

**VESTRY MEETING – 5 JULY 2021, 19.30, via ZOOM & IN-PERSON  
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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Present: Mike Breton, Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Paul Hirsch, Jane McBride, Derek Pullinger, Kathi-Sue Rupp.  
Staff: Fiona White.

1. Mike Breton opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Apologies were received from Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Stefan Jochems and Susan Downhill (Senior Warden). Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate) is on holiday. Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet was not present.
3. **Approval of minutes** The minutes of the 7 June Vestry meeting were accepted as submitted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Mike followed on from Sunday's sermon with the theme of the power of prayer. Discussion was on how to reconcile prayer with everyday lives, even to the extent of whether they believe in it, or not. For Mike it is a question of faith but it can go down to a level of superstition. It was felt that people having prayers said for them was important. It was noted that few petitions are voiced aloud at ASC. Where prayer is more spontaneous, or where the congregation is small and close, more petitions are added.
5. **Committee reports:**
  - 5.1. **Faith building**
    - a. None of the committee were present but Sunny Hallanan reported that the Rite-13 ceremony went well and marked the end of one phase for that group. Sunday School has formally ended for the season. Special thanks are due for Felicity Handford, Bill Bythell and Katie Osweiler for their work with children and youth.
    - b. Bible study has stopped for the summer, but the rector is willing to teach a class if requested.
  - 5.2. **Church growth & Community building**
    - a. Kathi-Sue Rupp and her committee are organizing a meditation walk for 25 July in the vicinity of Villers-la-Ville. They will prepare a text to read and then meditate on whilst the group walks. Other walk location options are Banneux, Beauraing, Schelpenhoewel and Our Lady of Mechelen.
    - b. The committee still has to speak with Joëlle Vanopbroeke about a concert in the autumn.
    - c. Welcome Back Sunday is 12 September. The planning needs to be done but all committees are asked to put up a display. Food and drink will also be available, subject to Covid regulations at the time.
  - 5.3. **Environmental concerns – Task Force**
    - a. Derek Pullinger reported Nick Fern's item for the eBlast was outstanding.
  - 5.4. **Finance**
    - a. All the requested donations have been made and the balance of their grant has gone to St Esprit Mons.
    - b. Mike has paid another €5,000 to our lender.
    - c. Ores came about changing the gas meter prior to the installation of a new boiler but nothing further has been heard.

d. Pledges are still coming in. There is a small collection now on a Sunday which will hopefully increase when the collection plate can go round the congregation. (Covid rules strictly prohibit passing the plate).

#### **5.5 Building & property**

- a. Paul Hirsch reported that rain has prevented painting the windows – and there are still many to do. Volunteers are very welcome.
- b. One of the pillars at the church entrance has been filled with plastic wood to prevent further damage.

#### **5.6 Outreach & service**

- a. The Relay for Life target was €1,000 but the team has raised €1,495!
- b. €200 was raised for the pigs for Burundi, which is in keeping with what they wanted. Photos and information on the number of pigs purchased will be made available.
- c. Derek is waiting for Nick to provide information on the Women's Empowerment project. A donation still needs to be sent to the volcano disaster in Democratic Republic of Congo.
- d. About 10 people from ASC went to Mons on Refugee Day. They toured the St Esprit church sites, spoke with the Mons parishioners and learned about their challenges with worship spaces. Good connections were made.

### **6. Other business:**

**6.1 ASBL update:** Susan Downhill had forwarded a set of draft minutes. Mike and Paul were there and reported that the accounts and budget were approved, and that it was decided to get an expert for advice on the situation.

**6.2 Date of next Vestry meeting:** It was decided to meet next on 30 August, giving time to plan for the Welcome Back event.

7. **Rector's report:** Sunny announced that the Backpack Blessing will be on 29 August and the Animal Blessing will be on 3 October. We will do more publicity for this, perhaps around the neighborhood as this is an opportunity for people to come to our church no matter what their religious affiliation.

Calendar information: On Sunday 19 September at 10.30, the Anglican Council of Belgium is celebrating the centenary of Anglicanism in Belgium at Holy Trinity. Bishops will attend, as will King Philippe.

31 October: Bishop Mark will be at ASC. He will have dinner with the Vestry on the Saturday night in the church café (maybe with a *traiteur*). There will also be time for a meeting.

Sunny reported that Susan, as Warden, has been asked why we haven't done a mutual ministry review (MMR). This is a disciplined time of reflection, looking at the goals of the congregation and clarifying our objectives, looking at what is working well and improving that which is not. We haven't done one because in place of a formal MMR, we have Vestry check-in at each meeting, the purpose of which is to continually evaluate how we're doing. Sunny noted that we have strayed from that purpose at some recent check-ins, but tonight's check-in was an example of looking at how prayer is a part of our parish worship. An expert on MMR is on sabbatical at the Cathedral and prepared to do one for us for free this summer. Some couldn't see any usefulness to it and wondered whether now was a good time after the year we've all experienced; others felt it was an opportunity to look at our goals as a church and discover what people's

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views are. Questions were raised as to what was involved and how long it would take. Sunny said she would contact the expert for more information, with particular concern that many are away in summer.

- 8. Closing prayer:** Mike offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 20.49.