

**VESTRY MEETING – 12 JUNE 2023, 19.30**  
**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

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Present: Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Derek Pullinger (Senior Warden), Carole Ducastel, Mike Breton, Felicity Handford, Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate)  
Staff: Fiona White

1. Derek Pullinger opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Jane McBride (Junior Warden), Paul Hirsch, Vincent Musschoot
3. **Approval of minutes:** the May minutes will be condensed for approval at the next meeting. A lengthier record of the details of the MMR discussion will be kept separate from the minutes.
4. **Agenda:** it was decided to modify the draft Agenda.
5. **Curate's report:** This was moved to the start of the meeting, so she could leave early. Katie said thank you for the love and support that she's received over the last five years. Victor extended his thanks as well. He was a very active member of the clergy spouses' group. Are parishes paying for spouses going to Convention? Most of them are but ASC does not. This is especially important for a rector's spouse. Sunny had approached Katie to contribute to a retirement fund for her and it never happened. Victor and Katie are not short of finance but this point needs to be noted. Victor is very appreciative that ASC opened its doors for his retirement ceremony from the military. Katie also wanted to thank ASC for the support of her military duty each year. It makes her feel she's serving the community in a greater way. She also thanked the Vestry for their support over her work with the Youth Commission and Felicity and Marc Smets-Tolley for being chaperones. Her other love was Relay for Life – there is so much enthusiasm in the congregation. She thanked Fiona for her moral and admin support. And lastly Sunny, for giving her a chance. Katie was an unknown and Sunny was so trusting, making it a very positive experience. The Vestry thanked Katie for everything she's done, especially the technology! She was a breath of fresh air.  
After Katie left, there was discussion of topping up her pension with the Lutheran Church from her time with ASC. The *traitement* for her will continue until 1 September 2023, effectively giving her two months pay after she leaves.
6. **Vestry check-in:** Derek had thought of two other subjects, however, tonight's subject was the follow-up on the MMR:

A. The feedback that was asked for

**Feedback:** No members of the congregation had spoken with Carole Ducastel, Felicity Handford or Mike Breton following last month's meeting.

- ❖ Derek had spoken to three. One had not filled in the form but was very concerned about the debt. Derek reassured them. The second was concerned about the aging congregation. The third person felt that we should have a change of rector after 10 years, and that there was a problem with pastoral care. Sunny Hallanan asked: is there a problem that can be rectified or is it just time for her to move on? Derek: Pastoral care can be organized better. It is the opinion of the person who spoke with him that people may get stale after 10 years.
- ❖ Mike felt that the MMR was a waste of our resources. Others disagreed: If the same problems are recurring, we need to address those concerns.

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- ❖Felicity: the accounts were not clear enough to show that the rents are paying off the debt. Derek reassured her that clarity will be in place once the ASBL is up and running. Sunny has now revised the pledge cards to say explicitly that pledges are used to run the church, and NOT to pay off the debt.
- ❖Sunny suggested raising money for something in particular but to raise twice the amount and give half to the debt. The debt issue must be better communicated and the church should take some responsibility.

**B. Walk through Linda Grenz's report and think what our priorities should be.**

We have the reactions of 25 people from 79 people surveyed. It was felt that if people are content, they are less likely to fill in a survey.

- ❖Celebrations: did very well during the pandemic. Disappointments: accessing the service through Facebook (live services via YouTube require far more subscribers than we have).
- ❖Formation might be tried on every 5th Sunday.
- ❖Need more music: put out a sheet to get solos, duos, quartets, so that there's special music more often.
- ❖Challenges: most churches follow the same as volunteer organizations, that 20% of people do 80% of the work. We see that happening at ASC.
- ❖What is required to be 'more European'? it was decided to leave this for another meeting, or a discussion with the congregation.
- ❖Is our difference of not being European a draw or a deterrent?
- ❖Lay members offering and their offers not being accepted: this needs to be looked at. We need to know specific examples of when this happened.
- ❖Re-structuring Vestry meetings: can more discussions take place after church? This would work with a very small congregation but it was felt this wouldn't work for ASC. Also, certain things must be voted on at a formal Vestry meeting.
- ❖Lay members feel they are not thanked enough and that they cannot speak to the leadership about negative things. Linda had reported that a couple had volunteered to do something but were never asked to follow it through. Again, we do not know when and how exactly this happened.

**C. Clear communication on the report to the congregation**

- ❖ **Communication:** the Vestry is still going through the MMR report. Carole was asked to write a communication to thank those who had taken part, listing the points raised during the survey via bullet points.
- ❖**Regarding Linda's report that Sunny should leave,** Felicity felt that more members of the Vestry should be present for the discussion. Sunny does not personally feel stale and is excited about bringing ASC back to life after Covid, has ideas for things we still haven't tried and is working with the missions. Felicity suggested that Sunny needs to stay and work through the points raised by the MMR and should certainly stay here for the present.

**7. Committee reports:**

**7.1 Building & property**

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

b. Mike reported that the front of the building was resealed and repainted, and the rotten wood replaced last week.

c. We have agreed to let a Seventh Day Adventist congregation have the church on Saturday mornings for their services, starting 24 June. They will not meet in August, so if the arrangement does not work out we could stop it at the end of July.

#### **7.2 Outreach & service**

a. Derek had submitted a written report (attached).

b. Following discussion, it was decided to support the Humanitarian Corridors refugee family in Leuven with €750.

#### **7.3 Our Community**

a. Plans were set for the farewell for Katie. The event will also function as our end-of-year celebration.

#### **7.4 Finance**

a. Mike has received an invoice from Paris, which includes the first repayment on the boiler loan.

b. He's paid for the repainting of the front of the building but has yet to receive the refugee grant money for Mons.

#### **7.5 Formation task force - no report**

#### **7.6 Archives task force**

a. Felicity had a copy of the Convocation document on how to do archiving, which deals only with digital documents and how they should be saved. These need to be saved in three places: the hard drive; external hard drive; and the cloud. The document needs to be revised to be made pertinent for ASC.

#### **7.7 Missions task force**

a. Canon Jack McDonald met with Balthazar Nahimana, and is working with Sunny and Roman Catholic leadership on follow-up on the situations in Mons and Namur. St Esprit will be able to meet this coming Sunday.

b. Balthazar will attend the class on Anglicanism.

### **8. Any other business:**

**8.1 ASBL update:** Derek said they've approved the 2022 accounts and the 2023 budget. They went to Duffel, handed in identity cards, etc. but four weeks later there was no sign of an account.

**8.3 Any other business:** Fiona White reported on the mention of the directory at last month's meeting. The directory is up to date but is only available to the clergy and Vestry due to the GDPR regulation on privacy.

**9. Rector's report:** Sunny said she will get in touch with the Swedes and the Old Catholics over the summer to try and organize events together. She is working on various ways to use Katie's *traitement*, which may be for hiring either ordained or lay persons.

**10. Closing prayer:** Derek offered a closing prayer.

The meeting closed at 21.49.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Building Group report

Done.

Protective coat given to the garden furniture.  
Weeds removed from the parking.

In progress.

Estimates to be asked to repair/replace the crèche door.  
Repair of the eaves, roof, and outside walls to be started.  
Bollard, to avoid cars using the middle slope, ordered.  
Altar spotlights and switch to operate each unit received. To be tested at ground level before installation.

To be done.

Dim light over the organ to be replaced.  
Storage cupboard in community hall to be reinforced (the shelves fall out)  
And much more ...

Paul Hirsch

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### Outreach report

**Domisum:** On Tuesday 23rd May Maryse and I were given a guided tour of Domisum House in LLN by Sylvette. The interior of the building is finished to a very high standard and adapted to the needs of the future residents. It will be ready for occupation on 1st July 2023. The back garden needs to be secured with a better fence. There is also a need for some garden furniture so that the residents can enjoy this calm outside space.

An amount of €250 was earmarked for Domisum in the 2022 budget and this amount has now been paid to purchase some garden furniture.

**Lina's project:** Nancy Evans has asked All Saints' to sponsor, for a 2nd year, the summer activities and school supplies for underprivileged youngsters living in the Marolles. We have received a detailed costed report of the various activities organized in 2022, which benefitted 36 children and teenagers from 17 families. An amount of €250 has been sent to Nancy (via Nativitas) for this year's program.

**Outreach meeting:** On Sunday 7th May there was an Outreach meeting after church. A number of congregation members shared details of worthy causes they support, and advanced ideas for future Outreach projects. Unfortunately this has not yet led to any concrete proposals for funding from the All Saints' 2023 budget.

**Humanitarian Corridors:** The Rev'd Canon Stephen Murray has asked each Anglican chaplaincy in Belgium to contribute to the Humanitarian Corridors project to house a refugee family. St Martha and St Mary's church Leuven is the host church this year. The suggested donation for All Saints' is €1,250.

An amount of €821.50 remains unspent from the 2022 Outreach budget. This was originally intended to assist parishioners with their utility bills, but no requests have been received.

**Relay for Life:** From 14h00 on Saturday 24th June 2023 to 14h00 on Sunday 25th June 2023.

Derek Pullinger