

**VESTRY MEETING – 5 OCTOBER 2020, 19.30, via ZOOM
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

Present: Mike Breton, Bill Bythell (Senior Warden), Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate), Stefan Jochems, Kathi-Sue Rupp
Staff: Fiona White.

1. Kathi-Sue Rupp opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Susan Downhill, Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet.
3. **Approval of minutes** The minutes of the 7 September Vestry meeting were accepted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Kathi-Sue's subject for discussion was on what have the Vestry members missed most during lockdown. Kathi-Sue said that final arrangements had been made for the church picnic last month but it had to be cancelled at the last minute because of the weather. A few days ago she found herself shaking hands with a colleague she hadn't seen since the beginning of the year and then realized her error. She feels empty from not having had that and other interactions. Nick Fern said he missed physical contact and having friends to dinner. Everything has to be done at a distance leaving little warmth in relationships. Mike Breton finds it's a reflex action to put a hand out. Golfers tap putters at the end of a match. He's concerned that people don't obey the rules in restaurants. Katie Osweiler misses not having to worry about the rules and being relaxed. Bill Bythell missed his tennis but is now playing again. He's not worried about restaurants and supports those in his locality but misses the physical contact with his grandchildren. Fiona has just been away within Belgium for a few days and was impressed with how the hotel and restaurants are coping. Katie said that it's a long period of going nowhere for travelers. Nick is missing traveling but is spending time writing up his travel memories. Stefan Jochems said that the possibility of improving isn't there. Life doesn't come to you at the moment. Kathi-Sue commented that no-one had mentioned singing. She really appreciates Joëlle Vanopbroeke's playing at the Sunday services. Sunny remarked that the parish will also be feeling these losses. She wondered if there were things we've gained.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1. **Fellowship**
 - a. Sadly, as mentioned above, the picnic didn't take place (it wasn't possible to hold it indoors). Sunny thanked the fellowship team for all the work they'd done in planning and preparing the at-a-distance picnic.
 - b. The fellowship committee met online to discuss an idea for Thanksgiving. People are missing food that they haven't had to prepare so the idea is for a team to cook turkeys and side dishes, pack them into portions and people each collect a portion after the in-person service on 22 November. We would then have a service of Evensong on Zoom later in the day with dessert and fellowship. Nick and others thought this a great idea. The logistics of shopping and cooking still need to be sorted and people would supply their own drinks. Kathi-Sue said that a sign-up sheet would be ready by the end of October.
 - 5.2. **Outreach/Mission**

- a. Nick had nothing to report. Bill asked about the collections for refugees in Moria following the fire. Mike reported that he had sent \$250 to ERD for Moria and \$120 to ERD for Beirut. Katie said that she'd collected more money on 4 October. Derek Pullinger had wondered about supporting local green initiatives. Katie wondered about continuing with Moria for October or finding something ecological instead. [What was the decision?]
- b. For Harvest this year, Sunny said that we could put a box out in the café for people to put donations in. The box should then not be touched for 5 days prior to it being taken to the Charleroi food cupboard. Since it hasn't been announced yet it will be out on both 11 and 18 October.

5.3. Finance & property

- a. Mike reported that ING have stated that they are closing the church's general account and the account for the Fabrique. Legally this can be done without providing a reason to the client. He has asked for a reason and been told that an answer will take 8 weeks. A local bank officer has no idea why this has happened to ASC and felt there was a lack of professionalism and courtesy. The letter informing us of the closure said that the account is being closed on 11 December and the decision to close cannot be changed. The question is 'do we want to remain with ING, or move the account elsewhere?'
- b. There have been issues with other accounts too. Nick reported that although those responsible have been slow in completing a form for ING, the ASBL account issue will be solved when this has been completed.
- c. A discussion ensued and it was felt the best thing to do was to get the form for the ASBL account completed and sent. The general church account can become the one at the KBC (currently a secondary account for the church). A new account needs to be set up for the Fabrique and Mike will approach Belfius for this.
- d. Apart from this, everything is fine with the accounts and ASC is up to date with payments and receipts.
- e. Moving to property, Mike and Paul Hirsch have repaired the parlepnone by obtaining a new speaker, much more economic than an entire new system. SMARTgreen is happy with the repair.
- f. There is still a small mystery leak in the crêche which needs to be fixed.
- g. With the recent heavy rainfall (Storm Odette), there was a fair amount of water entering the basement through the electrical cupboard but Sunny managed to stay on top of it over several days. This is the first time there's been a significant water problem in that area since the repairs a few years ago.

5.4 Christian education

- a. Kathi-Sue reported that Katie has done some excellent videos for the Sunday School children.
- b. Sunny is still running Bible Study on Tuesday afternoons. Despite offering to do it at a different time, no-one came forward with suggestions so it remains at 14.00, often with just one or two others joining her.
- c. She will offer a mini-course on: What is the Episcopal Church? as preparation for Reception before the Bishop's visitation on 1 November.

- d. Katie reports that two youth are preparing for confirmation by the Bishop next spring.
- e. Felicity Handford is teaching some Rite 13ers with help from a translator. Stefan also offered to help with any translation work.

5.5 Pastoral care

- f. Bill and Nick had nothing to report.

5.6 Visibility

- a. Stefan apologized for not having put the Facebook numbers together for the meeting. The advertisements are good but not many are watching the Sunday service on YouTube (maybe 13-15).
- b. Sunny said that the production quality is improving but she needs someone to check that the iPad screen is showing where the 'action' is. Nick suggested that the ushers could help with this, following some training. There is great potential through the Facebook ads so we need to put on a good show.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: There is nothing new to report. Nadia Molenstra is filling in the form for the bank and Roderick Abbott will be back in Belgium by the end of the month.

6.2 Bishop's visit, 1 November: The Bishop was at ASC on 2 October to carry out ordinand interviews. He has now left Paris for Florence where there are fewer restrictions, making travel easier. He will be with us on All Saints' Day, but at the moment it is not known for how long. Sunny is hoping that he can also visit St Esprit Mons as there are several people there who want to be received (there are also two at ASC). The problem with Mons is finding somewhere large enough, and ventilated according to Covid regulations, for the service. Sunny asked the Vestry to keep 31 October and 1 November free. Kathi-Sue offered to have the Bishop to stay that weekend.

As the half-term holiday starts on 2 November, the day of the next Vestry meeting, Bill requested it be moved to 9 November. Sunny said she would look into this.

6.3 Hahneman project: Geoff Hahneman, a former Rector, emailed back in April to say that he had put a parcel in the post for the church. It arrived last week! In it were two pictures: the original painting of the church at Argenteuil, and an original pencil drawing of Cardinal Mercier by A. Scholaert. The original of the church will replace the print currently in a frame in the café. Stefan volunteered to find out the value of the picture of the Cardinal. We can then decide if it is to be sold and the proceeds used for a worthy cause. Bill said that the Cardinal was from Braine-l'Alleud and lived on Chaussée d'Alsembourg. There is a museum to him in the town.

Curate's report: Katie said it was nice to be back from her holiday in Austria where she and her husband also attended a marriage retreat with Clair and Rainer Ullmann. She has been busy making the Sunday School videos, which follow an Episcopal book by Roger Hutchinson about The Way of Love. He has been in touch and will do the final reading! She is also busy with youth and ministry preparation and is helping to guide two youth for confirmation. She reported that her work visa is coming through slowly.

- 8. Rector's report:** Sunny reported that Balthazar Nahimana, George Staelens and Stefan all had their interviews with the Bishop last Friday. He will get back to them in due course to let them know if they will be further considered to be official postulants.

As well as the Bishop visiting us here, there will be a Convocation Covid memorial service on 1 November. Most of it will be pre-recorded and put together for us to use whenever we want. We have been fortunate to have had no Covid deaths in the parish but people have lost friends and we need to remember them.

Claude Simpson has gone back to the USA for a few months.

Sunny has joined a conference on church planting, which is taking place over the next few weeks online.

The Church of England decided last month that it was OK to sing in worship. Tony Fauci (US) met with the House of Bishops and told them that congregational singing is very dangerous. CofE leaders of worship can remove their masks but Episcopal leaders cannot. The Episcopal rules are not relaxing. Sunny asked the Vestry to be aware that at the next AGM we will need four new Vestry members. She asked people to start recruiting.

- 9. Closing prayer:** Kathi-Sue read a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 21.16.