

**Notes from Joint meeting of the Christ the King and St Brigid's and St Paul's Parish
Advisory Councils with the Synod Team
Tuesday 18th October 2022 at St Brigid's Hall**

Present:

Canon Matthew Jones
Fr Andy Bord
Mrs Lynda Barry (CTK Parish Council)
Mr Simon Brockway (CTK Parish Council & Synod)
Mr Ivor Grey (CTK Parish Council)
Mr Bernard Hayward (SB&SP Parish Council)
Mr Terry Jermyn (SB & SP Parish Council)
Mr Matthew Jones (SB & SP Parish Council)
Mrs Maria Konsbruck (SB & SP Parish Council)
Mrs Sally McLaughlin (CTK Parish Council)
Mr John Regan (SB & SP Parish Council)
Mrs Elizabeth Taylor (CTK Parish Council)
Mrs Tania Walsh (CTK Synod)
Mrs Brenda Welsh (CTK Parish Council)
Mr Steven Widnall (SB & SP Parish Council)
Mrs Chris Williams (CTK Parish Council)
Mrs Pat Williams (SB & SP Parish Council & Synod)

Apologies:

Mrs Ann Reid (SB & SP Synod)
Mrs Karen Sylvester (SB & SP Parish Council)
Mr John Worthington (CTK Parish Council)

Introduction

- 1 Canon Matthew thanked everyone for attending and explained that the Synod reports for Christ the King (CTK) and St Brigid & St Paul's (SB & SP) had each been considered by the relevant Parish Council. He explained that the purpose of this meeting was to progress the issues identified as significant. In order to focus the meeting the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each Parish Council had met with him and drawn up a list of the key issues which was circulated before the meeting. Attendees agreed this list should form the agenda. There was a correction noted to the document to include St David's College in the point about "**Strengthening links with the schools**".

Communications

- 2 To address "**availability of parish clergy at the end of weekend Masses to chat to members of the Congregation**" a space would be created for the clergy to sit in the porch area/back of each church at the end of Mass. **Action Elizabeth Taylor to raise at 3 Churches Liturgy meeting on 25th October.** On the issue of general communications, Canon Matthew underlined that if people were contacting him to make arrangements such as agreeing dates this should be done by phone to avoid the need for drawn out exchanges of emails.
- 3 Simon Williams had been asked by CtK PC for recommendations on developing a Register of parishioners for CTK – to be considered at PC meeting on 15th November. The experience of a recent similar exercise for StB/StP's would be taken into account.
- 4 Following general discussion it was agreed to set up a Communications Task

and Finish Group which in the first instance would meet with Luke Todd and Simon Williams to review the newsletter and website and scope potential changes. Volunteers for the group were Bernard Hayward, Elizabeth Taylor, Karen Sylvester (in absentia) and Chris Williams.

Action: Elizabeth Taylor to set up a meeting of the Communications Task and Finish Group with the aim of reporting back to each Parish Council by the end of December 2022.

- 5 Each PC asked to review issues on the communications list to be taken forward on an individual parish basis. This to include notices/announcements at weekend Masses, use of internal and external noticeboards (potential scope for joint order for external boards for CtK and StB) and communications about membership and meetings of each PC. **Action: each parish council.**

Catering for Families

- 6 Canon Matthew set the context and noted we have 3 good Catholic schools/colleges and there are plans for 6000 new homes in the area. The first phase of 1500 homes is currently being developed. However the numbers of families engaging regularly through attendance at Mass was very limited, though significant numbers of baptisms, first communions and confirmations were continuing. Reconnecting with families was a crucial issue.

- 7 **Strengthening links with schools.** Tania Walsh planned to repeat the Prayer Table at CTK School Parents Eve on 25th/26th October as it had been successful in the past. CTK School Masses (in school and at CtK) had been re-established post-pandemic.

- 8 **Sacramental programmes – baptism, first communion, confirmation. Strengthening and supporting the existing teams.** Canon Matthew explained that baptism preparation was undertaken in conjunction with St Teilo's parish but depended largely on just two catechists (Anne Martin and Bridget Lee) from the 3 Churches. The first communion and confirmation programmes were 3 churches based. The first communion team led by Clare Reay was strong but the confirmation programme rested largely on just one person (Ansti Corellis) who sought to involve others. It was agreed that Canon Matthew would meet with all the current Catechists to see what they felt was needed. This might include a review of the programmes being used. The meeting should be convened in November/December and any recommendations taken to the Parish Councils.

Action: Canon Matthew to arrange meeting and advise the PCs of outcomes.

- 9 It was noted that the **Family Mass** at CTK on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9.30am had been very successful so far with a substantial number of families attending and at least a doubling of the numbers normally attending the 9am Mass. The potential for introducing Family Masses in other churches could be discussed at the next 3 Churches Liturgy Group meeting on 25th October.

Action: Pat Williams to add Family Masses to Liturgy Group agenda.

- 10 **Youth Programmes** - It was noted that a number of young people were involved in altar serving, helping with junior club, gardening and the Food Bank as part of their community service element of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme. The 3CY initiative some years ago had failed to sustain the interest of young people. For a younger age group the junior club run by Marie O'Brien continued to be very successful. A number of attendees raised the possibility of employing a young worker – something proposed in the past but not taken forward.

Action: Canon Matthew to investigate the potential of employing a Youth

Leader, possibly jointly with other neighbouring Parishes, and report back.

Outreach

- 11 Canon Matthew explained that the Proclaim Group had evolved from an evangelisation initiative and was responsible for many of the excellent community outreach schemes listed such as the food market and the delivery of prayer cards. These demonstrated that the 3 Churches was not a “holy huddle”. The Proclaim Group monitors and stimulates. More needed to be done to publicise the various initiatives and secure volunteers for their development. One possibility could be a publicity fair held during the tea and coffee sessions after weekend Masses.

Deanery and Diocesan Arrangements

- 12 Canon Matthew spoke of the difficulties of getting action moving at a Deanery level – the Cardiff deanery encompasses the city, Penarth and Barry. A more fruitful approach, at least until the new Archbishop's plans became apparent, might be to work with a smaller group of parishes e.g. for catechist training and youth work.

Date of next meeting

- 13 A further joint meeting to be arranged in February 2023 following the submission of reports regarding the 3 key actions, ie communications, catechist support and youth leader, and the consideration of these reports by the individual Parish Councils. **Action Canon Matthew to set meeting date in consultation with PC chairs.**