

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom video conferencing on 26 January 2021

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer for blessings on the parish and on the work of the council.
2. **Present:** Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Janice Gomez, Marlene McCallum, Brian Murray, Rita Phillips, Peter Robertson, Anne Simpson, Martin Spears
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:**
The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
4. **Matters Arising from Meeting 17 November 2020**
 - a) **Parish Outreach:** Karen reported that Corstorphine Community Hub had gratefully accepted the remaining £1000 of the agreed donation which was needed for their food provision activities. The Hub was now closed due to the lockdown and activity was now much more streamlined. Some recipients may have been referred to other agencies. Provisions were collected from Tesco's and those in desperate need were still supplied with food parcels.
 - b) **Advent and Christmas:**
 - It was clarified that many of the food parcels and Christmas gifts for children which had been collected at St John's had gone to the Hub and also to Barnardo's. Marie Allan had had to phone around to find an organisation able to distribute gifts at this time. She had also organised vouchers for teenagers.
 - Following the Advent fundraising appeal for the Scottish Refugee Council hampers, Anne reported that, as part of Corstorphine Churches Together, the parish had received an invitation to a Zoom meeting on 28 January regarding resources for support for refugees and immigrants. As we had hosted the last big event in this connection at St Kentigern's and as Anne is the Parish Representative on Corstorphine Churches Together, Anne volunteered to attend. **Action: Anne**
 - The livestreamed Service of Readings with Music had gone well and Barry McAleer had been delighted to sing again.
 - The music and Katie Barry's singing at some of the Christmas masses had been much appreciated.
5. **Any Other Business**
 - **Facebook Mass with schoolchildren:** Following Tuesday morning's Facebook Mass which the schoolchildren had been encouraged to join, Fr Jeremy said that might happen weekly. Appreciation was expressed for Fr Jeremy's hymn singing which made it easier for people to join in at home.
 - **Lent Sessions on Zoom:** Fr Jeremy was proposing to make the weekly sessions reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings.
 - **School Food parcels:** Parcels were again being delivered to families in need. At present the cost was covered by the remaining funds from the previous lockdown but another appeal might become necessary.
 - **Lent SCIAF Appeal:** Karen said this year's Wee Box appeal, which would again qualify for the Government Aid Match Scheme, was for a project to help disabled children in South Sudan attend education. The difficulties of fundraising under the current restrictions were discussed and it was agreed that Karen would write an item for the newsletter and Facebook page, detailing how people might donate. Wee Boxes had been ordered and arrangements could be made for delivery or collection. Cash or cheques could be delivered to the parish house or donations made online to SCIAF. The first three months of new online monthly

donations would be gift matched by the government. The annual collection on the fourth Sunday of Lent which was always for both SCIAF and Episcopal charities, split 75% to 25%, would also have to be publicised. Fr Jeremy said he would find out what Episcopal charity would benefit this year.

Action: Karen/Fr Jeremy

- **Fair Trade Fortnight:** This could be publicised in the newsletter, with encouragement to buy Fair Trade Easter Eggs.
- **Lent Stations of the Cross:** Depending on the restrictions in place at the time, Stations might take place in the churches or just online. Various approaches to online Stations were discussed, although some were thought to require too much technical support to make them successful. As well as Stations taking place after a morning Mass either in church or online, it was thought that the St Kentigern groups who have led a weekly evening Stations during Lent in the past might wish to do so online. Rita to phone the group leaders.

Action: Rita

- **Sacramental Preparation:** A small group preparing for Confirmation will start short half hour online classes. First Reconciliation has been postponed until the next school year. It is hoped to start First Holy Communion classes in April.

6. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13 April at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 8.20pm.