



SAINTS ALIVE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WATERLOO, BELGIUM

A PARISH OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION
SERVING THE GREATER BRUSSELS AREA

FEBRUARY 2018

The Anglican Communion, of which we are a part, is a worldwide family of 38 churches representing 70 million people in 164 countries. Each national church is independent in its government and liturgical life.

Located near Waterloo, Belgium, All Saints' Church extends an invitation to people of all faiths to join our common life and worship. Established in October 1979, All Saints' is affiliated with the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe.

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DUE DATE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER (March)

is 15 February 2018

Please submit contributions to Fiona White at admin@allsaints.be

Saints Alive! Postal Subscriptions: €15 (Belgium and Europe); €25 (Outside Europe)

KBC: 734-0226514-28

Code IBAN: BE37 7340 2265 1428 Code BIC: KREDBEBB

ALL SAINTS' WATERLOO

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVING BELGIUM

The Mission of All Saints' Church

We welcome all with joy to our spiritual home.

We seek to share and to deepen our faith and our love of God through Anglican worship, pastoral care, Christian nurture, and vibrant community life.

The Mission of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe is a welcoming community that knows God loves all people – no exceptions. We celebrate our diversity of languages, cultures and nations. Worshipping together, we rejoice in reaching out to the world and becoming One in Christ.

The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers.

To respond to human need by loving service.

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

PRAYER FOR THE CONVOCATION:

O God, we pray for the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe as we discern and elect a Bishop to serve your people, build up your Church and proclaim boldly the Gospel to the world. Send us, we pray, an Apostle who is a wise counsellor, a merciful pastor, filled with your joy and grace. May your servant have the abundant gifts needed to lead your flock and the strength and courage to administer them. And may we renew and rededicate our lives to your will and service. All this we pray in the Name of our Great High Priest and Servant of the servants of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SAINTS ALIVE!

From the Rector: Weather you like it or not

You may recall a few years ago I wrote in *Saints Alive!* of my joy at the surprising number of rainbows in Belgium – something I had not anticipated when coming here, and taken as a fortuitous symbol. This winter we have had all the clouds, but none of the rainbows. To make a rainbow, you need some sun. They report that in December we had only 10 hours and 31 minutes of sun in Brussels. Add to that our normal short days, with sunrise after 8 and sunset before 5, and it has been dreary indeed. (The terms “*sunrise*” and “*sunset*” are ironic here, since, as mentioned already, we didn’t actually see the sun.)

So much darkness has an impact on our spirits. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) – depression caused by lack of sun – is real and can be quite serious. Even without the clinical condition, people tend to be lethargic and colder in attitude when their world is dark. The darkness makes it difficult to exercise. Gloom and doom and a negative world-view are associated with the lack of natural light.

Talking about the weather may seem trite, but in truth, extreme weather has a big impact on our feelings and faith. The weather is discussed frequently in the Bible, as a sign of God’s power, God’s blessing and God’s judgment. The fact that it is discussed so much as related to God has, unfortunately, become a reason so many people deny our human responsibility for climate change. But if we see the Bible speak of us as co-creators, entrusted with responsibility for the other aspects of life, stewards of nature and the well-being of the rest of the environment, how can we then not take on the duty of caring for the significant changes in the weather trends experienced in recent years?

This does not mean we do not trust the power of God to transform our world, in ways great and small, but rather, that even as God is working a purpose out, God gives us, humans created in God’s image, the privilege and also responsibility to build the kingdom on earth. Jesus himself used an image of our understanding the patterns of nature as a sign for our understanding of the kingdom (John 4:35, among others) – and in using it, spoke of God’s role together with ours.

Now, I may be opening a big can of worms* when I do this, but this Lent, let’s have some after-church discussion about the ways our faith guides us in the care of the climate, and our stewardship of the rest of creation. We can use one aspect of the Sunday scripture as a starting point for reflecting on different aspects of the topic.

As we see God’s hand at work in all aspects of the world around us, we remember Teresa of Avila’s words: “Christ has now ... no hands but yours.”

(The Rev) Sunny Hallanan+

SAINTS ALIVE!

STEWARDS OF CREATION: LENT after-church series

Lent 1 (18 February): we'll hear of the story of the sign of the rainbow in scripture, and address the overall theme of God's signs and our trust, in the midst of floods and other natural disasters.

Lent 2 (25 February): scripture speaks of being fruitful and multiplying – yet we know of the effects of over-population.

Lent 3 (4 March): we'll hear of Jesus displaying righteous anger at our human actions. It's the day of our Annual General Meeting, and we'll spend a little time discussing if or how All Saints' has a role in caring for creation as a parish.

Lent 4 (11 March): has a reading which could be seen as God sending illness and good health as punishment and a sign. What is our theology of healthcare?

Lent 5 (18 March): Jesus talks of seeds and life, and we will take on the question of how our food choices affect the world. The * in the rector's article is because it is suggested that we should eat things not normally in our local diet to save the earth.



Willy Smets

It's with a heavy heart that we deliver this sad news. Pa (Willy Smets) passed away on 31 January peacefully in his sleep. It was totally unexpected. This is very heartbreaking for all our family, and we are mourning this loss. Your love, support, and prayers are very much appreciated, as our family goes through this process of grieving.

His funeral was held in Mechelen on Saturday, 3 February with Rev. Sunny Hallanan presiding.

Marc & Michael Smets-Tolley

Ash Wednesday services will be held in the church at 12 noon and 19.30 on 14 February.

RESERVE 18-21 OCTOBER FOR CONVOCATION CONVENTION!

We need **EVERYONE** at **All Saints'** to join in the fun and help us host this special event (when our next bishop will be elected). A **sign-up sheet** has been put out in the café detailing where help is needed.

SAINTS ALIVE!

Report from the Convocation Bishop Search & Nomination Committee

The Bishop Search and Nomination Committee continues its work, behind the scenes for the time being, primarily in the writing of the profile of the Convocation that will serve as the base document for those who may feel called to present themselves as candidates for our next Bishop. The profile will be available to everyone on the Convocation website from early February. It will highlight the role and tasks of the Bishop-in-Charge of the Convocation, in addition to giving background information on the Convocation, its context in Europe, our parishes and missions, and a little about what the new Bishop might expect living in Paris, almost certainly for the first time.

The Book of Common Prayer, on page 517 “The Examination” for the Ordination of Bishops, has several paragraphs describing the calling of a bishop. As we are at the beginning of the discernment process this page merits reading, particularly as many of us probably have a hazy understanding of what it is the Church requires of bishops.

In addition to being a strong witness of our faith, the Church calls on a bishop to be one with the apostles proclaiming the Gospel, to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church, to ordain priests and deacons, and to be a faithful pastor and example for all Christians.

Each bishop has some unique duties, depending on location, size of diocese (Convocation in our situation), history, etc. The particular duties of the Convocation bishop, as reflected in the profile, include matters such as directing and guiding the leading of the various commissions and committees of the Convocation (Council of Advice, Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized, Youth Commission, European Institute of Christian Studies, and the Committee on Mission Congregations), representing the Convocation in the worldwide Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, and maintaining relationships with various ecumenical partners, some particular to Europe. An important role of all bishops is to serve as the pastor to the clergy of their jurisdiction, which is a notable challenge in the Convocation because of the wide geographic spread over several countries, with the associated implications for travel. Opportunities to interact with parishioners are similarly complicated by distance and the rarity of Convocation-wide events. Living and working in the midst of the differing cultures of the countries of the Convocation, including the varied languages, is yet another difference. But we have faith that the special requirements of our Convocation will energize and inspire a number of good candidates and that we will be able to discern God's will as we call the next Bishop-in-Charge for our community.

Please continue to hold all those involved in the search process in your prayers. We need your support and thank you for it.

Note: Our representative on this committee is Carole Ducastel

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 4 March at 12.30

The purpose of an AGM is to elect the Vestry, inform the congregation of the state of the parish, and build up the community of the faithful.

VESTRY MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

- A. Attendance at worship regularly
Have a faith commitment to God / Jesus Christ
- B. Regular Vestry meeting attendance – meetings are usually the 3rd Monday of each month, and quorum is needed.
When members are absent their input is missed.
If a member must miss a meeting, it is important to take the initiative to find out what was discussed so the whole Vestry does not have to repeat matters already covered.
- C. Workshops / Retreats
There is an important All-Vestry Retreat on Saturday, 13 April.
- D. Attendance / support of parish functions.
- E. Personal commitment of time / talent / treasure.
- F. Committee Responsibilities
Each Vestry member is liaison to one committee, to support, help lead, and report back to the Vestry regularly. The committees are decided at the annual Vestry retreat.
- G. Reporting
Regularly prepare and deliver a timely monthly committee report to Vestry.
Prepare and deliver an annual report outlining efforts of Committee and any future plans committee has to offer the parish for inclusion in the Annual General Meeting Report
- H. Be a constructive team player: have a positive attitude and desire to be a part of the solution.
- I. Have an understanding of church and traditions.
- J. Be committed to the future growth of All Saints' as a parish community.
- K. Have a commitment to confidentiality

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Council of Advice at All Saints Thomas Aquinas Epiphany 4 11:00 Holy Eucharist 15:30 service in Mons with Bishop Whalon	29 18:00 Beavers 18:00 Cubs 19:30 Scouts & Explorers	30 20:00 AA (French)	31 16:00 Brownies only - no Rainbows 18:00 Guides	1 Brigid 20:00 AA (French)	2 The Presentation rector's day off Candlemas	3 Anskar 10:00 Willy Smets funeral
4 Epiphany 5 Cornelius the Centurion 11:00 Holy Eucharist	5 The Martyrs of Japan, 1597 18:00 Beavers 18:00 Cubs 19:30 Scouts & Explorers	6 20:00 AA (French)	7 14:00 Wednesday Club 16:00 Rainbows & Brownies 18:00 Guides	8 20:00 AA (French)	9 rector's day off	10
11 Last Epiphany 11:00 Holy Eucharist 12:15 "Mardi Gras"	12 18:00 Beavers 18:00 Cubs 19:30 Scouts & Explorers	13 Absalom Jones 09:00 Shrove Tuesday 20:00 AA (French)	14 Cyril Monk and Met... to the Slaves, 1869 Ash Wednesday 12:00 Ash Wednesday service 16:00 Rainbows & Brownies 18:00 Guides 19:30 Ash Wednesday service	15 Thomas Bray 20:00 AA (French)	16 rector's day off	17 Janani Luwum
18 Martin Luther Lent 1 11:00 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Caring for Creation 15:30 Mons eucharist	19 18:00 Beavers 18:00 Cubs 19:30 Vestry 19:30 Scouts & Explorers	20 20:00 AA (French)	21 14:00 Wednesday Club 16:00 Rainbows & Brownies 18:00 Guides	22 20:00 AA (French)	23 Polycarp rector's day off	24 Saint Matthias
25 Lent 2 11:00 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Caring for Creation	26 18:00 Beavers 18:00 Cubs 19:30 Scouts & Explorers	27 George Herbert 20:00 AA (French)	28 Anna Julia Haywood Cooper 16:00 Rainbows & Brownies 18:00 Guides	1 David of Wales 10:00 Quilters' Workshop 20:00 AA (French)	2 rector's day off Chad of Lichfield	3 John & Charles Wesley

LECTIONARY AND ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Date	Lectionary Psalm / Hebrew Scripture	Apostolic Scripture / Gospel	Lay Assistants	Ushers	Lesson Readers	Prayer
4 February: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Psalm 147:1-12, 21c Isaiah 40:21-31	I Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39	M. Tolley	B. Bythell	Old Testament D.-H. Lemaire New Testament B. DeWitt	K. Osweiler
11 February: Last Sunday after Epiphany	Psalm 50:1-6 2 Kings 2:1-12	2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9	M. Smets	M. Breton	Old Testament M. Smets New Testament S. Downhill	J. Leigh
18 February: First Sunday in Lent	Psalm 25:1-9 Genesis 9:8-17	1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15	B. Nahimana	A. White	Old Testament Ph. Marchandise New Testament F. White	A. White
25 February: Second Sunday in Lent	Psalm 22:22-30 Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16	Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38	B. Bythell	N. Fern	Old Testament O. Quinet New Testament H. Pandian	C. Ducastel

If you are on the roster and are unable to be in church, please arrange a swap with someone else.

SAINTS ALIVE!

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, All Saints' Church held on Sunday, 12 March 2017

The Rector, the Rev. Sunny Hallanan, called the meeting to order and invited those present to join in singing the first two verses of *The Church's One Foundation*.

1. Business of the Fabrique d'Eglise

Mike Breton, Treasurer, carried out the business and the appointment of the Conseil d'Administration for All Saints' Church, Waterloo. The budget had been approved by all the communes and the church is legally in order.

2. Annual General Meeting of All Saints' Church

The Rector welcomed those attending their first AGM. Twenty-eight people were present.

3. Approval of Agenda

All present were in favor of the Agenda.

4. The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted as distributed in Saints Alive! but with one amendment: Carole Ducastel said that she wasn't part of ASC at the start.

5. Where we've been & where we're going

Rev. Sunny presented a bell chart of the life of the church:

dream - beliefs - goals - structure - ministry - nostalgia - question - polarize - drop-out.

We start with the dream of Christ's kingdom; beliefs, i.e. what the Anglican Communion believes; set some goals; and then comes structure, i.e. Vestry, AGM, committees; ministry: the ministers are all the baptized; we are currently in the middle of 'ministry'; then there is nostalgia, how things were in the old days; question, why is it like this?; polarizing, female clergy, etc.; culminating with drop-out.

A church can be born again by revisiting the dream and setting the loop/curve in parallel. We can still have the original dream.

Rev. Sunny then posed three questions:

i) Where did the Holy Spirit blow you (personally) in the last year?

The election of Donald Trump and the UK voting to leave the EU loomed large with many people. People noticed changes in the health of friends but also that existing friendships had grown.

ii) What was the Holy Spirit doing in ASC last year?

Many new families have arrived at All Saints' in the last year, benefiting the congregation and Sunday School.

iii) Where will it take us this coming year?

People want to see more parishioners, more people wanting to use our space, a greater francophone ministry.

6. Receipt of written reports

Unfortunately there had been a delay in getting the reports in and printed prior to the meeting. Those who had prepared them were thanked. Everyone was in favor of the reports on the basis that they would be read after the meeting.

7. Financial reports

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1. Mike Breton presented the accounts for 2016. He reported that the church had spent more than it had received – by €26,000. We still need more income because money is required to pay for waterproofing the back wall of the building. He thanked Marijse Pullinger for preparing the accounts.
2. Mike Breton then presented the budget for 2017. The building is fully rented out but there are still opportunities for groups to hold meetings here and the church can be used for concerts. It is important that we continue with the government system which provides the stipend to pay Rev. Sunny and Rev. Mark Barwick. We couldn't manage without this.
3. Financial Stewardship: So far, Mike has received 27 financial pledges this year.
Rev. Sunny reminded those present that the Vestry votes on the budget, not the AGM. She then thanked Mike, Nadia Molenstra and Marijse for all the work they do on the finances.
8. Financial acquisition of the church building
The building loan was reduced by €37,000 last year and now stands at €880,000. The church needs to aim to pay this off in 10 to 12 years so we need to be in a position to pay off more each year than is being done currently.
9. Election of Vestry members
Rev. Sunny first thanked all the Vestry members and Rev. Mark. Although absent, thanks were given to Gemma Pullinger who had had to resign from Vestry due to evening classes. Nadia Molenstra and Jennifer Blanco-Marvik had completed a three-year term on Vestry and were thanked for their services. Fiona White has completed six years on Vestry so is not allowed to stand for re-election. Rev. Sunny thanked her for all she had done on Vestry and as Senior Warden for the last two years.
Nadia and Jennifer were re-elected, unanimously, to Vestry for further three-year terms. Bill Bythell was elected to the one-year vacancy on the proviso that he is involved in the planning of Convention 2018.
Rev. Sunny announced that Fiona White and Michael Smets-Tolley have been selected as delegates for Convention in Wiesbaden this coming October.
She then announced that Michael Smets-Tolley is her new Senior Warden. This was greeted with a round of applause.
10. Any other business
Rev. Sunny reminded those present that it is the duty of Christians to make provision for their family and to write a will.
She also reminded people that the memorial for Willy Smets' mother is at ASC on 19 March, and the memorial service for Melinda Whalon, the Bishop's wife, is in Paris on 29 March.
The safe-guarding classes were mentioned. Everyone involved with fiduciary duties and children must follow the online courses.
All Saints' Church is hosting Convention 2018.
She thanked Bill for all the worship scheduling he does, and for the Rite 13 group who did so well with the Great Litany last week.
Carole Ducastel proposed thanks to Revs. Sunny and Mark for all they do for the parish.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

SAINTS ALIVE!

Abridged minutes of the Vestry meeting held on 20 November 2017

1. After **prayer** the minutes of the October Vestry meeting were approved.
2. **Vestry check-in:** Katie Osweiler as the soon-to-be-appointed Assistant Rector, came to the meeting so that the Vestry could meet her.
Bob Dewitt has resigned from the Vestry with immediate effect. A motion was passed to accept his resignation with thanks and appreciation for his years of service.
3. **Convention 2018:** Bishop Robert Innes' Anglican Council has changed its location to meet in Brussels the same week, so the Council can join Convention for a worship service and one of the evening meals.
4. **Fellowship:** The Remembrance Day celebration went well, with a good turn-out and enough food and drink for all. The Thanksgiving feast was a great success helped by Sunny's organization and the scouts working in the kitchen. Only five people had helped set the tables the day before. Unfortunately no basket was put out for donations towards the cost of the turkey and wine. Other dates for fellowship: 3 December: meet the new assistant rector; 10 December: decorate the rector's tree; 17 December: pageant, party, and decorating the church, with the emphasis on entertaining the children, perhaps also with Father Christmas. Light lunch will be provided. January will be quiet. Mardi Gras will be celebrated on 11 February.
5. **Outreach:** Douche Flux Bruxelles has opened a centre for refugees with showers, similar to what All Saints' wanted to get involved with last year. Sant-Egidio, a group which promotes peace and justice, is uniting all churches and laity in a program to house refugees in Belgium. With Bob resigning Vestry, Katie has been asked to be the interim liaison on Outreach matters.
6. **Finance & property:** From the figures it was seen that income over the period was greater than expenditure. A payment to our donor next month means that a total of €45,000 will have been paid back this year. The loan is now down to €850,000. A builder will provide a quote for repairing the tiles on the roof and another for the back wall.
7. **Formation:** Sunday School is going well. A Rite-13 ceremony will take place next year. Sunny has found an adult course on Revelation, which could be run from 09.30 until 10.30 on a Sunday morning without clergy leadership, leaving time for those on duty to get ready.
8. **Other business:** Reports on Convention 2017 were read to the meeting. There have been requests to make more effort in keeping the church quiet before services to enable silent reflection.
9. **Rector's report:** The search for a new bishop is progressing. A consultant has been appointed, someone who knows of our different challenges and knows we need a bishop with different attributes. The local service during the week of Christian Unity will be held on 21 January at a location still not determined.
10. The meeting closed following a prayer.

SAINTS ALIVE!

Abridged minutes of the Vestry meeting held on 18 December 2017

1. After **prayer** the minutes of the November Vestry meeting were approved.
2. **Vestry check-in:** The following question was asked: How does the Vestry feel about the quantity of Christmas celebrations held in Advent – before Christmas? Some felt it was too much too soon. Do we do carols in Advent because so many are away at Christmas? People don't necessarily go away but it is a 'dead' period; also there's a greater economic pressure on no-church people. The C of E Advent Sunday School program begins three weeks before Advent! Why are our Christmas late-service numbers down in recent years? In light of the numbers attending the late Christmas Eve service in recent years, Sunny had decided to make this a spoken service.
3. **Formation:** The flexible staffing in Sunday School is working well.
4. **Convention 2018:** Around 30 members of the Anglican Council will join the Convention group on the Thursday afternoon and evening. Bill Bythell has quotes for the Bishop's Banquet. He will start to organize his team of helpers in January.
5. **Fellowship:** Events on 13 and 17 December had gone well. The next event is Mardi-Gras on 11 February.
6. **Outreach:** Katie Osweiler reported that she will hold an all-parish meeting in January to discuss dispersal of funds and ways to help those in need during 2018.
7. **Finance & property:** Nick Fern's liaison role on Vestry will be as a back-up to Mike Breton in managing the church finances. Our debt with our lender is down to +/- \$841,000. The 10th anniversary of this loan is coming up so Mike will meet with our lender in the New Year to see if the arrangements needs to change. A new president for the Fabrique needs to be appointed.
8. **Other business:** Nick Fern said that he was interested in going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Sunny is very keen to take a group. He suggested a note being put in the bulletin early in the new year to find others to join him.
9. **Curate's report:** Katie reported that she really likes working with ASC. She has no definite news on her ordination but hopes that it will happen in March.
10. **Rector's report:** Sunny is very pleased to have Katie helping her and is investing time in training her. The second service at Mons was held on 17 December. The bishop will celebrate next month's service there. Sunny asked Vestry members to do the online survey regarding the search for a new bishop.
11. The meeting closed following a **prayer**.

MEMBERS OF THE ALL SAINTS' VESTRY

RECTOR

The Rev. Sunny Hallanan

CURATE

Katie Osweiler

SENIOR WARDEN

Michael Smets-Tolley

JUNIOR WARDEN

Laura Atlee

MEMBERS

Mike Breton

Bill Bythell

Nick Fern

Dominique-Hélène Lemaire

Nadia Molenstra

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