

**VESTRY MEETING – 9 NOVEMBER 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, Susan Downhill, Kathi-Sue Rupp, Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet
Staff: Fiona White.

1. Bill Bythell opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** There were none.
3. **Approval of minutes** The minutes of the 5 October Vestry meeting were accepted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Bill asked, in light of Belgium's second lockdown due to Covid-19, about online worship. How are we doing? He thanked and congratulated the clergy. They haven't missed a Sunday and are offering extra services (Wondrous Wednesdays). The Bishop talked of 'waiting'. What will come out of this? Bishop Mark said it was a time of chances and changes in the church. Bill is still missing the human contact. Is this our future? Mike Breton echoed Bill's thanks to Sunny Hallanan, Katie Osweiler and Fiona White. It will be interesting to see what the numbers are this time round. He misses the instant reactions from in-person get-togethers. Nick Fern added his thanks to Sunny, Katie and Fiona. Working without holidays goes beyond the call of duty. Kathi-Sue Rupp felt that this second time has been easier as we know what to do. People are utilizing Zoom, etc. better, using the break-out rooms facility and having a virtual choir. It will be a quicker learning curve this time round. Many hoped our attendance numbers would stay high. In-person services brought in 30-40 people plus people online. The Zoom service on 8 November had 23 connections, which could well mean 30 people watching live. Sunny said that it's hard to count everyone because of the varied sources. Stefan Jochems said that a chasm might open up between those who can be online and those who can't. Balthazar Nahimana told Stefan that parishioners at St Esprit Mons don't have computers and thus can't join the service. Sunny added that you need to think of the whole picture: it's not just the lack of a computer but also continual internet costs, etc. Only one person can be online from Christ Church Charleroi. We had old timers coming back during the first lockdown but we haven't seen them so far this time round. Bill asked: what is the future? Jack MacDonald (Anglican Churches in Belgium) said there's no knowing. Pandemics may be the future. Susan Downhill mentioned good news. Pfizer have reported that their vaccine is 90% effective so by the spring things could be back to normal. Sunny asked how do we keep up hope? We can use the technology to stay in touch with those who have moved away. The Wondrous Wednesdays will continue.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1. **Outreach/Mission**
 - a. Nick said that he had nothing new to report.
 - b. Sunny reported that multiple parishioners had asked if causes they support could be advertised to the parish. Would people appreciate a special outreach eBlast? Stefan suggested that people could talk about an outreach program close to their hearts at the end of a Zoom event. Nick commented that it's easy to get donor fatigue. Katie suggested spotlighting a different cause each month. People can send in their ideas and then get a spot to promote it.

- c. Stefan asked if it was possible to support the Mons mission, i.e. provide support closer to home. Balthazar could come to us with ideas. Nick felt it should either be support for all or for none. Kathi-Sue thought there had to be a way where some can get something rather than nothing. Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet said that there is a way to prioritize. Susan felt that the congregation could respond well to close-to-home charities.
- d. Mike wanted to know who decides how much ASC is going to spend. The Outreach & Mission committee plus Katie were asked to come up with a plan.

5.2. Finance & property

- a. Mike reported that the Belfius account for the Fabrique is open. ING is now giving us an extra month to close our account there but this may be an error on their part.
- b. Pledges are still coming in. Cash collections occurred during the in-person services, but now there will be a fall in income. We will now contact Bishop Mark for the money offered from the Board of Foreign Parishes. Susan suggested that we could also appeal to the parish via the eBlast.
- c. The cleaner is still off work following cancer surgery, at least until the end of November.

5.3. Christian education

- a. Gabrielle said that she had no Rite 13 report but that the Sunday School videos prepared by Katie are great. People from outside the parish have been involved and the videos are being shared around the world.
- b. Sunny reported that Bible Study is still held every Tuesday at 2 pm with the two to three faithful people attending.
- c. Stefan, who helps with translating for the Rite 13 group, said that it would be good to have someone who is more confident in French taking the group. A parent of one child attending was suggested but Sunny said that this group is one where kids want to have the freedom to say what they want and having a parent there won't be ideal. Gabrielle reported that George and Nicolas Staelens are good with children so it might be an idea to approach them.

5.4 Pastoral care

- a. Bill said that from amongst the regulars, Brenda Barleycorn is the only one left by the wayside. He spoke with Dominique-Hélène Lemaire who said that Katie had visited. Her husband's health is declining and she sounded dispirited. Katie reported that she is visiting Roswitha Brauckmann this week.
- b. Sunny reminded the meeting that Vestry had talked back in April about calling all those we don't see. It would be a good idea to revisit the list.
- c. Sunny said that when people come to the church to collect their Thanksgiving meal package, they will be given candles to make an Advent wreath. It also might be an idea to take food and a wreath kit to people who haven't been able to attend at all recently.

5.5 Visibility

- a. Susan said that it had been quieter this month. The committee is thinking of a strategy for when we come back to church.
- b. Stefan reported that the recent Facebook figures are 200 people per day seeing the ad, 15 new followers and 10 new YouTube subscribers.

- c. Katie said that Sunny has asked her to do a 2 to 5-minute video on All Saints' Church, as she has done for Mons. This could improve our online visibility.

5.6 Fellowship

- a. Kathi-Sue reported that we are holding a virtual Thanksgiving this year on Sunday, 22 November. She gave thorough details of the planned event.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Mike reported that he has spoken with Nick, Roderick Abbott and Maurits Dolmans. The bank will be supplied with the information they need in the next few days. He will run the account on a low-key basis and will not be putting the rental income through it. That will go into the Fabrique account. Maurits advises not having too much money in the Fabrique account and Mike thinks he can keep it at the right level.

6.2 Bishop's visit: Due to Covid restrictions the Bishop did not visit ASC on 1 November as hoped. At the moment no date has been arranged for when he can visit ASC and meet with the Vestry. Several people from All Saints and Mons had been prepared to be Received or Confirmed.

Mike asked about the three ordinand interviews Bishop Mark undertook on 2 October. Sunny reported that all three have passed to go forward to the Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized (COMB).

6.3 Hahneman project: There is currently nothing to report.

6.4 Future Vestry members: Sunny reminded Vestry members to talk to people to see if they would like to join.

6.5 Convention: Gabrielle and Stefan were ASC's delegates to Convention last month. Many resolutions were passed. Friday was open to all online, with reports from four task forces: migrants and refugees, education and children, climate and environment, and racism. The whole Friday afternoon was dedicated to racism. Sadly it followed the American context and little time was given for discussion. A protocol was passed and a confidential racism survey is to be completed by as many individual parishioners as possible.

ASC parishioner Thomas Huddleston presented the report on migrants and refugees. He said that all the churches in the Convocation are migrant churches – we as ex pats are all migrants. There is a need to go beyond charity. A refugee service should be held each year and refugees need to be welcomed and made a part of our church. Each church website had been studied by the task force, which will offer an evaluation on each one of ways to improve the site to make it welcoming to all.

Gabrielle said that the main item she took away from the education report was that a database will be set up of multilingual resources. Also, money was made available for a paid member of staff to support churches in their ministry with children and youth.

Sunny reported that we were encouraged to carry out environmental surveys on our church and homes to reduce the carbon footprint. Suggestions need to be localized because the Convocation is very large. Nick said he would note down some ideas. A resolution was passed that trains (rather than planes) should be used where possible for Convocation functions.

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7. **Curate's report:** Katie reported that she's still making the Sunday School videos and forming the virtual choir. She and her husband have had one month of eBiking and don't need a car yet!
8. **Rector's report:** Sunny felt that we needed to thank Joëlle Vanopbroeke for all her playing during the in-person services. She should receive a turkey dinner. Nick offered a vote of thanks for all Sunny does and hopes that she'll have a real break soon. Sunny thanked Katie for extra hours she's giving to the current technology and to Fiona and Alasdair White for all their extra hours of service.
9. **Closing prayer:** Bill read a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 21.27, having started a little late at 19.38.