

**VESTRY MEETING – 3 MAY 2021, 19.30, via ZOOM
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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. Susan Downhill opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet had presented her apologies.
3. **Approval of minutes** Prior to approving the minutes Nick Fern enquired whether such detailed minutes were necessary. It was felt they could be shortened. The minutes of the 12 April Vestry meeting were then accepted without change.
4. **Vestry check-in:** In honor of the recently passed date of 1 May, Susan was thinking of other notable things that have happened on the same date. It was the anniversary of the first 10 countries from the 'eastern bloc' joining the EU in 2004. This was important to her at the time and she wondered if Vestry would talk about experiences that they had had in the former eastern European countries. People in these countries now have the right to uphold their religious beliefs through EU law. Many members had experiences of visiting this area prior to 2004 and since, which were related to those present.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1. **Building & property**
 - a. Mike Breton reported that the creche had been inspected by the local fire brigade and all was satisfactory. He reminded Vestry that a check on the electrics in the building will be necessary before the end of August.
 - b. The second-floor apartment is almost ready for renting. A vote of thanks was given to Victor Osweiler, Adam Paul, Paul Hirsch and Derek Pullinger.
 - c. The French window in the rector's apartment will be expensive to replace.
 - d. Mike is in touch with the gas board to arrange an appointment to find out if the meter is functional. One more quote is needed on the boiler replacement then a decision will be made on the purchase.
 - e. Paul is organizing painting of the windows, which must be done this year. The laurel hedge on the Lexus side must be cut at the first opportunity. Derek asked if anything more was to be done on the ivy/side wall. Mike said that this needs to be resolved. He is investigating a cherry picker.
 - 5.2. **Outreach & service**
 - a. Derek said that his committee was moving forward with the six charities: Oasis, Domisum, Natagora, a women's empowerment project, Community Help Service and Relay for Life.
 - b. He felt that we would not be back in church to celebrate biodiversity in person on 6 June. Sunny said that ASC did celebrate Earth Day as a WW last week.
 - c. Derek feels ASC needs a few more projects, to go with CHS and Relay for Life. He would like to put ideas out to the congregation.
 - d. Nick Fern asked how much the Lent givings had amounted to. Katie Osweiler said that not everyone provided information but she thinks it was around €500.

Domisum could be supported again later in the year. ASC will also support relief from natural disasters.

5.3. Faith building

- a. Susan said that this committee needs to be constituted. Most of the work is being done by Sunny and Katie.

5.4 Church growth & community building

- a. Kathi-Sue Rupp announced the details for a 'Fire and Icing' celebration for Pentecost at 19.00 on 22 May in her garden, which will be within the COVID parameters. This can now be announced to the congregation in an eBlast.
- b. Sunny reported she had re-started the Facebook ad so it ran through Holy Week and Easter. The page has had an average of 844-900 hits per week. We have the following profile: English speaking, Protestant, range going up to Brussels and around, centered on Waterloo. It could reach as many as 4,000 people.

5.5 Environmental concerns – Task force

- a. Nick reported that nothing has been done since the last report. He will write something in the eBlast about the environment to get people involved.
- b. Two people have been shown the property in order to provide quotes for a boiler.

5.6 Finance

- a. Mike received the annual request from the Anglican Council of Belgium (ACB). Charleroi also pays a proportion.
- b. Fiona White has followed up with the scouts regarding their reduced rental agreement, which comes to an end this month. Their reply was very ambiguous. Fiona was asked to clarify the situation with them.
- c. Mike has received a notification about Convocation grants for this year. Sunny applied for a grant to improve ASC's technology, plus grants for Tbilisi, St Esprit Mons, and St Servais.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Susan reported notable progress: registration for the *Monitor Belge* was filed by Bill Bythell last week. However he was unable to meet a certain person in the Nivelles office to discuss if we're doing OK. A lot has still to be done on the finance side. With Mike's help the income and expenditure for last year has been drawn up and so a budget for 2021 can be prepared. The big issue is whether there needs to be a balance sheet. The statutory deadline of end of May may not be achieved but it is very much more important to get to the bottom of what we need to report. It is still a work in progress. Mike asked if there would be another in-person meeting. The adoption of the budget and accounts are covered by the ASBL statutes. Mike asked if the money received as rent should be going into the ASBL, which raises the question of whether the ASBL needs its own bank account again. If we do, the Fabrique and ASBL must be very separate, and the Fabrique would need to pay the ASBL back. Mike offered his help and assistance.

7. **Curate's report:** Katie thanked Kathi-Sue for being the techie at the previous day's service. If anyone else would like to help, Katie will train them. Sunday School has become a little 'weird': the kids are 'zoomed out' so

Pentecost will be the last regular Sunday School session before the summer. She will continue to communicate with the parents. Felicity Handford's Rite 13ers are doing really well and there are plans for a ceremony for them, which might be in-person. Katie admitted to dropping the ball with the older kids who have had a tougher time getting on Zoom. Two are in Canada and one is in London!

She and Victor are planning a trip to the USA from 1 to 17 July, but only if they have had the second vaccination. Her course with the military included marriage counseling and trust building. She has visited Stefan Jochems and Tom Huddleston's twins and Gemma Pullinger's daughter.

8. **Rector's report:** Regarding our dues to the ACB, by paying this we receive the two *traitements*. Also, ASC is allowed to have two lay people voting at the ACB synod in early October. It takes place in Drongen (Ghent) and if anyone would like to be involved, it is an interesting three days with good speakers and the chance to make contact with other Anglicans in the Benelux. Susan said that she wants to pursue the ACB regarding legal advice for the ASBL.
On the pastoral side, our sick parishioner with COVID is now home and recovering well. The twins are to be baptized around Pentecost, in person.
9. **Closing prayer:** Susan offered a closing prayer from India, which is suffering badly with the COVID pandemic and very low oxygen supplies for sufferers.

The meeting adjourned at 20.59.