

VESTRY MEETING – 7 MARCH 2022, 19.30, in-person & Zoom
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

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

1. Sunny Hallanan opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Jane McBride and Sylvette Norré
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from 31 January were accepted.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Susan Downhill said that during the Vestry retreat the previous weekend they had talked about Vestry checkin and how Sunny saw it as a way of directing the group to talk in more detail about a problem. As part of the finance committee, and following on from yesterday's Deuteronomy reading (26:1-11), she wanting the group to consider the topic of stewardship. What does it mean to those present, and in particular during the season of Lent? Some thought of it in just financial terms, happening once a year, but others felt that time and talent also needed to be encouraged (and throughout the year). Mike Breton felt, as treasurer, that knowing what people want to give through the year helps with the running of the church. It was noted that the funds received by ASC do not pay for the clergy, as in the USA, so the income is used to pay off the building, donations to outreach etc. The Deuteronomy passage was about people giving their tithe to the church which in turn gave to all the other causes. There are tax advantages to giving individually but giving as a group means more to the donor. Susan asked if the method was right? Should there be a stewardship campaign twice a year? It was felt that we must remain open to giving more as expenses of whatever sort arise. Sunny noted that poorer people give more.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Fellowship**
 - a. Kathi-Sue Rupp reported that the committee had decided to call themselves **Our Community**.
 - b. She said that the committee had talked a bit during the week and are looking to contact more people. There was a need to get the coffee sign-up going again.
 - c. Jane McBride's idea of Lenten pastoral reflection during the services started the previous day.
 - d. There will be an environmentally conscious Easter egg hunt reusing plastic eggs from years past
 - 5.2 **Education & Environment**
 - a. Vincent Musschoot requested that the link to zero waste lent and measuring your carbon footprint is stressed in the eBlast.
 - b. Emails are carbon consuming so everyone should empty/delete old mails and not 'rely all' unless absolutely necessary. Everyone at ASC can lower their carbon footprint.

5.3 Finance

- a. Mike Breton reported that he will be paying Ores this week to dig up the drive for the next gas pipe.
- b. He is still awaiting the partial invoice from the gas boiler installer.
- c. He has just received the annual electricity bill, which is showing a lower consumption than the previous two years. However the price is the same.
- d. He asked if the grant request to help with the boiler payment had been submitted. It must be received by the Council of Advice as soon as possible for their meeting next month. Nick Fern said he would get on to it.
- e. The cheque for a donation to Haiti (sent to ERD) has still not been cashed. Mike can re-issue the cheque and send it again.
- f. ASC still has funds in the bank. and he has made two payments to our lender. Sunny explained to new Vestry members who our lender is and that they hold the loans for the building.

5.4 Building & Property

- a. Paul Hirsch had prepared his report (attached) and since writing it has repaired the ground floor toilet. The exterior door to the creche needs attention by the team this week.

5.5 Outreach & Service

- a. Derek Pullinger sent in a report (attached). A discussion took place on how best to help the refugees from Ukraine. We have a contact with the Ukrainian Church in Mons which can get donated items and money into the country. Goods donated to the Ukrainian embassy are being collected at Heysel. Another option was donating money to Caritas Poland. Also we could support the refugees arriving in Romania via Steve Smith (ex Munich rector), which has taken a quarter of the refugees Poland has. Nick proposed that ASC gives €250 from the Outreach budget; more can be given from individuals and added to the amount; others would like to give tangible items. Financial donations can go to the Ukrainian army or Caritas. Items could go to the church in Mons.
- b. There are also requests out for housing refugees and feeding them. Housing them was discussed but it was felt that, as a parish, our skills would be put to better use providing food. Paul and Derek offered to help Nick if this idea takes off. Susan said that Holy Trinity has a community kitchen producing thousands of meals a week. They have an app where people can sign up to help. They have the know-how as to how catering for a large number works. Katie has a connection at the church and will follow up on this. Paul said he would get in touch with local authorities.

6. Other business:

6.1 AGM evaluation and follow-up: This had been discussed at the retreat on 27 February. People had appreciated the food and the AGM moved along well.

6.2 ASBL update: Susan reported that it will hold its AGM before the end of May. She outlined the ASBL to Vincent. The paperwork has gone to ING and hopefully she will hear this week that the account has been closed.

6.3 Convocation Convention Delegates: This year Convention takes place in Clermont-Ferrand (FR), 27-30 October. ASC needs two delegates who can stay

until the Sunday, although it may finish on the Saturday. Susan and Fiona White have offered to go.

6.4 Current COVID regulations: The new version has not been received from the Anglican Church in Belgium. Sunny thinks that masking and ventilation requirements will continue for the time being.

6.5 Praesidium Academy update: Fiona White updated the meeting on the Vestry's progress with the courses. Sunny pointed out that where a course says there's a worksheet to do, don't do anything. The Vestry will do the worksheet together once everyone has completed them all.

6.6 Any other business: There was none.

7. **Curate's report:** Katie Osweiler visited a friend in Paris and had a meeting at the Cathedral. She's prepped for Sunny's departure. Also, other clergy in the area may come to help preach. She is going to Munich 23-26 March for a staff meeting and will attend her cousin's wedding over 1 May. Jack MacDonald will take the service that day.
8. **Rector's report:** Sunny is wrapping things up but Katie can still reach her in an emergency. Holy Week is coming up, the first in-person for two years. Two baptisms will take place at St Servais during their Easter Vigil. Sunny took a funeral at that same church last weekend, our first COVID death. The funeral was their first in-person service for a very long time.
All wished Sunny *bon voyage*. Susan will take the Vestry meeting in Sunny's absence.
Covering the building, Fiona will be in Mondays and Wednesdays and Katie will be here Mondays through to Thursdays. All those in or using the building have been informed of Sunny's absence.
Nick had done a calculation of the number of kilometers driven by those coming to a Vestry meeting and suggested that perhaps we could alternate between a Zoom meeting and one in person.
Sunny has not moved forward with the mutual ministry review but suggested that perhaps the Vestry could start to arrange the timing.
9. **Closing prayer:** Susan offered a closing prayer in the form of two verses of *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*.

The meeting ended at 21.32.

Committee Reports for meeting held on 7 March 2022

Building Report

In view of the coming Vestry Meeting, please find below the Building Group's Activity Report:

Done.

Apartment window mechanism replacement (at a cost).

New interphone system with video monitor installed (professionally).

One of the two downstairs gent's toilet seat replaced. Second one waiting for parts.

Basement neon light replacement by LED tube. First one as a test – next 3 to follow.

Coming excitements.

Ground floor cistern mechanism repair.

Resume window frames repaint (weather permitting).

Repair of any other bits and pieces falling apart ...

Nick will give all info concerning the heating furnace replacement.

At your disposal to answer any questions,
Paul Hirsch

Outreach Report

In view of this evening's Vestry meeting, please find hereunder the Outreach report.

Two Outreach initiatives have been taken so far in 2022.

- **Collect of cold drinks for Nativitas for distribution to the homeless in Brussels.**
Approximately 75 drinks were brought to the church by members of the congregation. €60 in cash was donated which enabled me to purchase 100 more cans and small bottles of drink. The drinks were collected by Nancy Evans (Nativitas) and have since been distributed to the homeless.

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- A donation of NZ\$ 500 has been made to the **Anglican Missions Tonga Emergency Appeal** following the eruption of the Hunga-Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano between 20/12/21 and 15/01/2022 which generated a 19.2 km high, 5km wide ash plume and triggering tsunami waves across the islands nation.

No doubt in the coming days, weeks, and months we shall be concentrating most of our efforts on aid for Ukrainian refugees fleeing the conflict in their country.

Derek Pullinger