

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 28 October 2021

Present: Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Janice Gomez, Marlene McCallum, Rita Phillips, Anne Simpson, Martin Spears.

Apologies: Peter Robertson, Brian Murray

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer asking that the Holy Spirit might guide PPC members as they sought to serve the parish.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Fr Jeremy chaired the meeting as Peter was unable to attend.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising from Meeting 2 September 2021**

- a) **Parish Walk:** Brian had reported via email that between 20 and 30 people had taken part in the parish walk on Corstorphine Hill on Sunday 3 October. Feedback had been good and many people had suggested doing it again. It was agreed that the next walk should perhaps be on a flat area to allow the slightly less able to participate and the time could dovetail with the end of Sunday Mass at St John's.

- b) **Fundraising for Mary's Meals:** Brian had been informed that, due to a shortage of global shipping capacity and related price increases, the charity is not collecting backpacks at the moment. It was agreed parish fundraising should continue as they are still providing food in schools. Father Jeremy reported that Mary Cumming was organising a sale of knitted items on two weekends after Mass. It was agreed that hospitality should also be offered and it was hoped that a sale could take place at St Kentigern's as well as St John's. It was suggested that suitable knitted children's items could also be donated to the children's charity with which Rita is involved. Anne agreed to talk to Mary Cumming about arrangements.

Action: Anne

- c) **Parish Information Leaflet:** Clarity was needed about the content of the article on St Kentigern's history which had been suggested for the website. It was thought there might be a box of archive material in St Kentigern's house. Fr Jeremy to look for it. Copies of a parish flyer in various colours designed by Fr Jeremy and Celia Boyle were circulated. PPC members preferred the darker colours. Fr Jeremy to find out if the price difference for the favourites was significant, taking into account the quality of recycled paper. It was agreed to remove the word 'diverse' from the flyer as the context was not clear.

Action: Fr Jeremy

- d) **Alpha Course:** This would probably not now start until Spring.

- e) **Health and Safety Measures:** Peter had reported by email on his meeting with the person who services St Kentigern's fire extinguishers and who had advised on fire regulations and procedures. As a result more Exit signs had been placed in St Kentigern's indicating a direction of exit into the courtyard, which meant that the courtyard gates must now remain unlocked when there is someone in the church. The logistics of assembly points are still to be established. Peter to clarify. Emergency lighting is still required. Exit procedures need to be discussed.

Action: Peter

- f) **Renewing Church Ministries:** There had been a training session at St John's for new readers and they were now on the rota.

- g) **St Kentigern's defibrillator:** The defibrillator was now fitted to the wall and Dr Tracey Phillips had given a tutorial on its use to the passkeepers. A box for the unit had been ordered. Fr Jeremy to ask Tracey if she would offer a tutorial at St John's. **Action: Fr Jeremy**

- h) **Lifts to church:** It was agreed that offers of transport were best left as private arrangements between parishioners.

4. St John's Hall Update

The plans had been sent out to tender with an itemised list so it would be possible to take out particular proposals if over budget. Due to the current situation in the building industry it was taking longer to get prices, therefore the proposal was unlikely to be ready for the Trustees' meeting on 18 November and the next meeting would not be until 20 January. The issue of disability access was discussed again as Karen had proposed an alternative to the original plan of a lift for wheelchair users and a drawing had been made of a plaza which would mean the doorways to the house, oratory and hall would all be on the same level. This would enable a quicker exit in the event of a fire and would involve less maintenance. This proposal would be costed. The idea of a lift for wheelchair users from the church to the hall was raised again but it was thought the disruption and cost was not justified by the numbers who might benefit. No grants for disability access are currently available. The idea of using tables and chairs outside the hall in a new plaza was suggested.

5. Parishioners' Suggestions

The following suggestions were considered:

- **Advent activities for children after Mass.** A play, singing and short films were proposed. It was agreed that a play by children would be more appropriate in May or June before the children received the sacraments. Fr Jeremy to speak to the catechists. It was decided that in Advent a paperchain activity would be offered, available to adults as well as children. All would be invited to the halls after Sunday morning mass to write a prayer or seasonal thought on pre-cut paper which might have 'My Prayer is...' pre-printed on it. Martin and perhaps Karen to organise the materials for the chain. It was hoped that bacon rolls could be provided. Brian, Maria Douglas and Giovanna DiTano to be asked about this. Rita and Anne would buy mince pies from Macro for the two churches. It was hoped that one of Mary Cumming's knitwear sale dates might coincide with the proposed date of 12 December.

Action: Fr Jeremy/Martin/Anne/Rita

- **First Holy Communions:** The suggestion was that the children should be given a DVD of their special day. It was decided that a livestream and recording should be made available. Families would have to sign an agreement if this was to appear on the parish website. Following a discussion about parish prayer partners for the children it was decided that the names of the individual children should be written on multiple pieces of paper which would be picked out of a container by parishioners and the parishioner would then pray for that child as he or she prepared for the sacraments.
- **St Catharine's Convent donations:** It was agreed that the parishioner who had suggested to Fr Jeremy that we support the convent's work with the homeless would be asked to contact Sister Aelred to ask what they need. Anne volunteered to ask the Missionaries of Charity about their requirements. An Advent appeal could be split between both and the parish would continue to support the Bethany Trust work with the homeless.

Action: Fr Jeremy/Anne

- **Initiatives for care home residents, particularly those with dementia:** Suggestions about recording Mass and familiar hymns were discussed. It was decided to write to care homes giving a link that would allow access to a filmed Christmas Mass. Christmas cards might be written by the schoolchildren to the sick and housebound.

Action: Fr Jeremy

- **Saughton Prison:** In response to a suggestion about supporting prisoners and their families, Fr Jeremy said he would contact the chaplain, Fr Vasyl Kren to ask how the parish might help, especially at Christmas.

Action: Fr Jeremy

6. Any Other Business

- **The Synod 2021 – 2023 on Communion, Participation and Mission:** Guidelines for parishes had been received from the diocese and it was agreed that the parish should participate in the synodal process. As parish feedback had to be submitted by 31 January the parish synod meeting was arranged for Saturday 15 January in St Kentigern's from 10.30 to 12.30. Facilitators will need to be identified for small groups of participants. Each group will consider three questions on the themes. The morning will be split into two sessions. Information about the synod will be publicised in the newsletter and on the website and

booking will be necessary for those wishing to attend the parish meeting. Eventbrite will be used for this. Marlene McCallum will take phone bookings from those unable to use Eventbrite.

- **Letter from TOR Christian Foundation:** The closure of the TOR Christian Nursing Home means the Foundation wish to disburse their accumulated funds and would welcome proposals from churches providing pastoral care for older people. Sums of varied amounts will be available in the form of project grants. Anne volunteered to phone the Chair of Trustees to discuss their requirements and to enquire if work on disability access to provide community activities for older people would meet their criteria. **Action: Anne**

7. Date of Next Meeting: Saturday 27 November at 10.30am

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.45pm