



Dear Friends,

The Chaplaincy Council, at an all-day meeting on Saturday 1 October, unanimously decided, for a trial period, to move our Sunday services from the Konvikt Centre to the Church of the Holy Spirit in Luxembourg-Cents. This trial period will be from Sunday 6 November until Sunday 26 February 2017. Our Bishop, the Rt Revd Robert Innes, has been kept informed at every stage of our decision-making process, and we have consulted the Acting Archdeacon and Bishop's Chaplain Canon Meurig Williams who has supported our decisions.

Although this announcement may come as a surprise to many of our members, the issue of moving from the Konvikt Chapel has been regularly discussed and researched within our Church for around 25 years, and especially in the last few years, when it became clear that the Catholic authorities planned to redevelop the entire site. At the end of August new legislation was introduced by the Government of Luxembourg which is likely to take effect in January, which makes the issue even more urgent for us and for the Catholic Church. It would have been good to have had more time to plan and prepare for these developments, but unlike in other church/state matters we were not consulted or specially informed about these developments. When it realized the urgency and complexity of all the elements before us, the Church Council decided on this trial period as soon as practically possible.

The times of services in this trial period will remain the same, and Cents parish church is easily accessed by public transport—bus or train—in time for services at 9.30 and 11.00¹. There is plenty of street parking immediately next to the church. The Catholic congregation at Cents holds no services on Sundays, but they do have a mass on Saturday evenings.

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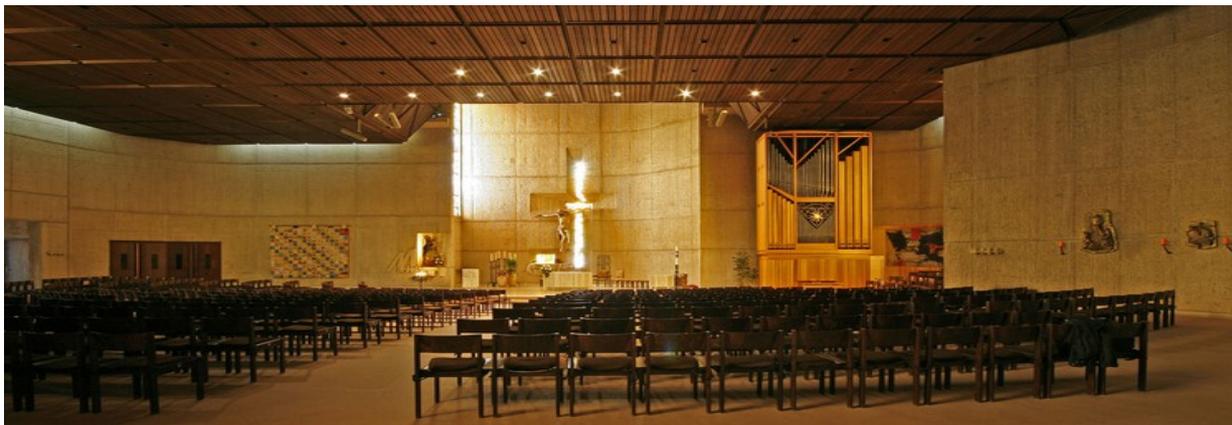
¹ (For further details on finding Cents Church, please see p. 20—*Ed.*)



We are moving for a trial period, in the most difficult period of the Church's year, when we have several large-scale services and events, including Remembrance Sunday, Christingle and Christmas, which will enable us to test as fully as possible whether the church at Cents suits our needs. We have already experienced the building on a grand occasion—the Te Deum service last June—but that was in the summer; our experience of winter could be very different.

It is possible, perhaps even probable, that we may not return to the Konvikt centre at the end of February, but this is NOT a foregone conclusion. There have been many things which have happened recently which seem to be providentially smoothing our path and nudging us in this direction. We have also had very friendly and positive encouragement from the Roman Catholic authorities, including Archbishop Hollerich, to make this move, and we have had very helpful preliminary discussions with them about this. However, there are many factors to consider, and we really do have to experience and test out how it will be for us before the

Church Council, Chaplain and Bishop make a final decision from our side, and of course the Catholic authorities, including the Archbishop and the Kierchfabrik of Cents, will also have their own decision-making process.



Within our own church, the Church Council, Chaplain and Bishop make the final decisions on all matters. But this is a period of genuine experiment and consultation. We will have a congregational meeting in Cents towards the end of January, and this meeting will play a large part in informing and shaping the final decision. We intend to consult experts within our congregation on the state of the building in advance of this meeting.

At the start of every Church Council meeting we give God thanks for calling us into the fellowship and service of the Church, and we pray that we may think clearly, speak charitably, listen humbly, decide effectively, and be willing to put our decisions into action, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, through Jesus our Lord. My hope is that you can make this your prayer too, as we move together into this new, experimental, venture.

Very best wishes,
Chris Lyon.

Announcements

BAPTISMS

19 July Ali Ibrahim

16 October Benjamin Edward Kent

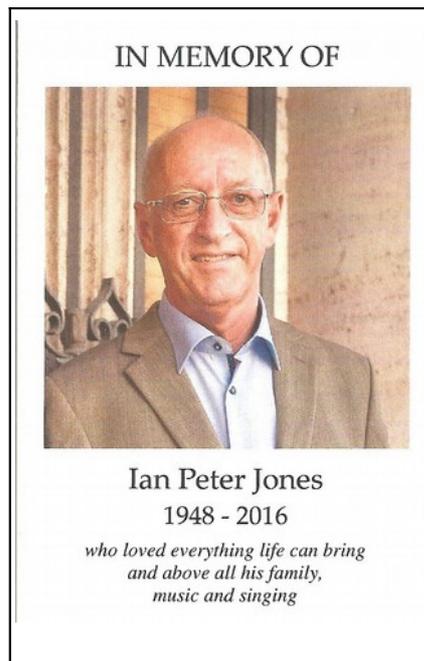
BLESSING OF MARRIAGES

30 July Adrienne Scholten and Thomas Somassa

27 August Joanna Smit and Peter Goves

FUNERAL

10 October Christian Ghelfi



Autumn cover photo

Thanks to Kristin Roberts for this edition's picture, from the Steinsel Apple Festival.

News from the Church Council

At its July 2016 meeting the Council heard a report from the newly formed Fun and Fundraising Group outlining some of the ideas put forward at its initial meeting: the first event would be a charity treasure hunt and picnic on 24 September. The Council also reviewed how well the Te Deum service held on 26 June in Cents church had gone and, following on from that, discussed the pros and cons of moving to that church for the long term. The Chaplain and Churchwardens were authorised to explore this possibility.

In September, after the summer break, it was again 'business as usual' for the Council, with a lengthy agenda to tackle. It welcomed the news that the sale of the Vicarage had finally been completed for a good price. The Treasurer in particular was pleased to report that the Church had been able to pay off its bank loan, make a deposit on the new office flat and earmark funds to meet the instalments due in the coming months on that flat. The Church was also looking into the possibility of having some of the accounting work done by a fiduciaire. Further work on procedures was discussed in connection with the safeguarding of vital documents. Following the departure of Andy Markey, Evelyn Sweerts had taken over the task of running Junior Church and the Youth Group. Further events were being planned by the Fun and Fundraising Group, and organisers for the Harvest lunch and the Christmas lunch had been found.

On Saturday 1 October the Council held an 'Away Day' – with the emphasis not so much on the 'Away' (as it took place in Centre Jean XXIII where the Council in any case has its meetings) and more on the 'Day', as the meeting lasted all day with lunch laid on by the Centre. This get-together was devoted to planning for the next five years, during which time the Chaplain will be retiring. There was broad discussion of a number of issues arising from this, including the need for future recruitment, as well as various factors affecting how our Church might look in a few years' time. All things considered, the Council agreed to the proposal to move to the church in Cents for a three-month trial period.

Tania Buhr

For more details, please see the minutes of the Church Council's monthly meetings on the Church website: visit anglican.lu / Links & Documents / Meeting Minutes & Reports, and scroll down to 'Church Council'.



Small Groups

In His lifetime, Jesus ministered to great numbers of people—10,000 or more at a time, a sea of humanity gathered on hillsides and sandy beaches. However, He spent most of His time with a small number of hand-picked devotees.

The small group of twelve who Jesus chose as His disciples came from a variety of occupations that included fishermen, a tax collector, a politician, a bookkeeper, and several businessmen. These men varied greatly in temperament as well. Peter was bold and belligerent, John quiet and affectionate. Thomas was pragmatic and methodical, while Judas was sneaky and underhanded. Jesus clearly appreciated the power of a small, diverse group. We should too.

Large gatherings are great for instruction and inspiration, but a small group is where the real work is done.

- Small groups challenge our comfort zones;
- provide opportunities to be heard;
- encourage commitment to other individuals;
- teach the need for transparency and accountability;
- and challenge us to own our beliefs in the midst of diverse viewpoints.

With these concepts in mind, here are some basics that can help you make your small group a success:

1. Small groups are small.

When the group grows to more than 15, the small group advantage is lost. It's time to branch out.

2. Small groups work best in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

Choose a host and/or hostess who truly enjoys hospitality. Don't worry about finding the 'perfect' home. People tend to feel most comfortable in a home that feels inviting, lived in—like their own. When group members see the host or hostess getting comfortable on the floor or in their favourite chair, they will likely feel they can get comfortable as well.

3. Small groups require a facilitator rather than an instructor.

A good facilitator knows how to present a simple issue, ignite discussion, encourage input from less assertive individuals, steer the group away from generalizations and judgements. This can be tough until group members get to know and trust one another. As the group comes together over the first weeks, emphasize fellowship, keep the atmosphere light, and have fun together.

4. Small groups are enhanced by diversity.

This will happen naturally if you let it. It's just good to know that it's usually not necessary to try to limit your group based on age, gender, or some other variable. Having a grandfather and a teenager in the same group, for example, has been known to lead to wonderful and unexpected outcomes. Getting to know a person one-on-one is a great way to break mindsets and stereotypes. So it's best to relax and let your group find its own dynamic.

5. Small groups require a certain level of discretion.

Depending on the nature of the group, some may call for a high level of confidentiality. But for most, the facilitator should request as much discretion as it takes to make people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions.

When it comes to small groups, a little planning goes a long way. Once everyone is comfortable with the boundaries, these groups require little maintenance while spawning meaningful relationships, stimulating mental and spiritual growth, and providing emotional support. These groups can also become a rich source of just plain fun.

Mothers' Prayers is one such group. It is a group of mothers of all ages who meet every Thursday at 10am to pray for their children. Email me at ranisubaiya@yahoo.com, if you would like to join us or just if you want more information about the group.

Stay blessed,
Rani Roloff

Fruitfulness

It's hard work, being fruitful. Fruitfulness can mean aching backs, split nails and a sense of relief that it is, at last, over. Till next time!

But it's so much better if someone else recognises the hard work and enjoys the fruits.

And I am the one who enjoyed the fruits of all the hard work put in recently for the All-Age service, at the beginning of October. From the choice of songs to the deep simplicity of the intercession, the engaging words of the sermon to the children's moving performance of 'It's a Wonderful World', there was much evidence of thoughtful and loving preparation.

The fruits that I picked? A feeling of being at home, at last, and a sense of family. With all our children still in UK, and with busy working lives, our own family life is limited to texts, Skypes and rare visits. So when parents share their 'fruitfulness,' by bringing their children to church, it is a delight for me to hear rustles, thumps, sibilant whispers and the rare wail. It reminds me of me and mine, all those years ago! It was great that Sunday to see the younger ones so engaged in the activities, sharing in the prayers and joining the singing.

So this is my big thank you to all who contributed to the All-Age worship, and for sharing all your good gifts with the rest of us. And a huge thank you to all the younger ones for simply being themselves.

Carol Birch



Children's ministry update

*Listen, dear friends, to God's truth, bend your ears to what I tell you.
I'm chewing on the morsel of a proverb; I'll let you in on the sweet old truths,
Stories we heard from our fathers, counsel we learned at our mother's knee.
We're not keeping this to ourselves, we're passing it along to the next generation—
God's fame and fortune, the marvellous things he has done.*
(Psalm 78.1-4, The Message)

At our congregational meeting in May, everyone agreed that children's ministry was vital to the life of the church. This is a wonderful affirmation of the value our community places on the children within it. It is reinforced and given expression by the dedication and kindness of our Junior Church Leaders and Helpers, and our Crèche volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all they do, and invite you to say thank you to them as well, perhaps over coffee after the service.

The philosophy of Junior Church has always been that we are there to give children the tools to engage with the Bible and faith at a level appropriate to their development, so that they can discover the 'sweet old truths' (and perhaps the decidedly awkward bits) for themselves. It's an approach based on open-ended questions and exploration, and an invitation to imagine. We usually follow the lectionary, so that children and adults are thinking about the same themes.

Practicalities at our new premises in Cents

<i>Age</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Place & Time</i>
0-3	Crèche	Crèche room is the space between the Vestry and the church; from 11am
3-5	All Stars	Room downstairs at the end of the corridor; from being released from service until called for Communion
6-8	Comets	
9-11	Galaxies	
12+	Youth Group	Room downstairs 10-10.45am on the first Sunday of the month, except in January and August; with refreshments

Stories & Songs

We have added a regular 'Stories & Songs' session to our Junior Church curriculum. We hope to be able to use the songs in our First Sunday All-Age Worship and in Family Services occasionally, and that the interactive story-telling and drama will allow the children to engage with the Gospel themes in a helpful way. On 20 November our focus will be on Christ the King, and during our Stories & Songs session on 11 December we will be preparing something for the Family Carol Service on 18 December, as well as having fun with the Christmas story.

Safeguarding

Parents and carers are welcome to stay with their children, and we actively encourage all parents and carers to do this at least once, even if the child doesn't request it, so that all can feel confident about what happens in Junior Church.

For both safeguarding and administrative purposes it is very important that the church office has a copy of an up-to-date, completed registration form for each child, even if attendance is irregular. This is a yellow form, and separate from the blue contact form by which your family is added to the church's contact list. You should also have a leaflet about safeguarding (these can also be found on the magazine rack). If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact our safeguarding officer, Moira Hogg (mhogg@pt.lu).

If you would like to be able to help on a regular or even occasional basis as a Crèche or Junior Church leader or helper, please speak to the Chaplain, so that safeguarding training and background checks can be organised.

Mérite Jeunesse / IB CAS requirement

Are you a young person aged 14-17 working on Mérite Jeunesse, or doing the International Baccalaureate? Are you looking for ways to fulfil your service requirement? Crèche and Junior Church would be delighted to have you help out! You would always be under adult supervision. The minimum commitment we ask is once every 8 weeks. Please get in touch with the church office if you would like to be involved (office@anglican.lu).

Languages

Increasingly, we have children in Junior Church who do not have mother-tongue English, reflecting the diversity of our congregation. This is a wonderful thing. If you are worried, please be assured that many of our leaders and helpers are multilingual, as are the other children, and we will all help in any way we can. In addition, because we are not Sunday *school*, there is no expectation that children can read and write English. So wherever you're from, and whatever you speak, you are welcome.

Evelyn Sweerts



Introducing ... Catriona Gillham



How did you find our Church?

An agnostic from London, I came to the Church when a friend and former fellow University of Bristol church choir member (Lucy) told me ‘There’s a nice choir there’. I’m very glad I did, too—apart from enjoying the music, it was a pleasant surprise to be invited to the pot-luck lunch on my first Sunday in Luxembourg (2014) and to find such warm, welcoming people on my table (Scots, mostly, I seem to remember). After a bit of cultural shock on arrival in Luxembourg—trying to figure out the linguistic etiquette, geography, administrative systems and above all the bus systems—the Church seemed like something of a mini-paradise, with the same language, hymns and even anthems I had grown used to when growing up.

I didn’t think much about the ‘religious’ side of things for a long time, although I was always fascinated by Chris’s sermons (and I wasn’t the only one—my Dad was WELL impressed), and I really appreciated that, rather than being dogmatic, they give us a real chance for reflection on the way we live our lives and what the impact of that is on us and those around us (and without even being patronising! Fancy that). After two years of life here, however—and two years of agonising over what I expect from life (it all seemed too easy to be trusted)—the messages we hear are starting to take on greater significance. Above all, I have noticed that our church is one of the only places where I hear an ‘unselfish’ philosophy talked about—where we’re taught to worry less about ourselves, to be grateful for what we’ve got (although I suppose it would be surreal for an outsider to find out that we, living in luxurious Luxembourg, have to hear that), and to think more about each other (or at least, I think that’s the general gist of the sermons—but my concentration is never very good, let alone on Sunday mornings).

And I find all that hugely refreshing—coming from a generation that has been bombarded all our lives with messages that we should ‘follow our dreams’ and ‘reach for the stars’ and to feel that we ‘deserve the best’ (that was my experience, at least), it comes as a huge relief to me to discover that we don’t have to spend every second wondering if we’re living the dream or not (or if it is the RIGHT dream? The VERY BEST one? So much pressure ...).

Apart from anything else, I’m coming to realise that it’s much easier to figure out what our responsibilities to others are than to figure out what we actually want—especially if those things

conflict and even change on a daily basis. How nice to relax into what we HAVE to do and know that our existence is worth something to someone!

It was a bit of shock when, having finally heard enough on the BBC radio news channel every morning about the horrible situation refugees are in to get my bum off the sofa and contact the Luxembourg authorities in charge of volunteering, I got no response at all. And I had literally ticked ALL the boxes on the form (except driving—it's better for all concerned if I don't do that). For that reason, the fact that both the Anglican and (especially) the Catholic Church were actively recruiting volunteers for the Red Cross centres really impressed me—I mean, they actually practise what they preach! Good Lord. I have huge admiration for the people I've met here who give up so much of their time volunteering to help other people. Having been put off churches and everything connected with them in my teens thanks to experiences with a few dogmatic individuals ('You can't be vegetarian. God put animals on the earth to be eaten, therefore you should eat them' [!?!]; 'It's OK that your best friend is gay—but it's your responsibility to tell him not to ACT on it'), it's comforting to see that there are alternative models of organised religion—based on tolerance and other genuinely, universally helpful values. Especially under the current climate ...

What are your interests, and can you continue them in Luxembourg?

Singing, mostly, and apart from joining a few choirs, I've taken up plenty more activities since coming to Luxembourg—amateur theatre, rope climbing, snail racing, volunteering, cinema ... and there are plenty of other things I'd like to try. I was told by other candidates for the EU 'concours' in Brussels that Luxembourg is 'dead boring' and that you only go there if you can't get a place in Brussels, but that hasn't been my experience at all. I don't know if I could very easily leave again!

If you had a day free, how would you choose to spend it?

Resting, probably. At home with my beloved pets. Luxembourg life is thrilling and stimulating, but exhausting at the same time, and I have a family of furrries who need some attention.

What is your favourite hymn, and why?

I hate hymns. I much prefer anthems. What is my favourite anthem? —There are too many to choose from! I really like double-choir pieces like Harris's 'Faith is the Heaven', in which the two sides answer and overlap each other (almost like waves on a beach), or magical pieces with a lot of bass (there are times I really wish I was a bass) like Matthias's 'As truly as God is our Father' or Bairstow's 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence', or pieces with pretty soprano solos like Wesley's 'Wash me thoroughly'. I suppose I like haunting, atmospheric anthems the most.

Catriona Gillham



Treasure hunting on 24 September



Photo by Phil Harvey

The sun shone, 21 teams took part, the clues were difficult but not impossible, all the treasure was found, and the result was:

First: René and family (290 points)

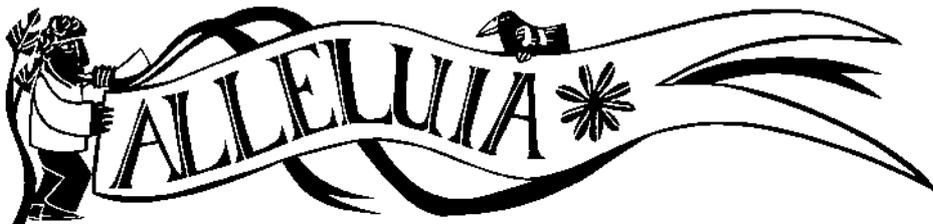
Second: Phil, Simon and Cheryl (160 points)

Third: Nichol family (150 points)

Fourth equal: Ruben and Ben; and Destimona and family (130 points).

We raised EUR 730 in aid of the Golden Horizon school for Syrian refugee children in Turkey.

Thanks to Newman and all who helped organise and publicise this event.



Fun, fundraising, fruitfulness and festival

Fun for all participants and maybe even the organisers too. And also raising funds for charity and welcoming people who are not members of our Church. That was the remit for the Fun and Fundraising Subcommittee, and at its inaugural meeting last June we brainstormed ideas for future events that we hoped would fulfil these criteria.

One of our ideas has already borne fruit in the form of the very successful Treasure Hunt held at Bambesch on 24 September. We plan to hold a Sports Day for all the family next summer and are currently looking for a suitable venue. We also wanted to do something in the winter, so as not to put all our fundraising eggs in one basket, and there were lots of suggestions. One was a Wine Tasting, which will be held on Friday, 3 February, details to be announced shortly.

Various people pointed out that Luxembourg is full of talented musicians and actors, and we thought it would be great to give them a chance to show off their talents. Others suggested that people might like to learn something new, or enrol their children to learn something new or take part in a fun activity. And many hoped there would be an opportunity to browse among books and eat, drink and chat with old and new friends. So the idea was born to put many of these ideas together and hold an Arts Festival on Sunday 12 February 2017.

During the course of the afternoon there will be about 10 half-hour time slots for performances. Some of these are already booked by the Church Choir, First Sunday Group and The Art of Music vocal ensemble. Other ideas are a Poetry Auction (people send in sealed bids for their favourite poem to be recited) and a Hymn Auction (the same system but with hymns). And at the end everyone might join together to sing a short choral work.

At the same time, in a different part of the building, we plan to run workshops for children and/or adults. So we are looking for volunteers to pass on a skill or talent that they have. It needs to be something that doesn't require a large amount of equipment and where it is possible to teach some useful element of the activity within an hour. So probably not cookery, pottery, welding or car maintenance. We have already had an offer of songs and stories for children; other examples might be drama for children, and for adults decoupage, flower arranging, basic first aid. Workshop participation will be strictly by reservation and payment in advance, and leaders will be able to specify the maximum number of participants.

There will of course be stands selling food and drink, books, maybe handcrafted items, but the main focus will be on sharing skills and talents through these workshops and performances. Funds will be raised by selling tickets to the whole event or parts of it, as well as sales of food and drink, and the proceeds will go towards the charities that the Church supports. This will be one of our main fundraising efforts next year, and we really need to step up our fundraising since there was no Fair this year. I hope everyone will lend a hand, as they have always done for the Fair. We need:

- performers (musicians, actors, verse speakers etc)
- workshop leaders
- caterers for lunch and tea
- poster designers
- publicists
- book stand organisers
- people to check tickets, sell drinks and do many other tasks on the day.

What would you like to do? Please let me know.

Philippa Seymour

Reverse Advent Calendar

This year the Church is inviting people to participate in a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' in aid of ADT Quart Monde, which supports families in need in Luxembourg (<http://atdquartmonde.lu/>).

How does it work?

1. Find a sturdy box or two, or a shopping bag you can spare.
2. Starting on 24 November, try to put one item in your container every day. Suggested donations are listed below. If you have children, it is easy to get them involved in choosing items as well. If you can't manage every day: don't worry, every little helps! Perhaps on the days when you can't add an item, you could take the time to pray for whoever will receive the food and the work of ADT Quart Monde.
3. By Sunday 18 December, which is also our Family Carol Service, you will have donated up to 24 items. Please bring them to church, from where a team will bring them to ADT Quart Monde.

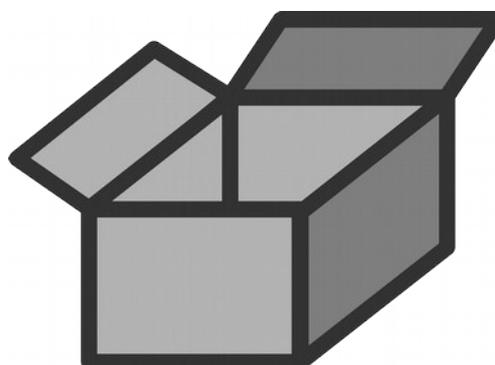
Items that are especially appreciated

Tea, UHT milk, ground coffee, biscuits, biscottes/toast, sugar, jam, honey (small jars preferably), tinned vegetables, stock cubes, rice, pasta (normal and gluten-free), sachets of powdered/instant soup, small bottles of olive oil, balsamic vinegar and packs of fruit juice (from concentrate).

If possible, try to include a few Christmas-themed items, for example, Christmas biscuits, or Stollen.

For more information please speak to Edward Ojo, or contact him by email: ojoedward@yahoo.ca.

Evelyn Sweerts



Light up every face at winter time.

We can see many kinds of winter festival taking place around the world which give people a time for spiritual refocus and celebration, as well as bringing families and communities together at a cold, dark, but hopefully cosy time of year. You might enjoy the winter festival song lyrics I have put together as a medley of songs at the bottom of this article: a medley entitled ‘Light up *every* face’.

These kinds of festivals or holy-days can be important milestones in our spiritual journey, especially if we are not too busy! For to embark on a spiritual journey is to take the time to step outside of the animalistic, material world in which we live and glimpse a higher purpose, and for some like me, a higher power, which we can journey towards in our spiritual lives.

We live in a world where survival of the fittest has driven both the evolution of our species and the economic and political power struggles between individuals, families, communities and nations. But though we become inevitably sucked in to this chaotic cascade and find ourselves metaphorically canoeing around and over the rocks that are in our way, just to survive, we also need to be able to find an alternative way of giving ourselves and other living things their proper worth, and to develop compassion towards ourselves and others.

‘Why is that, then?’ my children might ask me.

Well, one does not like to remember the person called Hitler, or mention his name. But he seemed to embody all the worst of the human tribalistic tendency as he led millions of other people into his way of thinking—about a master race that would walk over others inferior to them.

The master race in our own age (and I’m as guilty as anyone of it!) can be defined as different ‘tribalists’ with many different attributes—such as genetics, economics, geography, educational level, intellectual achievements, appearance, fashion and even religious belief. But always they can justify a lack of compassion for, oppression of and even outright violence towards, the ‘other’.

Because of this tribalism within our human tribal mindset, I like to encourage my children to enjoy learning about the rainbow of spirituality that arches over the many traditions and peoples of the world. Art, storytelling and music are great ways of doing this, of course.

And through all of this exploration, we Christians seek God’s Kingdom here on earth. A Kingdom of love and compassion and peace that Christ leads us into. To rejoice in the pathway given miraculously to us and to share in the wonders of God’s world, rejoicing with others walking a spiritual pathway different from ours, which to them may be every bit as miraculous.

Spirituality can also be important for our own mental health—to be able to separate our ‘worth’ as spiritual beings from our achievements, possessions and standing in the world, is to find a place of peace, a shelter from the storm that could otherwise destroy us. Hallelujah! We can rest in the presence and love of our ever faithful and compassionate Lord, through Jesus Christ.

We can also be overjoyed that friends and relatives with different belief systems can find spiritual refuge too. Especially at Christmas time, when we echo the Angels singing ‘Peace on earth and goodwill to all humankind’.

Light up every face

All around the world, it's a time to celebrate
To light up *every* face, even in the darkest place
We remember a miracle, remember a miracle
A miracle of love ...

Diwali, Diwali, Diwali;
A city lit up in the night, Diwali, Diwali, Diwali;
Love in our hearts burning bright, Diwali, Diwali, Diwali;
Lamps burning brightly and coloured lights,
Music and dancing into the night:
Diwali, Diwali, Diwali. Diwali, Diwali, Diwali ...

I have a little candle, a candle oh so fine
At Hannukah I'll light it and brightly it will shine
And my candle glows so bright, shining like a beacon
In the darkest night ...

At Kwanzaa light the seven candles, to celebrate our common pathway
Unity and strength, purpose together, collaborate, create with faith ...

We'll have an Eid feast, after the fasting.
For all people we pray, peace and joy on this day, and love everlasting.
A new moon shines, garments of white, lights all around, fireworks in the night
And special gifts, joy in our eyes, a miracle of love lights up all our lives ...

Lullay, lullay, thou little tiny child. By by, lullee lullay.
Lullay, lullay, thou little tiny child. By by, lullee lullay ...

All around the world, it's a time to celebrate
To light up *every* face, even in the darkest place
We remember a miracle, remember a miracle,
A miracle of love,
A MIRACLE OF LOVE!

Lisa Dishman



Bishop Robert on the Brexit vote

Now that the British government, with a new Prime Minister, is actively pursuing the detail to put into practice the referendum vote to leave the European Union, what reaction are you finding around the Diocese as people try to come to terms with the decision?

With some decisions you get an initial shock and then life goes back to normal. The Brexit vote is not like that. The initial reactions I encountered were mainly disbelief, anger and shame—with a few people expressing pleasure at the result. The strength of those emotions is beginning to fade, of course, but people across the diocese are still deeply concerned.

You are based in Brussels. How are you finding relations with officials at the EU headquarters in your additional role as Archbishop's Representative?

At the moment relationships remain courteous. The hope is for an 'amicable divorce'. But divorces rarely prove to be amicable, and the hard bargaining is yet to begin. From my perspective there seem at the outset to be some fundamental incompatibilities between what the UK government apparently wants (namely free access to EU markets but restrictions on the free movement of peoples) and what the EU is currently able to deliver. I can only see these being overcome if the EU changes its stance on the free movement of peoples. That's unlikely, but with elections coming up in both France and Germany it is just possible that the EU will reimagine itself in such a way that makes British aspirations easier to accommodate.

Is your office or home likely to move from Brussels as a result of the vote?

No—and to be honest, an episcopal base firmly within the EU has never felt to me more necessary.

What are the major fears for the Diocese in the medium and longer term?

To put this in a wider context, Europe is feeling less safe. Instability in Turkey, growing pressure on the Baltic states from Russia, and the Syrian refugee crisis are serious threats. In the terrible atrocity in Nice, some of our people could easily have lost their lives. My major concern has to be for the safety and well-being of our people and our continent. The Brexit vote adds additional challenges and changes. British pensioners on fixed incomes are vulnerable and fearful.

On the other hand, international, English-speaking businesses might now be more likely to open offices on the continent rather than in the UK. It may become more complicated for clergy to move from Britain to the continent. On the other hand, I am sensing more UK clergy keen to work in Europe. So there are swings and roundabouts. But if you or your chaplaincy have special concerns do tell me: I am keen to hear. As a diocese, I think our stance has to be watchful, responsive and flexible. These are changing times and we may have to adapt in ways that are not yet evident.

How will our ecumenical relationships be affected?

I have certainly encountered disappointment. But most European Christians have been surprisingly understanding. The social divisions and fears about migration that have come to the surface in the UK exist in other European countries too. There is a general sense that the EU must connect more effectively with all sectors of European society.

Is your role as Bishop to give reassurance and help with finding new directions in Europe?

The work of preaching the gospel, sharing the good news and building up the body of Christ continues. Many of us in this diocese know well about the fragility of finances, relationships, life itself. These realities are more vivid when you live away from your country of origin. God alone is the source of ultimate purpose, security, love, hope, healing and salvation. This God in whom we trust is the One who holds the destiny of the nations in his hands. That proper Christian trust in God does not, of course, relieve politicians and people of good will from seeking the best for our common European home. I have been invited to meet Lord Bridges, the peer at the head of 'The Department for Exiting the European Union' and I'll be glad to share whatever wisdom I have with him, as well as doing what I can in Brussels to contributing to a new narrative for the European endeavour.

Do you feel that, as part of the Church of England, the Diocese in Europe Christians in the UK are supportive and interested in our unique situation?

Very much so. After my speech on the Referendum Result in General Synod I received many expressions of support. The Archbishop of Canterbury is personally supportive of the mission of our diocese. And I was recently invited to meet The Rt Hon. Caroline Spelman MP, the Second Church Estates Commissioner, who represents the Church of England in the House of Commons. Mrs Spelman used to worship at St Michael's Paris and knows our diocese well. She especially sends her greetings and conveys her willingness to represent the concerns of the people of our diocese in the Westminster parliament.

(Reprinted from *The European Anglican*, September 2016)

A call for photographs

Bishop Robert hopes to install a piece of artwork in his Brussels Office that would capture the essence of what mission and ministry in the Diocese in Europe is about. With this in mind, he is inviting chaplaincies to submit photographs of a feature of their church, their area or country which relate in an inspiring way to our calling as a Diocese.

The hope is to assemble these images into a piece of artwork to be displayed in the office in Brussels.

Please send your images by email in high resolution, if possible by 30 October, to Caroline Gaumy at admin@europe.anglican.org.

Advent Word Search Puzzle



See if you can find the Advent words in the puzzle below!



advent

christmas

gifts

calendar

decorate

cards

shopping

cooking

cookies

friends

snowman

santa

tree

lights

bells

carols

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

With acknowledgements.

Faire is the heaven

Faire is the heaven, where happy soules have place
In full enjoyment of felicitie,
Whence they doe still behold the glorious face
Of the Divine Eternall Majestie;

Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins,
Which all with golden wings are overdight,
And those eternall burning Seraphins,
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;

Yet fairer than they both, and much more bright,
Be th' Angels and Archangels, which attend
On God's owne Person, without rest or end.

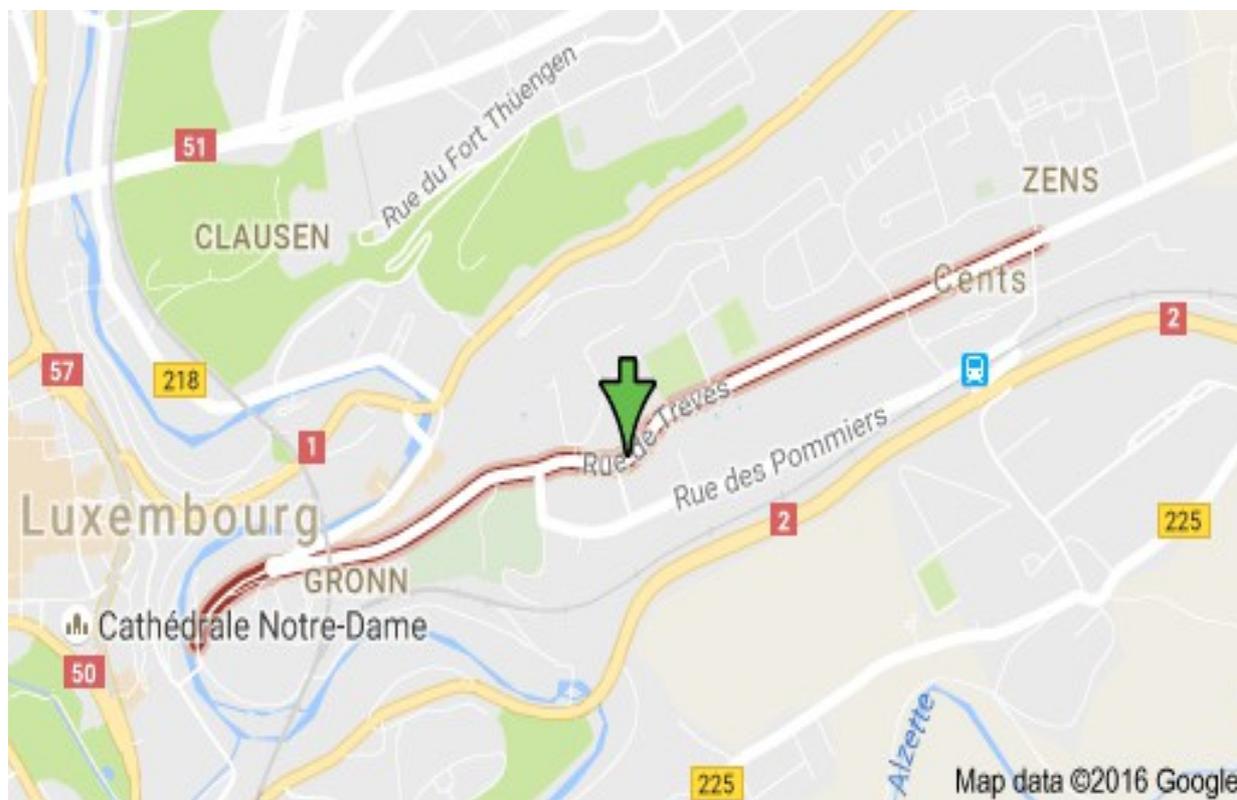
These then in faire each other farre excelling,
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling,
Fairer than all the rest which there appear,
Though all their beauties joynd together were;
How then can mortall tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

Edmund Spenser (1552-1599)



Finding Cents Church

Cents Church is on the corner of Rue de Trèves and Boulevard Charles Simonis.
For further details, visit anglican.lu



Public transport to Cents Church

Trains

Line 30 to Wasserbillig: trains from Luxembourg City main station leave at 10 minutes past the hour. Cents is the first stop. Take the subway under the track, turn left out of the station along Rue des Pommiers, then turn right up Blvd Dominique Pire, which will bring you to Rue de Trèves just opposite the church. Total journey time: 10 minutes.

Line 30 from Wasserbillig: trains get to Cents station at 45 minutes past the hour.
For more details see www.cfl.lu (schedule).

Buses

Number 14 bus from Luxembourg City main station and many other stops in town, direction Cents/Waassertuerm. Get off at Cents Kierch. Runs every half hour, e.g. 10:04 or 10:34 from the main station. Total journey time: 17 minutes.

Number 29 bus from Luxembourg City main station and other stops in the Gare area to Cents train station. Then walk, following the directions from Cents station under *Trains* above. Runs every half hour, e.g. 10:19 or 10:49 from the station. Total Journey time: 12 minutes.

For more details see www.mobiliteit.lu (schedule).