

VESTRY MEETING – 8 January 2024, 19.30
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

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

1. Carole opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Nothing was heard from Vincent Musschoot.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from the meeting on 4 December were approved.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Carole raised several points regarding Vestry and the upcoming AGM and others. Regarding communications, there seem to be no action points noted in the minutes and it's all rather vague as to who is going to do certain jobs. It would also help if the minutes went out sooner. Communications generally in the church are not good and although she has tried to suggest different ways of doing things, it's not happening fast enough. The eBlast is improving, but information is needed on events well in advance, not those just two weeks away. However, her biggest concern is growing the congregation. We need younger leadership but the current congregation are complacent about the situation; in fact, maybe we all are. Could Sunny find a congregation in the Convocation that has a similar profile to us to see what they are discussing and doing to solve the issues? Paul didn't think our congregation had shrunk any more than others. Carole feels we need to look around us and see if there are actions, initiatives, etc. that would attract people to come/return. Felicity asked: what is it about The Church that is not engaging people? Derek pointed out that we didn't have the usual numbers at Christmas. Have the new people who arrived during 2023 been coming to services? Jane feels that we need to look at our positives: we are a very welcoming, loving and caring group of people. It was felt that we need to organize things better so that there aren't just a few doing all the work. Fiona suggested a generic activity that could be ready for a child/children arriving with parents for a service.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Our Community**
 - a. Carole reported that the Christmas Eve dinner was a success. The Waterloo carols went well and is appreciated by members of several churches: we ran out of bulletins, but there was plenty of mulled wine and mince pies.
 - b. Yesterday's Epiphany celebrations went well.
 - c. Derek said that Jane's prayer chain idea was very good.
 - d. The next event is the AGM on 11 February where pancakes will be served.
 - e. The following weekend is the Bishop's visit, moved to 18 February from 21 January. The Vestry will dine with him on Saturday, 17 February. Sunny has one more turkey; Vestry members can bring vegetables and desserts. A *pain surprise* would work well for after church on 18 February.
 - 5.2 **Finance**
 - a. Mike reported that he and Derek will discuss 2024's budget with Sunny. ASC currently has less money than it's had before. Mike would like to see greater income coming to the church. Alcoholics Anonymous could go up to

€100 a month. **Action: Fiona** Mike will talk to the Wednesday Club to see if they could pay more. **Action: Mike**

- b. Derek reported that the final rent for 2023 was paid today, 8 January. He is now in a position to pay €4,000 for January's payment to our lender.
- c. Nothing has been sent for Katie Osweiler's pension so far.

5.3 Building & property

- a. Paul sent in his report (attached).
- b. Regarding the new lights over the altar, Sunny suggested reversing the sides which are lit, so there is always light on the organ side. **Action: Paul**
- c. A sign for the church has fallen off the tree it was posted on. **Action: Paul**
- d. Fluorescent strips need to be put on the edges of the community stairs as the lighting is poor and cannot be improved. **Action: Paul**
- e. The carpet squares protecting cabling in the church is not entirely safe. Sunny will put the bright rug back. The carpet in the centre of the altar steps needs to have something non-slip put underneath. **Action: Paul**
- f. Regarding the charging station, Derek will contact him next week. **Action: Derek**

5.4 Outreach & service

- a. Derek sent in his report (attached). €4,100 was donated during 2023 to 14 projects, which is double the money budgeted. He would now like ideas for 2024. **Action: Derek**
- b. Could Victoria Choo be the team leader for ASC? This point amends the related point in the December 2023 minutes. **Action: Derek**

Task Forces:

5.5 Archives: Sunny has still to ask the Convocation if they will help with the purchase of a program. **Action: Sunny** Felicity has very kindly offered to archive the pdfs in the meantime. **Action: Fiona**

5.6 Missions: Sunny applied for grants. Namur was turned down because there are no dependable people to lead the project. €6,800 is on its way for Mons.

There is a group in Charleroi who currently travel to Mons for church, but are interested in a service in French in Charleroi. Sunny is looking at Christ Church Charleroi (CCC) to host a French/African service once a month, which can be financed by St Esprit as it has enough funds for two services each month. CCC itself is close to turning into a house church with only four or five active parishioners.

5.7 Formation: Felicity would like her friend to come and talk to the parish about growing more in gardens. The best time for him to come and talk to us would be after church one Sunday in March. **Action: Felicity.**

Sunny is thinking of doing adult formation on Zoom on Wednesday evenings during Lent on the topic 'What do we believe?' Sunny will check with the Convocation to make sure they're not scheduling anything for the same time.

6. Other business:

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

The insurance on the building is in the name of the ASBL. At the moment there isn't enough money going to the ASBL to cover it. If there's a shortfall at the end of the year, Mike will balance things out.

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6.2 Bishop's visitation: Vestry dinner on Saturday, 17 February at 19.00. The Vestry will meet with the Bishop at 17.00. John Brown is free and will organize a choir for the 18th.

6.3 Plans for AGM and Vestry nominations: Fiona requested Vestry reports by 1 February so that parishioners can have them on 4 February.

Sunny will organize something for the meeting along the lines of 'where we've come from, and where are we going'.

Vestry nominations: So far there are none. All Vestry members should speak with fellow parishioners to encourage them to serve. **Action: All Vestry members**

Sunny presented a proposed schedule for next year's meetings, mostly to be held on 2nd Monday of the month. At the next meeting (5 February), as their terms finish, Carole and Derek can talk about their time on Vestry.

6.4 Any other business: There was none.

7. **Rector's report:** Sunny has not yet found a helpful format for another MMR. She had a strong lead on a new Assistant Rector but that person has gone elsewhere. She has no further leads at the moment.

Star Sunday will be next week, and Stewardship the following week.

8. **Closing prayer:** Carole offered a closing prayer.

The meeting closed at 21.40.

Building Group report

Done

Not much. December seems to have been a short month (the days were certainly shorter).

To be done

Office key storage box to be installed.

Garden shed hinge to be repaired.

Crèche door. Install a second stopper. The existing one is too close to the hinge and bends it.

Church window weather seals to be verified as rain water is blown inside.

To be decided

The overhead altar lights are operational but the individual switching of the units is rather awkward. Each lamp can be operated separately but the switch is located on the beam, next to the light. Improvement options are:

Remote Wi-Fi switching with the use of a cell phone.

+ We have the equipment.

- Hi-tech but possibly hi-stress material if misbehaving, minutes before a celebration or event.

Switches on the side beams (blue arrow on the picture).

+ Basic installation.

- Cost (roughly 100m wiring needed).

- Rather uneasy to get to (small stepladder needed).

- Four switches (one for each lamp).

Switches on the wall (red arrow on the picture)

+ Basic installation but easy operation.

- Cost (roughly 100m wiring needed).

- Unsightly cable covers.

- Four switches and cable covers.

Paul Hirsch

All Saints Waterloo - Outreach 2023

	Income	Description	Expenditure	
Budget	€ 2.000,00	Turkey/Syria earthquake relief fund	€ 272,00	paid 23/01/23
		Relay for Life	€ 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
		Brussels British Community		
October	€ 78,30	Association	€ 30,00	paid 28/9/23
November	€ 70,00	Sappel day of the poor Banneux	€ 500,00	Paid 1/11/23
		Community Help Centre - diary insert		
December	€ 75,00 estimate	2024	€ 175,00	paid 11/10/23
Joelle's concert in October	€ 530,00	Alzeimer League Flanders	€ 250,00	Paid 13/11/23
		Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgique)	€ 250,00	Paid 13/11/23
		Maison d'enfants reine Marie-Henriette		
		- potager	€ 250,00	Paid 13/11/23
		Pig project Burundi (Balthazar		
		Nahimana)	€ 250,00	Paid 23/11/23
		Episcopal relief and development		
		Libya US\$ 270	€ 250,00	Paid 11/23
		United Thank Offering -DFMS St Louis		
		US\$ 275	€ 250,00	Paid 11/23
		Protestant Social Centre	€ 250,00	Paid 13/11/23
		Fédération Belge des Banques		
		Alimentaires	€ 265,00	Paid 23/11/23
		Jerusalem Peacebuilders Houston		
		TX US\$ 300	€ 265,00	paid 12/23
		Pour memoire projets 2022		
		Domisum € 250		paid 30/5/23
		Humanitarian corridors - €750		paid 16/6/23
	€ 4.069,60		€ 4.142,00	

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

British Legion Poppy Fund Nov 2023	€ 130,40
Relay for Life - 2023	€ 1.597,00