

**VESTRY MEETING – 2 DECEMBER 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), Susan Downhill

Staff: Fiona White. Also present: Stefan Jochems

1. Nadia Molenstra opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absence:** All members were present.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the November Vestry meeting were approved as submitted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Sunny Hallanan asked "What makes Christmas special for you?" Relaxing with family and attending church were mentioned most frequently.
5. **Ministry and committee reports:**
  - 5.1. **Fellowship**
    - a. It was felt that the Thanksgiving Dinner was a great success. Despite over 20 people turning up unexpectedly, there was plenty of food for everyone.
    - b. The Advent Carol Supper, held this year at Felicity Handford's, was deemed a success with plenty of food and drink, and a good variety of English and American carols sung afterwards. Nick Fern proposed a vote of thanks to Felicity, Fiona White and Sunny.
    - c. Nick will purchase some more mince pies for the Community Lessons and Carols Service on 11 December to ensure there are enough for our French-speaking neighbors.
    - d. Turkey and wine will be provided for those wanting to attend the Christmas Eve supper following the 5 p.m. service. Those attending will bring a dish to pass or a financial donation.
  - 5.2. **Outreach/Mission**
    - a. Katie Osweiler had nothing to report. She will, however, put together a calendar for 2020. She encouraged people to sign up to help Brenda with the cakes and suggested that maybe Vestry could do the baking for one Sunday.
  - 5.3. **Finance & property**
    - a. Following on from the information provided at last month's meeting, Mike Breton reported that a group of environmental consultants, Smart Green, are going to become the new tenants of the Norwegians' office. There is a certain amount of work to be done before they can move in, including finding new homes for some of the furniture left behind and an upright piano. Some strong people will be needed to help move things but the piano will have to go out on a lift. The new tenants will pay the same rent as the Norwegians, i.e. €1,700 per month. The lease will start on 1 February 2020; also the value of one month's rent will need to be paid to the estate agent.
    - b. Mike has received the revised PEB certificate, showing that we have improved to be graded at level D, from level G.
    - c. He hopes that we will succeed in paying a total of €50,000 to our lender this year.

- d. He has chased the builders who worked on the roof yet again and who have still to complete the work.
- e. Regarding the ASBL, the tax return still has to be submitted for this year. The statutes can be viewed online via the website of *Moniteur Belge*. Stefan Jochems offered to help with this. The ASBL owns the cars and receives the rents, which is then used to pay off our lender. Sunny mentioned that in response to the increasing number of Muslims in Belgium, all religious organizations are being looked at carefully by the state.
- f. Sunny said that the amount paid to the Convocation is based on the church's income. We have not been reporting the *traitements* and thus not paying as much as we could have. The two *traitements* total about €45,000.

#### **5.4. Christian education**

- a. Michael Smets-Tolley said there was nothing to report. Sunday School will take place this coming Sunday (Advent 2) then it will be the Pageant followed by the school holidays. Sunday School will recommence in early January.
- b. Katie Osweiler is not going to be around as back-up in the New Year but Leigh Newman wants to be involved in Sunday School.
- c. Sunday School wants to align its teaching with the weekly Gospel.
- d. Wired Word: Is anyone looking at the articles?
- e. Bible study: Sunny has been told that people want it to take place but then they do not attend.
- f. Sunny is in the process of beginning to look for the new Curate for after Katie leaves. That person's own gifts and interests would determine if they would focus on Christian education or some other areas of ministry.

#### **6. Other business:**

**6.1 Annual Meeting:** date and topics: 9 February was selected for the 2020 AGM. From Convocation Convention it was suggested to make The Way of Love and 'Evangelism' themes of the meeting. Climate change was also discussed as a theme. Can we hold seminars for the community on actions to reduce our carbon footprint? An increasing population results in an increased footprint. Our new tenants on the second floor might want to do marketing and use our space for it.

At the AGM we need to elect three new people to Vestry: one for 2 years and two people for 3 years. Vestry members should be looking for and encouraging possible candidates. Kathie-Sue Rupp has said she will stand for election to Vestry.

**6.2 Safeguarding:** These courses are valid for three years so it is now necessary for the Vestry and Sunday School teachers to do the courses again. Fiona White will send out the link. A safeguarding survey will be on next month's Vestry agenda. A link needs to be added to the website to the church's safeguarding officer, Felicity Handford. In addition to Felicity, Sunny or Katie can be contacted about Safeguarding concerns.

- 7. Curate's report:** Katie reported that she went to a leaders' group meeting in Budapest for the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America. Their global mission was also present.

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She also attended a Youth Commission retreat in Wiesbaden on young adult ministry at which Chris O'Shaughnessy spoke on third culture.

She will be away 15 January until 13 March in the USA doing her military training.

Katie is hoping to stay in Europe after her husband retires in the summer of 2020.

Katie reported on the 2020 Convocation Youth Commission plans. Youth Across Europe will not be held during Ascension weekend in 2020. Instead, 15-19-year-olds will be attending the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) (July 5-11) in the USA. Travel to the USA is paid for by the Convocation; registration is €500. If our youth want to attend the EYE, the church could support them by allowing them to raise money through coffee-hour goodies after church and washing cars. Young Adults (18-30) can go to Germany to an event called Vocare. JAE, for 10-14-year-olds, will be in Rome.

- 8. Rector's report:** Sunny reported that she will be out of town over Christmas and New Year.

A gathering is being planned for late January for all those involved in leading worship at ASC (lay assistants, readers, prayers) to thank them for their ministry and review standard practices.

Stefan Jochems attended the recent Commission On Ministry of the Baptized discernment retreat and now needs a discernment committee. Carole Ducastel will advise the committee, whose membership will be known by next month's meeting.

There is still no news on Balthazar Nahimana's process. Since the Vestry voted last December and forwarded its endorsement to the bishop (then Bishop Whalon) Balthazar has still not been told his next steps.

Sunny has no sabbatical plans yet. The Vestry confirmed its support for her in this.

Waterloo Uncovered will take place 4-18 July 2020. The Church of England and the British Embassy are now more actively supporting this worthy cause.

The Rector gave the Vestry members and Clerk Christmas presents.

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