

VESTRY MEETING – 9 JANUARY 2023, 19.30, in-person & on Zoom
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

Present: Katie Osweiler (Curate), Susan Downhill (Senior Warden), Kathi-Sue Rupp, Carol Ducastel, Paul Hirsch, Derek Pullinger, Mike Breton (Treasurer)
Online: Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Vincent Musschoot, Jane McBride
Staff: Fiona White

In the absence of Rev. Sunny Hallanan, Susan Downhill (Senior Warden) took the meeting.

1. Susan Downhill opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector)
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from 5 December were approved with the inclusion of one missing word.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Susan initially was going to lead a discussion on the potential of the check-in hooking up with the MMR review questions but felt that should be left until the new Vestry's retreat in March. Instead, she asked: has the Vestry any New Year resolutions for the church for 2023? Rev. Katie Osweiler is part of a Facebook group, 'A month of 100 things'. Instead of having a resolution for the year, January is spent getting rid of 100 things in your house! There is already a basis of concrete ideas for the Property team; a resolution is needed to help Sunny find Katie's replacement; also, there is a need to get the ASBL into clear blue water; to make a big effort to sort out the bank account for Mons and also the bank account for the ASBL; to find a place to worship in Namur; and to increase the numbers at Sunday services.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Outreach & service**
 - a. Derek Pullinger had submitted his report (attached).
 - 5.2 **Our Community**
 - a. Kathi-Sue Rupp reported that songs were sung, mince pies eaten and wine drunk with both our community and the Waterloo community.
 - b. Mardi Gras is coming up on 19 February so pancakes will be served.
 - c. The Annual General Meeting is on 5 March so there will be a request for Vestry food donations for lunch beforehand.
 - d. Fiona White will ask if ASC is responsible for providing drinks and snacks following the service for the Week of Christian Unity on 23 January.
 - e. Caring for our community: a team of parishioners has been caring for Brenda Barleycorn with regular phone calls. Mike Breton spoke to her yesterday. She is now in a rehabilitation centre and allowed visitors. Someone will visit her almost every day this week.
 - 5.3 **Education & environment**
 - a. Vincent Musschoot said that Sunny had encouraged him to find out more about the difference between Lutherans and Episcopalians. He has written an article on the subject, which Katie has checked. Vincent will send it to Vestry members and suggested it could go on the website.

- b. This year is the centenary of the Cathedral in Paris and a Lutheran bishop will be coming from Sweden, together with the Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. The event is being celebrated with a service on 26 March when YAE is meeting in Paris.
- c. Fiona noted that there are three baptisms on Sunday so it would be unwise to start Sunday School that day. Katie will let Felicity Handford know.

5.4 Finance

- a. Mike reported that we reached our target of €50,000 on the annual mortgage repayments. €592,000 is still outstanding. Apparently our lender is contemplating retirement at the end of the year and is already talking about reorganizing the loan repayments. Nick Fern and Mike have discussed this possibility on several occasions, along the lines of ASC taking on its own debt.
- b. Mike is expecting statements from the US bank and the KBC any day and then he can wrap up 2022 and plan the budget for 2023.
- c. He was asked about when Pledge Sunday will take place. Sunny hasn't responded on this so he doesn't know yet. Pledge income obviously helps with the planning of the budget.

5.5 Building & property

- a. Paul Hirsch had submitted his report (attached).
- b. He forgot to include the servicing of the organ and replacing the slats on the outside bench. Fiona said she would look out the contact details of the organ tuner.
- c. Tuning the piano was also discussed, which led to a conversation with Nick regarding Heather Charlton's generous offer of a concert of film music, together with singer Laura Ford. Nick will provide contact details for this to be taken further.
- d. SMARTgreen: Following on from last month's minutes, Paul checked their contract and reported that we have no obligation to replace the broken fridge. He will inform M. Clement.
- e. Trees for the garden will be decided upon when the weather is better.

6. Other business:

6.1 Mutual Ministry Review (MMR): Susan hopes that everyone has received their MMR. Hopefully all the surveys will be returned this week so that Linda Grenz can start work on the responses. Susan presumed that Linda might send a reminder to those she hadn't received a response from.

6.2 ASBL updates: Susan had once again slipped up and not prepared the motion she promised.

The ASBL was notified that it's in dereliction for not filing the tax return. The team is currently negotiating with the tax authorities to bring the fine down. Unfortunately this is the fourth year that the ASBL has been late with the return.

6.3 Plan for AGM and finding new Vestry members: It was felt that notice in the service bulletin and in the eBlast, encouraging parishioners to come and enjoy the food, would have them staying on for the meeting.

The Vestry discussed various members of the congregation who, it was felt, might respond positively to being asked to serve on the Vestry. It was pointed out that distance from the church should not be a negative for being unable to

join Vestry. We have managed to improve the sound quality for those attending meetings online. Katie suggested that the Vestry meet for lunch after church once a quarter and have a shorter meeting that month. This was felt to be a good idea.

6.4 Any other business: There was none.

7. **Curate's report:** Katie reported that the Christmas services had gone well. She had two days of being really sick but recovered in time for Christmas. She and Victor visited family in north Sweden over New Year. Margaret Latham died on 30 December and Katie took her funeral service last week. Pam Clements gave a memorable eulogy. Katie is taking two youth to YAE in Paris. JAE is in Rome in May; the heads of ministries meeting is in Rome, and the clergy retreat is in Rome in February, by the papal summer palace. She is winding down and realizing she's into her last 8 months with us. She will miss everything – but not wrangling with kids in French!
8. **Closing prayer:** Susan offered a closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 21.07.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building group report

Done.

Garden and parking area swept and tidied.

Good resolutions for 2023

1. At a cost (please can we have the budget for this).

Repair of the eaves.

Remove the moss from one or more side walls.

Replacement of Sunny's apartment sliding window.

Repair or replacement of the outside door leading to the crèche.

Unblock the downstairs urinals.

Repair the voiceless church bell (if easy repair is unsuccessful).

... (hopefully not too many costly items).

1. The Team.

Repaint the remaining tatty window frames.

Repaint the white lines defining the parking spaces.

Repair the accident-damaged wall in the front of the parking area.

Install a steel bollard to avoid cars driving out of the wrong exit.

Install a slope leading to the front door to make access easier for the elderly and disabled.

Check and repair or discard our wide array of – mainly garden – tools.

Plant some trees in the back area.

Remove the moss from the parking area.

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Try to repair the church bell in the hope that what's wrong is at ground level and easy to fix.

Replace the outdated first-aid box contents.

Garden maintenance (and that's a big job!).

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Please feel free to join the fun if one or more jobs seem tempting.

Paul Hirsch

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Outreach Report

At the last Vestry meeting I mentioned that **€200** was being sent to **Children in Distress Romania** to support their action **Christmas Gifts from the Heart** and that a collection box would be placed at the back of the church for private donations.

I am pleased to report that the box was emptied yesterday, and contained just short of €80. A round sum of **€80** has now been transferred to **Fundatia C.I.D. Romania** with a brief explanatory email to the Rev. Steve Smith.

The final net proceeds from **Joelle's piano concert** amounted to **€573**. **€250** has gone straight to **Solidarité Grands Froids** and the remaining **€323** has been added to the **Rector's discretionary fund**, which now stands at circa €1000.

We are awaiting the December bank statement from the KBC. I hope that by the next Vestry meeting, I shall be able to present the Vestry with the final 2022 Outreach income and expenditure statement.

Derek Pullinger