

**VESTRY MEETING – 7 JUNE 2021, 19.30, via ZOOM
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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

1. Paul Hirsch opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Apologies were received from Stefan Jochems. Kathi-Sue Rupp had also apologized for having to leave early.
3. **Approval of minutes** Susan Downhill asked for clarification in the section on the ASBL, which should now read: 'The adoption of the budget and accounts are covered by the ASBL statutes.' The minutes of the 3 May Vestry meeting were accepted with this change.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Paul led a discussion on the impact of a unified Europe. Our church enables cross-cultural conversations which add a richness to life. EU policy and solidarity allows refugees and migrants to come to safe places.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1. **Outreach & service**
 - a. Derek Pullinger had sent in a report (attached). No payment was made to Protestant Social Centre so he suggests to include it in 2021.
 - b. The victims of the volcanic eruption in DRC should have our support. It also affects Burundian refugees.
 - c. Natagora has 26 different divisions across Belgium so he recommends that ASC supports a local one.
 - d. We are half-way through the year but have only paid out €500.
 - e. Katie Osweiler suggested that as we are allowed to eat outside from 13 June, a rota of cookie makers could resume. She will bake for our first Sunday back.
 - f. Relay-for-Life takes place on 19 June with a different format for the pandemic. As this is funded by individuals it will be decided after the event if ASC wants to supplement our team's contribution.
 - 5.2. **Faith building**
 - a. Susan Downhill noted that Sunny, Katie and Felicity Handford do all the work, and thinks we need to reconsider what to do with the committee and see how individuals are supported. The three Vestry members haven't met together for various reasons.
 - 5.3. **Church growth & community building**
 - a. Jane McBride reported that the Fire & Icing event had gone well. Grateful thanks go to Kathi-Sue & Darryl Rupp.
 - b. 19 and 20 June is a busy weekend with Relay for Life Saturday, and the refugee service on Sunday, which is to be followed by a group going to Mons to meet those in the mission there to get to know them better.
 - c. The committee is thinking of a pilgrimage/walk to a site that takes in a church or shrine. We would do it as a church community and bring our own food and have a time of prayer and reflection, thus combining the social and spiritual.

- d. The committee hopes that Joëlle Vanopbroeke will give another concert in the autumn.
- e. They would like to hold a 'Welcome back' event at the beginning of September.
- f. Stefan Jochems had mentioned raising the profile to LGBTQ groups by providing more information on the website.

5.4 Environmental concerns – Task force

- a. Nick Fern committed himself to providing something for the eBlast. He is putting together a list of hints and tips that can reduce carbon footprints.

5.5 Finance

- a. Mike Breton reported the money from tenants continues to be paid out steadily to our lender. Income from general pledges is good and may be slightly above last year. We're solvent and don't owe money except to our lender.

5.6 Building & property

- a. Mike reports that the administrator's apartment is let. A 9-year lease will be signed on Thursday. We will do an informal *etat de lieu*. The tenant will take responsibility for the flat from 15 June. Sunny pointed out that there is still a small office room to be let on the first floor.
- b. Paul said that now the better weather is here the window painting will be organized. Work on these will begin this week. The windows will be removed so work can be done in the ground floor. A good job was done on the laurel hedge. The ivy will be left to fall down.
- c. Two estimates to install a new boiler are still outstanding, waiting for the gas inspection on 21 June. Hopefully a decision can be made with 2 quotes and something will be installed before the heating is required again in the autumn.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Susan reported that the changes filed by Bill Bythell last month have been published in the *Moniteur Belge* and other official places have been updated. Grateful thanks were conveyed to Bill. There are still the accounts and budget to be dealt with. The ASBL will hold an extraordinary general meeting shortly. Members have been asked if they would agree to shorten the notice period (21 days) and all agreed to waive that.

A closing position is required by the accountants and no accounts have been seen for 2019 but there will certainly be a budget for 2021. The ASBL collects income from tenants and transfers it to our lender. It owns the cars so pays the car insurance and also pays the *précompte immobilier* (property tax). Received income can also be donations. There is agreement that a bank account is necessary for the ASBL. Also, there is a need to find out if our lender requires being paid back from the ASBL account.

It is felt that some kind of expert advice should be found. Tax issues related to a church are somewhat special so a few other avenues are being followed: the Anglican Council of Belgium has a lawyer; and Stefan's contact who has church expertise.

Nick noted that the church and land is owned by the *Fabrique*. There will be a significant issue sorting out the repayments between this and the ASBL.

7. **Curate's report:** Katie is setting up how to do a hybrid Zoom and broadcasting in-person service. Kathi-Sue has offered to run the Zoom in church. Thanks were conveyed to the virtual choir, to Fiona for the organ, and to Sunny who did many of the recordings. Katie is now fully vaccinated so will be going to visit people in person. Her vacation dates are finalized: leaving on 28 June and returning 21 July. She will be in Belgium for 3 weeks then at military training in Germany 2-25 August. She is working with the Youth Commission sorting out dates for Youth across Europe, Juniors across Europe and Young Adults.
8. **Rector's report:** Sunny has received the most recent protocol from the Anglican Council: we can have up to 100 people in the church for worship. The 2-meter rule is now reduced to 1.5 meters but we still have to follow all the regulations: distance, masks, etc. and the Episcopal rule is still no singing (the Anglican rule is singing softly with a mask). We can start having refreshments outside but the 1.5-meter distance must be maintained. We may now resume meetings and bible studies inside with the distancing. These could also be hybrid.
We are having a 'Welcome home Sunday' this Sunday with special music. The refugee service on 20 June is being organized by Tom Huddleston and Jane. The following week is the Rite 13 ceremony so our first few weeks back will be special. We can still sing on Zoom at Wondrous Wednesdays.
Technically our agreement with the lender was that the loan would be paid off 5 years from now. We won't get there at the rate we're going; it'll be more like 11years. Can we think of a good faith action to raise money to pay the lender back more quickly? Mike hopes the amount outstanding to be at the low €600,000s at the end of the year.
9. **Closing prayer:** Paul offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 21.07.

Outreach report - 7 June 2021

Dear all,

Please find attached an income/expenditure table for All Saints' Outreach 2021. I wish to draw your attention to a couple of points for discussion/ approval.

1. In 2020 no donation was made to the **Protestant Social Centre** in Brussels. In previous years the Centre was supported by All Saints so I have reinserted it into the 2021 programme.
2. Following a conversation with Sunny I have included the **Nyiragongo volcano eruption** Goma RDC. The eruption of the volcano and the subsequent earthquakes and tremors have had a devastating effect on the local population in the RDC but also on neighbouring Rwanda and on the 45000 refugees from Burundi in North and South Kivu.
3. **Natagora**: I have been in contact with Mr Julien Taymans, President of Natagora Brabant Wallon. Having secured funding through donations for the purchase of 6 hectares of Wetland "Marais de Chapelle" at Lasne (an essential element in an ecological mesh encompassing *La Prairie de Carpu* at Rixensant, *la Carrière Hannotelet* and *Le refuge naturel de la Marache* at Lasne) he informs me that the appeal is still open in order to extend and protect the wet zones. They are currently in contact with landowners to achieve this. I would suggest that we support this local initiative with a donation of €250, rather than making a donation to the general fund of Natagora.
4. I have put €250 against all of the 6 projects in the 2021 programme (Oasis and Domisum already paid in February) This leaves us with a balance of €365 for other initiatives, or for additional contributions to the existing projects.

See you all on Zoom tonight

Derek

All Saints Waterloo - Outreach 2021

	Income	Description	Expenditure
Budget	€ 2,000.00	Oasis	€ 250.00 paid 12/2/2021
Donation 1st qtr	€ 50.00	Domisum	€ 250.00 paid 12/2/2021
		Community Health Centre - diary insert 2022	€ 155.00
		Brussels British Community Association	€ 30.00
		Natagora	€ 250.00
		Women's empowerment project	€ 250.00
		Protestant Centre	€ 250.00
		Natural disaster - victims Nyiragongo volcano DRC	€ 250.00
Total	€ 2,050.00	Total	€ 1,685.00
		Available funds	€ 365.00

Other Outreach actions "hors budget" supported by members of All Saints' congregation

British Legion Poppy Fund
Nov 2021

Relay for Life - 19/6/2021