

**VESTRY MEETING – 29 AUGUST 2022, 19.30, in-person & on Zoom
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

Present: In-person: Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Paul Hirsch, Derek Pullinger, Carol Ducastel, Kathi-Sue Rupp and Mike Breton (Treasurer)
Online: Vincent Musschoot
Staff: Fiona White

1. Nick Fern opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate), Susan Downhill (Senior Warden), Sylvette Norré and Jane McBride.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from 25 July were approved.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Discussion centered around the possible impact of the major increase in energy costs as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This included concern for the church as well as of its members and others who may need help paying, and the necessity to have clergy discretionary funds available to help. Extra funds might be raised through Joëlle's concert if 50% goes to a charity and 50% to ASC's fuel fund, worded as All Saints' Ministries. It is also hoped that these extra utility expenses don't result in reduced pledges. Because it is a residence, Sylvette Norré's charity, Domisum, which ASC supports, may well also need fuel help. Similar to Domisum, a parishioner has just informed the church of a similar project that wants to raise €75,000 to put solar panels on its roof.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Our Community**
 - a. Carole Ducastel reported that the **Welcome Back event / Missions Fair** is on 11 September. Each group needs to set up a table to attract volunteers. It would be good to ask Jean Urbain to be there to get more support for the mission at St Luc's hospital.
 - b. **Joëlle Vanopbroeke's concert** is now taking place on Sunday, 16 October at 15.30. There will be a reception afterwards for which volunteers would be appreciated. It was decided that the charity Solidarité grands froid, which was going to be supported in 2020 when the concert had to be cancelled, would be the recipient, also with All Saints as discussed earlier.
 - c. **Thanksgiving** will be celebrated on 20 November.
 - d. Following on from last month's discussion, Carole raised the idea of adding **Cultural Center** to our name to help promote the space and thus increase our income. It was felt there was no problem in putting it on publicity and including it on ASC's website and Facebook page to help sell the space but it was not wanted around or on the building.
 - 5.2 **Education & environment**
 - a. As we enter the season of creation, Vincent Musschoot reported that people will offer testimonials on creation; a couple have already been received. Other related subjects are plastic bag use and the internet's waste of energy. Vincent will be in touch with Sylvette to plan the communication.
 - b. Sunny sent out a 42-page communication on the subject. Felicity Handford has read it all and is designing a burning bush, the logo for this year. She will

run a mini Sunday School each week during September. The congregation, at the offering, could offer something they will do to help creation.

5.3 Finance

- a. Mike Breton confirmed that he's completed the payment for the new boiler.
- b. The people who are emptying the oil tank will arrange two days to do the work of emptying the tank then filling it up with foam.
- c. ASC has been told to expect a €400 refund from Ores but this may not be forthcoming.
- d. Mike has made a payment to our lender this week of €5,000. He is on course to meet the amount budgeted for the year.
- e. Pledges are still coming in and we are still solvent.
- f. €800 is being paid each month to Engie. Nick says ASC is using 5m³ of gas each day. Paul Hirsch thought this was high. Sunny reported that the water temperature could be lowered. Paul and Mike will look at this on Wednesday.

5.4 Building & property

- a. Paul Hirsch had sent in his report (attached).
- b. Mike said there will be another large expense because further work needs to be done on the back wall due to the water ingress, despite the work carried out four years ago. He is endeavoring to contact the previous contractors but has had no luck so far. Paul offered to find out what's happened to them via their VAT number. The wall needs to be stripped, repaired and repainted. The window frames are also not in good condition.

5.5 Outreach & service

- a. Derek Pullinger had sent in his report (attached).

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Susan Downhill had sent in her report (attached).

6.2 Praesidium Academy update: Fiona White reported that apart from Sylvette, who hasn't done any courses, and Felicity who has one outstanding, everyone has completed the initial five courses requested by Mary Ellen Dolan, the Convocation Safeguarding officer. Several people have received emails to say that courses need to be retaken. Fiona said she would contact the office in New York to see if this is correct.

6.3 Adding 'Cultural Center as tagline to church publicity: please see above.

6.4 Mutual Ministry Review: Susan sent in a report (attached) as to what the process would be. Carole asked if the MMR included the missions. Sunny said this would be up to the Vestry. If done, the questionnaire would need to be made available in French. Derek reckoned that Google Translate does a good job these days so the process would be straightforward.

6.5 Any other business: Church cleaner: Stéphanie has been off sick for nine months with a brain tumor. She has to have further treatment so she won't be back soon. It was decided to maintain the cleaning in-house for the next month and see how we cope once groups come back in.

Curate: Sunny reported that Katie Osweiler completed her service in Ramstein and then moved on to leading the successful Youth Across Europe event last week in Italy.

Sabbatical: Nick raised the subject of Sunny's sabbatical and recommended that she take it prior to Katie's possible departure in August 2023.

7. **Rector's report:** Sunny reported that we have an Old Catholic ordination here on 8 October. It would be good to have some ASC support during the reception after the service.

Namur church: George Staelens has found someone of a different denomination who is going to ordain him this coming Saturday. George intends to reopen St Servais under this other denomination. Vincent and Sunny are in the process of launching an Episcopal church in Namur. Time will tell who attends which of these two Namur churches.

Six ASC members supported Jane McBride at Andrew Pimm's funeral on Saturday. Jane will need our continuing support in the months to come.

Fiona was at the St John's welcome event on Saturday to allow Sunny to go to Andrew's service. Unfortunately no one new was signed up.

8. **Closing prayer:** Nick offered a closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 21.21.

Committee Reports

Building group report

Hedge fun.

Yearly trimming of the laurel hedge. The volume of cuttings is quite impressive but luckily the Braine l'Alleud dump is not far off. Interesting place to visit for all who might be tempted to help ...

Humidity saga.

It feels strange to mention dampness issues in this prolonged period of drought but, according to the Aquadetec technician, the humidity in the exterior South-West-facing walls is due to seeping rainwater. Next steps are to call the firm which painted the walls some years ago and attempt to obtain rectification under warranty. Fingers crossed this will work.

Ageing window frames were also earmarked as water ingress agents.

Next steps.

Finish off the hedge. We'll need to rent a telescopic hedge trimmer to clip off the remaining high-rise branches (unless a very friendly parishioner could lend us one or come and give a helping hand?).

Resume door and window frame repainting. Some areas are still in a bad need of repair.

Paul Hirsch

Outreach report

At the last meeting, I reported to the Vestry that we still had circa €2,000 in the 2022 Outreach budget, and that I would draw up, with Nick, a list of projects for consideration.

However we have decided to shelve this process for a month, to enable the inclusion of any new projects, to be presented by members of the congregation on **Welcome Back Sunday** (11 September).

Derek Pullinger

ASBL report

I have little news to report on the ASBL, other than that Bill Bythell has done sterling work on putting together draft new statutes, and members are being consulted on these. We will probably call an extraordinary AGM in the autumn to adopt these.

Susan Downhill

Mutual Ministry Review report

Nick, Sunny and I have all spoken with Linda Grenz and Nick and Sunny will be able to tell you more at the meeting.

In brief, the next steps are these:

- Linda will develop a questionnaire, to be sent to all members of the parish (distribution by us, with obviously a chance to review the questionnaire first);
 - Responses will be sent directly to Linda;
 - Linda will draw up a report based on trends in the responses;
 - All will be thoroughly anonymous, no names mentioned;
 - Linda will be available if anyone wants to talk to her, but basically this will be an on-line exercise;
 - Timeframe is Oct/Nov, with the exercise definitely to be completed before Christmas.
- Please do contact Sunny, Nick or me if you have any further questions at this stage.

Susan Downhill