

**VESTRY MEETING – 4 JANUARY 2021, 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), Kathi-Sue Rupp, Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet, Susan Downhill
Staff: Fiona White.

1. Nick Fern opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Apologies were received from Stefan Jochems.
3. **Approval of minutes** With amendment the minutes of the 7 December Vestry meeting were accepted. Sunny Hallanan commented that we wouldn't normally include so many details in the check-in but these are historic times and should be recorded.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Nick Fern supposed that this check-in was a continuation from last month. He's always worked in structured organizations. ASC is structured but he thinks the church works as a community because many of the conversations are informal, at coffee time for example. During the last 8 months have we lost a lot in how we interact? Is it worse because we're not in physical contact, and are we supporting the church as we should? We don't have the informal conversations that we had before lockdown. Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet is seeing her family interact very differently with the theological heart of the church. Her elder son had contact with the youth commission and he loved it. For those who are disconnected or not used to using the internet, this is very difficult. She finds online church much easier as she has less stress with the four children but she does miss coffee hour. Theological seeds are being planted by being online, but they're connecting differently. ASC needs to ensure it's meeting the needs of all ages. We need to step up to meet the needs of everyone. On the other side of things, in some ways, many of us have gotten to know each other better through Wondrous Wednesdays. Talents unknown have come to the fore. Katie Osweiler said that, as clergy, she feels the best thing is that she connects more with people in the week than previously, through children's activities, quiz night, virtual choir, etc. Sunny and Katie do talk about who might fall through the cracks but the pastoral care team could also help here. Bill Bythell said that with Zoom services on Sundays we have a bigger and more regular turnout at some services than we've had in the past. Numbers had dropped but we're reconnecting with those who've left and have new attendees. We're rather disconnected from the church itself apart from the few months when we could attend again but it's very positive to see so many on a Sunday. Through Myers-Briggs, Sunny knows that the majority of ASC are introverts, which poses a problem for Zoom when we have a chat at the end of the service. Mike Breton understands that meetings may take place in church with a maximum of 15. Sunny said that if we start meeting in-person then we need to have 3 services to match the 42 on Zoom the previous day. It's the coffee hour that we're missing out on and given the medium we are having to use out of necessity, possibly using the breakout rooms on Zoom is an idea. Susan said she is missing the contact with a few people (after services on Zoom the whole congregation is on screen together as a large group) so it could be worth exploring the breakout rooms. She completely agrees that we have fantastic things going on that are not on a Sunday but worship on Zoom is not the same. Sunny said it is a toss-up between 13 parishioners attending in person and no singing versus services

online with singing. Those are the pros and cons. A big thing is that we are getting higher attendance now. Bill asked if we can combine the two and offer eucharist for the first 13 that sign up and Zoom for the rest, who also perhaps don't want to come out in the winter. Nick doesn't really like the Zoom services. When we had the number-restricted services he was very pleased to be in church. Katie remarked that on Zoom she and Sunny can see all of the faces but in church they are more focused on the service. There are some people who aren't ready to come back to church in person so it's not a 'one is better than the other' situation. Some people would come to church but not do Zoom. Nick noted it would double the work creating two types of service – online and in-person. What is the best thing for the ASC community? Is 3 x 13 the best? It was agreed to keep Sunday worship as it is for the time being. Mike agreed: carry on worship on Zoom but it would be better to have Vestry meetings in person. As there are people missing the eucharist Sunny said she could maybe add a mid-week eucharist. Mike asked what our sister churches are doing? Every church has a different situation based on the country's regulations. Germany is in-person with no singing; Italy, France and Switzerland pre-record and are online. (The Cathedral has some in-person as well.) Sunny asked if there are there things we can do online that we can't do in person? The children are doing things, putting up pictures; we are using the media as best we can. Gabrielle said Zoom services are as satisfying as being there but she really misses the eucharist. It was agreed we do not want pre-recorded services. There was discussion about using Zoom breakout rooms, pro and con. We decided to have the February Vestry meeting in person, early to avoid curfew, 7-9 pm, in Campbell Hall, unless the rules change in the meantime.

5. Committee reports:

5.1. Christian education

- a. Gabrielle said there was not a lot to report. Rite 13 seems to be doing well and they're happy. The Sunday School children are engaged with Katie. Some are missing and need to be contacted. Katie wants to reach out to Saint Servais and Mons to see if they'd like to do SS in French for their children. Gabrielle thought this was a good idea.

5.2. Pastoral care

- a. Nothing to report. Pastoral challenges were part of the Vestry check-in.

5.3. Visibility

- a. Susan hadn't liaised with Stefan Jochems so was not sure where things were with the Facebook pilot.
- b. As a follow-up to a Convocation Convention resolution, there has been another meeting with Thomas Huddleston evaluating our visibility plan. A guideline for the Convocation as a whole is being developed and will be presented to the churches' Vestries when complete. The meetings look at our strengths, who can we reach, and how do we do it.

5.4 Fellowship

- a. Sunny congratulated those who'd prepared all the activities.
- b. Kathi-Sue Rupp said the cookie exchange had gone well and the lessons and carols service was great. She thanked Katie for editing the handbell videos. Fellowship was thanked for organizing these much appreciated events.

- c. The Fellowship committee is taking a breather in January. Next up will be mardi-gras. No plans for it have been made yet.

5.5 Outreach/Mission

- a. Nothing to report.

5.6 Finance & property

- a. Mike reported that the ING account is reduced to zero so ASC has complied with the requirements of the bank. The Belfius account is working well. He made two more payments to our lender, who received €59,000 during 2020. The debt now stands at €692,690.
- b. The budgets for 2021 will be presented next month.
- c. He has not received the money from Paris. Sunny will call and chase it.
- d. Alasdair (president of the Fabrique) has established a fairly long list of things to do around the church. There is a need to establish a program to do this on a regular basis; however it usually comes down to the same 4 or 5 people. It would be nice to have more help from the congregation. Bill said this would ideally be once we are back in the building on a regular basis, when people are around. Now is not the time to get people together. Gardening parties and the like will have to wait until spring. It will be raised at the AGM when we hope most of the parish will attend and commit to doing something. It's largely those who are available during the week, i.e. pensioners. We saw this with the painting for SMARTgreen. However, Sunny did most of it, which is not the point here. One person can come in and do one window. Nick offered to help one day a week for the next few months.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: The work is in progress.

6.2 Future Vestry members and AGM plans: Mike will present the figures. Maryse Pullinger is starting to prepare the accounts. There was discussion about finding new Vestry members. We need two people for 1-year terms, and one person for a 3-year term.

7. **Curate's report:** Katie thanked Kathi-Sue and Fiona for all the music at Christmas. A huge number of hymns and carols had to be produced in a short time. She had a lighter week last week: just two kids' events, one for the parish and one for the Convocation. It's good for them to make those connections.
8. **Rector's report:** Again thanks to Katie and Fiona for all the music. 28 carols were recorded! The handbells were great too, with 6 cameras filming the handbell choir! The pageant was great, and so was the nativity scene. Our pageant service was live in the USA as a watch party. Sunny became aware of it just hours before the service and the comments were very positive. It's nice to be a bit slower now and more relaxed. We'll evaluate tonight's discussion on the worship suggestions.
Vestry retreat will be on 27 February, so the next regular Vestry meeting would be 8 March. April's meeting will also be the second Monday, because of Easter.
9. **Closing prayer:** Nick read a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 21.15.