

105 West Savile Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH9 3DN

The Most Reverend Leo Cushley  
Archbishop of St Andrew's and Edinburgh  
100 Strathern Road  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1BB

20<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Your Grace,

I am writing on behalf of the Pastoral Parish Council at St Peter's in Edinburgh. We were very pleased to welcome you to our lovely church recently and appreciated that you took the time to visit.

At a meeting of our Council which took place after your visit, there were two issues discussed, which I have been asked to raise with you.

Firstly, we were disappointed to hear about the changes that have taken place at the Gillis Centre. As you will know, as a parish we use the Gillis Centre for events where our own parish room is not large enough and also where accessibility is an issue such as masses for the sick and housebound. Whilst we appreciate that difficult decisions need to be made, we were concerned that we heard of the changes via unofficial channels on social media. As much as the news is disappointing, since we fear that we will not be able to have the opportunity of using the facilities at Gillis in future and that is likely to have an impact on the events which we are able to host as a parish, we feel that it would have been received better if explained directly to us from yourself via a Bishop's letter or even your own social media channel. We understand that your published, 'Renewal of Curia' sets out to explain this and this helps us understand the reasoning behind the decision but it would have been preferable if this had been made widely available before the rumours took hold. I would be very grateful if you were able to provide some reassurance on this, which might be reported to Council members at our next meeting in the New Year.

The second issue is in relation to communication about the future of the parishes within our Cluster. A lot of St Peter's Parishioners have attended the Cluster Parishes Sessions which have taken place over the last couple of years and we wonder if there are any updates regarding future plans, which might be reported back via the Parish Council, or by other means. As a Parish which has embraced the concept of Cluster Parishes and been very dedicated to the consultation process, we would be very keen to ensure that we continued to have the opportunity to be involved as fully as possible as discussions and decisions move forward. We would welcome any future invitation to take part in the consultation process and would be grateful if you were able to let us know of any developments in the meantime.

Yours in faith,

Josephine Beech-Brandt  
Chair Pastoral Parish Council