

**VESTRY MEETING – 4 NOVEMBER 2019, 19.30**  
**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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Present: Mike Breton, Bill Bythell (Senior Warden), Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet, Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Michael Smets-Tolley, Nadia Molenstra, Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate), Kathi-Sue Rupp (Delegate to Convention)

1. Michael Smets-Tolley opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absence:** Apologies were received from Susan Downhill.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the October Vestry meeting were approved subject to the deletion of a sentence.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Sunny Hallanan posed a series of questions on the broader issue of regular church-going: What do we hope for when coming on a Sunday morning? What might deter us from coming? What could we do to attract others? The sense of fellowship and of belonging to a community of like-minded people from different walks of life is a powerful incentive. We hope to experience spiritual fulfillment and a recharge of faith. The liturgy and style of worship is appreciated, and the sermons and the messages they contain are highlighted. Essentially we hope to return home at peace with the world, spiritually uplifted and with a new insight into our faith. The only reasons for not turning up are ill health or absence from home. Sunday morning is set aside for church, even at the cost of forgoing favorite pastimes. A regular choir would be welcomed as an added attraction, but not realistically possible at the present time. We are grateful to those currently providing us with music and song.
5. **Ministry and committee reports:**
  - 5.1. **Fellowship**
    - a. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations were a great success. Thanks were extended to all those who had worked hard in the preparations and during the weekend. The presence of the mission congregations on Sunday was particularly welcomed; it was felt that there had been real bonding.
    - b. The Thanksgiving Feast on 17 November is the next event. Around 60 participants are expected.
    - c. Felicity Handford has offered to host the Advent carol supper on 30 November.
    - d. The Community Lessons and Carols service with other Waterloo parishes is scheduled for 11 December. We still have a small stock of wine to be mulled. Nick Fern will look after the procurement of mince pies.
    - e. The Parish Christmas party will be on 15 December after the pageant. It is hoped that Santa Claus will put in an appearance.
  - 5.2. **Christian education**
    - a. Jennifer Leon will leave Belgium at the end of the month, thus reducing the Sunday School teaching team. Leigh Newman has offered to become a teacher. She will work alongside another teacher up to the end of the year.
  - 5.3. **Outreach**
    - a. Katie Osweiler said there was nothing new to report.
  - 5.4. **Finance & property**
    - a. Another payment has been made to our lender and it is hoped that a final one for the year will bring us to our annual target.

- b. The Norwegian office is on the market for letting. There has been one tentative expression of interest for professional use.
- c. Mike has ascertained that the ceiling of the office portion of the building is insulated. This should improve the PEB rating (energy performance certification).
- d. Discussions are ongoing with the Norwegians about the furniture and other effects still in the building. We would accept donation of certain items.
- e. An attempt to remove the large wooden display cabinet in the basement failed. It is feared that a door frame may have to be removed to get it out.
- f. Maintenance of the heating system is scheduled for November.
- g. A cooker in the crèche caused a short circuit and cut power in the entire building. Mike was thanked for getting matters put right. This coincided with the completion of the Proximus installation of the fiber-optic cable in the church office.

**6. Other business:**

**6.1** Kathi-Sue Rupp was commended for the excellent written report she produced on her experience as a first-time delegate to Convention. She went over some of the salient points. It was observed that All Saints' is on the right track in respect of a number of objectives (climate stewardship, racism and refugees).

Sunny noted that this year there had been no orientation for first-time participants at the start of Convention. In future the All Saints' delegation will get together before setting off in order to prepare our participation.

**6.2** There will be no Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. The focus will be on the 17.00 service, which will be followed as usual by a dinner.

**6.3** Nick has been approached by members of the congregation concerning the publication of Vestry minutes. A printed copy is placed on the notice board but the need for an electronic version has been expressed. It was felt that attaching the full minutes to the e-blast would not be the right move but inclusion of a link could be considered. The Rector observed that Vestry meetings are open to anybody wishing to attend.

- 7. Curate's report:** Katie Osweiler reported on the many events on her busy schedule: A Christian education seminar on preaching held in Oxford in September, followed by a youth leaders' retreat; a meeting of Lutheran leaders in Budapest coming up in November followed by a seminar in Wiesbaden at which Chris O'Shaughnessy will be speaking. In the New Year (January to March) she will finally get to do her USAF officer training in Alabama after the postponement last summer. Following her husband's retirement she will be looking for a permanent post, but expects to be at All Saints' until July.

- 8. Rector's report:** Sunny reported that the videos produced by Katie on the various mission churches and shown at Convention were extremely well received, particularly the one on Mons. Katie was asked to do a similar one for All Saints'.

Sunny reminded the Vestry that according to the terms of her contract she is now due a sabbatical. Although she has nothing specific in mind, she would be interested in an upgrade on evangelism if she can find a suitable course.

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With Katie's upcoming time in Alabama in mind, Sunny will take a break at year-end, leaving for Chicago on Christmas morning.

As a member of the Anglican Council, she attended a Synod meeting on church growth.

A meeting is scheduled at All Saints with our Bishop, the Old Catholic Archbishop of Utrecht, and Episcopal and Old Catholic clergy of Wallonia.

She suggested that the annual parish meeting be held once again in late-February. There will be two vacancies to be filled on the Vestry. The search for suitable candidates can begin.

- 9. Closing prayer:** Michael closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 21.30.