

**VESTRY MEETING – 6 APRIL 2020, 19.30, via ZOOM
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, Katie Osweiler (Curate)
Staff: Fiona White.

1. Due to Gabrielle's delayed arrival, Sunny Hallanan opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absence:** There were no absences. Susan Downhill was unable to be at the start of the meeting and arrived during the committee reports.
3. **Approval of minutes** The minutes of the March Vestry meeting were accepted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet asked how everyone was connecting spiritually on a daily basis, away from the weekly service, now that we're not in a building. She said she found it very challenging to find moments of peace and quiet with a full household. She finds scripture balances what's happening around her. Stefan Jochems finds morning and evening prayer very helpful. Four weeks ago Katie Osweiler was training with 400 others and returned to Brussels to be with just her husband and cat. She's appreciated getting back into the All Saints' community and walks with friends at a distance. Kathi-Sue Rupp takes long walks. Bill Bythell feels blessed with his wife, their garden, the opportunity to go out on his bike each day and staying in touch with his family. Nick Fern has little face-to-face contact with people but phones his family and friends. Mike Breton is talking to people on the phone, dealing with church matters via email and walking for 30 minutes or more each day. The subject of Zoom arose at this point and the fact that people are 'zoom-bombing' meetings they have not been invited to. The program has developed a 'waiting room' where people wait to be invited to meetings. Kathi-Sue wondered if we could have a 'waiting room usher' who could control who 'enters'. Katie said she would investigate co-hosting.
5. **Ministry and committee reports:**
 - 5.1. **Fellowship**
 - a. There is nothing to report apart from the Seder meal, originally planned as an education event with fellowship helping with the set-up, which is now taking place online on Wednesday, 8 April.
 - b. The Bishop is still in the USA but might be able to be with us via Zoom for Sunday, 26 April.
 - c. Hopefully things will have improved by the end of the school year and we will be able to have our church picnic.
 - d. People are saying that we can't have Easter, but Jesus suffered as well.
 - e. Our first Sunday back in the church building will be 'Resurrection'! We'll need some fellowship as well that day to celebrate. Members were asked to think what we could do, remembering that we might not all be there. The occasion could well be a wake as well as a party.
 - 5.2. **Outreach/Mission**
 - a. Bill and Nick had nothing to report.

- b. It was suggested that the yearly meeting to discuss the beneficiaries of Outreach funds could be held via Zoom. Also an executive decision could be made regarding a donation to a good cause during lockdown.

5.3. Finance & property

- a. Mike reported that the insurance money has been received to pay for the roof repairs. The roofing company is currently on lockdown but he's sent a reminder.
- b. SMARTgreen have written about heating and doorbell issues, plus wanting to put in air conditioning. Mike called the heating engineers but was told they are only coming out for emergencies so this work is on hold.
- c. Income. The creche (BioBabies) asked to be relieved of paying rent as they are closed and thus not earning anything. Mike and Sunny Hallanan agreed to this from 1 April but we have asked them to give us a proportion of their compensation from the government in due course. SMARTgreen and Francy Dasso have paid; we currently don't have the cleaner coming in; and we have a 5% reduction on the Convocation assessment.
- d. The church is still solvent.
- e. Nick pointed out that, for many, our life expenses have reduced so perhaps some of that money could come to the church. We could also set up a discretionary fund for those with financial problems. Maybe a letter could go out from the Vestry as they have fiduciary responsibility to the church. It would go out to the eBlast list but as a separate email. Mike and Nick will write the letter and ask the Vestry to check it before it is sent out.
- f. Bill reported that he and the other wardens across the Convocation had been told at the Bishop's meeting last weekend that contributions to the pension fund can be waived for two months with no risk to pensions. For this to go into effect, a letter from the Vestry must be sent to the Bishop stating that ASC's funds are seriously impaired by the current situation. Stefan proposed that we ask the church pension fund (via the Bishop) to waive two consecutive monthly payments. The motion was carried unanimously. Bill will prepare the letter.

5.4 Christian education

- a. Sunny said that if anyone wants to do a program on Zoom for a group of parishioners to please go ahead. However, it must be planned because meetings cannot overlap.
- b. Katie and Gabrielle would like to prepare a video of making hot cross buns.

5.5 Pastoral care

- a. Bill said that he has contacted a couple of parishioners. Nick has as well. Bill suggested we do a telephone tree, dividing members of the congregation up between Vestry members. That way everyone can be contacted to see if they are ok. Sunny and Fiona White will prepare a list and send it to Bill and Nick.
- b. Sunny thanked Fiona, who has been in contact with about six parishioners, including Margaret Latham who is in St Luc with the virus.
- c. Roswitha Jackson is a concern because no one has been able to talk to her. Brenda too is a concern because she has no internet and therefore cannot follow the services. However, she has been receiving many calls.

5.6 Visibility

- a. This is challenging at the moment but ASC is very visible online on Facebook. Katie's 'Sing a song with the Saints' got 1600 hits last week!
- b. The annual Pride parade is postponed from May to 29 August. Gabrielle reports that many pride groups have gone online.
- c. Katie has been randomly inviting people to the Zoom events and they just keep coming, some many times. We have seen the Angis from Canada, Janvier and family from Luxembourg province and the Marviks from the Gulf join our services. All are encouraged to invite others to our events.
- d. At 06.44 on Easter Day there is an Easter Resurrection sunrise service, followed by a formal Easter service at 11.00. Dress up, spread the word. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are all being adapted for on-line, and because people won't be traveling out of town, this will be the best All Saints' Holy Week ever!

6. Other business:

6.1 Corona virus and how it's affecting ASC; Bishop's visit: These points have been covered already.

6.2 Safeguarding classes: Fiona reminded those who have not yet finished the Armatus classes to do so ASAP. Classes must be renewed every three years, including clergy and people who help with Sunday School. Fiona will write to those people and remind them.

6.3 ASBL update: No-one present had any news on the ASBL except to say that Roderick Abbott and Nadia Molenstra had an ASBL-related meeting. Stefan said that the two new members still have to be recorded on the national database. The deadline is the end of December.

7. **Curate's report:** Katie reports that she is now well-versed in Zoom! She is trying not to be too busy. Sunny and Katie have talked about the future. Katie currently has an application in for a job in England but she and Sunny have also talked about the possibility of her staying on in Belgium. Sunny is ok with this; it would also mean that Katie will be here when Sunny takes her sabbatical. Katie will be gone mid-June to mid-July for further chaplain training in the US Air Force.
8. **Rector's report:** Katie's return to Belgium was perfectly timed. She is great with technology and comes up with innovative music suggestions. Sunny is also grateful for having Fiona and Alasdair White in the building. Fiona was thanked for all that she's doing working in the church office and playing the organ. Our lives are very different from a month ago. We must bear in mind that when things return it won't be the same. Remember we are in God's hands and still moving towards the Kingdom.
Gabrielle asked: how do we have communion in these times? Sunny said that we still have song and prayer. Ezekiel prophesied to the bones and the bones came together but they were still in exile. We're still going to be in exile after Easter so we need new ways to express that faith.
9. **Closing prayer:** Gabrielle closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 21.10.