

**VESTRY MEETING – 6 DECEMBER 2021, 19.30, via ZOOM & IN-PERSON
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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

1. Derek Pullinger opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Jane McBride
3. **Approval of minutes:** Nick Fern asked for a change to the text under 'finance': 'It shows a surplus of €18,000 which allows some of the loan to be repaid.' The minutes of the 8 November Vestry meeting were accepted with this amendment.
4. **Acceptance of Vestry resignation from Stefan Jochems:** Stefan wrote to the Vestry putting forward his resignation. The Vestry were sad to accept his resignation but pleased that the reason was his course at a seminary in the USA. There needs to be official correspondence from Vestry indicating that any resignation has been accepted.
5. **Rector's leave of absence and mutual ministry review:** Susan Downhill reported that she and Nick Fern met with Rev. Sunny Hallanan to discuss her leave of absence and the church's Mutual Ministry Review (MMR). They fully understand Sunny's feeling of frustration at not being able to take a regular sabbatical during the time of covid restrictions. She will take two months off in Chicago as compensation for missing previous vacations. This is leave, which she is owed from several years. The dates will be confirmed soon. They will be some time between mid February and June. When she returns from leave the sabbatical will be discussed. Her contract is for a sabbatical every 7 years but she hasn't had one yet in her 10 years at ASC.
MMR: Susan corresponded with the Bishop, who has agreed to pay for the review and provide a facilitator. It was suggested that the MMR is actioned when Sunny returns from leave.
6. **Vestry check-in:** Mike Breton wondered why there was a difference between the government regulations on COVID and what is coming from the Bishop. Why is this? It was pointed out that we do have to follow the Bishop's regulations, as stated by the Anglican Central Committee. It was noted that there was disappointment with the current situation (no coffee hour) but people are pleased that they're still allowed in the church for a service. Some members have minimized their actions. Anyone can attend worship if they're unvaccinated but not any other event in the building. Mons is now finally taking the pandemic seriously due to increased cases there.
7. **Committee reports:**
 - 7.1 **Building & property**
 - a. Paul Hirsch thanked Derek Pullinger for picking up the leaves at the front of the building. He has been painting inside (in the library) rather than outside in the colder weather.
 - b. Mike reported that someone from Ores looked at the new meter. The point was made that the wrong pipe had been put in despite being given the correct

instructions. Nick will investigate Ores' website for contractors but added that €5,000 is necessary to sort out the gas connection and if that is spent, it's gone. ASC needs to decide whether to follow the gas route or a heat pump.

7.1.1. Property security: Paul reported that there have been difficulties with our latest tenant who has very serious behavioral problems. He invites people in to his flat and gives them keys, and has also let a stranger in. Two locks have been replaced, at a cost. The other tenants had to be informed. If multiple keys are shared we have no control on who enters the building, and once in the building the majority of the rest of the property can be reached. There was discussion about various options for securing the building. The committee will look at ways to deal with the problem but was advised not to be too stingy on the security system.

7.2 Outreach & service

- a. Derek said that Felicity Handford suggested Cecily's Fund as a worthy charity. They use education to break the cycle of poverty. It was voted to send them €250 (www.cecilysfund.org), and Gifts for life through the ERD: \$200 for clean water and \$200 for female-owned business projects.
- b. Following Joëlle Vanopbroeke's concert in October, it was decided that €200 should be given to Joëlle, €51 should go to ASC for the hire of the church and the balance, €700, to the Red Cross.
- c. Pig houses in Burundi: Balthazar Nahimana has received the €250, which will be forwarded to the charity.

7.3 Faith building

- a. Susan reported that Felicity's concern is that Sunday School isn't regularly scheduled and, due to COVID rules, people haven't come back to help. Katie Osweiler has put a schedule together for every Sunday in Advent so she hopes to get the ball rolling again. The children are working on a video for Christmas. A new adult helper came up on Sunday. A lectionary-based program will be prepared for the older children, based on previous years' success.
- b. Adult education is in a similar state to the children's. Attendance in lockdown was good but in this in-between phase all the activities are suffering a bit.
- c. Compline is still taking place each Tuesday.
- d. Susan said that this committee has shrunk but it never really did get off the ground. She recommended that this fact should be just made an agenda item.

7.4 Church growth & community building

- a. Kathi-Sue Rupp reported that the Thanksgiving Dinner went well. Coffee hour has been suspended. There will be a cookie exchange on 19 December, followed by an evening Zoom service of sing-a-long carols and cookies.

7.5 Environmental concerns

- a. Nick had nothing else to add to the information on the gas/boiler.
- b. The boiler is being serviced on 12 January by a new company.

7.6 Finance

- a. Mike finally has the US cheques.

- b. He has sent more money to our lender. €42,000 has been sent this year.
- c. He has received the €1,000 technology grant from Paris.

8. Other business:

8.1 Current COVID regulations: These have already been discussed. We need to clarify exactly who may meet in the building currently.

8.2 ASBL update: Susan said the ASBL will hold an extraordinary general meeting on Thursday. It needs to adopt the 2020 accounts and the budget for 2021. This is a bit late but they are getting steadily legal. The accounts will then get filed in Nivelles. An update on the tax return will be reported. The statutes also need to be brought up to date. There is still some confusion with the tenants' rent in the wrong account but it's getting sorted out. Hopefully a decision will be made soon on whether the ASBL is necessary and if the set-up can be simpler.

8.3 Praesidium Academy update: Fiona White reported that three Vestry members are making headway with some of the courses. She encouraged members to take all five courses as we have to report to the Safeguarding Officer that we are abiding by the rules. Sunny said that once all the courses have been followed, the Vestry will get together to make a plan.

8.4 AGM and Vestry membership: The AGM date (20 February) needs to go on people's agenda and we need to encourage new people to join Vestry. Mike Breton has served two terms so he cannot continue on the Vestry next year so we need at least one new 3-year member. Both Paul and Jane can serve for another 3-year term; we need one 1-year term to replace Stefan, and one 2-year term to replace Gabrielle. If the AGM takes place during Sunny's leave, the Senior Warden or the Curate can run it. The Curate can also run the Vestry retreat following the AGM. Members were asked to get their annual reports to Fiona by the end of January. The budget will be prepared for the Vestry meeting on 7 February.

8.5 Any other Business: There was none.

- 9. Curate's report:** Katie reported that things have been going fine. She is helping with Sunday School and the Youth Commission work is going well. She is traveling after Christmas to friends in the UK, otherwise she's here for the season. She visited Julia Leigh (whose husband Roger died recently) and saw one of the church's new children in a school musical.
- 10. Rector's report:** Sunny noted the ongoing problems with technology for worship and thanked Katie for her research on it. Putting worship together is tricky at the moment with not knowing if we'll remain in-person but we hope that will be so. She outlined plans for upcoming Advent and Christmas services. She will discuss the wine situation with the Bishop, whose latest guideline is reverting to no wine at Communion. Fiona has worked hard preparing the service at Charleroi, which the Bishop plans to attend. She thanked everyone who held the fort while she was away in Chicago.
- 11. Closing prayer:** Sunny offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 21.24.