

Synod Meeting minutes
Saturday 26th February 2022, 6pm – 7pm
Trinity Church, Westhill

Summary of the main ideas discussed:

Theme 5 Shared Responsibility

- Every baptised person is called to use their gifts and talents to participate in the life and missionary service of the Church.

The Lenten Lunches is a shared responsibility in our Church, which we share with the Church of Scotland and Westhill Community Church. We not only share the role of leading the event, but share our good news and burdens, we pray together and share a meal together.

We encourage participation in our Church for the youth through the Children's Liturgy, Sunday School classes and Altar Serving. We also had an active Youth Group before the pandemic.

We also shared together when we had teas & coffees after Thursday morning mass and after a Sunday morning mass.

Parishioners use their gifts and talents to participate in the choir and play music for the Church.

People come together in our Church, when we help those within our Church who need support and help.

- What prevents us from giving our gifts and talents to the Church? Are there areas of mission we are neglecting?

It was felt by some, that we attend mass because we have too. We (as a Church) don't go out there enough to 'do' things. The areas of mission we are neglecting are that we are not seeing enough of those 'Christians in action', and without the add on of preaching. A lot of the negative emerges and this overshadows all the good that has/is being done by the Church.

A theme which strongly emerged was how rapidly the amount of people who help, has declined. There seems to be a generation gap too, with mainly an older generation who fills our parish, and there is a concern as to who is going to fill this and take the Church forward in the future.

How are we going to face this? Where did we go wrong with bringing up our children? The choice lies between wanting to come back or being made to come back. We do more harm than good by forcing people to come back. So, it requires creativity and thought.

We need to start somewhere and do things that reconfirm that sense of community and rekindle in people's heart that desire to come back.

Youth can get a hard time at school and often feel the need to justify why they go to Church. We need to help them understand why they are going to Church so that they can stand up for their faith and have the answers to the questions that their peers ask them.

We need young people. We need to engage with them and meet them where they are.

Faith in the Digital Age.

How do you get people learning the Word of God? We need to use modern tools, but still hold strongly on to our traditions.

An example of a modern tool, is The Bible in a Year course by Fr Mike Schmitz. It was the top podcast in the world last year.

We need to find a way to advertise these tools and courses, without people having to feel the pressure of coming in to the Church building. Hopefully though it will inspire them to come back in to the Church.

We need to re-educate ourselves, build up the parish community by encouraging, welcoming and supporting one another.

We are all responsible for the mission.