

VESTRY MEETING – 2 MARCH 2020, 19.30
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

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

1. Bill Bythell opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absence:** Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate)
It was noted that two more people are still needed on Vestry. There was discussion of ideas for possible members. New members Kathi-Sue Rupp and Stefan Jochems were welcomed to the meeting. The Vestry retreat is on Saturday (8 March) where everyone will get to know each other better and new committees will be chosen.
3. **Approval of minutes** The minutes of the February Vestry meeting were accepted.
3.1 Matters arising: Nick Fern asked if further information had been forthcoming from Jack McDonald and Jo Jan Vandenheede regarding ASBLs.. Sunny Hallanan said that nothing had been received so far.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Bill asked in light of the global outbreak of coronavirus, are we rational about fear? Should we be afraid of infection? People felt that things were being blown out of proportion but Nick did say that he was postponing a trip until later in the year. Gabrielle said that she had taken in an exchange student from Italy who had had to leave. Susan said that she'd had to cancel a meeting of EU-27 officials lined up for this week. People die with corona virus, not from it, as a result of complications. Regarding the Eucharist, we use a silver chalice and high-alcohol-content wine. Bill concluded the discussion by saying that living in a refugee camp where cholera is present would be fearful, but we have to live our lives.
5. **Ministry and committee reports:**
 - 5.1. **Christian education**
 - a. Without Michael Smets-Tolley, Susan hadn't any new information for the meeting. She had found the previous day's Bible study very interesting.
 - b. There was a discussion as to whether setting the service at an earlier time would allow more people to stay for Bible study. It was felt that with such a small congregation it was best to maintain the time we currently start at.
 - 5.2. **Fellowship**
 - a. Gabrielle reported that extra pancakes at Mardi Gras had been appreciated. She will speak to Brenda about buying hot-cross buns in England, although they are also available here at Stonemanor.
 - b. Sunny suggested having a seder meal on Palm Sunday (5 April) as it is three years since the previous one. It was felt this was a good idea.
 - c. For the weekend the Bishop is with us (24-27 April), it was agreed we would have a pot-luck dinner with Vestry members and their spouses in the café on the Saturday evening and pot-luck dishes of finger food following the morning service, prior to Mark Edington and Sunny leaving for the Mons service.
 - 5.3. **Outreach/Mission**
 - a. Mike Breton reported that €200 will be sent to the Australian fire relief.

- b. Brenda Barleycorn had asked at the AGM about how much ASC had given to Outreach in 2019. An amount is always budgeted each year but none of it was used last year.
- c. Sunny reported that she had created a Relay for Life team (16-17 May), but a volunteer to lead the team is still needed. She reminded the meeting that we need to be aware of giver's fatigue.

5.4 Finance and property

- a. Mike reported that the new tenants, SMARTgreen, moved in last week and their moving team brought the heavy safe down to ground level. It would also be nice to move the A-frame brochure/newspaper holder out of the building.
- b. He also reported that some roof tiles have moved in the strong winds and need to be fixed. Three quotes are required by the insurance company and may include scaffolding. If additional edging is put on, it will prevent this happening again. The cost will be in the region of €2,500.
- c. Nick mentioned that he and Mike are looking at replacing the boiler using finance from outside sources.
- d. Mike says that he has received notice of €51,000 in pledges from 21 people.
- e. Many thanks were given to all who helped prepare the second-floor office for SMARTgreen, but especially to Sunny who put in many hours on the work.
- f. Mike has received a rebate of €300 on last year's electricity, thanks to our decreased use from conservation measures.

6. Other business:

6.1 Safeguarding: Please do the classes. There is also a Convocation requirement for each Vestry member and volunteers working with vulnerable persons to obtain a certificate of *bonne vie et moeurs* from their commune.

6.2 ASBL update: Nick says that everything is in hand.

Mike reported that the Norwegian Church had paid an extra month's rent and want their money back. He needs a double signature on the *virement* but one of the signatories (Bob DeWitt) is now living mostly in Portugal. Mike will organize with the bank to change the signatories to those who reside in Belgium..

6.3 AGM follow-up: Susan hopes that we will do more with what Nick prepared for the AGM regarding protecting the environment. This can be discussed at the retreat on Saturday.

6.4 Appointment of Convention delegates: The Vestry appoints those who go to Convention. Last year it was Michael Smets-Tolley and Kathi-Sue Rupp. This year it takes place in Nice, 22-25 October. Vestry agreed unanimously that this year's delegates should be Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet and Stefan Jochems.

9. Rector's report:

Sunny asked the Vestry to prepare for Saturday's retreat by: 1. describe a project, the results of which you were very pleased with; 2. write down three things you are good at doing and three you are not.

The Lambeth Conference, which is held every ten years, is taking place this summer. Bishop Edington has provided each church in the Convocation with the opportunity to have a visiting bishop for the weekend of 18/19 July. All Saints' Church will have Douglas Sparks, the bishop of northern Indiana. If anyone has ideas for our bishop's visit, please let Sunny know.

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Bishop Edington has found a church planting conference for Sunny to attend, possibly in November.

She was asked about progress on a replacement for Katie Osweiler, who is leaving Belgium in June. She hasn't found anyone yet but Walter Baer will spread the word at a church deployment conference next week.

A news item on *traitements* implies that less money is going to churches but more money is going to clergy.

- 10. Closing prayer:** Bill closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 21.28.