

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 2 September 2021

Present: Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Janice Gomez, Marlene McCallum, Brian Murray, Rita Phillips, Peter Robertson, Anne Simpson, Martin Spears. Also attending: Alessio Marchetti (seminarian on placement).

1. Opening Prayer: Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer for guidance in deliberations for the good of the parish and for the glory of God.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising from Meeting 1 July 2021

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

Brian reported on his ongoing research into possibilities for parish walks with the aim of building community and to encourage parishioners to bring friends and family who might not be church members. Corstorphine Trust had provided details of a short walk around the area with 12 points to stop and reflect. There were several self-guided walks of various lengths on Corstorphine Hill and the possibility of a guided walk if a suitable time could be arranged with the volunteer. Visits to the Tower and to the old nuclear bunker were mentioned, but could be considered at a later date. It was agreed to start with a walk on Corstorphine Hill led by parishioners on Sunday 3 October. Participants would be able to meet either at the church at 2pm or at Cairnmuir Road car park at 2.30pm. A First Aid kit would be required. Participants would be asked to bring picnic food for a stop in the Walled Garden. Brian to put a notice in the newsletter for 11/12 September. **Action: Brian**

It was still not known if Mary's Meals had any special campaigns or government aid schemes coming up but it was agreed that the parish should participate in their backpack scheme to provide materials for schoolchildren. Brian to find out if that scheme had restarted yet.

Action: Brian

b) Church Covid Guidelines: Fr Jeremy said we were following the guidelines which had come from the Bishops Conference of Scotland. Windows were opened, masks were worn and sanitising gel was used. Hymns and newsletters were now allowed. The church was cleaned after use if there was going to be another service within 24 hours.

c) Parish Information Leaflet: Having started work on drafting a leaflet, Karen now questioned if this was the best way to provide all the information needed by new parishioners. The possibility of a flyer to direct people to the website was discussed and it was agreed that some kind of 'welcome' card would be appropriate, for example, to deliver to the new build estates being built in the parish. Information about Catholic life including schools in the area could be included. A facility for new parishioners to register their details should be set up on the parish website. It was suggested that the simplest way to inform new parishioners of this facility would be a regular note in the newsletter. More copies of the newsletter were required at St Kentigern's for Sunday masses. It was agreed that a short history of St Kentigern's should be added to the parish website, along with an explanation of the courtyard sculpture, to complement the website article on St John's. Rita to ask Ian Starkey if he would write 500 words on the church history. It was also suggested a plaque should be placed at the bottom of the sculpture.

Action: Rita

d) Alpha Course: This would not start until January at the earliest. The first course, aimed primarily at current parishioners, might take place in St Kentigern's as the St John's hall refurbishment would still be ongoing. A group from the first course would, hopefully, form a team for a further course. Wednesday and Sunday evenings were mentioned as possibilities for the once a week meetings.

- e) **Health and Safety Measures:** During an extensive discussion on fire safety measures at St Kentigern's and the need for all passkeepers to be fully aware of requirements, concern was expressed about the number of exit signs, the lack of a fire plan to clarify procedures and ensure compliance with insurance policy conditions and the need for a nominated fire officer. It was agreed that current priorities were exit signs, a fire drill, notification of assembly points and instructions to passkeepers. An exit plan should be on display in the building. A fire plan should also identify gaps and plan to rectify them. Fr Jeremy thought the parish would have to write its own fire plan but advice from the Fire Service could be requested. Peter to discuss an action plan with Bert Demarco. **Action: Peter**
- f) **Church bell for St Kentigern's:** Rita reported this was ongoing.

4. Review of Church Covid Procedures

This was covered under Matters Arising.

5. Renewing Church Ministries

- a) **Passkeepers:** Bert and Anne had drawn up rotas for the respective churches. New volunteers would be added on a rota basis and as and when needed. The need to attract younger people was mentioned.
- b) **Altar servers:** There were two new altar servers at St John's and one at St Kentigern's. Fr Jeremy and Alessio had talked to the altar servers. Another notice would go in the newsletter at some stage and Fr Jeremy would continue to suggest to the children attending Mass that they might like to think about becoming a server.
- c) **Children's Liturgy:** Five new volunteers had signed up at St Kentigern's and there were two possibilities at St John's. All needed to go through the safeguarding process.
- d) **Next?:** People could be invited to get involved as readers. It was suggested that children could read and it was thought this would be best at a once a month family Mass, which might be scheduled to coincide with bacon roll Sunday. A training session for readers would be organised. Bidding prayers had been reinstated at St Kentigern's and Fr Jeremy would ask George McLafferty to restart at St John's. **Action: Fr Jeremy**

6. Any Other Business

- **St Kentigern's defibrillator:** The supplier was waiting for the model recommended by Dr Tracey Phillips.
- **Winter ventilation of the churches:** The heating would need to be put on before the start of Mass so that the church could be as warm as possible despite the requirement to open windows.
- **Hymns at St John's:** Hymns were decided in advance for two months at a time.
- **Lifts to church:** The parish had never had formal arrangements to offer lifts to those who had difficulty getting to the churches because of the safeguarding and insurance issues involved. It was agreed that a notice could be put in the newsletter in order to assess the need, and, if required, the possibility of having a pool of drivers could be explored. If drivers' insurance companies made a charge the parish might be able to fund this.

7. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 28 October at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.25pm