

Issues discussed:

i) **New Treasurer issues** – Stewart Hills reported on progress to date re the handover from Clive Weston and shared some initial thoughts on changes ahead. Clive has obtained forms needed to release him and all other current signatories, and to establish the new signatories. These were confirmed to be Stewart Hills as new Treasurer, Margaret Brittan as Core Group member and John Price as Secretary. **These three people to meet to go through and complete the forms, then arrange to go to Nat West branch in Halesowen to get all the changes logged.**

ii) **Manresa Link meeting 15-3-17** – agreed that Rob will chair, Max will do opening prayer and introduce Simon Bishop, and Maria will thank Simon at close. **As many members of Core Group as possible to be there early enough to welcome people attending.**

iii) **Meetings 2018** – Daniel O'Leary had been approached previously as a possible speaker for 2017, but was not available and had suggested trying again for 2018. **Agreement for John to approach him again for this, for him to present at the day meeting in September 2018.** If he can't accommodate, suggestion was to try Una Coogan. Thoughts for the evening meeting in March 2018 were either input from Una Coogan (if she is not needed for the September meeting) or for some form of "home-grown" session.

iv) **Manresa Link Logo** – discussion about whether this needs to be updated. Current logo doesn't fit well in current technology. Concern about offending Morag (who designed existing logo). Rob to raise this with her. **Maria & Linda to liaise on potential new designs.**

v) **Website** – restrictions discovered in how many members can be logged with current subscription rate. **Agreed to increase subscription rate to overcome this.**

vi) **Newsletter** – the new format newsletter was sent out using MailChimp, and it was recognised that only 60% of recipients had opened it. Subsequent checks showed that in several instances it had gone into SPAM folders. Agreed that next issue would be sent out with altered settings that may avoid this issue, and John to email all members 3 days beforehand to alert it is about to be issued and let us know if not received.

vii) **Increasing RIDLS** – areas discussed

- a) a focus at end of Basic Training Course to encourage awareness that this is for passing on – that it is down to “you” – and Manresa Link can provide support, rather than for “Manresa Link” to do it. The session would be both motivating and describe how to organise a RIDL, although it is recognised that not all the course members would be ready for this, or even intend to become Manresa Link prayer guides. The session can be opened up to existing Manresa Link members.
- b) encouraging/enabling existing members to arrange RIDLS and/or provide mentoring support to enable newer members to arrange RIDLS. **John to email membership**
- c) target Churches Together Groups – **need to identify them and their contact points.**
- d) Approach RC Archbishop Longley – has been positive in the past, would he help promotion. **John to approach him.**
- e) **Rob to supply list of people in his diocese for John to contact.**

viii) Ongoing training – feedback from Juliette – has been discussing with Kathryn. Idea emerging is for a “quiet morning” followed by an afternoon of triad skill development. Thoughts are for a day in June, hopefully at Manresa House. Juliette to firm up on a date and let John know. John then to check availability with Manresa House. Breakout rooms would be need for the triads. Re the finances – donations could be requested, but Rob indicated we should be open to subsidizing from Manresa Link funds.

ix) Response to Reports – Juliette has agreed to join the training team that will be presenting the BTC commencing Sept/Oct 2017. No progress yet on venue for the residential weekends, but site visits to be arranged shortly at Barnes Close.

x) Invitation to Simon Bishop – agreed. Acknowledgement that Kevin O’Rourke unlikely to be able to attend again. He could be left on the Core Group email list, so that he could attend again should he ever be free and wish to do so.

xi) Meeting with Forum – not many attended to represent the Forum. No specific decisions/agreements etc, but it was a useful meeting for sharing and keeping in touch.

xii) Scope/responsibilities of Core Group – discussion postponed to next meeting

xiii) Assessment of prayer guides - discussion postponed to next meeting

xiv) AOB

- a) Use of guides who have not done the BTC or equivalent – raised by Juliet. Criteria for ML membership is experience of Ignatian based IGR and Ignatian based training. But this raised discussion about RIDL organisers using guides not so trained. Differing understandings emerged about how/when/in what way RIDLS are under the auspices of ML or of the organiser.
- b) From this, Mary raised her awareness that ML is in a state of transition, leading to lots of questions about what is and isn’t OK. And that we need to reflect on what is ML, what is it for. Rob queried if such reflection should be by just the Core group and what process should there be for reflection – and suggested this should be on next agenda to decide how to proceed.
- c) Recognition raised that Margaret will retire from the Core Group in September after her additional year. Also that Rob’s four years ends in September. These issues to be on agenda for next Core group meeting.

Next Core Group meeting: Agreed to be 1-6-17 at Manresa House.