

**VESTRY MEETING – 12 APRIL 2021, 19.30, via ZOOM  
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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Present: Mike Breton, Susan Downhill (Senior Warden), Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Paul Hirsch, Stefan Jochems, Jane McBride, Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate), Derek Pullinger, Kathi-Sue Rupp  
Staff: Fiona White.

1. Stefan Jochems opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet was not present.
3. **Approval of minutes** The minutes of the 8 March Vestry meeting were accepted without change.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Stefan led discussion related to the recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh. The former Bishop of York reported that the Duke was very interested in the Christian faith. How did this manifest in him? What do we expect on Christianity from people in the public eye? Katie Osweiler asked: Can political leaders be expected to be examples of faith? Some say that Biden is not really Catholic because he accepts abortion. What are our definitions of Christian? Philip had a record of saying things not connected to brotherly love. Stefan said that the Bishop of York thought that Philip wanted to be challenged. Susan Downhill said it's hard to compare royalty in the UK with other leaders because they are not political. The Queen sees herself as a role model and a defender of the faith, and he supported her in that. Derek Pullinger wondered how his death will affect the Queen, and how the monarchy will be affected when the Queen dies. Stefan noted that the Queen doesn't voice any opinion except in her Christmas address. Sunny asked if she should have done anything special in the previous day's service. No-one offered particular prayers for him or the Queen. Were those who are British offended that there wasn't a special prayer? Nick Fern turned it round and asked how would she deal with King Philip in Belgium? We have Belgian congregants. Had the Queen died he felt Sunny would have. ASC is a multinational congregation, even with four nationalities on the Vestry. Does this make a difference to us as a church? Nick would have liked to have had a prayer for the Duke at Sunday's service but he wasn't upset there was none.
5. **Committee reports:**
  - 5.1. **Finance**
    - a. Mike Breton reported that the 2021 pledges have been recalculated. There are 22 pledges for in excess of €51,000, which is much the same as last year.
    - b. ASC is comfortably solvent. The Whites' former apartment hasn't been rented out yet but the PEB report has been done. It's Category E. For the record, a PEB report is not necessary on the whole building.
    - c. Fiona White is now working 50% from home and 50% at the church. She will be paid €665 + TVA per month, which corresponds to what the rent should be. Nick moved that the Vestry approved this arrangement. Her classification will be a service contract, like the cleaner. Derek seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - 5.2. **Building & property**
    - a. Mike is researching a cherry-picker for the church wall to be cleaned/painted and to safely finish the ivy removal.

- b. Paul Hirsch put out a plea for painters. Victor Osweiler, with the help of Adam, an Ethiopian student currently staying with them, has done most of the priming in the Whites' old apartment. The top coat goes on this week. The apartment is top priority; windows on the rest of the building will be done next.
- c. Nick reports that someone is coming in to look at the heating system this week, with the idea of ASC moving from oil to gas and installing a new boiler. The church could save 20-25% on the current bill, with a payback in 8-10 years, and significantly improve its environmental footprint.
- d. Cubic meters of ivy have been removed from the church wall. Now some external painting needs to be done. Katie suggested graffiti. Sunny offered a vote of thanks to Mike, Nick, Paul and Derek, who had done many hours of work, and also to Paul for taking all the ivy away. Kathi-Sue suggesting asking for more help via the eBlast.
- e. The French window in the rector's apartment will be looked at next Monday.

### **5.3. Outreach & service**

- a. Derek had produced a written report (see attached). He wants to confirm who contributed to Oasis and Domisum, but not the amount.
- b. The committee has discussed doing something with the environmental organization Natagora, which does many local activities.
- c. 5th June is World Environment Day.
- d. Sunny noted that many parishioners support Relay for Life, which this year is on 19 June, with a different format due to COVID. She will forward info on it for follow-up.
- e. ASC donates to Community Health Service (CHS) each year. In exchange for that we get publicity via an entry in their calendar.

### **5.4 Faith-building**

- a. Susan doesn't have a full report this time but online Sunday School is going well. Sunny reported that many came to Bible study at the start of COVID but have since found other things to do. Vestry needs to ask the congregation what they think about Bible study, rather than Sunny. They will be more open. Kathi-Sue said to bear in mind that Wondrous Wednesdays (WWs) offer a form of education. WW will mark Earth Day next Wednesday, then take a week off and go to fortnightly.

### **5.5 Church growth**

- a. Kathi-Sue and Jane McBride want to merge Church growth and Community building committees because the same people are on both. A committee name has still to be chosen. Whatever this committee is named, it needs to both provide a better sense of community to those who belong in the church and ways to bring more people to church.
- b. Thomas Huddleston then joined the meeting. Jane and Thomas are the welcoming officers for the Convocation. In a sense, this work started when Bishop Mark visited ASC for its 40th anniversary in 2019, and he said Convocation churches are immigrant churches: a new-world church in old Europe. What is ASC's place? It is about us being full members of our community, for those who need our help but who also want to join our community. Our church has done a lot with charitable outreach. ASC was

flagged as one working with Facebook ads but there are some areas where ASC doesn't have a strong strategy. Page 29 of the report (see [https://63afd6dc720e7f8d641a-db8c75cfc72b416e3c18df97c8a1dcaa.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/f/0e11409408\\_1610570249\\_for-a-church-on-the-move-the-report-of-the-task-force-on-migrants-and-refugees.pdf](https://63afd6dc720e7f8d641a-db8c75cfc72b416e3c18df97c8a1dcaa.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/f/0e11409408_1610570249_for-a-church-on-the-move-the-report-of-the-task-force-on-migrants-and-refugees.pdf)) looked at the social media of all the parishes and asked how parishes present themselves and what that says about them. Is this church just for the existing members, or do they want to welcome a wider community? How does this church express its faith? Do they want to expand? Thomas described the weaknesses of our churches in Belgium, citing the need for a church to offer lots of communication and be the center of the community. There are churches that do a lot of education: Rome, Wiesbaden and Clement Ferrand. Look at their websites: each are saying 'we're here and we want you to be part of us'. In the view of his committee, ASC is not easily classified as any particular category of church. It is an amazing expat church, but not entirely diverse, not part of its physical community, not fully communicating externally, and not yet a local indigenous church. What is ASC going to be in the future? Who should we reach out to? Susan noted that Sunny, Katie and Stefan have worked together on how to improve communication, but it's for all the Vestry to play a part. What ways do you want to help ASC improve? Derek suggested Thomas and his team look at St Paul's Tervuren and Holy Trinity Brussels. Why would an Anglican come to ASC? Jane said that from her video interviews with 'Saints', it was the welcome that brought people to ASC. Kathi-Sue said that as someone who moves around often, she visits all the churches in the area to see where she fits in. Jane wondered if ASC is a church ready to receive the gifts of the people who come to it? Thomas said that ASC has community but doesn't communicate it very well. It's not being explicit enough. There is a need to address newcomers, refugees, whoever, and to explain what the Episcopal Church is and what the Convocation is. Carrying out basic Facebook research, he discovered that, 20 kms from ASC, there are 3-4,000 people who might want to be in community with ASC. Those on Facebook are often different from those who will drive out to Waterloo on a Sunday, and 50% of Brussels residents don't have cars. Mike wondered why we are doing this if these people are not going to come to ASC anyway. Susan said that Red Rocks have more money than ASC and put on a minibus. Could we look at this further? Katie suggesting one way to do it is to invite people personally. Derek noted that this has worked on Zoom. Thomas said that this discussion shows what ASC needs to go out and find people. Reading the report might give members some initiative to follow through on.

**Action for next month's meeting:** The next steps are with the committee then it will be brought to Vestry.

Sunny thanked Thomas for his presentation. Thomas left the meeting.

- c. Turning to fellowship, Kathi-Sue said they are planning an event for Pentecost, the birthday of the church: a camp fire birthday party. Cupcakes can be shared with restrictions but people need to bring their own drinks. The less we share the better. People should be encouraged to wear red and there will be camp fire games. Saturday, 22 May at 19.00 in the Rupp's garden. All felt this sounded a great idea.

## **5.6 Environmental concerns – Task force**

- a. A written report was received (see attached). Paul said there should be an amendment to say that the PEB report is not needed for the whole building. He asked about a speaker coming and Sunny said it would be great if the speaker came after the service. Derek suggested people read Susan Pinnell's Best Practices for Churches ([https://63afd6dc720e7f8d641a-db8c75cfc72b416e3c18df97c8a1dcaa.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/b/0e11212216\\_1606142353\\_best-eco-practices-for-churches.pdf](https://63afd6dc720e7f8d641a-db8c75cfc72b416e3c18df97c8a1dcaa.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/b/0e11212216_1606142353_best-eco-practices-for-churches.pdf)) Perhaps this could be put on the church website. Sunny noted that most of what Susan recommended was in Nick's presentation at the 2020 AGM, which was agreed at the time needed revisiting.

### **5.7 Community-building**

- a. This committee is to be merged with Church growth and given a new name.

## **6. Other business:**

**6.1 ASBL update:** Susan circulated the draft minutes from 22 March (see attached), which are rather short but contain the important points. There are three officials: Bill Bythell, Marc Smets-Tolley and Roderick Abbott. These three officials will be registered with the correct authorities and then the accounts and a budget will be prepared. There will be another ASBL meeting as soon as possible so that it can adopt its accounts and the budget for 2021. Nick asked why no-one is questioning its utility. Susan said that at this point they are just trying to put the ASBL back in legal order, which needs to happen whether it continues or is closed. Whether it should continue and is needed remains to be seen. She has still to talk with Jack McDonald to gather further information. Whether to open a new bank account still has to be decided. This is a work in progress. Susan is trying to get the administration on track so that people know their duties. All the questions are on the table and all options are open. Sunny said that 'ASBL update' will be kept on the Vestry's agenda so that an eye is kept on the situation. She thanked Susan, Bill, Roderick, Marc and others for the work currently being done on this.

- 7. Curate's report:** Katie had a very busy Easter season. She thanked Fiona for the organ and leading the virtual choir. Huge thanks to Kathi-Sue for leading the bell choir. Sunday School is going really well and the kids are doing great. The Youth Commission has been doing movie nights and discussions. On the personal side, her Ethiopian student, Adam, has passed his English language test and applied to study at the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences in Mechelen. Katie will be away next week taking online military training.
- 8. Rector's report:** Sunny said it is very helpful to be having reports again but please would Vestry members send them to the whole Vestry and to Fiona so that she can file a copy. It's good to have a report before a Vestry meeting so everyone knows what's going on. If your committee is not working, change it. She has no new information on COVID rules with the limit of 15 people and maximum of 4 people meeting, e.g. for ASBL, so Zoom is the best way to communicate. Belgian statistics don't look good at the moment. We did have a funeral with the full allowable limit of 50 for Jean Schoemans. Dominique-Helene appreciated the way everything went. Sunny thanked those helping with the property. Katie and Sunny have tried some unusual sermon formats recently and are happy to have feedback, both positive and negative. They are trying to be

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creative about worship within the limits caused by being online.

Susan asked for details of the apartment to be given to the Vestry so that they can forward it to their contacts. The church has stored excess furniture, so the apartment can be rented unfurnished or furnished, although a bed would need to be purchased. The agent has looked at it and we are waiting for the exact price for the rent. Mike said that the flat should be ready for renting by 14 April. Kathi-Sue requested that the committees be told who is pledging time and talents. Fiona said she would get it to the Vestry this week.

**9. Closing prayer:** Stefan offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 21.36.

**Outreach meeting on Zoom - Friday 9th April 2021**  
**Present: Katie, Nick and Derek**

The contributions of €250 to Oasis Belgium and Domisum from the All Saints' Outreach budget were confirmed. Members of the congregation who chose to make a private donation to either or both of these good causes, are invited to inform Katie, so that we can get a global view.

Following the report to Convention on Climate and Creation Care, support for two environmental initiatives, was discussed:

- 1) **Empowerment of women:** Rapid population growth is a major concern for the preservation of natural resources, protection of the environment and biodiversity. When women are able to determine their own choices and have greater control over their sexual and reproductive rights, this results in a reduction in the number of births. Nick will pursue this further in association with Hannah Pandian.
- 2) **Environmental organisation rooted in Wallonia and Brussels:** NATAGORA [www.natagora.be](http://www.natagora.be) formed in 2003, aims to protect nature with a major objective, to stop the degradation of biodiversity and restore a good general state, in balance with human activities. Organised in local groups, volunteers offer activities close to their homes, naturalist walks, creation of natural gardens, organisation of events, site defences, conferences, involvement in participatory structures etc. Various types of support are possible; member, volunteer, donations (Belgian tax exemption), guided visits, walks etc. Derek will follow this up.

If these two projects are funded at the same level as Oasis Belgium and Domisum, half of the Outreach budget (€1,000) will still be available for other initiatives.

It is therefore proposed to invite all members of the congregation, to submit their ideas/projects for Outreach support, at a meeting to be held after Sunday Holy Eucharist in early May.

It has been noted that St Esprit Mons is financing a livestock project in Burundi.

## Environment Task Force

### Environmentally friendly church.

- Find suppliers and obtain quotes for the replacement of the current oil-burner central heating with a modern gas installation. Check which support can be obtained from the Walloon region.
- Verify if splitting water circuits would allow to cut off the heating in certain areas of the building when not in use.
- The building, or part of it, will presumably need to be eco-certified soon. Ask the PEB certifier which easy and inexpensive improvements could be made to the building.
- Check with the electricity suppliers if we can obtain ecologically produced electricity. Compare prices and verify budget implications.
- Some church office areas are said to be furnaces in Summer. Define which these are and get a quote for heat-repulsive curtains.
- Replace remaining neon lamps in the cellars with LED tubes.

### Environmentally friendly parish.

- Support one or more environmental-friendly initiatives (via Outreach).
- Avoid the use of bottled water during parish social activities. Replace one-way plastic by bio-degradable items or by multi-use crockery and cutlery.
- If our Rector agrees, during one Sunday service replace the sermon by a short nature-oriented presentation to be given by an invited speaker. Organise a nature-walk after service. Contact Natagora for further in-depth study of the project.

### Climate Stewardship officer.

- Nick accepted to join the network for a period of one year.

Info: World Environment Day is 5<sup>th</sup> June – this year a Saturday.

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## D R A F T

A general meeting of the ASBL 'Friends of All Saints Waterloo' was called to order by William Bythell at 19.30 on 22 March 2021. Due notice had been given of the time and date on 3 and 9 March. Roderick Abbott was invited to take the minutes of the meeting.

**Attendance:** William Bythell; Rev Sunny Hallanan (member *ex officio*); Susan Downhill; Nick Fern; Mike Breton; Derek Pullinger; Kathi-Sue Rupp; Paul Hirsch; Roderick Abbott; Carole Ducastel; Marc Smets-Tolley; Sylvette Norré.

### **Membership.**

Those present were invited to declare whether they wished to continue, or to become, members of the ASBL in future. (William Bythell; Susan Downhill; Nick Fern; Roderick Abbott, Nadia Molenstra and Carole Ducastel are the "membres effectifs"<sup>1</sup>).

### **Resignations/Changes of membership.**

William Bythell, Susan Downhill and Roderick Abbott agreed to continue as members. Marc Smets-Tolley, Mike Breton and Paul Hirsch applied for membership.

In line with indications above, the following are resigning membership: Nick Fern, Nadia Molenstra, Carole Ducastel.

Resignations and new members were approved by the meeting.

### **Elections.**

The meeting voted for a Board of three office holders – William Bythell, Roderick Abbott, Marc Smets-Tolley. The vote was unanimous. It was agreed that William Bythell would continue as President, Roderick Abbott as Secretary and Marc Smets-Tolley would act as Treasurer.

### **Other business.**

Roderick Abbott raised a point on the ASBL finances. He recalled that the statutes require accounts to be approved by the membership, and a budget for next year presented. It was agreed that another meeting of the ASBL would be needed to fulfil this requirement.

### **Certified as a true record.**

signed

Roderick Abbott, Secretary

William Bythell, President

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<sup>1</sup> Footnote 5 of the note produced by Stefan Jochems for the Vestry meeting of 8/3/2021. Status of C. Ducastel membership not completely clear.