

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom video conferencing on 25 May 2021

Present: Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Janice Gomez, Marlene McCallum, Brian Murray, Rita Phillips, Peter Robertson, Anne Simpson.

Apologies: Martin Spears

1. Opening Prayer: Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer asking that the Council might exercise good judgment.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising from Meeting 13 April 2021

- a) **Corstorphine Churches Together Zoom meeting:** Welcoming Refugees and Immigrants to be an Agenda item for the next PPC meeting and Anne to send her notes from the Corstorphine Churches Together meeting on the subject to Marlene for circulation with the PPC meeting papers. **Action: Anne**
- b) **Proposal for Parish Appeal:** Fr Jeremy reported that Helen O'Donnell wants to take forward an awareness-raising and fundraiser event at St John's in relation to the Palestinian refugee situation in general and her efforts to support the continuing education of a refugee student.
- c) **Post-Covid, what is God calling us to do?:**
 - Following a discussion on ways to celebrate the patronal Feast of St John the Baptist whilst restriction levels are still in doubt for the end of June, it was agreed that the liturgical celebration on 24 June should take place in St John's although Thursday Mass is normally in St Kentigern's. The guidelines now allow for a cantor. Karen volunteered. Father Jeremy to ask Margaret Edie if she would play and Patricia Haughian if she would do flowers. The Rosary could be said in the Mary garden after Mass. The possibility of tea and coffee in the garden was mentioned if restriction levels allow for this. There would be no social events on the following Sunday. **Action: Fr Jeremy**
 - It was noted that small group singing was now allowed at Mass but not singing by the congregation. Father Jeremy has spoken to Susan Barry about cantors singing the Psalm, although the response would have to be omitted or sung by the cantor.
 - A social event for the Parish at the end of restrictions was suggested although some parishioners might prefer a gradual return to normal.
 - The possibility of teas and coffees after Mass was discussed although this might have to start with outside gatherings or table service indoors. This could begin on weekdays before starting again on Sundays. More detailed guidelines were needed.
 - The possibility of an Alpha course starting in January was mentioned with a team of parishioners undertaking the first course.
 - Advent was considered a good time to have 40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration.
 - It was not known if the annual St Kentigern's Christmas lunch would take place as this was organised by the SSVP
 - Other events were suggested to encourage parishioners to start meeting again including a movie night, gardening at St John's, litter picking, a walking group and guided walks. Walks with an environmental theme led by a ranger could be undertaken in keeping with the spirit of Laudato Si. Brian to find out more from the Community Council, the Dower House, Corstorphine and Cammo estate. A sponsored walk was also suggested even if it was only a walk between the two churches. It was thought Mary's Meals might be a good charity to support because of its loss of income from its Rags to Riches project

during the pandemic. Brian to check if there were any upcoming Match funding initiatives which would influence the timing of a fundraising event. **Action: Brian**

4. St John's Hall Update

Fr Jeremy reported that, following concerns about the kitchen being too small because of the corridor plan, the altered design meant that one and a half metres would be taken off the oratory, which was currently not much used. This should still leave room for 25 chairs or it could be turned into another space. The kitchen would be slightly bigger with a larger servery and a connecting door from kitchen to hall. The disability toilet would have the interior refitted. There would be paving for wheelchairs around the platform lift. Quotes for the work would now have to be obtained. These could be compartmentalised so decisions could be taken on whether or not to have all the proposed work done at once. Disability access and enhanced fire egress were a priority. There was some discussion on whether this was a suitable project for parish fundraising although the Parish's assets of £320,000 were greatly in excess of the expected cost. In answer to a query about grants it was clarified that they are no longer available for disability access. Grants are available if the work is part of a wider project to address problems of social exclusion. A view was expressed that the plan might be better received by parishioners in both churches if it were broken down into modules in the presentation. It was suggested that an inauguration event for the newly refurbished hall and kitchen should take place with drawings of what had been accomplished on display. Some concern was expressed about the amount of light in the new corridor but solutions were possible. The final proposal will need to be approved by the diocesan trustees.

5. Church Covid Guidelines

Peter expressed some concern that windows and doors, specifically at St Kentigern's, were not being opened to their full capacity and that surfaces were sometimes not being cleaned by wiping, but only by spraying. Fr Jeremy said the guidelines had not changed and that he would send round an email to welcomers. **Action: Fr Jeremy**

6. Any Other Business

No issues were raised

7. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1 July at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 8.40pm