

VESTRY MEETING – 7 OCTOBER 2019, 19.30
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

Present: Mike Breton, Bill Bythell (Senior Warden), Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet, Susan Downhill, Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector)
Staff: Fiona White

1. Mike Breton opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absence:** Apologies were received from Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate), Michael Smets-Tolley and Nadia Molenstra.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the September Vestry meeting were approved as circulated.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Mike Breton said he was struck by Katie Osweiler's 'faith-o-meter' during her sermon the previous day (measuring faith on a scale of 1 to 10). He feels that either people don't have faith or are in or out. Most of those present seemed hardened attendees so why didn't they consider themselves a 10?

Also, watching the world athletics championships recently, Jonathon Edwards was interviewed. Back when he was competing, his faith was so strong that he refused to compete on a Sunday. Today he has lost his faith.

One member present said they had lost a faith but gained another. Mother Teresa had losses of faith, as revealed in her diaries. Sunny Hallanan says she knows she has some 1s and 10s in the congregation and has to provide something for everyone.

5. **40th anniversary:** Sunny reported that Bishop Mark Edington and his wife, Judy, will arrive at Waterloo station at 12.15 on Saturday and stay at the Ibis. This visit is not a regular visitation (that will take place in the spring) so there will be no formal meeting with the Vestry. It is not possible to visit the former church at Argenteuil as the building is unsafe. The program for Saturday evening will be:

18.30: Aperitif, served in the café

19.00: People take their seats (free seating) and there will be a short presentation by the Scouts, followed by the meal. Bill and Chantal Bythell will help Christoph's team with the serving (main course is buffet style).

During the desserts, a few select people will speak of their memories – limit: 3 minutes. Those asked are: Terence & Judy Whaley, Maurits & Erika Dolmans, Janet Martin, Clair & Rainer Ullman, Arend & Joke van der Toorn, Mark Barwick, Julia Leigh, Mike & Pam Breton, and Roderick Abbott.

22.00: At the end of the evening, it is hoped there will be willing helpers to clear the tables, wash up, and prepare the area for the pot-luck lunch the following day.

Sunday: The bus has been booked to bring parishioners up from Mons. It will be outside the Ibis Hotel at 09.00..

Photographs will be shown on the large screen over the weekend.

Name tags will be prepared for the Saturday evening and people can write their own for Sunday.

6. **Ministry and committee reports:**

- 6.1. **Finance and property**

- a. Mike Breton reported that all convention fees due have been paid.
 - b. The compressor on the (newer) church van has been repaired.

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- c. The Norwegians are leaving All Saints'. They have given three months notice and will leave as of 31 December 2019. As a result, a PEB certificate is required to rate the energy use in that apartment. This shows it has an energy performance of 'G', the lowest. Mr De Bruin of ImmoV feels that the apartment needs a lot of work done prior to re-letting. It could be let to private individuals or professionals. If professionals, we must ensure control on their exterior signage.
- d. Our 2019 target of €50,000 in repayments to our lender should be met.
- e. Mike visited the Maison Communale de Braine-l'Alleud to clear up the matter of an error made by him some years ago: an amount was included on the accounts that had had no approval. The money had been put into the Fabrique's account and therefore a zero budget couldn't be achieved. The Central Council of Anglican Churches has picked up on this but hopefully last week's meeting put an end to the matter.
- f. Proximus still need to come into the building to make the final connection in the church office. Fiona White is still waiting to hear from them.
- g. The scouts are very short of youngsters and new recruits. As a result they have decided to move the Beavers and Cubs back to St John's School where they hope to garner more members. The Scouts and Explorers will carry on meeting at ASC. These changes will not affect the amount they pay ASC each month, as it is for use of storage facilities, not meetings.

6.2. Christian education

- a. Sunny reported that there is no teacher for Sunday School this weekend. The children need to have age-appropriate options during the sermon, otherwise we will lose families.
- b. A parishioner purchased *Wired Word* for the congregation to read. Sunny doesn't want to discourage initiative but ASC is aiming to follow the Presiding Bishop's teachings. The link to this alternative will go in eBlasts.

6.3. Fellowship

- a. Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet thanked the Vestry for organizing the 40th celebrations.
- b. She reported that the end-of-summer barbecue had been a great success in the Rupps' garden.
- c. We need a venue for the Advent Supper. Someone's home would be the best option but failing that, the event can be held in Campbell Hall. It was suggested approaching Bob DeWitt to see if we can use their home. **Action: Gabrielle**

6.4. Outreach/Mission

- a. Harvest Festival will take place the weekend after the anniversary celebrations. As in the past, tinned and dry goods will be given to Charleroi food pantry.

7. Other business:

7.1 Calendar updates: We need a date for the Community Service of lessons and carols. **Action: Bill**

There will be no midnight service on Christmas Eve this year.

Katie Osweiler is away during January and February doing the air force

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training that was going to be done during August. She has agreed to be replaced if someone comes sooner than June 2020.

7.2 Newcomers: The Rev Catriona Laing is a Church of England vicar but has worked for the Episcopal Church in the USA. She is fluent in French and Arabic.

Following email contacts with Sunny, a new family was in church on Sunday. Their children will be baptized on All Saints' Day.

- 8. Rector's report:** Sunny reported that the Norwegian Church will still hold its Christmas eve service here. After the end of the year, they would like to use the church from time to time. A rental price needs to be agreed.

Remembrance Sunday: The Norwegians won't be joining us, neither will John's choir. There are no plans at the moment for 10 November.

Our numbers are slightly down, just like those for other churches and expat clubs.

Sunny is the coordinator of a team for a new Georgia mission which will be accepted at Convention this month.

- 9. Closing prayer:** Mike closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 21.38.