

VESTRY MEETING – 4 APRIL 2022, 19.30, in-person & Zoom
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

Present: In-person: Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate), Susan Downhill (Senior Warden), Paul Hirsch, Derek Pullinger and Kathi-Sue Rupp.
Online: Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Carole Ducastel, Vincent Musschoot, Jane McBride, Sylvette Norré and Mike Breton (Treasurer)

Minutes taken by Kathi-Sue Rupp

1. Kathi-Sue Rupp opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Fiona White (staff)
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from 7 March were approved with the following corrections:
 - 5.5 'Romania has taken a quarter of the refugees Poland has'. (i.e. not an equal amount)
 - 5.1.d 'There will be an environmentally conscious Easter egg hunt reusing plastic eggs from years past.'
4. **Vestry check-in:** Kathi-Sue Rupp asked: As we are now back to 'normal' with virtually no restrictions we can do many things, but how much should we do? How much is too much? We are a small congregation and it is easy to overburden the same people with many tasks. What are your perceptions of what and how much we should do? The discussion points included: People are more easily fatigued and over-extended so need time to re-adapt. We are all involved in different organizations; many seem to be more active locally within their communities. We have fewer members truly active in ASC so a small number of people are carrying 'the load'. School holidays are before Easter this year which affect people being away for Holy Week.
What things can be modified or dropped? Sunday School has been modified; as has the Easter egg hunt; the Seder meal is not taking place this year.
Some events should be kept if possible: Stations of the cross meditation walk; Thanksgiving dinner; Carol supper; summer picnic.
It was felt that ASC is good at one-off events more than on-going projects. An idea of something new to consider is a fundraising night for Ukraine. Also more could be done that is community-orientated.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Education & Environment**
 - a. The committee had been unable to meet and had nothing to report.
 - 5.2 **Finance**
 - a. Mike Breton reported that he has received 20 pledges so far for a total amount of €50,000, which is down on last year. He feels that the church will make ends meet but energy prices are going up.
 - b. He still needs to get a bank account open for St Esprit, Mons.
 - 5.3 **Building & Property**
 - a. Paul Hirsch had circulated his report (attached).
 - b. Boiler update: The gas line will be put in on 3 May and the new boiler installed during June.
 - c. A reduction in heating costs is not expected until next year.

5.4 Outreach & Service

- a. Derek Pullinger sent in a report (attached). Support for Ukraine will be needed for many months to come but we mustn't forget our other worthy causes.
- b. It was suggested that fair-trade coffee is served after the Sunday services, and also fair-trade fruit juices.

5.5 Our Community

- a. There was a discussion on Lenten-reflections from the Convocation. Katie Osweiler said it was nice to participate with other ASC people in this different context.
- b. The committee would like to produce a newsletter twice a year.
- c. The Easter egg hunt will take place after the service on Easter Day. Later on in the year, it would be good to have something to celebrate Pentecost and end the school year with a picnic.

Extra topic: **Ukraine** (requested by the Bishop)

How can the Convocation help our congregation? What are we doing and how can they help? This topic had been discussed in Munich the previous week and Katie Osweiler said that ASC is on the same level as other parishes in the Convocation. The Bishop wants to know what we are doing and what we would like to do. Along these lines, Convocation grants are being made available for parishes to do more; for example, a Ukrainian night, helping hosting families, organizing a cultural experience to bring people together.

The Vestry brainstormed some possible ideas for ASC: joint activity with the scouts; a mother and toddler or drop-in-type club (Felicity Handford's idea); offering a job to a refugee to be paid via a grant; an art exhibition; other uses of the building space, maybe for French classes. It was noted that these ideas should be discussed with the Commune, which may be looking for space and will already be running programs for Ukrainians.

There is limited transportation but if the Commune wanted to use the space they could perhaps also put on a *navette*. There was a discussion about child safety in the event that other groups used the building. It was noted that Oasis (Jane McBride) has contacts with refugee artists. It was felt that these ideas could be open to all refugees, not just Ukrainians. Ukrainians have a different legal status to refugees from other countries but ASC would see all refugees as equal.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Susan Downhill reported that the ING bank account will be closed any day now. The AGM will be held on 24 April after the Sunday service to discuss the accounts and next year's budget, the updated statutes and the resignation of Roderick Abbott.

6.2 Current COVID regulations: It was felt that people should do what they're most comfortable with. We're not quite ready for a communal wine chalice but the collection plate could be passed around again.

6.5 Praesidium Academy update: Fiona White had updated the meeting on the Vestry's progress with the courses. Those present felt that the system wasn't working well enough. Perhaps courses could be done in person for those who have technical issues.

6.6 Any other business: There was none.

7. **Curate's report:** Katie spoke about pastoral care and members present suggested people who should be visited. She is going to Paris for the service on Wednesday in Holy Week to renew her vows.
A chicken carcass was left in a pot in the pantry. More care must be taken when tidying up after ASC events.
As no-one is really watching the live stream, should it be continued? And if it isn't being continued, do we need to have wi-fi in the Sanctuary?
The Holy Week services schedule was reviewed, as was usher attendance.
There was general approval for Katie to put the pool table up for sale. Hopefully a purchaser will be found rather than having to pay someone to move it.
8. **Closing prayer:** Kathi-Sue offered a closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 21.42.

Committee reports for Vestry meeting, 4 April 2022

Dear all,

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

Done:

Basement neon light replacement completed.

Church window frames repainted (4 of the 5 on the back side).

Coming excitements:

Window frames repaint.

Window frames repaint.

Window frames repaint.

Window frames repaint (there are many windows in the building ...).

Garden upkeep.

Additional volunteers are always most welcome.

Paul Hirsch

Dear all,

Outreach during the month of March has consisted exclusively on supporting Ukrainian refugees both here in Belgium, and in Eastern Europe.

On Sunday 13th March the congregation generously donated €165 for "Copii in Dificultate" which has been organizing aid to children and their families within Ukraine and evacuating refugees from the Tulcea/Isaccea border crossing to Bucharest. The Reverend Steven Smith, who often joins us for Compline, has been accompanying these convoys.

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In addition to the funds raised by the congregation a further €250 has been taken from our Outreach budget, resulting in a total of €415.00 being sent to the CID.

In addition to this financial aid, members of the congregation have made up a dozen or so parcels for the Ukrainian church in Mons (appeal from Kathi-Sue and Darryl Rupp) and for the American Women's club of Brussels (appeal from Nicole Wilder) which has been supporting refugees from Ukraine in local shelters and facilities.

With the war in Ukraine showing no signs of abating, and the number of refugees, already over 10 million, increasing by the day, we should be preparing ourselves for the continuation of our outreach efforts towards Ukrainian refugees over the coming months.

Derek Pullinger

Praesidium Academy

Dear all,

I have sent Carole, Sylvette and Vincent the instructions for logging onto the Praesidium Academy so that they can start taking the courses.

I have checked the online data for the Praesidium courses today and none have been completed since the previous Vestry meeting. Please remember to take all the outstanding courses that I notified you of at the beginning of March.

If any of you have a problem logging in to this system, please let me know via email.

Fiona White