

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 26 April 2022

Present: Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Janice Gomez, 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 the Holy Spirit might guide hearts and minds for the good of the parish.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising from Meeting 17 February 2022**

- a) **Health and Safety Measures:** Peter's enquiries regarding the status of St Kentigern's parish house had still not resulted in a definitive clarification of whether or not it formed part of the church complex and was, therefore, subject to the same fire regulations. Fr Jeremy stated that a Fire Safety assessment for all parishes might be undertaken shortly by the Archdiocese and that the Archdiocesan Property department would be the body to rule on the St Kentigern's complex.
- b) **SCIAF:** Karen suggested that, in light of this year's emphasis on climate change by SCIAF and Fairtrade, the parish increase its efforts to combat waste by discouraging all single use products and also by making it easier to access parish recycling bins at St Kentigern's. Fr Jeremy said he would, in future, buy reusable hand sanitiser dispensers. Marlene to contact Geraldine Donoghue to enquire about progress on the eco-congregation initiative.
Action: Marlene
- c) **40 Hours Devotion:** The Holy Hours at both churches had been reasonably well attended and it was agreed that it would be good if the parish held another 40 Hours devotion next year, probably during Lent.
- d) **Real Easter Eggs:** Sales could be expanded next year to include the other Easter gifts offered for sale.
- e) **St John's Hall update:** The firm which had submitted the lowest quote had been asked to quote again on the rejigged plans.

4. **Parish Synod Review and Next Steps**

The report on the two parish Synod meetings was considered along with the summaries of the discussions from the parish assembly and follow-up meetings held in late 2019 before the start of the coronavirus pandemic. The following points were mentioned, but in light of the amount of material to be covered, Brian offered to go through the many suggestions in the documents, some of which were repeated, and summarise and group them for consideration at the next meeting, when priorities for action could be decided:

Action: Brian

- The restart of the Community Lunch at St Kentigern's was being considered.
- There were good links with St Andrews school. School and church noticeboards could be used for information.
- The difficulties of involving children and young people in church music was discussed.
- There were plans for Susan Barry to hold a music evening at St Kentigern's soon to encourage the learning of new hymns and new parts of the Mass. It was suggested that, if possible, a similar evening should take place at St John's. Fr Jeremy to talk to Susan and Margaret Edie.
Action: Fr Jeremy
- A young enquirers/post Confirmation group could be set up to preserve links with the children. The previous year's class could be asked to help. The Pope Francis Faith Award could be offered to children not at Catholic schools. They could come together for

discussion, reflection and participation at Mass. A parish group would be needed to take on this responsibility and volunteers would need to go through the safeguarding process.

- Setting up a Men's Group in the parish was suggested. Brian volunteered to gauge the interest by organising a one-off Men's Night. **Action: Brian**
- The parish social diary, drawn up before the pandemic, could be used as a starting point for activities this year.

5. Parishioners' Suggestions

None had been received.

6. Any Other Business

- Rachel Murray would like to do a fundraising activity for Mary's Meals, possibly on a street food theme.
- It was agreed that next Lent's evening Stations of the Cross should start earlier at 7pm.
- For the Feast Day of St John the Baptist there would be a vigil Mass at St John's on 23 June, with possibly cheese and wine afterwards. On the actual Feast Day of 24 June there would be a Holy Hour in the evening. A barbecue, or possibly hog roast, would take place after 11.30 Mass on Sunday 19 June and it was hoped that the families of the children making their First Holy Communion on the 18th would attend. Volunteers would be needed. Brian suggested PPC members who usually attended St John's should meet to discuss.
- The parish involvement in the Corstorphine Fair would be as members of Corstorphine Churches Together.
- It was agreed that if the Drumbrae Gala took place this year the parish should have a presence, perhaps with leaflets and a tombola. Karen to investigate if a Gala day had been organised. **Action: Karen**

7. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7 June at 7.30pm in the Oratory at St John the Baptist's.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.15pm