

**The Anglican Church of Luxembourg
Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday, 8 March 2011
Salle Rouge, Clubhaus Am Becheler
8.00 pm**

REPORTS

Assistant Chaplain's Report

I thought that it might be appropriate to offer an addition to the Chaplain's AGM report this year as I had covered for Chris's absence when he was on sabbatical leave from the beginning of October 2010 to the beginning of January 2011. I felt pleased and honoured that both Chris and the Church Council felt confident to put the charge of the chaplaincy into my hands. I did not feel alone in this task, however, and greatly appreciated both the support of many members of the congregation and in particular that of the two wardens, Chris Vaudrey and Catherine Allen. I certainly did not have time to feel lonely and did appreciate, and dare I say it, enjoy this experience!

It was a busy season with the major services of Harvest, Remembrance Day, Advent Sunday and the Christmas festivities. The Remembrance Day service was well attended with participation from the British, Irish and American Embassies, a member of one of the families in our congregation, Frazer Alexander, representing the armed forces, and a representative of the Western Front Association. The heavy snow dramatically affected the attendances over Christmas but gave us an added feeling of celebration and achievement when we realised what efforts many members and their friends and relatives had made to get to church at all. Over 90 people made it to the Christingle, with probably several snowmen appearing in the park opposite the church before or after the service. The smaller numbers offered a greater feeling of expectation and intimacy as we gathered with our candlelit oranges to sing "Away in a manger". The hardy band of 20 or so on Boxing Day celebrated without music but with much thought and prayer in the side chapel followed by a shared breakfast of orange juice, coffee and croissants in the hotel next door. This was an opportunity for some of our members to get to know other members whom they had not met before. There is always a blessing but I think I would appreciate it next year if not too many people start dreaming of a white Christmas....

I also covered two out of Chris's seven Religion classes at the European School, again an enjoyable experience. This is a demanding job dealing with crucial life issues with bright, intelligent pupils who have a tendency to ask interesting and sometimes very challenging questions. Not a job for the faint-hearted but one which I was happy to hand back on Chris's return.

Other activities included a Newcomers' Reception at the Vicarage with members of the Church Council and a Quiet 24 Hours short retreat at Les Etangs Retreat House in Medernach attended by 11 members of the congregation and led by the Assistant Chaplain.

I attended the Archdeaconry Synod in Brussels over 2½ days in October, offered Child Protection Training to the governors of St George's International School, went to Ely in the UK for 3 days to offer training to newly ordained priests from throughout our widespread Diocese in the areas of Issues in Public and Personal Ministry, Group Work and Child Protection, led a meditation (in French) for a Service of Vigil for the Association of Christians Against Torture to mark the International Day of Human Rights and attended other ecumenical activities.

The privilege of working as a chaplain in this Diocese is the possibility of participating in so many different aspects of people's lives, both personal and public and I have much to be thankful for in working here.

Joan Lyon (Assistant Chaplain)

Churchwardens' Report

Showing signs of decrepitude at the beginning of 2010, the Churchwardens nevertheless continued to carry out their duties. These included, *inter alia*, assisting with successful discussions with the Société Maria Rheinsheim about the use of the Konvict Centre rooms.

The Churchwardens supported the decision that the Chaplain take a 3-month sabbatical (October-December) for rest and intellectual pursuits. During that time the Assistant Chaplain had their willing support, but took the heavy load of Christmas services, arctic weather, and all other issues arising, calmly in her stride.

Regular meetings with the Chaplains took place throughout the year, interspersed with occasional Finance Committee meetings.

At least one and usually both Churchwardens attended all the monthly Church Council meetings. During the Chaplain's sabbatical, Chris Vaudrey, in his capacity as Deputy Chairperson as well as Churchwarden, presided over Church Council meetings which continued as usual.

The Churchwardens can and do listen to the opinions of members of the congregation, which are then taken into consideration in any subsequent relevant discussions.

Chris Vaudrey and Catherine Allen (Churchwardens)

'Konvikt' Magazine Report

The 'Konvikt' is growing from strength to strength. We are currently printing 290 copies of our bi-monthly church magazine with the help of Imprimez-le!, our printers, who are ever friendly and helpful.

The cover of the magazine is now in colour which helps to promote it visually. Many thanks to everyone who contribute to the magazine and to Elaine Birch, for distributing the 'Konvikt' and for remaining calm when deadlines are not met!

Any ideas or suggestions to help make the 'Konvikt' better and more spiritual are always welcome.

Rani Roloff ('Konvikt' Editor)

Child Protection Report

Joan and I have continued to train individuals and small groups of people who wish to work in the Sunday School and Crèche and those who are involved with children in other areas of our church life. In general, the demand for training has decreased but we offer training sessions as the need arises. We also offer training outside our own church community, for example, to the Guides and Brownies.

Hilary Cole (Child Protection Officer)

Website Report – www.anglican.lu

Following a decision to move anglican.lu to a new Internet Service Provider (ISP) for reasons mainly of security of service, there were, unseen by members of the congregation, some months of re-configuration of the site by the new ISP to adapt it to their servers. During this period statistics were not available but the figures early and late in the year indicate that the average of over 30 visits a day in 2009 was maintained in 2010.

The website is designed to be easy to use with many internal links to make it quick to move around. Being the only publicly available overview of our church's activities it has two primary objectives:

“OUTREACH”

- Explaining “Who we are, what we do, and how to find us” to those who are looking for a church to attend in Luxembourg.
- Informing anyone interested within the Diocese of Europe and further afield.

A Google search for “Anglican Church Luxembourg” or “English Speaking Church Luxembourg” brings up our website on top of the list and in a number of the following entries, and we know that many of our new members have found us through the internet.

“INREACH”

Providing all parishioners, clergy and church officials with current and useful information for their daily involvement with church life, including:

- Dates and times of services
- Notices and event information
- Calendar of events
- Choral information
- Duties for 8 rotas, with searching by date, by name of person and by rota name
- Readings, this Sunday, last Sunday, future dates
- Photos of church activities
- Konvikt magazine archive
- Useful forms and information notes
- Church Council and AGM minutes
- Links to other websites of interest

I am grateful to everyone who supplies information on a timely and regular basis - your support is essential if the website is to remain effective - and my thanks to Sam Grocock and Maina Nkomo-Rusere, recently recruited, for their help with the rotas, and Cherry Hooper for standing in when I was absent.

Chris Vaudrey (Webmaster)

Sunday School Report

Our Sunday School year runs from 1 September 2010 until 31 August 2011. Children are placed in groups according to their age on 1 September 2010. There are three Sunday School age groups **All Stars (age 3-6)**, **Comets (6-9)**, and **Galaxies (9-13)** plus a crèche group for the youngest children called **Sparklers (0-3)**.

We currently have 62 children (42 families) registered. All parents receive a copy of our child safe policy and on signing and returning the registration form parents are acknowledging receipt of this.

Once the registration form is returned to the church office, name badges are printed for the child and attached to a colour-coded ribbon. This helps to easily identify which group the children belong to. It also alerts the leaders and helpers to any new children (as they do not have a badge), and the family can be welcomed and given the registration form and child safe policy.

Twelve leaders and helpers run our activities. All have undergone child protection training, part of which includes a criminal record background check carried out by the Luxembourg authorities. Every week there is one leader and one helper with each group, with the exception of the oldest group which just has a leader but meet in the same room as the other groups.

Sunday school begins in the hall with a short group worship and the theme of the day is introduced, badges given out and collection taken. For our curriculum we use the Seasons of the Spirit material, more information can be found about this at www.spiritseasons.com.

Every Sunday during refreshments the library is open for the children to borrow books. There is a good selection of books which the children seem to like.

The leaders and helpers meet regularly for discussion, learning and planning.

The Statement of Principles for our Work with Children and Teenagers is:

- We aim to create a secure environment of acceptance and affirmation for all.
- We work in such a way that children and young people can discover their place in the church's tradition of faith and recognise that God loves everyone, including people of other, non-Christian, faith traditions.
- We encourage questions about belief, to search for truth rather than certainty, so that they may come to see that faith and doubt are not contradictory.
- All the educational work of the church should be led by people who themselves are actively learning about faith.
- Work with children and teenagers should prepare them for engagement with the world.

Joanne Smith (Sunday School Coordinator)

Choirmaster's Report

The year got off to a good start with the Epiphany Carol Service on 10 January. After that, the death of Chris Sibson, although expected, was a rude shock. Many former choir members turned out to swell the choir's numbers at this funeral service in Bertrange, when we sang one of his favourite anthems "Blessed be the God and Father", by Samuel Sebastian Wesley. The service was accompanied by Jean Olinger, our longest-serving organist.

Unfortunately, circumstances conspired against the traditional Passiontide concert, but a more general concert was planned for 9 May, which was one of the dates on which our friend Gordon Appleton could join us to play the organ.

Rehearsals were well in train when we received a request from the Archdeacon of France, the venerable Kenneth Letts. Could we, he asked sing an Anglican office in Metz Cathedral on the morning of 9 May? Yes, we said, as long as the music was either chosen from the concert programme, or was something sufficiently well known not to need much rehearsal. To cut a long story short, the Schuman Day office and the concert were both extremely well received. Singing "God is gone up with a triumphant shout" by Gerald Finzi at 8.30 am in Metz Cathedral was a magnificent start to the day! The evening concert could have been an anticlimax after this, but it wasn't.

The choir was as usual represented in English cathedrals during the summer; the venues were Exeter (under David Hill, no less), Chester, Salisbury and Romsey Abbey. At the end of the summer, the annual choir weekend was held in Biarritz, where a former member of ACL (David Jackson) is the organist. The weekend finished with a service of choral matins, which was much appreciated. A long way to go, but well worth it, both for the fellowship and the outreach.

And so on, through Remembrance Sunday and All Saints' tide to the Advent Carol service. As has now become traditional, a few of us went to Antwerp for the evening Festival of Remembrance; the chaplaincy at Antwerp has fallen on hard times, musically speaking, and for some years now has depended for this service on volunteers from other parishes in the Archdeaconry. The Advent Carol Service was based on a new publication from the RSCM, "Advent Sequence", and was very successful.

The weather in December seriously affected the choir; several rehearsals had to be cancelled, and a *concert spiritual* in Christnach, scheduled for 18 December, ended up being given by the four of us who happen to live locally. I was snowbound on the next day (the Family Carol Service), and again on Christmas Eve; this was the first time in two decades that I have failed to attend the Midnight Mass. Fortunately, those who could get to church proved (if proof were needed) that no-one is indispensable.

The eponymous "First Sunday Group" has been providing an alternative approach to the music used on the first Sunday morning of the month (when the choir has the morning off before singing Evensong) and is going well.

Finally, I am taking this opportunity to announce that I do not intend to renew my contract as Director of Music when it expires at the end of this year. I have been doing the job since 1995 (apart from a two-year interregnum) and I think that it is time for someone else to have a go. Fortunately, the Chaplaincy is now in a position to advertise the post, to which an honorarium is attached, and there is a first-class organ to tempt the candidates.

Alan Carlisle (Choirmaster)

Crèche Report

In 2010, we saw the transit to Sunday school of 4 children regularly attending the church crèche. They were quickly replaced by 2 newborn babies and children of new members of the church. In total we still have 7 of the 15 registered children attending crèche on a regular basis.

One regular volunteer leaders and one teenage helper resigned their post in 2010, we are grateful for the years they spent working on the rota. We are now down to 13 volunteer leaders and 1 regular teenage helper working a three weeks' rota. We appreciate their commitment and hope to have other more volunteers to help in providing this invaluable service.

The crèche room is open 10 minutes before the start of the 11.00 am service on Sundays. Parents and guardians are requested to complete a registration form for their children including medical or other special needs of which the leader should know.

We comply with the Church of England's Child Protection Policies and regulations. All children aged 0-3 are welcomed.

Eyi' Geers (Crèche Coordinator)

Young Adults Group Report

The Young Adults Group (YAG) has now been active since June 2006 and there is still a clear need and desire for a group of this kind - the group has continued strongly through the past year, with a combination of regular meetings and one-off events. As with the larger congregation, the group continues to see a flow of new members, whilst some old friends who have left Luxembourg are still able to pay occasional visits.

The highlight in the past year was a weekend trip to Champagne in July 2010, attended by about 12 members of the group. The weekend included visits to Reims and the vineyards, but also some time for quiet reflection - accommodation was at a B&B with its own private chapel.

This blending of social activity with discussion of faith remains characteristic of the YAG approach. The group's aims are to provide a sociable welcome for new people who arrive in (or on the fringes of) our congregation, and an opportunity for the group members to discuss the impact of faith in their lives. The demographic targetted would typically be people in their 20s or 30s, who may arrive in Luxembourg without any support network, however the variety of background and experience of members is a key element.

The evening gatherings taken place twice a month, sometimes supplemented by social meetings as well. Food is always organised, generally pizza, so that people do not have to make arrangements for that before. The general format is a discussion on a theme that may be seasonal, linked to current sermons or something suggested by the group of interest to the person leading.

The email notices are organised by Paul Townend, Ian Kent and Cherry Hooper, while a number of different people are hosting and leading the discussions, with occasional specially invited 'guest speakers'. The core activities of the group remain ensuring a regular presence and meetings in Luxembourg. One of YAG's most important aims is to act as a welcome network for anyone in the demographic, arriving in the church in Luxembourg, and this need is ever-constant.

Over time, YAG has started to consider the potential for ecumenicalism and for activity in the wider congregation and beyond. There is currently a good link with the English-speaking RC church in Luxembourg, and the group operates on a non-denominational basis. Members of the group are already involved in a wide range of the Anglican Church's activities, and plans for the future should bring an increase of specific YAG outreach initiatives.

As always, the group works in a very informal way and remains completely open to new members, whether long-term Luxembourg resident, or short-term visitor.

Ian Kent, Paul Townend, Cherry Hooper.

Archdeaconry Report

North West Europe Archdeaconry Synod, 7-9 October 2010

The tasks of the synod include the election of clerical and lay representatives to Diocesan and General Synods. At our meetings we engage in discussion and try to do something together or something we can take home to our chaplaincies.

Amongst other matters we discussed was the Diocesan strategic review group's (SRG) report. After two years' work its recommendations include:

The creation of the post of four free-standing archdeacons (ie full time and without the responsibility of being a chaplain).

In the C of E archdeacons assist the bishop in his pastoral care and office by bringing to his attention that which calls for correction or merits praise.

The SRG had proposed that the four archdeacons be located in Madrid, Brussels (France Monaco Belgium Luxembourg The Netherlands), Cologne and Rome.

Discussions with the Church Commissioners continue. There was discussion as to how indigenized chaplaincies were becoming. As our Archdeacon (The Ven. John de Wit) whose territory includes Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, put it "In a changing legal and financial context chaplaincies are learning to work together at national level and in the local language. The days when the only language....needed was English are fast disappearing".

Mission, a huge topic, was touched on. It was worth considering the advisability of translating into Dutch some Anglican orders of service. How chaplaincies work out their mission strategies in common remains to be seen.

Luweero (Uganda)

One of the Luweero clergy, the Revd. Godfrey Kasana was present. He spoke warmly of the twinning of this Archdeaconry with his diocese.

The Bishop's Lent appeal for 2011 is for the Healthy Vine Trust whose principal aim is the reduction of malaria, especially in the case of children under 5 in the Diocese of Luweero.

From Luxembourg the following took part: The Revd Joan Lyon, Moira Hogg and John Overstall.

John Overstall (Archdeaconry Representative)

Report On Charities We Supported in 2010

This is my first report as the Charities Committee Convenor. I wish to thank the members of the committee for their help in the selection of charities – this is done after analysis and discussion of the various programmes and also the financial information available on the proposed charities.

In 2010, the Church Council, on the recommendations of the Charities Committee allocated a total of €13,000 for donations to charities. This is separate from the donations to the Bishop's Appeals. We supported three Luxembourg registered charities managing projects in Africa and two of them received matching funding from the Luxembourg government for these specific projects – this enabled our support to have a greater impact. It also enabled members of the Charities Committee to meet with the coordinators of these charities who are locally based and receive reports of the projects which we, as a community, are supporting.

The allocation was made as follows:

- €2,000 was donated to a UK registered charity, namely Connection at St Martin's, which helps the homeless in London by providing specialist support;
- We donated to a project managed by World Vision in Romania for the support of distressed mothers and children so as to geographically diversify our giving and support an initiative in Eastern Europe;
- We responded to Christian Aid's emergency appeal for Pakistan after the floods as this was one of the major natural disasters which struck in 2010 and we felt that the local population desperately needed help at this time;
- We supported one of Christian Aid's Climate Change projects which has as main objective to help poor communities to adapt to the growing threat of climate change;
- The balance was allocated to African projects, mostly to help disadvantaged children for their education and also for projects such as solar ovens and fuel efficient stoves which used cleaner forms of energy and accordingly have a positive impact on the environment.

We focus on education, because we believe that in the long run, it is an investment in children and a tool to bring them out of poverty. We believe that our support has a positive impact on the lives of many children throughout these different projects.

We encourage members of the congregation to contact us should they wish to propose a charity or help any particular project which we are currently supporting. The list of charities is available on the website.**

Esmée Chengapen (Charities Committee Convenor)

** see also below

List of Charities supported in 2010:

- **Action Aid** – this project helped set-up school kitchen gardens in four primary schools in Nsanje, Malawi. - €1500
http://www.actionaid.org.uk/doc_lib/priority_projects_malawi.pdf
- **Greyton Genadendal Education Fund** – this is a South African fund which pays for secondary and tertiary education for deprived children in South Africa. - €1504
http://www.greytontourism.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=328:greyton-genadendal-education-fund&catid=92:community-upliftment&Itemid=206
- **Mercy Corps** – the provision of fuel-efficient stoves in Congo – The pictures on the BBC website provide a good insight into this project. - €1505
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8580967.stm>
<http://www.mercycorps.org/countries/drcongo/11789>
- **Nest Children's Home Charitable Trust** – this project based in Lumuru, Kenya, is for the rescue, rehabilitation and integration of children in conflict with the law and children of imprisoned mothers. - €500
<http://uhuru.de/thenesthome/how-you-can-help-2/>
- **IOP-Lux** – this project supports the Solar Ovens Project for the Ilula Orphan Program in Tanzania. IOP-Lux is now a Luxembourg registered charity and donations to and sponsorship for IOP projects are deductible from your taxable income in Luxembourg. - €500
<http://www.ilulaorphanprogram.org/>
- **CSI Lëtzebuerg** – this project takes place in East-Kazai which is one of the districts most affected by HIV/AIDS in the Democratic Republic of Congo and funds the schooling of orphans who have lost one parent because of HIV/AIDS. The Luxembourg government provided 80% of the funding required for this project. Donations to CSI Lëtzebuerg are deductible from taxable income in Luxembourg. - €1000
http://www.csi.lu/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=40&Itemid=200074&lang=fr
- **Iwerliewen fir bedreete Volleker (IFBV)** – this project funds the plantation of Artemisia in Sambwa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Artemisia is a remedy against malaria. This project received Luxembourg government funding. - €1000
http://www.iwerliewen.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=5&Itemid=37
- **Christian Aid - one of Christian Aid's Climate Change projects** – Christian Aid has projects in several places including Bolivia, Bangladesh, India, Tanzania. Christian Aid is helping poor communities to adapt to this growing threat of climate change. - €1000
http://www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/issues/climate_change.aspx
- **Christian Aid – Pakistan floods Appeal** – we gave in response to this emergency appeal as this was one of the major natural disasters which struck in 2010 and we felt that Pakistan desperately needed help at this time. - €1000
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/pakistan-floods-appeal/index.aspx>
- **World Vision Romania** – this is a project which supports 45 mothers who are at the risk of abandoning their children. More details about this specific project are available from the Convenor of the Charities Committee. - €1500
<http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/learn/world-vision-romania>
- **Connection at St Martin's**: this is a charity based in central London which helps the homeless by providing specialist services - including a day and night centre, outreach for rough sleepers, skills training and career advice. - €2000
<http://www.connection-at-stmartins.org.uk/>