

**VESTRY MEETING – 6 FEBRUARY 2023, 19.30, in-person & on Zoom  
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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

1. Rev. Sunny Hallanan opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate), Jane McBride
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from 9 January were approved.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Reflections of members whose terms are ending: For Nick Fern this had been his second time on Vestry. The church has changed radically over the 30 years as the Vestry now meets as a group of colleagues without the antagonism present in earlier years. His wish for the future is that Vestry becomes younger, reflecting the congregation. His long-term fear is that it's too casual about some of the problems, like the huge debt and the amount of repair work still necessary. He wished the continuing Vestry well.  
Kathi-Sue Rupp has seen a change in the meetings becoming more productive and efficient in the time she's been on. However, things do get kicked down the road, like the MMR, which had so many delays. We are a small congregation so the legwork for all the projects falls on the same people, in domains that aren't necessarily their spiritual gifts. This can be a growing experience but it can also be a burden and might result in losing them.  
Susan Downhill felt the same as the others. She was last on the Vestry in the 1990s when meetings went on for a long time, they were antagonistic, and property & budget tended to dominate. This time the meetings are run with prayer and a time for reflection, which stops them being only a business meeting, but there are still large challenges ahead that need to be managed properly. The Vestry does need to reflect the congregation age-wise but it is challenging to get commitment from people with young children. The one thing she regrets is that we haven't managed to get our committees and commissions out of the Vestry, which in turn brings the Vestry into the congregation.  
In response, Derek Pullinger thought that people would come forward to help on committees but they need direct contact to be recruited. Sunny recalled when coffee hour was turned into an outreach meeting and we got more participation through that. Mike Breton felt the Vestry has to talk about business, finance, etc. to get its work done, leaving little time to discuss spiritual matters. The fact that no-one will come to a service held not on a Sunday reflects very badly on the church. He feels we need to concentrate more on ASC as a church and not as a social community. It was noted that extra services worked well and were popular when no-one could go anywhere during the pandemic, but priorities changed when restrictions were eased. Nick, Kathi-Sue and Susan were thanked for their many contributions, and will be missed from our meetings.
5. **Committee reports:**
  - 5.1 **Our Community**

- a. Kathi-Sue reported that mardi gras is coming up on 19 February so there will be crepes and toppings.
- b. Brenda Barleycorn's funeral is on Saturday, when there will be a pot-luck reception following the service. People in church yesterday and at this evening's meeting said they would all help. The room will be set up on Friday.
- c. For the AGM, the Vestry has in the past provided something like pots of chili. Kathi-Sue said Darryl will make a meaty chili; Sunny will make a vegan one.

### **5.2 Education & environment**

- a. Vincent Musschoot had nothing to report.
- b. Sunny said that the pledges people wrote on the environment and put on the tree still need to be put together in a way that supports our commitments to combat climate change.
- c. Two events are being offered at Santa Maria a Ferrano just north of Florence, along the lines of spiritual/environmental pilgrimages.
- d. Brenda is going to be cremated. Mike suggested that some of the ashes could go under a tree in the church garden.

### **5.3 Finance**

- a. Mike had circulated the draft accounts for 2022 and the budget for 2023. There was a net deficit last year of almost €40,000. The pledges and collections were higher than anticipated. However, the maintenance and repairs plus utilities were higher than expected. In previous years the oil bill was paid through the Fabrique; utilities are now paid out of the church account. Mons' expenses figure in our accounts, which are far higher due to expenses to youth events and other unexpected payments. Some of the €40,000 deficit was held over from the previous year to pay for the boiler.
- b. The budget has been adapted from last year's budget although he's reduced the stipend due to Rev. Katie Osweiler leaving in August. Sunny's expenses remain the same. Mike is sitting on some of Sunny's money as per her instruction. Katie's pension contributions have still to be paid. The budget shows a deficit of almost €8,000.
- c. Mike proposed that the budget was accepted straightaway. It was passed unanimously, with thanks to Mike for his hard work preparing it.
- d. Current pledges (2023) are very low in number. Mike will wait for the January bank statements to see if some people are rolling their pledge over.
- e. Photos of the damaged wall outside on the road have been submitted to the insurance and a file opened. Someone needs to be found to mend it.

### **5.4 Building & property**

- a. Paul Hirsch submitted a report (attached).

### **5.5 Outreach & service**

- a. Derek Pullinger submitted a report (attached).
- b. Given the strong feelings about Brenda and her dedication to outreach, Sunny suggested we consider having a 'Brenda award' or a gift in commemoration of her. The Vestry were asked to think about this between now and the Retreat on 11 March.

**6. Other business:**

**6.1 AGM and possible new Vestry members:** People need to be talked to. Please send committee reports to Fiona White as soon as possible for circulation to members.

**6.2 ASBL update:** ASBL president Bill Bythell has called an Extraordinary General Meeting to update the statutes on 19 February. In the context of that, Susan was asked to put forward a motion regarding who is an ASBL member. More clarity is needed so it will be revisited with the new Vestry. Another tax letter was received today but it does not say how much tax is due. The ASBL has apologized to the tax office and said it will pay the tax due. Fabrique: this still needs to be looked at at a future meeting.

**6.3 Mutual Ministry Review:** It was reported that Linda Grenz is ready to prepare the survey results.

**6.4 Revival 25 March:** Sunny said that on 25 March from 12 until 3 there will be a revival meeting with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell (York, UK) in Paris. It is hoped that a good-sized group will go as it will be a very worthwhile occasion.

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

**7. Curate's report:** In Katie's absence, she sent in a report (attached).

**8. Rector's report:** Art therapy takes place every Saturday for Ukrainians and also parishioners and neighbors. Their first exhibit is on 26 February following the church service. Sunny is working with the Bishop's office and the Episcopal website to look for a new curate. Katie will probably leave during July as she has to do her military service in August.

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

The meeting ended at 21.52.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Curate's Report

I did want to say a huge thank you and lots of love to everyone who called, visited and prayed for Brenda. Sometimes it can be hard to see someone we love at the end of their life but those visits meant a lot to her and it's a testament to our loving community.

Here are a few updates:

We have about 7 young people from All Saints and Saint-Esprit will be attending Youth Across Europe in March, which is part of the celebration in Paris at the Cathedral.

Felicity Handford has put together an art project for the young people to do for Lent that involves the Stations of the Cross.

Rev. Katie Osweiler

### Outreach Report

The final income and expenditure statement for Outreach 2022 has been prepared. Please note that an amount of €1,087.00 remains to be disbursed in 2023.

€250 has been promised to Domisum and the balance of €837 has been reserved for Sunny's discretionary fund to assist parishioners struggling to pay their rising utility bills.

With the terrible news today of a massive earthquake in Southern Turkey/Northern Syria, I think we should respond to the urgent appeal from the Turkish Authorities for aid. As I write this there are already more than 2,000 reported dead and 7,500 injured and hundreds of buildings destroyed.

Derek Pullinger

### Building Group report

Done:

Downstairs urinals unblocked.  
Garden tools tidied up. Broken devices discarded.

In progress:

Parking moss removal (a *big* job!).  
Garden shed roof repair.

To be done:

All the rest!

Paul Hirsch