

VESTRY MEETING – 4 December 2023, 19.30
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

Present: Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Derek Pullinger (Senior Warden), Carole Ducastel, Mike Breton, Felicity Handford.
Minutes taken by Fiona White

1. Felicity opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** with advance apologies: Jane McBride (Junior Warden) and Paul Hirsch. Nothing was heard from Vincent Musschoot.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from the meeting on 6 November were approved following two corrections.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Felicity opened discussion on care for biodiversity in our cities. Areas are being re-wilded and urban farms developed – how does All Saints' take part? Our Outreach funds have donated to two projects involved in this. Discussion included encouraging bird boxes and feeding the birds in the church garden, together with planting trees/flowers, with some that can adapt to climate change but are also easy to care for. There is a research garden centre in Rhode St Genese. Someone from there could come and talk to the parish to encourage us all to help the environment in our own gardens. It has already been decided to put a couple of fruit trees in the church garden. Research into this should be carried out now, so that we're ready to start in the spring.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Outreach & service**
 - a. Derek provided an updated spreadsheet showing where we currently stand (attached). Half of the profit from Joëlle's concert (€265.00) will go to the Jerusalem Peacebuilders; the other 50% is going to the Fédération Belge des Banques Alimentaires.
 - b. Mike has paid €230 to Diana's UK account and she will transfer the sum to the Ukrainian artists, which is the simplest method for the transaction.
 - c. The Nativitas gifts of food and shampoo will be collected on 14 December.
 - d. Relay-for-Life 2024 will be 1 & 2 June at Waterloo Rugby Club. This year €1,597 was raised by the ASC team. It was suggested that ASC joins Victoria Choo's team.
 - 5.2 **Our Community**
 - a. Baptism: Carole reported on the baptism of André's son, when Nick Fern provided a number of cakes.
 - b. Thanksgiving: this was a successful event with around 60 people attending.
 - c. Carol supper: it was felt this pot luck meal was a great success, hosted by Lydia and Merton Hale.
 - d. Lessons & Carols with other Waterloo parishes on 13 December: Maryse Pullinger is providing some mince pies, as will Nick. Mike will get glüwein.
 - e. Parish party: Sunny will make crock pots of chili, which have worked well in the past. Carole will purchase some salad.
 - f. Christmas Eve dinner: Sunny has a turkey. Fiona will put out a list for dishes to bring. Carole asked for food information to be more specific.
 - g. Epiphany: Carole will provide galettes.
 - h. Bishop's visit weekend of 21 January: In the past, the Vestry and spouses had a pot luck dinner with him in the café on the Friday or Saturday of his visit. Curries have worked well before.

- i. Regarding communications, Carole suggested that more information on Outreach is included in the eBlast, plus the amounts that have been sent to the various charities.

5.3 Finance

- a. Mike had nothing new to report. He is up to date with all payments.
- b. Derek said that the ASBL account can pay €5,000 to our lender before the end of the year.
- c. Mike said that budgets need to be worked out for both the ASBL and ASC before the Bishop's visit.
- d. It was noted that €10,000 still needs to be paid into Katie Osweiler's pension fund, but we need details of where she wants this sent.

5.4 Building & property

- a. Paul Hirsch had sent in his report (attached).
- b. The grant application has been prepared for the bell repair.
- c. Charging station idea: Notaries will be involved, together with the ASBL, which owns the church. There must be documented proof that the ASBL is the rightful owner of the building. Mike was asked to bring the deeds in so that an electronic version can be made for the archives. The Convocation needs to give their permission for this. There is much for ASC to gain from this. It will cost the charging company €400,000 to 600,000 to put in four points in the church car park. They want to work in partnership with us: ASC will get 13% of the revenue. The company also works with solar panels, which might be reconsidered for ASC in the future.

Task Forces:

5.5 Formation: Felicity reported that there was nothing new to report..

5.6 Archives: Felicity says that the PDF/A format/security will not change over time, but other file types will. Fiona will purchase the program for ASC, together with a specific hard drive for storing the archived files. These files will include Vestry and AGM minutes and reports, service bulletins, eBlasts and photographs. Deeds and other legal documents, e.g. *Moniteur Belge*, need to be scanned. Carole asked if it was possible that the Convocation could purchase the program or allow individual church access. Sunny said she would ask.

5.7 Missions: Sunny has applied for grants for the missions. Namur might not get one but Mons should receive the usual amount.

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Derek said everything is up to date.

6.2 Discussion on report from the 2023 Convention: Fiona read out the section from the Ministry Initiative on Climate & Creation Care regarding improving the environmental footprint of the building. It's possible to find out more about solar panels from Ampeer, the charging company. Lining the inside of the church roof with 15mm of insulating material was also discussed. This will be expensive but thankfully the Bishop is very good at getting grants. There followed a discussion on the fact that black and white racism was discussed in such detail at the Convention. Derek raised the loss in the Convocation accounts. Sunny explained that the money required for going to General Convocation has to be found over three years. It's done so that the Convocation shows a deficit which is actually planned for.

6.3 Date and plans for 2024 AGM: Felicity needs to be formally elected on to the Vestry. Both Carole and Derek are eligible to run again. One more person is needed for a 3-year term, and one for a 2-year term. Derek feels younger people need to get involved.

Date for AGM 2024: 11 February.

6.4 Any other business: Carole raised the idea of house groups: how could this be achieved with parishioners so spread apart? Could we arrange small groups of people for a coffee morning, afternoon tea or maybe even a dinner? Sunny came up with the idea of house blessings, which are traditionally done during Epiphany. It was felt this was worth trying.

7. Rector's report: Sunny reported that Jane's prayer chain idea went well in the service the previous day.

Sunny is looking for another format for a MMR, which might work better than the one earlier this year.

In pastoral concerns, note that Lydia Jones' father died during yesterday's service when she was playing in church (and her mother died last Christmas.)

8. Closing prayer: Felicity offered a closing prayer.

The meeting closed at 21.54.

Building Group report

Done.

- Crèche door replaced.
- Overhead altar lights replaced.
- Dead leaves swept from the parking lot and back yard.

In progress.

- Church bell repair.

To be done.

- Replace the missing/broken slats on the outside bench.

Possible project.

- Cooperation with the company Ampeer to install car charging stations on our parking. This would bring additional rent.

Paul Hirsch

All Saints Waterloo - Outreach 2023

	Income	Description	Expenditure
Budget	€ 2,000,00	Turkey/Syria earthquake relief fund Relay for Life	€ 272,00 paid 23/01/23 € 135,00 paid 15/6 & 5/7/23
cookies/masks/books/coffee			
1st qtr	€ 787,00	Lina's project (Nativitas)	€ 250,00 paid 15/5/23
2nd qtr	€ 362,30	Natagora	€ 250,00 paid 12/9/23
3rd qtr.	€ 167,00	Chaine de l'Espoir	€ 250,00 paid 12/9/23
4th qtr,	€ 180,00 estimate	Brussels British Community Association	€ 30,00 paid 28/9/23
Joelle's concert in October	€ 530,00	Sappel day of the poor Banneux Community Help Centre - diary insert 2024 Alzheimer League Flanders Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgique) Maison d'enfants reine Marie-Henriette	€ 500,00 Paid 10/23 € 175,00 paid 10/23 € 250,00 Paid 11/23 € 250,00 Paid 11/23 € 250,00 Paid 11/23
		Pig project Burundi (Balthazar Nahimana) Episcopal relief and development Libya US\$ 270 United Thank Offering -DFMS St Louis US\$ 275 Protestant Centre Fédération Belge des Banques Alimentaires Pour memoire projets 2022 Domisium € 250 Humanitarian corridors - €750	€ 250,00 Paid 11/23 € 250,00 Paid 11/23 € 250,00 Paid 11/23 € 250,00 Paid 11/23 € 265,00 Paid 11/23 paid 30/5/23 paid 16/6/23
	€ 4,026,30		€ 3,877,00

Other Outreach actions "hors budget" supported by members of All Saints' congregation

British Legion Poppy Fund Nov 2023	€ 1,597,00
Relay for Life - 2023	

Final Outreach action to be financed from the balance of Joelle's concert in October

Jerusalem Peacebuilders Houston TX	€ 265,00
US\$ 300	