

VESTRY MEETING – 11 March 2024, 19.30
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO

Present: Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Derek Pullinger (Senior Warden), Mike Breton and Paul Hirsch
Online: Felicity Handford, André Peers de Nieuwburgh and Carole Ducastel
Minutes taken by Fiona White

1. Paul opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Jane McBride (Junior Warden)
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from the meeting on 5 February were approved with one correction.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Paul started a discussion about Sunny's forthcoming retirement. Sunny feels that ASC will be fine with a new rector. Vestry members expressed appreciation for Sunny and understanding of her choosing to move to be with family.

The next steps: Sunny's concern is that the Vestry isn't fully staffed. Perhaps the chance to choose the new rector might encourage others to serve. Carole, Mike and Fiona went through the last search in 2011 so there is some experience here. In 2011, the Vestry was the search committee; a separate committee prepared the profile prior to advertising the position. Bishop Mark may have a different way of organizing the search and call process. He will meet with Vestry on 15 April.

The usual pattern is that an interim rector will come to ASC to lead the church during the search process. A profile is put together, which may involve video. On the other side of the coin, rectors looking for new positions provide their profile so that a match can be made. ASC might take something to General Convention in mid-June to start the search. Europe's disadvantage is that it pays less than the USA; also, it takes a long time to get visa approval to work in Belgium. The search can go outside the Episcopal Church, providing that church is in full communion with us. Walter Baer, the Archdeacon, is a great help in these situations. It is possible to start the profile prior to 15 April, preparing information on the building, the area and the financial situation. Sunny noted that she is still fully present as rector until August.

5. **Committee reports:**

5.1 **Building & property**

- a. Paul sent in his report (attached).
- b. On 15 March a water expert from the insurance company is coming to try and pinpoint where the problem is.
- c. Tenant Marc Haeven has a problem radiator, which will be looked at.

5.2 **Outreach & service**

- a. Derek sent in his report (attached). There is a knitting group in Mechelen that helps five different charities. Our money will purchase wool and other necessary items. All were in favor of sending €250.
- b. Nativitas have thanked us for everything we collected for them, as have the other charities we donated to.
- b. The Outreach budget is now €2,085 for the year after €85 was collected in January.

5.3 **Community**

- a. Felicity, Jane and Carole had a short discussion on 10 March following the Vestry retreat. They will plan how the committee will work and report back at the next meeting. **Action: Felicity, Carole and Jane**
- b. We hosted the Bishop for lunch last month. Carole has already got lots of eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

5.4 Finance

- a. Mike reported that Marc Smets was going to the US bank to ratify a further signatory for the account. Mike has also requested emailed statements.
- b. He has paid the first quarter charge to the Convocation (which includes a heater loan).
- c. Felicity reported that the Council of Advice have approved a grant so the bell project can go ahead.
- d. Mike and André will get together to discuss the accounts so that André can start to help with the finances. **Action: Mike and André**

6. Other business:

6.1 ASBL update: Derek said that the account stands at €1,343 (see attached).

6.2 Praesidium & safeguarding: Felicity explained to André about the courses. She went on to talk about the recent meeting of the safeguarding officers. More signs need to go up stating that there is a safe policy procedure for vulnerable people in place at the church. Outside groups need to have their own safeguarding procedures and insurance in place (Scouts, AA, Seventh Day Adventists, Wednesday Club etc). People who use the building must use it responsibly and that needs to be made clear at the outset of a group meeting here. Fiona will send André information on the Praesidium courses. **Action: Fiona**

6.3 Delegates for Convention 2024: The dates are 17 to 20 October in Florence. A nomination was accepted for Fiona to be one of the delegates. It was suggested that Jane might like to be asked to be the second delegate.

6.4 Any other business: Fiona reported that information on the front page of the website is now also in French.

7. **Rector's report:** Sunny was at the AGM of Charleroi yesterday. They have decided to keep meeting in the church and will keep the door open to encourage new people to come in. The Bishop visited in Mons where there is still a problem with venues. Balthazar Nahimana reported that a number of his parishioners are working as carers on Sunday afternoons so he requested moving Mons worship from afternoon to mornings. However, he would have to lead it as Sunny is busy at ASC. A possibility is giving a service during the week. Three people went to the discernment retreat in Strasbourg, two from Mons and Jane.

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

The meeting closed at 21.10.

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Building Group report

Done

- Back garden tidied up and furniture cleaned.
- North-east facing church window weather seal replaced to test if the countermeasure is effective. If so, other windows also to be treated.
- Outside All Saints' sign reinstalled.

To be done

- Crèche door. Install a second stopper. The existing one is too close to the hinge and bends it.
- Moisture damage in Sunny's apartment and library. Appointment fixed with the expert, mandated by our insurance company, to look for the cause.
- Base coat of the metal window frames of the gents' downstairs toilets done. Next is the blue topcoat.

Paul Hirsch

Outreach report

Our first project of 2024 was proposed by Fanny at the Outreach meeting after church on 7th May 2023.

The project consists of supporting a group of women in Mechelen, led by Elsa Verschooten, who knit and make a variety of items for 5 organizations.

- 1) Moeders voor Moeders (Gent) <https://moedersvoormoeders.be> – children's clothes for poor families in Flanders
- 2) Berrefonds – clothing, shawls and blankets for still borns.
- 3) Daktari project in Uganda – knitting beanies.
- 4) Homeless in Mechelen – knitting shawls and beanies.
- 5) Ukrainian girls – lined toilet bags

I propose to support this group to the tune of €250, for the purchase of wool, and whatever else is required to continue making and distributing these garments.

Derek Pullinger

ASBL accounts to 15 March 2024

ASBL Friends of All Saints Church as at 15/03/2024

Income	Amount €	Expenses	Amount €2
Belfius opening balance 01/01/23	1135,53	ASC loan	12000,00
Rent Haeven Q1	2797,20	Bank Charges	18,84
Smart Green Q1	5888,67	Digitec	132,17
F Dassao Q1	2109,00	Car repairs	387,98
Creche Q1	4170,00	Proximus	275,49
		SPF finances	1326,61
		Car insurance	615,56
Total income :	16100,40	Total expenses :	14756,65
		Belfius closing balance	1343,75
			16100,40