

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom video conferencing on 13 April 2021

Present: Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Janice Gomez, Marlene McCallum, Brian Murray, Rita Phillips, Peter Robertson, Anne Simpson, Martin Spears. Helen O'Donnell for Item 4 on Agenda.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer for guidance.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:**
The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising from Meeting 26 January 2021**
 - a) **Corstorphine Churches Together Zoom meeting:** Anne reported that the meeting on resources to support refugees and immigrants had resulted in some good ideas for parish activities. Anne to send meeting notes to Fr Jeremy for circulation. **Action: Anne**
 - b) **Lent SCIAF appeal:** Wee boxes had been made available for collection and delivery and a notice about the appeal had gone in the newsletter. Fr Jeremy clarified that the Episcopal Charity which benefited from 25% of the fourth Sunday of Lent special collection was the Archdiocesan Care Fund, which was a general fund from which the Archbishop could respond to various requests and causes.
 - c) **Lent Stations of the Cross:** This had been well attended on Zoom and had gone well. Rita and Martin were thanked for their efforts in organising and facilitating the sessions.
4. **Proposal for Parish Appeal**

A background document prepared by Helen O'Donnell had been circulated and Helen joined the meeting to further explain efforts to raise the funds necessary for the continuing education of a young Palestinian refugee, Nidal Jamal Hindawi, living in Shatila refugee camp in Beirut and to request that the parish might contribute to supporting Nidal. After an extensive discussion the PPC decided that it would not be appropriate to have an appeal at parish Masses for an individual. However, by a majority of eight to one it was agreed that, as Helen had expressed her willingness to hold an information event about the Palestinian refugee situation, this could be combined with a fundraising appeal for Nidal.
5. **St John's hall alterations**

Drawings of the proposed alterations had been circulated and were also available on the parish website. The primary motivations for alterations were that disability access was not of a suitable standard and secondary disability access was required for fire safety purposes. There was also a need for a disabled access toilet. The kitchen and existing toilets would be refurbished. The next stage would be to get quotes and a building warrant. The cost has not been fully estimated yet but Fr Jeremy thought it might be in the region of thirty to fifty thousand pounds. The following points were made in discussion:

 - There was some concern that the kitchen might not be large enough as some of the current space would be used to make a corridor into the hall. It was suggested that the size might be sufficient for the kitchen's usage. Fr Jeremy mentioned that a parish initiative to combat social exclusion might include events such as community lunches. A large cooker would be needed. Fr Jeremy will contact Paul Rogerson and Katy Thomson to advise on kitchen layout and equipment, as they have the relevant experience. **Action: Fr Jeremy**
 - Martin suggested the possibility of exchanging the present locations of the kitchen and hall toilets to give more kitchen space. The kitchen would then be part of the hall rather than having a small hatch for service. Suitable ventilation was queried. The architect would need to be consulted.

- Karen suggested an alternative solution to the problem of access to the hall from outside which would also make access to the Oratory easier. This would involve a long platform at one level and demolition of walls and it was thought this might be much more expensive than the proposed small lift. The Oratory can be accessed from the courtyard for those with limited mobility.
- It was agreed the proposals should go forward as discussed.

6. Post-Covid, what is God calling us to do?

Fr Jeremy raised the question of what we should be planning when life was more normal and asked if we should take up where we left off with the pastoral assembly priorities or if we should be placing more emphasis on social exclusion and evangelisation. He suggested PPC members should consider this for the next meeting. The following brief responses were mentioned:

- An ALPHA course
- Looking at last year's calendar proposals to see how they could be adapted
- The possibility of outdoor activities for the Feast Day of St John the Baptist on 24 June

7. Any Other Business

- **Welcomers at weekday Masses:** It was agreed that there should, if possible, be more than one welcomer. Fr Jeremy expressed his thanks to all welcomers.

8. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 May at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.00pm