

**VESTRY MEETING – 30 AUGUST 2021, 19.30, via ZOOM & IN-PERSON  
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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Present: In-person: Mike Breton, Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Paul Hirsch, Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet.  
Staff: Fiona White.  
Online: Jane McBride, Derek Pullinger, Susan Downhill (Senior Warden)

1. Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Apologies were received from Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate) (on duty in Ramstein, DE) and Kathi-Sue Rupp. No word was received from Stefan Jochems.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the 5 July Vestry meeting were accepted as submitted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Sunny Hallanan said that we have been doing hybrid worship, following all the covid regulations and not using paper. We are now allowed to touch things so the question is: should we move services off the screen and back to hymn books and paper? Or should we stay on the screen for now? It was felt that the screen makes for easy worship, especially with children to keep an eye on. Also, there may be another wave and we would have to switch again. Some missed being able to take the readings home for further study; also not having the hymn music makes some singing challenging. It was agreed the screen would be kept for now and would be revisited. Copies of the readings will be made available at the church. Face masks must still be worn in church services although other regulations might change shortly, including being able to have coffee and cakes inside.
5. **Committee reports:**
  - 5.1. **Church growth & Community building**
    - a. Jane McBride reported that following the visit to Mons there are plans to visit St Servais in Namur. It will take place on 3 October in the afternoon. The visit will also include visiting a museum.
    - b. There will be a charity fund-raising piano concert by Joëlle Vanopbroeke on 10 October. It is not yet known whether we can have a reception afterwards.
    - c. Welcome back Sunday is 12 September. Decorations will be put up to make it look like a party. Each committee takes a table with leaflets about what they do and gets people to sign up and help in the year ahead.
    - d. Jane said that they are hoping to organize a pastoral care service shortly for those who have felt very challenged during the pandemic.
  - 5.2. **Environmental concerns – Task Force**
    - a. Nick Fern reported that work has begun on changing over to a gas boiler. The gas board were here to do the pipework last week but we are still waiting for the installation of the gas meter. Nick is working on getting quotes for the new boiler. Gas should save us €2,000 per year and reduce our footprint by 50%.
    - b. The liturgy will again follow the month of creation during September, linking it with the lectionary.
    - c. Nick will type up a list of positive and negative points to do with our ecological footprint for the eBlast.

### **5.3. Finance**

- a. Mike Breton distributed the accounts for the first 6 months of 2021, prepared by Derek and Maryse Pullinger. The income is more or less in relation to the budget. Pledges are still coming in as expected but obviously the plate is down. Rental income is coming in and he transferred €7,500 to our lender in August. The figures will be sent to those who were not present in person. We are still solvent.
- b. Our lender has already confirmed next year's donation and pledge.

### **5.4 Building & property**

- a. Paul Hirsch reported that the work is getting done. Painting is on schedule and work has now started on the porch. All the work has been done by the Pullinger family, Nick, Katie Osweiler and Adam, Mike and Paul.
- b. We need a new cleaner who will work legally and provide an invoice.

### **5.5 Outreach & service**

- a. Derek Pullinger reported a contribution of €250 to the Belgian Red Cross in Wallonia for flood relief. The Women's Empowerment project was pencilled in so might still happen but the volcano contribution has been surpassed by the Haiti earthquake. It was agreed to send \$300 to ERD marked for Haiti. There's still another €500 to spend between now and the end of the year.
- b. Nick has been looking for another women's empowerment project and has come across Camfed, a charity educating girls in Africa. He will research this further.
- c. Gabrielle commented that people are extremely upset with the Red Cross in Namur because those who called for help were refused. We need to keep an eye on charities as they, like businesses, can go up and down in quality.

### **5.6 Faith building**

- a. In Katie's absence, the Sunday School will start later than usual this year. Felicity Handford will work with the older kids, also starting late September. Sunny will try to make church multi-generational until then.

## **6. Other business:**

**6.1 ASBL update:** Susan Downhill had nothing to report except to say that the lawyers for the Roman Catholic church had received ASC's description and have asked for a French translation.

**6.2 Praesidium Academy:** Fiona White is awaiting information from Mary Ellen Dolan, the Convocation's safeguarding officer, as to precisely which courses people should be taking. Sunny noted that action plans asked for in the program will be reviewed by the Vestry later in the year, after people have completed the courses.

**6.3 Fall calendar review:** Sunny distributed a copy of the church calendar for the remainder of 2021. This was discussed and those present were asked to get the dates into their agendas, especially reserving the weekend of 31 October for the Bishop's visitation.

7. **Curate's report:** Katie was not present at the meeting as she is currently working an extended period in Ramstein due to the Afghan refugees arriving at the military base. She is due back on 15 September. Haiti and Afghanistan

happened at once so what could we do? We've sent money to Haiti and loaned a chaplain to help with the Afghanistan crisis.

- 8. Rector's report:** Sunny was in Tbilisi for a week with the congregation of St Nino and had a productive time with them. As soon as she left the covid status went red and their numbers are now very high. They had very strict lockdowns early on but are now suffering from a large number of anti-vaxxers. Charleroi is back to having services as though time had stood still. Sunny has been three times and Fiona and Alasdair took evening prayer last week. Mons has been in person twice but the meeting space for St Servais is too small so has to remain on Zoom.
- 9. Any other business:** Gabrielle received information about doing a litter-pick in Braine-l'Alleud 23-26 September. Sunny noted the risks of having anyone going out and picking up face masks, which are dropped everywhere, so it was decided not to do it this year.
- 10. Closing prayer:** Gabrielle offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 21.19.