

**VESTRY MEETING – 6 JANUARY 2020, 19.30**  
**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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

Also present: Balthazar Nahimana, Axel Maygar, Philip Oxuaruhanga (A Bishop's Committee is being formed in Mons so members of that congregation were present to get an idea of what goes on in these meetings.)

1. Susan Downhill opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absence:** Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet, Michael Smets-Tolley, Nadia Molenstra, Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate)
3. **Approval of minutes** The minutes of the December Vestry meeting were accepted as amended.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Susan asked about change. On a personal basis, what changes do you expect in the year ahead? Sunny Hallanan has a change: our curate, Katie Osweiler is leaving Belgium in the summer. Sunny is looking for someone with gifts who will complement her own. Other answers included improving a golf handicap, wanting to concentrate on specific things rather than many and starting a new job in the same department. We fear change, but the journey of the Magi was also a leap into the unknown.  
The second part of the discussion focused on the church: what changes do we anticipate in the church community? Bill Bythell asked if the change is going to be one of All Saints' objectives? ASC is facing challenges, as members move but are not being replaced by new members arriving. Something has to change. The Brussels English-speaking Pastors Association (BESPA) is also low, as are the English-speaking clubs in the area. Balthazar Nahimana suggested finding out why things are changing. Is it our location? Bill suggested reorganizing pastoral care to become more structured. In response, Sunny said that is a goal for the year: to bring back prayer ministry. But that is looking inward. We grow by looking outward.
5. **Discernment Committee Report:** Susan reported that the discernment report will be ready for discussion at the next Vestry meeting.
6. **Ministry and committee reports:**
  - 6.1. **Outreach/Mission**
    - a. We will have a special drive for Australia during January and February (instead of supporting Community Help Service at this time) in response to the horrendous fire destruction. Sunny has secure Australian contacts to send the money to and two boxes will be put out one for people and one for animals.
  - 6.2. **Finance & property**
    - a. Mike Breton reported on repairs to the large second-floor apartment. Window-sills, plugs and lights have been repaired but there is still more to be done.
    - b. A team of helpers needs to be organized to move the final pieces of furniture out. Much of the Norwegian furniture will help replace some of worn pieces.
    - c. A further payment has been made to our lender. The total outstanding is now under €750,000. All fees and payments are up to date.
    - d. Mike said that water consumption during 2019 had been less than previous years; the consumption of electricity remained the same.

**6.3. Christian education**

Katie Osweiler set up Sunday School lessons for every other week whilst she is doing her military training the the USA. The schedule is prepared until June.

**6.4. Fellowship**

- a. Bill Bythell reported that the mulled wine and mince pies served following the ecumenical carol service had been a great success. 18 people attended the Christmas Eve pot-luck supper which too was very successful.
- b. Coming up, we have the AGM with a pot-luck lunch on 9 February. It was suggested that finger food would be best for this occasion. Mardi Gras will be on 23 February.

**7. Other business:**

**7.1 Safeguarding:** A few members had completed one course but several had had problems logging on to the system. All Vestry must persevere and complete the courses.

**7.2 ASBL update:** Stefan Jochems is now back in Belgium and starting work again on sorting out our ASBL. The Vestry are ex-officio members of the ASBL. A meeting will be organized, which should be attended by all the people listed in the *Monitor Belge* so that this matter can be fully sorted out. (The ASBL was set up in 1991 to own the Rectory. The Fabrique owns the church.)

**7.3 AGM plans and Vestry candidates:** What should be discussed at the meeting? The Bishop's four areas of vision or something around education and the environment? Climate stewardship could work well: photovoltaic panels and renewing the boiler were mentioned. It was felt that insulation might do more for the church *vis-à-vis* climate change. Families could keep a climate diary to see where they save and where they don't.

Kathi-Sue Rupp and Claude Simpson have come forward as candidates. Sunny will speak with a possible third candidate, Stefan Jochems, later this week.

**8. Curate's report:** No report was submitted.

**9. Rector's report:** Sunny reported that the service for Christian Unity will be at St Joseph, Waterloo on 20 January at 20.00. The Charleroi service is on the Wednesday and Brussels on the Thursday of that week.

Should we hold services in French? It was decided that this would fragment the small group that we have, especially since we already offer French services in Mons and Namur.

Archbishop Joris Vercammen, head of the Old Catholics in Utrecht, is retiring and Sunny will attend his farewell event this weekend. However, he will be here at All Saints' on 21 January for a meeting with Bishop Mark Edington.

Sunny has not heard back from the candidate who was interested in becoming Katie's replacement so she will post a profile on the Episcopal Church website for an assistant.

She had a very good vacation over the Christmas/New Year period and is still looking for the sort of sabbatical she wants.

**10. Closing prayer:** Susan closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 21.40.