

**VESTRY MEETING – 3 JANUARY 2022, 19.30, via ZOOM only**  
**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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Present: Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Susan Downhill (Senior Warden), Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Mike Breton, Paul Hirsch, Derek Pullinger, Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate), Jane McBride and Kathi-Sue Rupp  
In the absence of Fiona White (staff), Kathi-Sue Rupp took the minutes.

1. Jane McBride opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** There were none.
3. **Approval of minutes:** Changes were recommended and made to the master copy. The minutes were accepted as amended.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Sunny asked: What are our New Year's resolutions as a church and what has gone well? With regard to property and maintenance, much has been done on the church. Effort should be made to keep the building in good repair with a lower carbon footprint. However, there was a need to also maintain the grounds. An agenda will be prepared for all the work to be carried out this year. Outreach supported 21 projects in 2021, which needs to be continued into 2022, and hopefully with more in-person support. Pastoral care must be maintained but fellowship has to just abide by the COVID regulations. We need to get the bell group back and the choir to help with the live music. There needs to be a plan for how the building is going to be paid off faster, and the ASBL must be finally sorted.
5. **Committee reports:** **Note: the 2021 committee reports are due with Fiona before the next Vestry meeting (7 February).**
  - 5.1 **Outreach & service**
    - a. Derek Pullinger discussed the details of the cost of outreach projects.
    - b. Katie Osweiler will organize help for the Nativitas food and beverage program, our project for January. Information will go in the eBlast.
  - 5.2 **Youth & adult education**
    - a. It was reported that the on/off situation with Sunday School meetings is producing anxiety.
    - b. ASC has a new family with three youth to go through confirmation.
    - c. Zoom Sunday School doesn't work well when church is in-person.
    - d. Adult Bible study is not well attended; it is not clear what the congregation wants in the way of adult education. The challenges of holding bible studies was discussed, e.g. it is difficult to get people together except for straight after church on a Sunday, we don't have many people in one area, and many don't like coming out in the evening.
    - e. The options for covering sermons and education during Sunny's forthcoming leave of absence was discussed. Ideas were put forward, e.g. lay leaders, lay readers. Katie thanked those present for their concern and assured the meeting that she has the period covered between her and local contacts.
  - 5.3 **Church growth & community building**
    - a. Jane McBride reported that the cookie exchange and singalong had gone well on 19 December.
    - b. It was noted that help will be required if anything will be done for Mardi Gras.

- c. Food will form part of the AGM gathering on 20 February, unless the meeting has to take place on Zoom.

#### **5.4 Environmental concerns**

- a. A thank you letter had been received from Natagora.
- b. The boiler saga continues.
- c. The idea of including one help-the-environment-hint in each weekly eBlast will be re-considered

#### **5.5 Finance**

- a. There is a need to start thinking about the pledge action for this year.
- b. Plate collections are still being taken but much less is given than when the plate was passed around the congregation.
- c. It is hoped that the 2021 pledges will all be rolled over to 2022.
- d. Mike Breton reported that he made another transfer to our lender and reached the target figure for the 2021 year of €50,000.
- e. He is still awaiting information from ING bank, which needs to be resolved. It is not clear what ING has done with €1000 from the ASBL.
- f. All outstanding bills have been paid and the church is still solvent.

#### **5.6 Building & property**

- a. There is no remaining monetary reserve for building repairs. However, income from our tenants could be used for this purpose. Mike will put a budget together.
- b. The security firm used by the church, Dejitronic, have quoted €2,600 (ex. VAT) for a video parlaphone system. It was noted that there should be three bids prior to a Vestry vote, or a reason for only having one or two. It was moved and approved for up to €3,000 for the entry system to be purchased and installed at the committee's discretion.
- c. Continuing issues with one of the tenants was discussed.
- d. It was noted that as the administrator doesn't live in the building now, random tasks fall to Sunny. A plan needs to be in place for when she is on leave, including a list of tasks that need to be done.

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

**6.1 Current COVID regulations:** Sunny outlined the present regulations, which include not having meetings inside. It is also not possible to create an artificial inside outside (tent). Mike noted that other congregations are having rule-fatigue and bending the rules, so now there are different rules for different churches.

**6.2 ASBL update:** Susan Downhill said that the saga continues with the bank account. It needs to be closed but she doesn't know how. The ASBL account and budget was approved and now needs to be filed. The statutes must be updated and brought into line with the new law. There is tax to pay.

**6.3 Praesidium Academy update:** Fiona White sent in a report that, according to the online data, no further courses had been completed since the last meeting. However, Derek Pullinger said that he had recently completed some.

**6.4 Possible Vestry members:** New Vestry members need to be found prior to the AGM. Past Vestry members must have one year off if they have been a member for the full term of six years. Continuing Zoom/hybrid meetings might open up options for new members. Current Vestry members need to ask potential candidates if they are interested.

**6.5 Any other business:** There was none.

**7. Curate's report:** Katie said that her Christmas holiday was low key. If the meeting is in-person, she will be in Frankfurt on 15 January for the Youth Commission. The Council of Advice is meeting in Munich (hopefully) the last weekend of January and she is looking at taking a break in Rome shortly. She thanked all those who help with the technology.

**8. Rector's report:** Sunny reported that Andre Peers is now a father. Alexandre was born last week. Jane's husband is going in to hospital for a bone marrow transplant and may be there for a few months. She has reached out to others who haven't been attending church lately.

She has been preparing the parochial report and notes that average Sunday attendance has dropped. It was the high 40s in 2019 and is 36 for 2021. In-person gatherings have also dropped. We have lost a few families and some are not as regular as they were. With outside functions not happening, it is reducing opportunities to bring in newcomers. The quality of hybrid is challenging and our numbers are concerning.

The Week of Christian Unity takes place 18-25 January. These are ecumenical services. Holy Trinity Brussels is on 20 January and the Waterloo gathering is at St Paul's on Monday, 24 January at 8.15 pm.

Following on from the November meeting, Sunny asked all members to bring to her attention if she is communicating in unkind ways, which is something she was unaware of. She would like to rectify the 'fear' of speaking directly with her. She leaves for Chicago on Wednesday for one week.

The January Ministry of the Baptized interview meeting was cancelled. The interviews have been offered on Zoom, which George Staelens will do. Balthazar Nahimana is waiting for a new date in June. She hasn't heard what Stefan Jochems will do.

Sunny will announce the dates of her leave as soon as she knows when her daughter can return to work.

**11. Closing prayer:** Jane offered a closing prayer.