

**VESTRY MEETING – 31 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, Jane McBride and Kathi-Sue Rupp  
Fiona White (staff)

1. Rev. Sunny Hallanan opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Rev. Katie Osweiler was on holiday.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes were accepted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** As this was the last Vestry meeting before the AGM, those whose terms are ending told their reflections. Jane McBride said she was really glad she'd joined the Vestry, it was an interesting way to learn about the Episcopal Church, her new church family. Given the generous heart and all that ASC can do, the church is a force for good to look after those who are not so well supported. Any surprises? Yes, all the time by the generosity of everyone who deals with the running of the building. Paul Hirsch felt it had been a great experience and thanked everyone for the great atmosphere that is in and around the church. He looks forward to the Wednesday meet-ups and getting involved in what needs doing. There's always something to do; he never gets bored. Mike Breton said, having been on the Vestry for so long, that he feels like an old piece of furniture but he has noticed in the last year there has been an approach of *esprit d'equip* to what needs to be done around the property. He's looking forward to the coming year. Sunny said she was very pleased that all three are happy to carry on. There is a feeling of team ministry now, which is due to those new faces on the Vestry.
5. **Committee reports:**
  - 5.1 **Youth & adult education**
    - a. Susan reported that Katie Osweiler said that Sunday School can now get back to in-person meetings, though how frequently they occur is unknown. With Sunny gone March, April and May, Katie can't both preach and teach the children during worship. Wondrous Wednesday this week might start to get more people involved again in adult education.
    - b. Sunny and Katie are working on building a confirmation/reception program, which requires the Bishop to visit again or for candidates to visit Paris.
    - c. For this year's Lent program ASC will join the Convocation for the *Lent sur la table*. There was also another education opportunity: St Martha and St Mary's church run a program on Creation Care.
  - 5.2 **Church growth & community building**
    - a. Kathi-Sue Rupp reported that modified fellowship resumed after the service yesterday.
    - b. With regard to feeding those attending this year's AGM, it was felt that providing a pot of vegan soup or chili with some bread and cheese would be best, thus having less people moving around.
    - c. Mardi Gras: It was felt that having Vestry organize celebrating this this year would be too much with the Vestry retreat the previous day.

- d. Pastoral care: With her husband in hospital, much pastoral care has been provided to Jane. It is good to see Julia Leigh and Roswitha Brauckmann back with us.

### **5.3 Environmental concerns**

- a. Boiler: ASC has received a report from the boiler technicians following the service, which still needs to be discussed by the committee.

### **5.4 Finance**

- a. Mike had prepared the figures for 2021, together with a budget for 2022. Copies had been distributed to the Vestry.
- b. In 2021 there is an excess of income over expenditure of some €12,500, an amount earmarked for a specific expense. (A footnote will be prepared by Mike to explain this.) There is over €50,000 in the current account in Belgium and around \$20,000 in the US account, which constitutes ASC's reserve. There are no outstanding expenses.
- c. Mons had received a grant that was looked after by ASC. They are now in the process of opening a bank account for St Esprit and will manage their own finances. (A second footnote will be prepared with an explanation.)
- d. The financial statement was accepted by all present.
- e. Budget 2022: Mike has presumed that ASC will maintain its income at previous levels, although rentals may rise at the rate of inflation. He currently has 10 pledge forms, totaling about €20,000 for the year. Rents, coffee income, etc. should remain the same. The maintenance figure (€20,000) is higher than usual because it is known that work is necessary but even this may not be enough. It was felt that the office costs should be increased to €6,500. The deficit will now be €4,500. The budget was approved by Vestry.

### **5.5 Building & property**

- a. This committee put together a priority list of things to do, which Nick Fern will circulate to the Vestry. This needs EUR 10,000 to be set aside each year, plus several hundred people hours to maintain the church in a tolerable standard, replacing the heating system, and short-term measures to operate the boiler before it can be replaced, etc. The list will show what needs to be done around the property in the short term, mid term and long term
- b. Nick thanked Paul for getting this show on the road, together with help from Mike and Derek Pullinger.
- c. New locks were put on the back door which now comply with the fire regulations (an internal knob for a speedy exit).
- d. Dejitronic is putting in a video parlaphone on 8 February. The tenants have been informed of this.
- e. Mike feels that someone should come and look at the eaves, which might be rotting. It is also necessary to check on the water seeping in the back wall.
- f. The parish will be informed of these costs, in addition to repayments to our lender. Susan Downhill asked if our lender should be made aware of these extra expenses prior to the AGM. Mike said that €641,970.04 is owed to our lender as of 31 January. ASC pays back what it can when it can, there is no schedule. As groups come back in, the income should increase. ASC repaid

€51,000 last year. A presentation should be made at the AGM, encouraging people to support a boiler fund and building debt.

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

- a. Derek has prepared his report. Sylvette will update him on Domisum and Balthazar on the pig houses in Burundi.
- b. Nativitas: There was a very good response to donating drinks
- c. He was awaiting information on how to support the Tonga appeal (following the volcanic eruption) via New Zealand of €250. Nick offered to help with the transfer to New Zealand.
- d. Katie is on the Relay for Life planning team. Information will be coming out soon.

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

**6.1 Current COVID regulations:** Sunny sent the current regulations to the Vestry. A hybrid option should be available for the AGM.

**6.2 ASBL update:** Susan Downhill said that the members have now agreed to close the bank account with ING. A form needs to be signed by the ING signatories and then a new account can be opened at a different bank.

**6.3 Praesidium Academy update:** Fiona White updated the meeting on the Vestry's progress with the courses and encouraged them to get them completed as soon as possible.

Felicity Handford would like a job description of what she should be doing as safeguarding officer for the church. A description will be put together by the Vestry when they prepare their action plan.

**6.4 Possible Vestry members:** There was discussion encouraging people to find new members.

AGM: People need to be able to talk about the past, and future visions for the church, so if we're doing hybrid we need to make that possible for everyone.

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

7. **Curate's report:** Katie wasn't able to get away between Christmas and New Year so she has taken a break this week. She's planning the Sunday School program and obtaining a preacher's license from the Bishop for Jane McBride to preach in Sunny's absence.

8. **Rector's report:** Sunny reported that she will be away from 13 March until 13 May. She was asked to be president of Comité Interecclesial Bruxelles which has many meetings in March, April and May so she has had to turn it down. She had an excitement when a jackdaw got into the boiler room but she got it out successfully. She's on the Bishop's Council of Advice and had a big meeting last weekend.

Mike asked if ASC can apply for another grant this year? Sunny said that there is a grant application process for an emergency grant for the boiler.

A missions festival is planned for the first week of June. This has been cancelled twice due to COVID so hopefully this one will go ahead.

9. **Closing prayer:** Sunny offered a closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 21.32.