**St Patrick’s Core Group Meeting
Wednesday 31st January 2024**

**Present:** Canon John Kyne; Ken Daly; Angela Grabowski; Emilia Golanowska; Len Hutton; Debbie James;

 Cory Marsh; Colin Massey. Jackie Massey; Luke Potter; Toby Saunders; Jane Smedley; Andrew Storey;

 Angela Storey; Kevin Strauther; Sheila Strauther

**Apologies:** Sr Susan Richert; Paul Cullen; Rosie Daly; Carol Hannah; Linda Macutkiewicz

**Notes/Actions From Last Meeting**
Kevin had spoken to the manager of Kingsway Hall about the overhanging trees but nothing had yet been done because of the cost. All other items on agenda

**Lent and Easter at St Patrick’s**
No Station Masses this year but Fr John was organising a Holy Hour in each church beginning at St Patrick’s on 27th February. The devotions would focus on the Our Father as part of the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Holy Year in 2025 and the meditation at St Patrick’s would be on the first line.

The Ash Wednesday Mass at St Patrick’s will be at 9.15 am on 14th February but Fr John was hoping for evening Masses at two churches. A Service of Reconciliation would take place at St Philip Neri on Tuesday, 26th March. The Triduum services would all be at St Philip Neri this year but participants in the liturgy would be drawn from each church. Mass at normal time on Easter Sunday.

It was agreed that we should try to have a celebration of The Stations of the Cross after Mass on Wednesdays in Lent and also at 6.00 pm on Fridays in Lent. Ken would try to recruit volunteers to lead the prayers.

*“Walk With Me”* booklets would again be available free of charge (donations in the collection if people wish to give anything) and Greeters would be asked to distribute them as people enter the church. Some would also be sent to St Patrick’s School.

**Items from Fr John**

Fr Marc would be going home to the Philippines on Monday, 5th February and no permanent replacement has yet been agreed. However, Fr Darren Brown (a former Army Chaplain) who was ordained at the same time as Fr John will be helping out from 7th February and will be assisting on most Sundays. Fr Philip Seed from the Diocese of Southwark who is recuperating from a fall will also help out as and when he is able to do so.

**Finance, Premises and Maintenance**

The firm offer of £300,000 or the purchase of St George’s is still on the table and the matter is with solicitors. The costs of maintaining the property and solicitors’ fees etc will be deducted from the monies received.

Helen Townsend, the National Higher Education Adviser to the Bishops’ Conference, has moved into the presbytery and some work has been done on the garden fencing.

A quote of £2,090 perm annum has been received from the Grounds Maintenance company which has been managing the site at St Patrick’s for the past two years. This was agreed by the group and Ken would contact the company and arrange for a copy of the contract to be sent over.

Although it was greed that some work should be done on the church fascias and roof, it was felt prudent to wait until the sale of St George’s went through before committing funds to these repairs. However, Kevin and Ken would draw up a priority list of repairs to be submitted to the Diocesan Buildings and Sites Commission before its next meeting so that, hopefully, permission to do the work would be received and it could be actioned as soon as the Rainworth church has been sold.

Discussion took place around the condition of the Church Hall. Emilia agreed to search for suitable grants and Cath volunteered her daughter to help with any bid writing should this be necessary.

Len reported that the Finance Committee had met and there would be one accounting system from April although each community could see what was being given and spent in its area. Ken agreed to be a second member of the Committee to support Len.

**Social Events**

Jackie reported that the Band Concert had been confirmed for Friday, 29th November.

Toby mentioned that St Patrick’s School was organising an Easter Fair (on Wednesday, 27th March) and a Summer Fair (on Friday, 8th July) and he hoped that the parish would be willing to run a stall or two. Toby would e-mail a list of potential stalls to Ken.

A discussion would be held after Mass one Sunday regarding the idea of an Afternoon Tea as we have had in previous years.

**School Links**

Jane thanked the parish for its continued support and the school was grateful to F John, Fr Marc and Sr Susan for their chaplaincy work. The Buddy Mass last Tuesday was very successful. From the school’s Development Plan, it would like to advertise events in the parish newsletter so that parishioners were aware of what was happening. The meeting agreed that we should find room in the church for a couple of “pop-up” banners advertising the school. An ad hoc news sheet could also advertise parish and school events.

Luke mentioned the idea of Prayer Partners between school and parish during Lent and he would try to facilitate this. It was also agreed that children would lead the Sunday Liturgy at the Enrolment Mass for First Holy Communion and a second Sunday midway through the programme.

Toby advertised a School Race Night to be held on Sunday, 17th March.

Over twenty Sixth Form students would be going to Lourdes with the Diocese this year and would be fund-raising over the next few months.

**Suggestion Box**

It was agreed that we should replace the barrier matting/carpet in the church porch and Jane would contact Our Lady of Lourdes Trust Buildings Director to get some prices or offcuts if work was being done in any of the schools.

A suggestion that access for wheelchairs could be improved by removing some pews was discussed but the meting felt that there was no immediate need for this as recent visitors in quite big wheelchairs had managed well at the front of the church.

Carol had suggested that we consider the Divine Renovation programme. Fr John had heard of it and it was in place in the Good Shepherd parish in Woodthorpe but it was not clear how effective it might be in our parish and there might be a conflict with the successful RCIA programme being run on Thursday evenings.

**Items to/from the Parish Pastoral Council**

Ken and Cath reported that the last meeting had gone well and the group was working towards a Parish Pastoral Plan. More details would be available after the next meeting on 16th April

**Any Other Business**

1. Could be keep the internal doors closed until Mass has ended rather than open them at the same time as the outer doors just after Holy Communion. This was agreed.
2. Safeguarding – Cath now has the complete register for St Patrick’s and everyone who needs it has had a DBS check. All but two people have registered for an online update as and when necessary and Cath will send a prompt at the appropriate time.
3. Appropriate colouring books and materials would be made available for younger children as soon as the next batch has been received.
4. A meeting to discuss the issues arising from the Synod would be held at St Philip Neri Church Hall on Tuesday, 20th February. All welcome.

Date of Next Meeting

7.00 pm on Wednesday, 24th April in St Patrick’s Church Hall