

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 17 November 2022

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

Apologies: Brian Murray

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer for wisdom and good judgment in making decisions.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Proposed – Fr Jeremy; Seconded - Karen

3. **Matters Arising from Meeting 7 June 2022**

a) **Men's Group:** Stephen Donegan had taken the lead on this initiative and the participants at a preliminary meeting had agreed there should be a strong faith focus. Sessions on Matthew's Gospel had been suggested. Fr Jeremy to promote the group in the parish.

Action: Fr Jeremy

b) **Bereavement Group:** Following a meeting of volunteers, it had been agreed that the group would respond flexibly to the needs of those bereaved who indicated to Fr Jeremy that they would appreciate support. The annual Bereavement Mass would take place on 24 November. It was agreed that, after funeral masses in both churches, refreshments would be offered to those not going on to the crematorium or cemetery.

c) **Warm Spaces:** It was agreed that the Wednesday afternoon warm space initiative needed to be publicised more widely as there had been no take up from the community at the first session. Rita, Karen and Janice volunteered to distribute posters to shops, hairdressers, medical practices, community noticeboards, schools and the Munro centre. It was suggested that flyers could be placed at the back of the churches. The demand for the service would be reassessed by Christmas.

Action: Rita, Karen, Janice

d) **St John's Hall Improvements:** Work had started on the accessibility improvements and the disruption in St Ninian's Road was not as bad as had been expected. Replacement of the St John's light fittings was starting. Anne had researched funding opportunities for future improvements and the criteria for the Queensberry Trust, the National Lottery Fund and the Church of Scotland Foyle Foundation seemed to fit best with the parish's needs. It was decided to postpone any further assessment on future work while the current improvements were ongoing.

e) **Sunday Brunch at St John's:** In response to enquiries, Environmental Health had indicated that further consultation would be needed if hot food was to be prepared in St John's kitchen. No further Sunday brunches were planned until after the completion of the current work. Thanks were expressed to the Webster family for the excellent brunch they had provided.

f) **Thanks:** On behalf of the PPC, Anne had sent a card to Peter Robertson, following his resignation, thanking him for his service as PPC Chair. Marlene McCallum was also thanked for her work as PPC secretary.

4. **Parish Synod and Assembly Implementation**

In Brian's absence, an update was postponed until the next meeting.

5. Advent and Christmas

- Christmas Eve Mass times to be 6pm, with carols at 5.30pm, in St Kentigern's and 8.30pm, with carols at 8pm, in St John's. Christmas Day Mass to be at the usual times of 9.30am in St Kentigern's and 11.30am in St John's.
- Reflections, probably on the Sunday readings, to take place after Mass at St Kentigern's on the Tuesdays of Advent. Tea and coffee to be served.
- Advent Candlelit Masses to be on Monday evenings at 7pm. Two to take place at St John's on 28 November and 5 December and two at St Kentigern's on 12 and 19 December.
- Carols by Candlelight to take place at St Kentigern's on 14 December, with refreshments available.
- Anne to send Christmas cards to Corstorphine Churches Together, Fr Victor, seminarian Gerard Holden and also to the school pupils who had taken part in the Caritas scheme.
- The Edinburgh City Mission and local churches' Christmas appeal for donations to hampers and help with delivery had been publicised in the newsletter and Anne was co-ordinating this.
- The Families' Christmas Support scheme was an SSVP project.

6. Parishioners' Suggestions

Remembrance Sunday: There had been an enquiry as to whether the time of the Remembrance Sunday Mass in St John's could be moved to a slightly later time in future to give people more time to get from the service at the Memorial to the church. Fr Jeremy explained the difficulties of changing the time of a scheduled Sunday Mass.

7. Any Other Business

- It was decided to celebrate St Kentigern's Feast Day on the nearest Sunday, 15 January. Parishioners would be encouraged to attend St Kentigern's that morning and join in the Big Breakfast. Marlene to ask Bert if he would be prepared to arrange a film showing in the evening. **Action: Marlene**
- Janice Gomez's resignation from the PPC because of a house move to another area was announced. She was thanked for her service and prayers were promised.
- It was decided that the 60th anniversary of St John's church should be celebrated on Sunday 26th March in the afternoon. It would be an Agenda item at the next meeting and PPC members were asked to bring ideas. A parishioner knew of a film student who could produce a film about the parish and its history. Longstanding parishioners with memories and photographs would need to be identified.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 8 January at 2.00pm in St John's Oratory

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9pm.

Addendum: Item 5.

The arrangements for the Monday evening Advent Candlelit Masses are now as follows:

Monday 28 November: St Kentigern's

Monday 5 December St John's

Monday 12 December St John's

Monday 19 December St Kentigern's