

**VESTRY MEETING – 4 OCTOBER 2021, 19.30, via ZOOM & IN-PERSON
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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

1. Nick Fern opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** No word was received from Stefan Jochems and Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet.
3. **Approval of minutes:** With two corrections, the minutes of the 30 August Vestry meeting were accepted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Nick's first topic: Is the end of COVID really near? Do we think that we are doing everything right? Some places are installing CO₂ meters. Are there other things we should be doing? We have an obligation to keep our parish and building users safe. Our worship space has windows open and a ventilator sucking out the air to increase air circulation but the café area has a lower ceiling and potentially less circulation. It might be prudent to measure as it would be reassuring to know that we are within safe limits. Cheap CO₂ meters cost about €100. We can let the tenants know the normal range and set a threshold. If the threshold is reached, we should have recommendations to open windows/doors to increase ventilation, or for people to go outside. We will need to limit the numbers attending Thanksgiving. It was voted to spend up to €200 for a CO₂ meter. Nick again expressed his concern for the importance of Sunny taking a sabbatical/time off.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Environmental concerns – Task Force**
 - a. Nick: A handout about climate change is set for an eBlast soon.
 - b. Sunny Hallanan: Environmental themes were included in the sermons and prayers for the month of Creation.
 - 5.2 **Finance**
 - a. Mike Breton said he had received notification that pledge money has been sent to the US account. However, he still hasn't received new checks and therefore cannot spend the money from the US-based PNC bank account.
 - b. We have a new cleaner who is cheaper than the previous one.
 - c. Mike said that he would be at the Braine-l'Alleud commune offices on Wednesday morning to meet about the Fabrique. He will have a discussion about how the potential increase in energy prices affects us.
 - d. Mike mentioned an offer for a 'free car' smothered in ads for the Fabrique. There is no current need for a car but Mike will keep it filed until we need one.
 - e. Mike also mentioned an offer for additional car insurance costing €60/year to cover damage caused by natural phenomena. He will look into it further.
 - 5.3 **Building & property**
 - a. Paul Hirsch reported that with autumn approaching now is the time to do work inside the building

- b. Nick said that he had not got very far on boiler quotes. He has one but it is rather large; he will pursue the other quotes. A 3 to 5-month delay between ordering and delivery can be expected.
- c. Sunny reported that the new tenant is still smoking in the building. It was agreed that the smoke detectors should be checked and, if necessary, to purchase new ones.

5.4 Outreach & service

- a. Derek Pullinger reported that there was not much change since last month. We have still to support a charity that educates women in third world countries. Sunny reminded the meeting that there could be more disasters occurring that need our support.
- b. Joëlle Vanopbroeke's upcoming concert will support Red Cross flood relief.
- c. This coming Sunday is Harvest Festival and donated goods will go to flood relief in Namur through Une Main Tendue. Fiona White will send out a harvest reminder.

5.5 Faith building

- a. Susan Downhill reported that Katie Osweiler is back so Sunday School is rolling again. The initial focus was on helping new students assimilate and getting everyone back in the groove after so long without in-person classes. A goal is to try to integrate youth more into the service.
- b. Older children began the preparation for Rite 13 led by Felicity Handford.
- c. Wondrous Wednesdays: This coming Wednesday will be an open time to challenge the rector to explain difficult Bible passages. Next Wednesday will be preparation for confirmation and reception prior to the Bishop's visit. No one has yet come up with more topics for a WW.
- d. The visit to the congregation of St Servais and the sights of Namur went well.

5.6 Church growth & Community building

- a. Jane McBride reported that Welcome back Sunday took place but not many people attended that day.
- b. Coffee and cookies has resumed inside after the service.
- c. The logistics for the reception following Joëlle's concert were discussed since Carole Ducastel cannot organize it due to Injury.
- d. Our Thanksgiving Feast will take place on 21 November. In view of the pandemic, we need to limit to a maximum of 50 people in the cafe. The turkeys, bread and beverages will be provided by the church. Fiona will prepare a sign-up sheet for side dishes, vegetables and desserts.
- e. Carole may need pastoral care following her accident.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Susan Downhill reported that not much has changed since the last meeting. Her team is still in the preliminary stages with the legal expert from the Catholic church. She's also not getting much information from our lender, who set up the ASBL initially. The ASBL constitution seems to be up to date, but the statutes may need to be updated. The tax return is due at the end of October. In the past we have declared no taxable income but now need to

find out if rent is classified as such. The tax return should be done by ASBL Treasurer Marc Smets (with some information from Nadia Molenstra).

6.2 Praesidium Academy: Fiona is still awaiting information from Mary Ellen Dolan, the Convocation's safeguarding officer, regarding who does which courses. Sunny said that workbook activities will be done as a vestry after members have done their classes. This will include establishing an All Saints' safeguarding plan.

- 7. Curate's report:** Katie thanked everyone for their support while she was away. She has a new job at the Convocation as a part-time youth coordinator. She is going to Italy tomorrow for an event honoring another female military chaplain and will visit family friends in Stockholm on 17 October prior to going to Nice for the Convention. She will cover for Sunny when she is in the USA during November and in early January.
- 8. Rector's report:** Sunny is attending the Anglican Synod later this week where the themes are racism and creation care. She is attending Convention later this month with Fiona and Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet. The Bishop's visitation to All Saints' is 29-31 October. The logistics of his schedule were made as follows:
 - Friday: curry dinner at All Saints' for Vestry members and their partners. Members bring a curry; the church will provide the rice.
 - Saturday: 10.00: Business meeting with Vestry members at ASC.
 - Saturday evening: possible meeting with the confirmands and their families at ASC. Three people are to be confirmed or received the following day at All Saints, and several more at St Esprit Mons.
 - Sunday: Coffee and a nice selection of cakes for the parish after the service. Sunny will then take Bishop Mark to St Esprit Mons for an afternoon service. We do not know if Judy Edington is coming with him. Sunny will check to see if the Bishop approves these plans.It was agreed that we support Balthazar Nahimana's rail ticket to Paris for interview with the COMB committee in January.
- 9. Closing prayer:** Nick offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 21.21.