

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom video conferencing on 1 July 2021

Present: Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Marlene McCallum, Brian Murray, Rita Phillips, Peter Robertson, Anne Simpson, Martin Spears

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer asking that PPC members might communicate, listen, speak and think well, showing good judgment and making good choices.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising from Meeting 25 May 2021**

a) **Proposal for Parish Appeal:** The proposed awareness-raising and fundraising event was on hold as it was still prohibited under current restrictions.

b) **Post-Covid, what is God calling us to do?:**

- A Holy Hour had been held on the eve of St John the Baptist Feast Day. Due to circumstances, music plans for the Mass had been changed. The Rosary had been said in the Mary Garden but it had not been possible to have teas and coffees. It was agreed that in future more effort should be directed at celebrating parish patronal feasts on the actual day, with perhaps a mini retreat.
- Brian reported on his research into holding less formal parish events to encourage people to start meeting up again. Enquiries to the Corstorphine Trust and Friends of Corstorphine Hill had not resulted in offers of guide-led walks but the Trust would provide leaflets giving advice on walks which could be led by volunteer parishioners. Brian to contact Mary's Meals before the next meeting to check if they have any special upcoming campaigns, but parish fundraising for the charity could take place regardless.

Action: Brian

c) **Church Covid Guidelines:** Fr Jeremy had sent a reminder to newcomers about the guidelines. Elements of the Mass such as altar servers and the offertory procession were being reintroduced. Fr Jeremy to draw up an action plan when details of the move to lower restrictions levels were announced.

Action: Fr Jeremy

4. **Welcoming Refugees and Immigrants**

Anne's notes on possible ways to welcome refugees, which had been discussed at a Scottish Refugee Council Zoom meeting, had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were made:

- Efforts should be made to welcome and befriend everyone who came to the churches and to know the names of fellow parishioners of all nationalities.
- An International Evening could be arranged with food and music from the different cultures of parishioners.
- Get-togethers could be arranged to help improve the English Language skills of immigrants and asylum seekers.
- It was suggested that welcoming to Mass could be done on a rotational basis with families with children participating. Guidelines for this role would be necessary. The passkeeper role would continue with its more extensive responsibilities.
- A parish information leaflet was discussed. This could be in the form of a brochure or a smaller leaflet with possibly QR codes to take people to the appropriate part of the parish website. Martin suggested looking at <https://www.qr-code-generator.com>. Karen volunteered to draft a leaflet and said she would email an old St Kentigern's parish leaflet to PPC members as a starting point for consultation.

Action: Karen

5. Alpha Course

Fr Jeremy outlined the structure of the proposed Alpha in a Catholic Context course. The course would last twelve weeks and parishioners would be encouraged to invite people to gather, eat and listen to a talk before breaking into small discussion groups each with its own leader. The first course would be aimed particularly at current parishioners and would be an opportunity for the parish community to come together post-Covid. Fr Jeremy to email link to online information to PPC members.

Action: Fr Jeremy

6. Health and Safety Measures

The following points were discussed:

- A defibrillator was now in the kitchen in St John's and one would be ordered for St Kentigern's. It was important that the locations in both churches should be publicised.
- Up-to-date fire procedures should be widely understood although the passkeepers knew what to do.
- A list of health and safety matters that passkeepers need to know about and may need training on to be drawn up. Peter volunteered to do this. **Action: Peter**
- The team of passkeepers in both churches should be built up so a larger pool of people would be available.

7. Any Other Business

- **Weekly collections:** Fr Jeremy reported that most parishioners had transferred to standing orders but there had been a reduction in the loose plate amount as there had been few visitors from other parishes. The Finance Council would again be considering contactless giving. Martin mentioned that GoodBox provides contactless machines to charities and makes it possible to receive Gift Aid automatically. For contactless Gift Aiding the government has special rules for claiming on donations under £30.
- **Church bell for St Kentigern's:** Rita said she is searching for a traditional type of church bell for St Kentigern's which could be rung on special occasions or perhaps before Mass.
- **Annual Leave:** Fr Jeremy said he would be away from 28 July until 13 August.
- **Seminarian placement:** Alessio Marchetti, a seminarian from the Scots College, will be on a four week placement in the parish from 17 August to 13 September.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2 September at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 8.45pm