

The Konvikt

February / March 2009



The magazine of the
Anglican Church of Luxembourg



Dear Friends,

I keep talking to people who have a great attachment to the Church and find a deep meaning in worship but who somehow aren't quite sure what they believe, or even whether they believe, but don't like to ask too many questions.

I'm never sure whether that's because they don't want to appear ignorant of very basic things, or because they aren't sure quite where to begin, or because they are scared that an answer might shake their already wobbly faith, or simply because they're not really interested?

Whatever the reason, I'm struck by a general lack of confidence.

Faith is much more about what's going on in this world, and about how God is at work within it, than it is about heaven. Heaven can wait, we have to live *now*. Faith is a resource for life. Right now, in the midst of the biggest economic crisis since the 1930s, and 150 years after Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* was published, which has changed our understanding of creation, it seems to me that a more confident faith in God would be useful.

This Lent I am presenting a course which deals with some basic questions about Christian faith, in a way which I'm sure will be new and hopefully interesting. The course is tailor made for people in our congregation, which means you. You can read about it on page 6 of this issue.

Our AGM takes place on Monday 9th March when Barbara Thomson and Simon Norcross will be stepping down after six years of being Church-wardens. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for undertaking this role so successfully and with such good grace in a period when our congregation has gone through a number of important developments. In every thing that we have done Simon and Barbara have been actively involved and immensely supportive. This congregation has been

really blessed in its choices of Churchwardens over the years. As I write this it seems that we will have two new nominations for the two positions, so I'm confident that a great tradition will continue.

God bless you in all that you do.

Chris Lyon

Faith in a time of global crisis

Almost nothing that has taken place on the world stage in the last two months could be interpreted as "Good News", except the inauguration of Barack Obama, and even he has been at pains to emphasise the difficulties that lie ahead for us all, globally, over the next few years.

There was Christmas, of course. We sang the carols rejoicing in the birth of our Saviour. Surely faith in Jesus gives us hope in this time of crisis?

Well, not necessarily. As Jesus himself is recorded as saying "Not all those who say to me "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 7.21).

One problem is that faith-based politics has been deeply flawed over the last few decades. Some politicians used their publicly stated allegiance to Christ as a badge of their personal sincerity, a shield against sharp questioning of their policies. Other leaders and groups make an appeal to traditional Christian teaching to reinforce respect for authority, forgetting that Jesus challenged and still challenges the way in which religious and secular authorities use their power.

In general there has been a confusing of private and public agendas. The modern, mistaken, western assumption is that religion is about the private belief and lifestyle of individuals, and Christian political action should be about placing these individual

lifestyle concerns, (often sexual), at the forefront of public politics.

Many people might want to reject this mistaken approach, but the question remains: can followers of Jesus say anything which might offer the world a viable way forward for our life together on this planet?

I believe we can. Of course there is always a real challenge about generating specific policies, and that's an area where some important and difficult political choices have to be debated in detail. Nevertheless we can usefully set out some general principles which follow from our commitment to Jesus and which can guide our decision making.

Here are five of them:

- What God offers is the future, not the past; resurrection not restoration. Any solution to our problems will involve important changes, not simply a return to how things used to be.
- The way to the future is the way of the cross; there will be no magic solution to our problems. This crisis happened partly because we have not looked at the true cost of our way of life.
- Part of that true cost means seeking justice in the world, without which there is no real peace. Justice, sometimes spoken of as righteousness, is the great theme which runs throughout the Bible. Charity is no substitute for justice.
- To pray for daily bread is to pray that we may live in a sustainable way; the consumer economy to which we are addicted today is killing our planet and runs totally counter to every strand of Jesus' teaching. This planet is not our possession.
- We believe that people find their identity through their relationships with others. Individuals are important, but we are called to live in solidarity with one another, treating our neighbours as we want to be treated ourselves. This is not just a matter of duties and responsibilities; it implies a shift in our culture. As Jesus points out in the parable of the Good Samaritan, (Luke 10.25-37) for "neighbour" read "stranger, foreigner, someone who is different".

These propositions might seem too bland to be useful. But they represent a direct challenge to the mindset of this age. Much of

our social and political culture evokes the past; its values and certainties, assumes continuous and unending progress in every field, focuses on the use of power rather than the search for justice, chooses the short term solution rather than the long term strategy and is geared towards satisfying the individual rather than serving the common good.

Most Westerners have been baptised as Christians but have never realised that there is more to Christianity than what they learned as a child. Perhaps that's not their fault, the Church has a habit of speaking to adults as if they were children and presenting its teaching as a package deal which is as difficult to question as it is to understand. No wonder so many people think that Darwin and doctrine are not compatible and that if Darwin was right (which he was) then Christianity is irrelevant. "God probably doesn't exist" say the adverts on London transport. What's your response to that?

Faith in Jesus, in his teaching and in his death and resurrection, is not a pious relic from another age to which we are somehow sentimentally attached. Christian faith has a rich intellectual and spiritual content which is hugely relevant for our age, just as it has been in every age. We need to rediscover it for ourselves, as a resource for living, through study, prayerful reflection and commitment.

Now, this Lent, could be a good time to begin.

Chris Lyon

Chronic poverty or sudden emergency – there is always a need.....

We are undoubtedly facing a time of economic change and often at these times, our immediate reaction is to pull in our belts, cut down on spending (especially after the Christmas splurges) and become more anxious. The trickle down effect of this can be that those in situations of either chronic or sudden emergency need find themselves forgotten.

The chaplains, as well as other people in the congregation, are made aware on a regular basis of situations of need within our church community. It is very useful for the chaplains to have some emergency funds available. This is not just for the beggars

whom we see on the streets to whom we may toss a few euros but for families in our community who face sudden medical bills, difficult housing situations or family breakdown which can rise to several hundreds of euros.

If you would like to help us meet some of these needs, please speak to Chris or Joan or put a donation in a sealed envelope marked "for the Chaplain" and put it into the collection bag during the offering at Sunday worship. We would like to build up some funds – please think about making this addition to your regular giving. It will be much appreciated and we will be surprised at how much we receive in return when we give from our hearts.

Chris and Joan Lyon

World Day of Prayer Service

*8pm on Friday 6 March in the German Speaking Protestant Church,
35 avenue Gaston Diderich, Merl*

All are welcome to this evening of prayer and celebration. The liturgy this year has been written by the women of Papua New Guinea where our Assistant Chaplain, Joan, spent 6½ years in the 1970s. She will be talking very briefly about her experiences of working there and showing some photographs of this beautiful country.

PNG is not on the tourist trail for many people but it has a fascinating culture, 800 languages, stunning landscape and the best mangoes in the world. Come and learn some more about somewhere which, although it couldn't be more different from Luxembourg in so many ways, has the common aim of integration of many different people. This is reflected in the theme for the World Day of Prayer this year –

"In Christ, we are many members, yet one body"

Retreat to the beautiful monastery at Orval in Belgium.....



What is a Retreat? It's a time which you set apart to spend time with God by yourself, away from your normal work and activities. It's time to unwind, relax, think, pray and discover more about your spiritual life and where you might be heading.

Making a retreat for the first time can be quite a daunting prospect. All that silence! What if I want to sleep all the time? Do I have to be thinking holy thoughts? Will I get bored? Will I get the giggles during the silent meals? The feedback from those who attended last year's retreat was overwhelmingly positive and some places have been booked already so this year's retreat is intended for those who have never been on retreat before as well as those who can't wait to do it again. We encourage you to take some time to care for your soul.

Places have been booked for the weekend of Friday 24 (late afternoon) – Sunday (afternoon) 26 April 2009 at the Trappist Cistercian Monastery at Orval in Belgium (about an hour's drive from Luxembourg). Their website is www.orval.be. It's a beautiful place with individual rooms, a very large chapel used by the monks for their daily offices and a smaller chapel which we may use for our own worship. There is a small oratory (quiet room for prayer), covered cloisters and a communal dining room. The monastery is surrounded by hectares of beautiful woodland and it has its own garden within the grounds in which retreatants may walk.

The retreat will be led by the Reverend Canon Brian Hardy (retired Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church) who is a very experienced retreat director and whom Chris knows well.

The weekend will offer a mixture of worship, addresses from the retreat leader, times of silence, mealtimes, time to sleep or walk or just be. Individual time to talk to Brian will be offered if desired. It is not a time to catch up on your paperwork or look through your holiday brochures.

Please speak to Joan Lyon (43 95 93 or office@anglican.lu) if you would like to find out more or book a place. Cost will be in the region of between 80-100 euros for the weekend. Registration forms are available from the Church Office or from our website (www.anglican.lu) – please send these in as soon as possible.

CONFIDENT AND QUESTIONING **A Study Course for Lent**

Faith is not the same as certainty: we will always have questions and sometimes we have doubts. As we begin to explore our understanding of our belief in God we discover that we have more and more questions to ask, but we generally also discover that our faith becomes more real and makes more sense, even though the answers to many of our questions are often surprising.

In the last two decades there have been many developments in Biblical scholarship, scientific discovery, ecumenical relationships and dialogue with other faiths. This five week course is designed to put us in touch with new thinking about old questions so that even though we can have no certainty in this world, we can have more confidence.

The course is open to everyone, but it is particularly designed for the many members of our congregation who have not taken part in a study course for many years or perhaps never before.

Dates and timing: 5 Sundays at 7.30pm, beginning
March 1st.

Venue to be arranged, depending on
numbers;
email office@anglican.lu to register your
interest

Course requirements; a willingness to ask questions and to
share in some discussion

Topics

How can we read the Bible? *One well known story, four different interpretations of the same passage; how can that work for us?*

How can we think theologically? *How can we make connections between what we do everyday and what we believe about God?*

How can we pray with confidence? *Discovering our deepest desires, and living with the answers that we are given; how does God make stuff happen?*

How can we relate to people of other faiths? *What's the difference between a different religion and idolatry? How can we have a dialogue with people of other faiths and stay true to the way of Jesus?*

How can we look to the future with hope? *When the world we know comes to an end how can we step into the new and unknown?*

Lent Appeal for

The Bungokho Rural Development Centre in Uganda

Each year our Chaplaincy runs a special appeal during the six weeks of Lent to support the Bishop's Lent Appeal. This year the Bishop has given us his blessing to continue to raise money for the project which we began to support last September for our fiftieth anniversary year.

Established in 1995 by an agency of the Anglican Church, the Bungokho Rural Development Centre (RDC) runs vocational training courses in important skills such as carpentry, masonry, tailoring and sustainable farming. In addition, a tree nursery, demonstration farm and children's pre-school nursery also operate on the same site.

The Centre is situated a few kilometres from Mbale in the east of Uganda, near the border with Kenya. Mbale district has a population of over 720,000 and the area is overwhelmingly rural. The Centre provides a training resource for 26 surrounding villages. Students are trained to a level which enables them to gain a government certificate in their skill, which most students achieve.

Bungokho Centre occupies just over six hectares of land and buildings, donated by a local woman. Workshops and other buildings have been added. The last original building, which houses the Director of the Centre, is being eaten by termites, has become unhealthy and is physically crumbling. It's vital for security and other reasons that the Centre has two staff

members living on site, so this house must be rebuilt as quickly as possible.

The likely cost of the new building will be at least 30,000€, which is an impossible sum for the Centre to raise from its own funds while it is also keeping all the courses running. We hope that in this Lent Appeal and throughout this anniversary year we can make a substantial donation to this vital part of the project infrastructure. For more information about Bungokho RDC visit

<http://www.bungokhordc.com/>

Could you host a Lent Lunch?

Over the last few years various people in the congregation have hosted a Lent Lunch once a week during the season of Lent. We then wondered – why only once a week? People usually have lunch every day. So we are inviting you to host a Lent lunch for your friends (particularly those outside our church community) on any day of the week – weekends might be much easier for some than a mid-week get-together. You might even find that you are both host for your own gathering as well as guest at someone else's. Lent 2009 runs from Ash Wednesday (25 Feb) till Thursday 9 April.

This is a special effort to raise money for our Lent appeal which this year is going towards the provision of staff housing which is urgently needed in Bungokho, a rural development centre in Uganda. Some money was raised during our 50th on page 7.

So please read on.....

What is a Lent Lunch?

This is a simple meal of soup, bread or crackers, cheese and possibly, some fruit – nothing elaborate.

Why hold a Lent Lunch?

- To empathise in a very small way with those who have little to eat
- To raise money for a worthwhile charitable project. This year's project is the **Bungokho Rural Development Centre in Uganda**.
- To get together with friends and/or people you don't yet know very well
- It's a way of doing something distinctive during Lent, the six weeks before Easter, with others.

What's the best time? Anytime during Lent, that is, between Ash Wednesday (25 Feb) and Thursday 9 April which suits you and your friends – weekday or weekend.

How many do I invite?

As many as your house can hold and you feel able to cater for! Share the catering – ask others to bring a pot of soup.

How do I invite them?

Invitation cards will be available at church or ask the church office (439593 or office@anglican.lu) to send you the invitation cards you need and fill in your details.

Will I need to say anything about the project for which we are raising money?

It would be great if you feel you can say something about this project but there will be leaflets available to tell you more and for your guests to take away.

How do I collect the donations?

Simply put out a basket marked "Bungokho appeal" on the table or at the door. Send a virement, marked "Bungokho appeal: Lent lunch" to the church account: L'Eglise Anglicane du Luxembourg BGLL LULL LU12 0030 7313 9549 0000

Who needs to know? Please let the Church Office know when you are having your lunch so that other people may join in and also if you need any help. Dates and host contact numbers and emails but not addresses will be posted on the church notice board.



Daily Reflections for Lent

A small book is on sale (at coffee time in the hall) for daily use during the season of Lent. It is called: "Daily Reflections for Lent: Not by Bread Alone" and has been written by Catharine Howard, former prioress of St Benedict's Monastery, St Joseph, Minnesota. The cost is 2 euros – please put money in box provided.

There are 15 copies available – if we run out, then I can order more directly from Church House Publishing in London but this can take up to a week to arrive in Luxembourg. Please buy your copy early. If there are none left and you would like a copy, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can place an order. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 25 February.

English-Speaking Church Community (Anglican Chaplaincy) Association sans but lucratif

Notice
of

Annual General Meeting

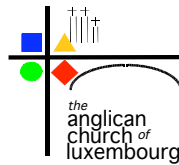
8.00 pm

Monday 9th March 2009 Marie -Thérèse,
Luxembourg

All whose names are entered into the Membership List of the ESCC asbl on the 22nd of February 2009 are entitled to vote at this AGM. The number of those entitled to vote is approximately 40.

For more information please speak to the Chaplain.

The ESCC asbl Accounts to the year end 31 December 2009, the minutes of last year's AGM, as well as nomination forms for the posts of member of the committee of the ESCC asbl, will be available in the church from Sunday 22nd February.2009



Sunday Services

(These will be held at the konvikt chapel)

9:30 am

Holy Communion (said)

11:00 am

Holy Communion (sung) with hymns and sermon.

During this service a crèche is provided.

There is Sunday School for all ages and Junior Church.

Tea, coffee and juice are served after the service.

6:30pm

Choral Evensong (usually 1st Sunday in month except January & August)

Special Services

Ash Wednesday

25 February 2009,

7:00pm

Service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
(no service at 12.30pm)

Mothering Sunday

22 March 2009,

11:00am

Family Service with Holy Communion

Notice
of
Annual General Meeting

8.00 pm

Monday 9th March 2009

Konvikt Centre 5 Avenue Marie Thérèse, Luxembourg

All whose names are entered into the Electoral Roll of the Anglican Church in Luxembourg on the 22nd of February 2009 are entitled to vote at this AGM. The number of those entitled to vote is approximately 170. See overleaf for more information, including an Electoral Roll enrolment form, and a form for voting by proxy.

The Chaplaincy Accounts to the year end 31 December 2008, the minutes of last year's AGM, as well as nomination forms for the posts of member of the Chaplaincy Council, and Churchwarden, will be available in the church from Sunday 22nd February 2009.

**We require two new members of Chaplaincy Council
and two new Churchwardens**

Two members of the Church Council, Ian Kent and Chris Vaudrey, will retire by rotation, and are ineligible at this AGM for re-election to the same post. We therefore require two new elected members of Council to serve a three year term.

The Churchwardens are elected annually. Simon Norcross and Barbara Thomson, first elected in 2003 have been elected for the maximum number of six years in succession. We therefore need to find two new Churchwardens.

The posts of Treasurer and Secretary are elected by the Council and filled from the membership of the Council. They may co-opt further members to fulfil these functions should this be necessary.

**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 Contact List, which is a list of everyone, including everyone who has returned the **Contact Form**, who wants to be connected in some way 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.. At present we have approximately 270 people on this list.

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 application form to be completed. The Roll numbers around 170 people

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

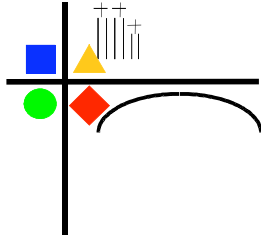
- A member of the Church of England or of a Church in Communion with the Church of England and resident within the parish (ie the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the surrounding territory)

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 who **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.

“Dual nationality”

Many people who worship in our congregation are from other Christian 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 Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Application for enrolment on the Chaplaincy Electoral Roll

Name		
Place and date of birth		
Nationality		
Profession		
Address		
Phone number	home	work
email	home	work

Tick below as necessary:

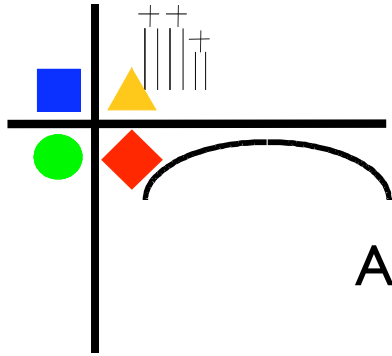
- I am baptized;
- I am a member of the Church of England, or a Church in communion therewith, whose name is entered on the electoral roll of a parish (or chaplaincy) in the Provinces of Canterbury or York;
- I am a member of the Church of England, or of a Church in communion therewith, and I have habitually attended public worship in this chaplaincy during the last six months;
- I am a member in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England that subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and I have habitually attended public worship in this chaplaincy during the last six months;
- I am over 16 years old

I declare that the above statements are true, and I apply to be enrolled on the Electoral Roll of the Anglican Church in Luxembourg

Signed

date

Please return this form to the church office by February 21st to be entitled to vote at the AGM



The Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Appointment of a proxy to vote at the Annual General Meeting

I,
(Name) _____

(Address)

am unable to attend the Annual General meeting on March 9th 2009
and so

I authorise (Name)

(Address)

to vote on my behalf.

Signed _____ at (place) _____ date _____

Please return this form to the church office by Monday 9th March 2009.

BOOKS ARE NOT ABSOLUTELY DEAD.....

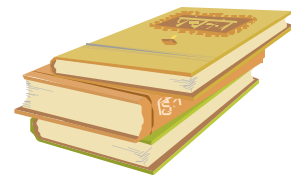
...said John Milton, although one of the participants in a conversation I heard on New Year's Eve seemed to think that they are moribund.

In the hope of maintaining a lively interest in books among our congregation, I propose to start a library. The idea came to me when I was collecting for the Church Fair bookstall. Pam Lyon had very kindly invited me to help myself to a large portion of Clive's library. Clive had a very wide range of interests, and, as I was sorting through the books (and resisting the temptation to browse!) it occurred to me that his collection of writings on religion and philosophy could form the nucleus of a church library. Pam generously assented to this idea.

We have suitable shelving for a small collection, which would be made available for borrowing during coffee after the service. However, we would like to add to the original and to that end, I am asking all of you to contribute books which you think may be of interest to a 21st century congregation. These will include religion (not necessarily Christian) and philosophy, of course, but may also be about, for example, climate change, green issues or politics. (Thrillers and romances should be saved for this year's Church Fair.)

Please call or email me if you have any books to offer. They can be left at the back of the chapel, or I may be able to collect them.

Barbara Thomson
Phone : 253037
Email : Thomson@pt.lu



Thank you to Kate Fidler and Deborah Chamier for their help with the Christmas flower decorations.

Recent change to the flower rota :-

Yvonne Hay will do Feb 8th and Sadie Young will do June 28th.

Easter Sunday is April 12th and if you're here that weekend please give me a call to help arrange the flowers in church.

Liz Alexander

Energy, CO2, Carbon Footprints, etc. How to Avoid Feeling Guilty - and Save Money!"

Welcome to the third of our four article series.

Having looked at the bigger picture in the first two articles, I am now going to get personal. This article and the next will be about what you can do everyday to cut your own carbon footprint. Big-ticket items like houses will have to wait; this article will focus on you and your home. However, before getting down to details, I want to tell you about the 4-Rs. These form a hierarchy which should become a reflex whenever you consider an action or spend money. Understanding this hierarchy will

make the later suggestions easier to understand. When most people hear the words environment, carbon footprint, and so on, they immediately think of recycling. But recycling is actually near the bottom of the hierarchy. What we need to do is focus our thoughts and actions at the top of the hierarchy:

Reduce - Use less. Without question, this will have the biggest impact on your carbon footprint. It sounds so simple, but it will often mean making difficult decisions. You prefer product A, but product B comes with much less unnecessary packaging. Shirt C is ready to wear, but you would prefer shirt D and that would mean running the washing machine with a small load. You prefer out-of-season fruits, but that means transporting them thousands of kilometres.

Reuse - Whenever possible you should never use something just once - which means avoiding disposable products, and buying re-usable goods whenever possible. However, this is not a clear cut issue. Obviously, if the re-use does not involve additional work it makes sense to reuse. However, if there are processes involved in making the product ready for re-use then there may be a carbon footprint impact. A refillable bottle will last 20 trips but may cost more to make in the first place, be heavier and so more expensive to transport, and need cleaning before being refilled. This might call for more energy than a one-way glass bottle which gets recycled. Generally speaking it will not, but the calculation still has to be made.

Recycle - Recycle as much as possible. Almost everything can, and should, be recycled. But with two caveats. Firstly, be careful with the waste stream. Some materials are more recyclable than others. Plastic is not just plastic, and a biodegradable plastic which gets recycled into sewer pipe could have unfortunate consequences down the line. Secondly, don't put more energy into taking the material to be recycled than will be saved in the recycling. So, only go to the Superdreckskskëscht when you have a full carload, and only take bottles to the bottle bank if you are going to be passing anyway.

There has been UK press coverage of waste mountains being created because processors in the Far East have stopped buying our used plastic bags, etc. Please don't be tempted to stop recycling. Piles of bales of plastic may look as if they are going to waste - but they are not going anywhere. They are still a resource for the future, and the alternative is to send them to landfill which has a greater negative economic and environmental impact in the long term.

Recover - The Cinderella option; literally. Not everything can be recycled, but sending waste to a landfill site is the worst possible option. Most waste still has an energy content, so it seems obvious to send it to an incinerator. However, a simple incinerator just saves on landfill. Incinerators should be part of a wider energy plan, with the energy being recovered and used, for example, for district heating

"Keeping the Home Fires Burning?"

No, don't keep the home fires burning! Open fires are remarkably inefficient and the low combustion temperature means that the

fumes and smoke can contain some thoroughly nasty tars and acids. Stoves are better, but only if you run them flat out for an hour on start-up.

Heating Turn off the heating if you are away for more than a couple of days. Get your boiler serviced and check its efficiency against a new one. It is on the certificate, but replacement isn't usually necessary. Consider thermostatic valves on the radiators - so that you can set each room to the temperatures they need. If you have unused rooms, turn the radiator right down and close the door. Depending on the system, switch off the heating at night or set to a background heat setting. Wear a jersey in the house, rather than shirt sleeves. Close off the chimneys on open fires. Keep the house ventilated, but keep windows closed where possible. Use curtains and blinds to reduce the heat loss through windows in cold weather.

Lighting Don't switch the lights on unless you need them - and remember to switch them off if you are not in the room. Install low-energy light bulbs - but remember that they should still be switched off. You may need new light fittings (they don't like dimmers and the bulbs are a different shape), and have to come to terms with the different type of light they give off, but don't beat yourself up over it. Better to switch conventional bulbs off than to leave low-energy bulbs on.

Water Drink tap water, not mineral water. Tap water in Luxembourg, apart from the very rare occasion, will provide water that is at least as safe, palatable and healthy as bottled mineral water. Bottled water is a luxury good with a large carbon footprint. It is not one of life's necessities. Watering your garden with tap water should be a last resort, not standard practice. Aim for a garden which requires minimal watering, and if you must water your plants then use stored rainwater. Butts are readily available, along with installation kits. Don't wash your car at home. Use a carwash, where the water is filtered and reused. It is also better for the paintwork. If you are up to it, only flush your toilets once or twice a day. "Yellow? That's mellow. Brown? flush it down." Only run dishwashers and washing machines when there is a full load, and at lowest/shortest setting consistent with cleanliness.

Food Buy local and in season. Learn to work with fresh produce. Eat less meat and dairy products. Giving up meat can have the same carbon footprint effect as giving up driving your car. However, care is needed here. New Zealand lamb is shipped halfway across the world but has a lower carbon footprint than English lamb - because of the energy intensive feedstuffs and supplements fed to English sheep. Don't buy food "just in case" and, of course, don't shop when you are hungry. Seriously, the amount of food that is thrown out by UK households could feed a sub-Saharan country, not just keep it from starvation.

The 4-Rs apply when you buy your household goods as well. Don't buy bigger, more complicated consumer goods than you actually need, and don't buy them until you have had a full working life from them. That means calling up the repairman, not the webpage of an on-line supplier. Finally, and going back to my first article, I said that the introduction of bio-fuels were not causing either world hunger or the then high current

food prices. Well, guess what. We still have world hunger, and its getting worse. We have even more bio-fuel plants coming on-stream. However, Corn futures have fallen back to their long-term levels: about half what they were earlier in the year.

My walk, my journey, my life walking with God...
Weekly thoughts...the inspirational lane...

Browse website **www.GodetMoi.com** for inspirational articles published by Abi Osinuga.

FIRST SUNDAY

In October of last year, a small group from the church met with the Chaplains and the Director of Music, Alan Carlisle, and set out on a new initiative to bring some slightly more contemporary music into the church on the first Sunday morning of each month. Having mused and ruminated at length, the group named itself "First Sunday" - a triumph for creative thinking, I believe.

When setting out to plan the music, we decided that we wanted to provide music which was contemporary, yet accessible to as much of the church's existing congregation as possible. We also stated that we wanted to incorporate different musical styles; be it modern "worship" songs, international music, Taize or music suited to the church's younger congregation. We have also tried to ensure that the choices of music have linked in with the themes of the services, and as a minimum, that they have not detracted from them.

We now come to a stage where we would like to open the group's membership up and also to receive any suggestions on how the music might be enhanced. I would therefore very much like you to contact me at thegrococks@yahoo.co.uk if you would either like to apply to join the group, or if you have anything to propose in terms of musical content and style.

I look forward to hearing from you and maybe even seeing you stood with the group on a "First Sunday".

Jonathan Grocock

Adieus to Charmaine Cole who has been co-editor of the Konvikt since Jan 2007 but is now stepping down.

Many thanks for your help and contribution with the Konvikt, Charmaine - your input was much appreciated.
