



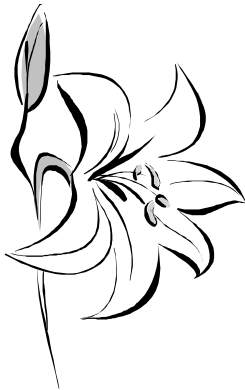
**February/
March 2005**

The Konvikt

The magazine of the
English-Speaking Church Community
in Luxembourg
(Anglican Chaplaincy) a.s.b.l
www.anglican.lu

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All contributions to the Konvikt are warmly welcomed and appreciated, please send your material to the care of:

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Deadline for the April/May 2005 issue of "The Konvikt" is

Friday 18th March

please also check your pew sheet or go to
www.anglican.lu for more information.

From the Chaplain



Dear Friends,

Firstly, on a personal note I would like to thank everybody for their support as I staggered through a post-New Year bout of bronchitis, and I offer my sympathy to all those who are also victims of the debilitating bug which is still around. I found myself laid very low for over two weeks and am still catching up, hence the delay in the publication of this "Konvikt".

It seems to be a big time in the life of the world.

The terrible tsunami disaster woke us all from post Christmas complacency to a realisation of how vulnerable we all are to natural disaster. Since then there have been many television programmes (planned well in advance of the tsunami) warning us of the accelerating effects of global warming, and demonstrating the impact of our lifestyles on the environment. Air travel is a particular culprit, something which most of us engage in a lot. We are being told that we have only a few years to make radical changes before

the consequences of our ways are irreversible.

Also high on the agenda is poverty relief, especially the ending of poverty in Africa. In principle we are, of course, all in favour of this, but how this is to be done will generate a lot of complex economic and political discussion in high circles. One thing of which we can be sure: no real change in Africa or anywhere else, which could truly make a difference to the lives of individuals, can take place without change in the Western world in a way which will also affect all of us as individuals.

We have also been observing the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Now we know far more about the details of what took place there than we ever did before. Some survivors, and perpetrators, of the holocaust of over 8 million people, including 6 million Jews, have begun to tell their story only in the last few years. One thing has become clear is that most people at that time knew *something* was happening, even if they did not know the whole horrible truth, and most people did nothing about it. Today people, especially young people, wonder how it could have been allowed to happen.

Climate change, poverty relief and the holocaust might seem very different subjects, but they have this in common: everyone has some knowledge and everyone contributes in some small way to allowing a disaster to take place, or doing something to avoid it.

Cont'd over

From the Chaplain

60+ years ago, of course, the personal risk of taking action, however small, could be very high, and sometimes the ethical dilemmas were very hard. Today the kind of action which is required of all of us is no more than an adjustment to our lifestyle. Would we be willing to pay a fair price for our food; to pay more for air travel, and use it less often; to boycott huge SUVs as a normal mode of transport? How much would all this hurt? What risk would we run if we chose to live more righteously?

We might find it easier to make these small adjustments if we saw more clearly what was happening elsewhere as a result of our failure to make the right changes. On the Indian sub-continent millions of people live on marginal coastal land which is being dramatically eroded every year by rising sea levels. Soon some Pacific islands will be entirely submerged. Already climate change is affecting food production and crop yields in some parts of the world.

Lent is a time for asking big questions about how we live our lives. It is not simply a question of making moral choices. An important question for those of us who claim to have some religious allegiance is whether we have the personal spiritual resources to manage change. Can we cope with the change which is happening around us? More importantly, can we *lead* the change which the world needs to make in order to live in the future?

Frankly, I don't know what the answer to this question is. I am struck by how many members of our church speak of their faith as a moral burden which they carry, rather than as a resource by which they see life more clearly and which enables them to live it more effectively.

This Lent we are running a programme of 5 study sessions called "Faith Connections", which will deal with very basic issues of the faith we *claim* to believe in and the life we *actually* live. There are more details elsewhere in this "Konvikt". Everyone is welcome, especially those who have never been to any Lent programmes before. The course is not about becoming more intensely religious, but it should help us to move from having a faith which we have to carry to having a faith which carries us, and which can help us to face the challenges which confront us as the future moves towards us at ever greater speed.

There's something for everybody during Lent; look out for the details of the "Easter Praying" series, as well as for the series of Lent Lunches.

Lent comes from an Old English word meaning spring, a time of renewal. Taking Lent seriously is the best method of discovering what the Easter Resurrection is all about.

God bless you in all that you will be doing,



Chris Lyon



Faith, Natural Disaster and Bigotry.

I suppose we have come to expect that after appalling natural disasters we humans tend to either question the existence of God, or find religious justification for the appalling consequences (for us humans) of natural events such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

The Archbishop of Canterbury (bless him) came up with a page and a half of truly awful waffle, as if in the 2000 years since Christ nothing had happened to humanity before to shake our faith in a benevolent deity. At least Cantuor was only following in a long tradition of woolly and impenetrable C of E platitudes. Good old C of E - at least it's harmless, which is more than can be said for some of the vile creatures which inevitably crawl out from under the rubble of such catastrophes. Just read the following extracts from an ignorant Wahhabite bigot in Indonesia (although it should be said that he is most unrepresentative of Islam in that part of the world.)

"The earthquake was the punishment of Allah for 5 off-duty policemen who the day before disported themselves on the beach at Banda Aceh with some cans of beer, accompanied by some ladies."

Apart from anything else, Allah apparently missed these "sinners" completely and instead destroyed 100 000 young innocent children on the wrong day. Sounds less like an omnipotent omniscient deity and

more like the Pentagon.

It seems to me that we should not be asking "Why has God done this to us?" for the simple reason that he hasn't. The unthinking, unfeeling, but entirely neutral Earth and the misnamed "cruel sea" did it to us. God is there to help us come to terms with the fact that such things happen in the universe and because we are not born into a cosseted life surrounded by cotton wool and because in the midst of life, we are in death and because physical death is the ultimate destination of us all.

One could take the paternalistic view that, after all, it is only 1383 Haj in the Islamic world and that in 1383 AD Christians were spouting much the same sort of nonsense and that, thanks be to God, we are now more enlightened and educated. We might think: "Give Islam another 622 years and anything might be possible - even democratic elections in Iraq."

However, we may be being a little too complacent with regard to Christianity. At about the same time, certain so-called Christians in England have been sending death-threats to Directors of the BBC for daring to show (late at night, on BBC2, with warnings about content), an apparently rather silly play about an American TV "celebrity" who makes his money by exposing the sad lives and foibles of rather unfortunate people on television as a form of mass

Faith, Natural Disaster and Bigotry

entertainment. These "Christians" have committed the sin of wishing death on fellow human beings on the grounds that the programme features thought-provoking representations of Jesus, Mary and God, which they regard as blasphemous.

From "The Life of Brian"

Condemned old man: "Listen, all I said to my wife was "That dinner was good enough for Jehovah!"

Pharisee: "Blasphemer, blasphemer!, he said it again."

Crowd: "Stone him, stone him!"

So, extremist bigotry is alive and well in middle-class 21st century Britain. Too many of these primitive bigots selectively quote from the vast Jewish Library which is the Old Testament (revised, selectively edited and creatively translated even more than the Labour Party Manifesto) or in the case of the New Testament, from the zealous convert (plus crétien que le Christ) Saul (Paul) of Tarsus (a misogynist reactionary old bigot if ever there was one), while ignoring the teachings of Christ himself. Having said this and while disagreeing

profoundly with the aforementioned bigots, I would defend to the death their right to *state their views*.

Where was Cantuar in this controversy? Did he rise up magnificently in thunderous rage to brandish his archiepiscopal crook from the pulpit and condemn these extremist bigots for distorting the message of Christ.

No, he did not. He probably made himself a nice cup of tea.

Well, I regard myself as a Christian and although I am very open to reasoned argument and persuasion on any issue, if anyone (Muslim, Christian or whatever they like to call themselves) tries to *dictate* to me what I should see, read or believe - then I am quite prepared to have recourse to the Old Testament myself and *smite* those concerned.

For in spite of all temptations to belong to other nations, I remain an Englishman - and if there is one thing I will not tolerate, it is intolerance!

Graham Chambers.

The AGM
Is on
Tuesday March 15th 2005
at 8.pm in the Konvikt Centre

Join the girls!

The mothers and toddlers group has been organizing coffee mornings for some time now. Originally, the idea was for young mothers to meet in a child-friendly environment, give the children an opportunity to play with their friends from crèche or Sunday school and for the mothers to get to know each other better. Of course, toddlers are not toddlers for very long, but their mums may still like to keep in touch. So, while it goes without saying that toddlers are still very welcome to come and play at our coffee mornings, we would like to extend the invitation to all women who would like to join us for a cup of tea or coffee, a piece of cake and a friendly chat. We especially welcome those who are new to the church and/or Luxembourg as this is an excellent opportunity to get to know other people and maybe make new friends too.

Most of us have English as our first language, but most of us speak at least one more language. So, whether you are a young mom with a toddler in tow, a slightly less new mom whose 'toddlers' are at school or

university or indeed single, we hope you will find the time to join us at our next coffee morning.

If you like the idea of meeting other women from church, but mornings do not suit you, do get in touch anyway to see if other meetings can be arranged.

The next coffee morning will be on Thursday, 17th February from 9 o'clock at the house of Beatrice Murphy 31, rue de la Syre in Uebersyren. Please phone Bea (356491) if you would like to come.



A Place for Women

This invitation arises out of discussions with some of the women in our congregation who are involved with the Mums and Toddlers' Coffee Mornings. These get-togethers have now been opened up to any woman in the congregation who would like a chat, some company, some coffee and, I understand, even a piece of cake – irrespective of whether you have a toddler in tow.

Following on from this, I would like to invite you to have a think about what you, as a woman in our church community, would like more of in terms of discussion, study or prayer which would help us develop our spiritual lives. There are a number of possibilities here - a regular meeting,

a course of a few weeks, a Saturday morning every couple of months or even just a moment of quiet and reflection at some point in the coffee mornings already arranged.

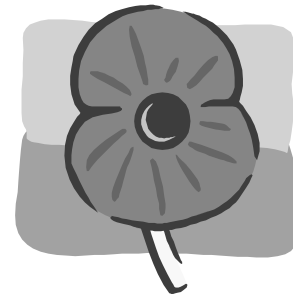
There will be an informal meeting of any interested women on **Monday 28th February at 8pm** in the Vicarage to talk further about what might help us sustain and develop our Christian life together. Please drop in – let me know if you would like to come (joan.lyon@anglican.lu) and I'll have the tea and coffee ready.

Joan Lyon

Poppy Appeal 2004

A total sum of €232.75 was raised this time around. This will go towards vital welfare and benevolent work.

Thanks to all.



Are you an official member ? Is your name on the Electoral Roll ?

It's a piece of bureaucracy, but it's important.

Within our congregation we have two main lists of people:

The Pastoral Register, which is a list of everybody who is in some way connected to our congregation, either as a regular worshipper, or as an occasional participant in our events, or as a friend, or as someone who wants simply to be known to us, in case of any emergency which might arise.

The Electoral Roll. This is a list of people who wish to be registered as canonical (church law) members of our congregation, with the right to vote at our AGM, and to be appointed to any of the official positions within our congregation. Inclusion on the Electoral Roll is free of charge, but requires an official application form to be completed.

Who can be included on the Electoral Roll ?

Those who wish to be included on the roll must declare that they are baptised and are aged 16 years or over.

They must also declare that they are:

A member of the Church of England

or of a Church in Communion with the Church of England and resident within the parish (ie the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the surrounding territory)

OR

A member in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England, which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and that *also* declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England and that they have habitually attended public worship in our congregation during the period of six months prior to being enrolled.

Many people who worship in our congregation are from other traditions, but by making the second declaration they are able to have "dual nationality" and take a full part in the life of our congregation.

The Electoral Roll is available for inspection at the back of the church. Please check that your name is included if you want to be able to vote, or stand for election, at the AGM on March 15th. Application forms are also available in church, or by contacting the office on 43 95 93 or email: office@anglican.lu

Shortened Minutes of Church Council meeting held on Tuesday, 7 December 2004 at the Vicarage

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden), Campbell Thomson (Treasurer), Catherine Allen (Secretary), Anthea MacDonald, Roderick Dunnett, Christopher Vaudrey, Moira Hogg

5. **Action Points Review:** (replaces 'Matters Arising')

1. Font - Chris Vigar wishes to buy a font for the Chaplaincy which will be inscribed in memory of his father.

2. List of Church's material assets - Geoff Thompson states that he did an inventory which is lodged at the Vicarage. The Chaplain will have to find this.

3. Contract for Administrative Assistant - This is completed and signed.

4. Church Fair - Tarquin Crouch has agreed to co-ordinate the Fair again in 2005. The Council decided that the Secretary should ask Tarquin to consider choosing and grooming a successor.

5. Convention - The Chaplain was able to speak only to Bishop David, so has not been able to request Bishop Geoffrey's intervention in the snail-like or possibly retrograde progress of the *Convention*.

6. Response Letters - In light of a certain congregational nervousness about financial disclosure, it was decided that the response letters to the Giving Campaign would be handled as follows: 1) The Recording Officer, Chris Sibson, will record only the identity of respondents, not the amount, if any, pledged; 2) The

Treasurer will be the only person who knows the amount of givings; 3) The Chaplain will know the number responding and will read the questionnaires returned.

6. **Ministry Report**

The drains of the Vicarage are noisome. Various home remedies were suggested before the expense of calling a plumber is incurred.

A religious theatre group, the Covenant Players will be coming on 23rd April at a cost of €150. They perform religious, ethical and classical drama.

The Chaplain will be away on Sunday, 2nd January. Roderick Dunnett volunteered to conduct the 10 am Service, and Simon Norcross, the 11 am.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Campell Thomson handed out November's monthly financial report with a second sheet showing the Church Fair revenues (on file). The Treasurer is broadly content with the state of Church Finances. The Bishop's Advent Appeal funds will go toward medical care for children in Iraq.

8. **"Stewardship Campaign"**

Only one group failed to meet owing to a death in the family of the host.

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However, there were other slip-ups. For example, one contact person only phoned potential attendees, who thus did not receive the campaign paperwork.

Overall, apathy was a bit rampant as regards attendance, but the meetings themselves were all interesting and, occasionally, difficult. The Chaplain found them certainly worthwhile, but it is unknown whether they will make any difference to Church income. So far there has been a Standing Order increase of only €227 per month.

The Chaplain expressed concern about erosion of contact information as the old lags disappear from Luxembourg (or possibly as their memories go!). It's difficult to know what to do about this. The Chaplain also described American Stewardship practices, which are very effective. It was unanimously felt that we are not ready for these, nor ever will be.

9. Charities Committee

Simon Norcross has prepared a handover document for Roderick Dunnett (on file). Simon and Roderick will have a meeting immediately following this Church Council meeting at which they will decide upon the disbursement of Charities funds for 2004). Simon proposes that €2000 be given to each of last year's 3 main charities, and the remaining €4500 to 5 new charities yet to be chosen. The Chaplain would like the Charities sub-committee

meetings to be open to the Congregation. Simon and Roderick will take care of the 2004 business first and then will convene an open meeting.

The Chaplain asked that donation to mission be considered, as important work is being done challenging beliefs which underlie obstacles to development in certain cultures, mainly arising from male domination. He pointed out that local cultural norms do not necessarily reflect the professed religion, the inconvenient bits of which are simply ignored. further info: www.trinitywallstreet.org

10. A G M: to be held on the 15th March 2005

The Church Council should have a better mix. The Chaplain will draw up a list of possibilities for new members and will hold another 'Sheep Sunday' - a useful communications exercise.

11. Any Other Business

Webmasters" Workshop

Webmaster Chris Vaudrey reported that representatives from 15 parishes attended the workshop, which was an amiable occasion and raised a number of new points for him. Simon S a r m i e n t o (e m a i l : ss@justus.anglican.org), webmaster for the Diocese in Europe, spoke about website aims, methods, examples and some boring statistics. He identified website targets as 1) existing members, 2) Christians who don't attend church, 3) Non-

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Christians who might come. Graham Kennet also spoke.

Chris felt that we were well covered on frequently asked questions. There was discussion of website promotion and META tags. (META Tags are hidden text placed in the HEAD section of your HTML page that are used by most major search engines to index your site based on your keywords and descriptions. It is very important to use META Tags as well as a good TITLE if you expect to be found in most search engines). Our Google Rating is No.9. Erin is No.3. Chris has added some links to other interesting sites, which will also help our Google Rating.

Awareness of child protection issues is important. No child's name is ever put on a picture. Chris puts phone numbers and email addresses in the non-members area only if specific permission has been given.

Pat Heal would like to thank the Congregation for its prayers for their

granddaughter, Sophie, who is now recovering well (and very cute)

ASBL

It is necessary to update the records of the asbl in conformity with Luxembourg law on asbls. The Electoral Roll governs the asbl, and this is updated every 5 years in accordance with Canon Law.

It is desirable that the asbl comprises elected members of the Church Council. Questions remain as to what would happen in the event of dissolution of the asbl. All these points must be made clear to the Congregation. At the AGM we will defer re-arrangement of the asbl until the 2006 AGM, but will, meanwhile, raise the question and elucidate it to the Congregation.

The Office will prepare the Electoral Roll by: 1) emailing everyone to check Electoral Roll, 2) adding in information from the Pastoral Register, 3) completing the Roll, and 4) posting it in Church for at least 3 weeks in advance of the AGM.


Prayer Group

The English speaking Catholic parish in Luxembourg has a small informal prayer group. It normally meets on a Monday evening in Clemency and has also recently started on Thursday lunchtime in Niederanven. We would welcome anyone from the Anglican chaplaincy who would like to join us. Please contact Steve McCarthy on 35 97 68 or email: stevemccarthy@pt.lu.

SERVICES

9 Feb	Ash Wednesday	10am HC		
13 Feb	The 1st Sunday of Lent	10am HC	11am HC	
20 Feb	The 2nd Sunday of Lent	10am HC	11am HC	
27 Feb	The 3rd Sunday of Lent	10am HC	11am HC	
6 Mar	Mothering Sunday	10am HC	11am FS	6:30pm CE
13 Mar	The 5th Sunday of Lent	10am HC	11am HC	
20 Mar	Palm Sunday	10am HC	11am HC	
24 Mar	Maundy Thursday	10am HC		
25 Mar	Good Friday	10am HC		
27 Mar	Easter Day	10am HC	11am HC	
3 Apr	The 2nd Sunday of Easter	10am HC	11am FS	6:30pm CE
10 Apr	The 3rd Sunday of Easter	10am HC	11am HC	
17 Apr	The 4th Sunday of Easter	10am HC	11am HC	
24 Apr	The 5th Sunday of Easter	10am HC	11am HC	

HC=Holy Communion
FS=Family Service
CE=Choral Evensong
MP=Morning Prayer



**All services are held in the
 Konvikt Chapel,
 5 avenue Marie-Thérèse,
 Luxembourg**

EASTER SERVICES

Thursday 23rd March

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion 7.30pm



Friday 24th March

Good Friday

Good Friday Service 12.noon



Sunday 26th March

Easter Day

10.00am Holy Communion (said)

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Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, Simon Norcross and Barbara Thomson (Churchwardens), Catherine Allen (Secretary), John Overstall, Roderick Dunnett, Christopher Vaudrey, Moira Hogg

5. Action Points Review: (replaces 'Matters Arising')

1) Constitutional Drafting - Chris Sibson drafted precise notes to amend the Internal Rules regarding the election of Church Council Members, Churchwardens and Archdeaconry Representatives as well as the Council's power to co-opt (on file). These will be posted on the website and can now be voted upon at the 2005 AGM.

2) Vicarage ADSL connection - Estimates have been received and this will go ahead. However, there will be no wireless connection within the house as the walls are too thick. Interestingly, part of the vicarage is wired with 3 phase wiring and part with single phase, the single phase part using some continental fittings and some UK ones.

3) Vicarage drains - Experimentation with the drains was successful and the pong withdrew.

4) Administrative Assistant - Elaine Birch's hours are now Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Chris Vaudrey will post this information on the website. Thursday is the Chaplain's day off.

6. Ministry Report

Christmas went well. Particular highlights were the Christmas lunch, excellently organised by Barbara Thomson and the Christingle Service, which was packed and raised over €800 for Christian Aid. Teenagers of the congregation helped with both making the Christingles and running the Service. Midnight Mass was less well attended (about 60), but Christmas Day had a good turnout. Boxing Day (Sunday) was surprisingly well attended at 10 am, and only two turned up for the (non-existent) 11 am. They were happy to go on to another service.

The 10 am on 2nd January was conducted by John Overstall and the 11 am by Simon Norcross. John O once more stepped into the breach on 9th January when the Chaplain was ill. All these services went well.

There was a failure of coverage for a funeral service while the Chaplain was away, so steps must be taken to ensure that this does not occur again. The Chaplain will revise his answering machine message to direct people to the Churchwardens or other available officials. Pastors Petersen and Couvée and Fr Breslin and our Chaplain are the only English-speaking ordained who can take funerals in Luxembourg. The Chaplain put

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together a Service for the Churchwardens to use as well as some instructions to help them do the right things in case of need. He will also institute training for them once they have received the service information.

There was a brief discussion of Luxembourgish funeral practices, which lend urgency in the event of unexpected deaths.

The Chaplain intends to hold Lent Groups, possibly using books which he bought in a wonderfully ecumenical bookshop in Rome.

Bishop Geoffrey will be coming for just a day (22 March) to celebrate the Diocese's annual Chrism Mass. He will arrive at Findel at 10:05 and depart at 17:55. Other Diocesan clergy will be invited and the Service will be at 12 noon, with a lunch afterwards at the Vicarage. The lunch will have to be a ticketed affair with all the visitors invited and then perhaps 20 more tickets on a first-come-first-served basis. Chris Vaudrey will put a notice about the lunch on the website. Other details will be organised later.

There was a discussion of Special Services throughout the year. Barbara Thomson and Ruth Sibson undertake to publicise these when they arise. The Chaplain commented that the various rotas do not take most Special Days into

account. It was thought that it would be quite difficult for Rota organisers of readers, for instance, to organise large batches of readers for special occasions. For the moment the Chaplain will continue to do this. Chris Vaudrey pointed out that the website set-up allows for Sunday rotas only, except for Christmas Day. Further thought on this whole subject is required.

7. Treasurer's Report

Barbara Thomson handed out December's monthly financial report in the absence of the Treasurer (on file). The Treasurer remains broadly content with the state of Church Finances.

8. "Stewardship Campaign"

The Chaplain has received 35 response papers about half of which demonstrate pessimism about the campaign's plans and ideas. Those who felt positive did not comment, but the naysayers were very articulate. There is a general lack of vision. A sample comment stated that the Church should stay small because so few people do things. This does not augur well for recruitment of a new priest. The Chaplain will formulate a response and the Council will talk further at the next meeting (ACTION POINT).

Less depressingly, the Chaplain says that there are still other ways of

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bringing about change. We might be able to use the second salary for a lay pastoral person who already lives in Luxembourg, for instance.

9. Charities Committee

Cheques have been sent out for the 2004 distribution of Charities funds to the following: Tear Fund, Heartbeat, the Cardinal Hume Centre (homeless), Sundowns, Connection at St Martin's Appeals Office (homeless), Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte, Christian Aid, C.H.A.S. (Scottish hospice), and C.M.S. Ireland. Funds have been set aside for a South African charity of which Conrad Schiel is getting further details.

The congregation has responded well to requests for good causes. Roderick Dunnett will present a Charities report at the AGM, at which time he will also announce an open Charities meeting to discuss policy issues etc. Ideally this will take place during Lent, possibly planned around a lunch or supper. He will

also do an accompanying article for the Konvikt.

10. A G M: to be held on the 15th March 2005

There will be 2 vacancies on the Church Council to be filled at the 2004 AGM. Anthea MacDonald has served 3 years, and there is an existing vacancy as well. Barbara Thomson, Catherine Allen, Chris Vaudrey and Roderick Dunnett are the regular members with time left to serve.

11. Any Other Business

Catherine Allen asked if Steve McCarthy might invite Church members to join the Roman Catholics in an ecumenical prayer group. The meeting was very enthusiastic about this.



We Wish You a Merry

How can it be the end of January? Or if you received this copy of the Konvikt late the beginning of Summer?

I have never known a Christmas pass so quickly not only from a commercial point of view, but from a church point of view. I think I saw the Christmas tree three times and one of those was at choir practice, but wasn't it nicely dressed. I don't remember the crib and it certainly wasn't blessed or visited by the three kings, did we celebrate epiphany?

No as most of you know I take my carol singing both very seriously and at the same time enjoy my "Dreaming of a White Christmas" so I begin singing Christmas music in Early November. Well doesn't everyone?

Anyway to make my point I think the ESCC should look seriously at the way it celebrates Christmas and ask the biggest question why shouldn't advent be the build up to Christmas in a religious way as well as in a commercial way. In Luxembourg there is a traditional exodus either to the

UK and family, points significantly warmer or to the ski slopes. Therefore why shouldn't we take a leaf out of the orthodox litany or apply it in reverse that is let's celebrate Christmas in 2005 starting on Advent 2 or Pre-Christmas 1. Let the choir sing a 9 lessons and carols, let the Sunday School sing Little Donkey at the Family Carol service, then let the Midnight Communion and Christmas Morning be full of Carols to the traditional tunes plus descants where appropriate.

I believe that Christmas is the church's biggest PR exercise, I think they call it outreach. So getting it right means spreading the word to a wider audience, even if they only come on high days and holidays. We can't all be disciples or apostles but spreading the gospel can be achieved in all sorts of ways.

Fa la la la

Stuart

Ed's note and apology

A huge apology from me goes out for the delay of publishing the Church Charity Fair quiz results, this was an oversight on my part, and probably should have been in the Konvikt 2 issues ago.....you can find the questions and answers on page 25 of this issue of "The Konvikt."

Becky Ray.

How the Chaplaincy gives to Charities

It is widely understood that as a Chaplaincy we donate money to charities. However not so many people know how the decision process relating to this important issue is managed. This article is adapted from a recent report to the Chaplaincy Council on the policy background to our charitable giving.

Charities policy is proposed by the Charities Sub-Committee, which is appointed by, and reports to, the Chaplaincy Council. The Sub-Committee also proposes specific donations from the Chaplaincy's charities funds, notably those made available from the General Fund. The Chaplaincy Council may decide to consult the Sub-Committee on donations resulting from specific events, such as the proceeds of the Advent collection.

Charitable donations from the General Fund are made on an annual basis. Each year the Chaplaincy Council, in line with any relevant decisions of the AGM, agrees an amount for distribution. The Charities Sub-Committee then recommends donations approximately totalling this amount. Details of these

donations, and an indication of how they were chosen, are provided in a report to the following AGM.

Around 1990, the Chaplaincy Council approved what it called a "rolling programme", under which the intention was to support a limited number of organisations and/or projects over several consecutive years, not necessarily all starting at the same time or lasting for the same period. The objective was to develop relationships with the organisations chosen, whilst promoting Chaplaincy members' interest in their work. At the same time it was agreed that we should aim at an appropriate geographical distribution. On this basis the Charities Sub-Committee took as a guideline that organisations/projects could be spread across some or all of:

- (a) Africa;
- (b) Asia and/or Latin America;
- (c) the UK;
- (d) North America;
- (e) Luxembourg;
- (f) the rest of Europe.

Chaplaincy members are encouraged to submit to the Charities Sub-Committee their suggestions for recipients of donations from the General Fund; in practice this has

How the Chaplaincy gives to Charities

generally taken place in the later part of the calendar year, since only at this stage is the amount available determined. This has been a constant feature since at least the 1980's. However in 1998 the Church Fair Committee asked that some major recipients of charities funds be identified before the Church Fair. These could then be mentioned on the publicity for the Fair, reinforcing the message that the aim of the Fair was to generate funds for charity, not for the Chaplaincy itself. Each year since then, we have identified 3 main charities in advance of the Fair and these have received c. 60% of the total forecast amount available. The remainder, once the amount is known, is then distributed based on members' suggestions.

Since 1998, the 3 main charities chosen have always been Christian Aid, TEAR Fund and a Luxembourgish charity. The Chaplaincy has consistently requested Christian Aid to allocate its donation to its work amongst refugees in Burundi following the conflicts in central Africa in the mid-1990's.

The 2003 AGM agreed that in future the amount available for charitable donations from General Funds should be 10% of total Chaplaincy income (excepting certain earmarked income) rather than the net proceeds of the Church Fair as had previously been the case.

At the Chaplaincy Council meeting of November 2004, the Chaplain asked that the Charities Sub-Committee consider regular support for some form of missionary work, so that the Chaplaincy could form a medium- or long-term relationship with a missionary or group of missionaries in the field. However the practical details of this still need to be worked out.

Finally, the Chairmanship of the Charities Sub-committee has now passed to Roderick Dunnett. Roderick has his own ideas about how we should manage this important aspect of our Chaplaincy's life and intends to share them through an article in this magazine when he feels ready.

Simon Norcross

NOTICES

Faith Connections

How does what we *claim* to believe connect with the life we *actually* live ?

A series of five study sessions for Lent.

All meetings at the Vicarage
89 Rue de Muhlenbach Luxembourg tel 43 95 93

1. Life or lifestyle ? What is religion actually about ?
8pm Sunday 13th Feb and Wed 16th Feb
2. Finding faith – a burden or a resource?
8pm Sunday 20th Feb and Wed 24th Feb
3. Doing it by The Book? How do we read the Bible?
8pm Sunday 27th Feb and Wed 2nd March
4. What's so special about Jesus?
8pm Sunday 6th March and Wed 9 March
5. Stepping into the future – death and resurrection
8pm Sunday 13th March and Wed 16th March



Easter Praying

Five Tuesdays, during Lent, 10am – 11am
in The Vicarage,
89 rue de Muhlenbach

A time of preparation for Easter spent in reflective
meditation and silent prayer open to God and to each other.
Focus of meditation will be the characters
in the Passion stories.

Please let Joan Lyon know if you are interested.
Tel: 43 95 93 or email to joan.lyon@anglican.lu

Tuesdays Feb 15,th & 22nd, March 1st, 8th & 15th

A Prayer

A Prayer for the Victims of the Asian Disaster

Heavenly Father

You made the heavens and the earth, there is no place beyond your reach.

You are with us in Jesus Christ, there is no journey which you have not travelled with us

You send the Spirit, the Comforter, there are no people beyond your care.

We hold to your care and safe keeping all those who have died or who are missing, families who hope for news of their loved ones, all those who have lost their homes and livelihoods, all who are involved in the rescue and care of victims and for the rebuilding of lives and communities

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.



What is a Lent Lunch?

Lent is the six week period leading up to Easter – a time of reflection, penitence and preparation. One way for churches to acknowledge the season of Lent is to hold what's called a Lent Lunch or a series of Lent Lunches. Many people decide to have a Lenten discipline in relation to what they eat and drink – we can do this at a Lent lunch while also giving to others who have even less to eat.

This is a meal of very simple fare, soup, bread and cheese. One lunch per week is hosted by a different member of the congregation during the period of Lent and other members and friends are free to attend whichever or however many lunches they would like. They make a donation of the cost of a lunch in a nice restaurant or even in your

office canteen would cost.

The money raised normally goes towards the Bishop's Lent Appeal and details of this will be available shortly.

These have been well supported in previous years and it would be good to invite as many people as possible. So if you would like to come, whether as a first timer or as a regular, please, this year, invite a friend, preferably someone not connected to our congregation. Most of us have lunch on most days of the week – so think about joining in as part of your approach to Lent. The only thing you need to do is phone or email the host(ess) for that week and tell them that you are coming – if not, you may need to fast rather than just eat simply.

Time: 12.30 start

Date	Hostess	Address	Phone no.	Email
Wednesday 16 Feb	Barbara Thomson	145 rue de Reckenthal	25 30 37	thomson@pt.lu
Monday 21 Feb	Linda Comfort	46 Montee Willy Goergen Steinsel	33 20 92	lindacomfort@internet.lu
Monday 28 Feb	Jennifer Schofield	40 Avenue Gaston Diderich	26 25 84 77	schofieldres@vo.lu
Tuesday 8 March	Liz Alexander	99 route de Luxembourg	33 30 69	alexands@pt.lu
Thursday 17 March	Bea Murphy	31 rue de la Syre, Uebersyren	35 64 91	bmurphy@pt.lu

A Landmark Service

Sunday 23rd January 2005 was an important day in the life of the Church in Luxembourg. Fr Eamonn Breslin and the Rev'd Chris Lyon concelebrated the Eucharist at the Hollerich Roman Catholic Mass. Fr Breslin's invitation to Chris to preach the homily in this Week of Christian Unity was not in itself unusual, but for the two priests to say the Eucharistic Prayer antiphonally and, partly, in unison was as rare as it was uplifting. Many of us in Luxembourg are partners in mixed marriages who see true Christian unity as the only logical goal in a divided world. It warms the heart to see Ecumenism played out at ground level even if the Church hierarchies lag behind.

Chris Lyon preached that the peoples of all Christian churches are united by the way of the Cross - that our unshakeable faith in the way of Christ must lead us together into the future. Though we can be distracted by divergent customs and the practical necessities of modern life, this is the core of our common faith. Unity is the only true and logical outcome.

We hope that this Ecumenical service was just the first of many similar occasions. As an Anglican guest I felt warmly welcomed by Fr Breslin and his congregation, as well as gladdened and inspired by the shared Eucharist.

Catherine Allen



Readings for Easter Day Sunday 27th March, Reading I, Acts 10.34-43

34 Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;

40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,

41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Reading No. 2 - Matthew 28.1-10

1 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

5 But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

6 He is not here; for he has been

raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.'

8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

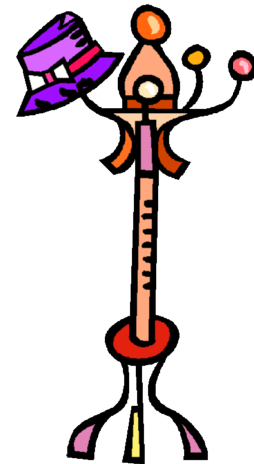
10 Then Jesus said to them, Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Solution and Winner of the quiz in Aid of the Summer Fete

Many thanks to everybody who contributed towards the proceeds of almost €600 for this year's quiz in aid of the Charities Fair organised by the ESCC this summer. Also many thanks to everybody who helped with the selling of the quiz.

The prepared solution was as follows :

Question	Answer
1. Hunter	Deerstalker
2. Worn at Easter	Bonnet
3. Found in Central America	Panama
4. Sport man	Bowler
5. Associated with Tommy Cooper	Fez
6. Military Hat	Shako
7. Limit	Cap
8. Famous Football Manager	Busby
9. Fodder	Forage
10. Associated with Long John Silver	Tricorne
11. Takes the Biscuit	Glengarry
12. Pike	Kepi
13. Almost 39 inches	Mitre
14. Associated with Fred Astaire	Top hat
15. Found in Scotland	Balmoral
16. Good enough to eat	Beret
17. Directional hat	Sou'wester
18. Let it be, my boy	Stetson
19. Associated with Al Capone	Fedora
20. Yachtsman	Boater
21. Worn by the pupil in the corner	Dunce hat
22. Associated with George du Maurier	Trilby
23. Procul Harem song	Homburg
24. For carrying cement?	Mortar-board
25. Found at the bedside?	Pill box



By the deadline 33 answers had been received. However there was nobody who submitted an answer which coincided exactly with the above solution. the winner having three "wrong" answers.

Despite considerable overseas opposition the coveted title of winner has returned to Luxembourg in the shape of Bryan Rose who has received the prize of a gift voucher for Chapter I. Warm congratulations to Bryan.

Standing Order Form for Monthly Donations

To :
.....
.....

With effect from the.....
And thereafter on theday of each month
Please pay the sum of **EUR**.....to the credit of the
BGLL current account N°:

IBAN LU12 0030 7313 9549 0000

Of the English Speaking Church Community in Luxembourg a.s.b.l

The payment instruction should bear the description
“Monthly Donation”

**Please note that this standing order instructions cancels
any previous orders in favour of the above-mentioned
beneficiary and remains in force until further notice.**

Name.....
(block capitals)
Account N°.....

Address.....
.....
.....
.....

Signature.....

Date.....

The church, in common with other organisations, finds it much
easier to budget when it knows how much money is coming in
regularly. Paying by standing order helps enormously.
If you would like further details about the church finances, ask the
Treasurer, Campbell Thomson .Tel: 25 30 37

Church Officials

Charities	Simon Norcross	33 23 25
Church Charity Fair	Tarquin Crouch.....	26 31 19 68
Sunday School & Junior Church	Anthea MacDonald	43 51 08
Music & Choir	Liz Turner	77 07 44
Junior Choir	Edward Seymour	35 90 97
Crèche	Anna Vaudrey.....	23 63 00 35
Coffee	Carole Vlachavas.....	43 84 25
Readers 11 am	Candy Morrison	26 20 28 47
Readers 10 am	Richard Deeley	33 77 87
Ecumenical Representative	John Overstall	33 96 71
Intercessions	Catherine Allen.....	33 34 57
Flowers	Liz Alexander.....	33 30 69
Child Protection Officer	Hilary Cole.....	78 91 84
Konvikt Editor	Rebecca Ray-Timmins	26 09 48 26
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Anthea Macdonald 43 51 08
Christopher Vaudrey..... 23 63 00 35

Secretary

Catherine Allen..... 33 34 57

Archidiaconal Representatives

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Moira Hogg..... 34 70 42

Churchwardens

Simon Norcross..... 33 23 25
Barbara Thomson 25 30 37

Treasurer

Campbell Thomson 25 30 37

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The English Speaking Church Community in Luxembourg
BGLL account N°:

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