

VESTRY MEETING – 25 September 2023, 19.30
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

Present: Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Derek Pullinger (Senior Warden), Carole Ducastel, Mike Breton, Paul Hirsch.

1. Rev. Sunny Hallanan opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Jane McBride was absent due to the death of her father. Felicity Handford was absent due to migraine. No word had been heard from Vincent Musschoot.
3. **Approval of minutes:** With a clarification about finances, the minutes from the meeting on 4 September were approved.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Discussion was a follow-up to the Parish Forum the day before on what it means to be a more 'European Church' as proposed in the Mutual Ministry Review. Overall, it was felt that the issue is not so much 'being more European' as concern that church attendance is down and we need ways to grow the church. Can we do events to bring more people in, such as changing the format of the Harvest Festival? It was felt that we need to do better publicity for the events we already have. It was noted that ecumenical events bring many more people into the church – but those people already belong to other churches. Whatever we do to change in order to grow, we should be careful not to lose the good aspects of the distinct identity which we already have. (So don't cancel Thanksgiving, as it is our biggest attended fellowship event.) Regarding being more European, the question was asked 'Why would a Belgian go to an Anglican church for a celebration of something Belgian, when so many events are already held by Belgians, for Belgians?'
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Finance**
 - a. Mike Breton reported that all bills to date have been paid. The Fabrique budgets are prepared and will be posted to the communes and other offices that require them.
 - 5.2 **Building & property**
 - a. Paul Hirsch had sent in his report (attached).
 - b. Bell repair and guarantee details still need to be checked
 - c. The gutter and creche door repairs will happen soon.
 - 5.3 **Outreach & service**
 - a. Derek reported that support for pigs in Burundi, and a donation to help victims of the floods in Libya via Episcopal Relief & Development are in process. There was a suggestion to look into making a donation to Medecins Sans Frontieres.
 - 5.4 **Our Community**
 - a. Posters for Joelle Vanopbroeke's concert on 22 October are prepared.
 - b. Thanksgiving is coming up, together with the Advent Carol Supper.

Task Forces:

 - 5.5 **Formation:** no report
 - 5.6 **Archives:** It was agreed to endorse the plan outlined in Felicity's report. The ASBL will be the legal entity to apply for the Google charitable organization status for cloud storage.

5.7 Missions: The two main refugee programs, raising chickens and offering English language classes, have needed some budget changes.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Derek said the ASBL is now receiving the payments from SmartGreen and the Creche. The other tenants need to be reminded to change where they send their payments. The ASBL has recently paid €2,000 to the building lender.

7. Rector's report: Special prayers were offered for Jane McBride on the death of her father and it was felt that we should designate an outreach gift to a cause of Jane's choice in memory of her father.

Sunny reported that she would be in Tbilisi for a worship service with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and then at the Church of England Archdeaconry Synod the first week of October.

6. Closing prayer: Sunny offered a closing prayer.

The meeting closed at 21.05

Committee Reports

Building Group report

Done.

- Defective crèche lamp repaired.
- Small shed restored. Tools hooked up in the big shed.
- Hedge trimmed. We tidied it up but a serious volume reduction of the bush needs to be considered for next year. This job will be too big (trimming, sweeping and waste removal) for the small team.

Shall we try to call on parishioners or bring in a professional?

In progress.

- Crèche door and gutter swan neck replacement.

To be done.

- Last two church window frames to be painted.
- Sweep the nuts from the parking lot.
- Lights over altar to be replaced.
- Replace the missing/broken slats on the outside bench.

And much more ...

Paul Hirsch