

The Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Assistant Chaplain's Report – 2013

Over the past year I have seen an increased busyness in my calendar with new initiatives and greater experience of life in Luxembourg. I have continued in leading worship and preaching, including baptisms and weddings. I have experienced the Church Fair and all the seasons of the church calendar here in Luxembourg. I have been involved in a number of new ideas and have become more involved in the life of Luxembourg.

Three things in particular have shaped and defined the past year for me:

- New developments in Junior Church. Last September saw the beginning of our new teaching and activity plan for the Junior Church. The work for this began earlier with research into the most suitable resources and activities, coupled with considerable reflection on what we wanted to achieve in our ministry with children and how this could be accomplished. Creation of long and short term teaching plans, including resources and activities, is a big task. However, the feedback from Junior Church leaders, helpers and parents has been very positive. One of the benefits of developing our own scheme is that we can make changes as we go, so constructive feedback is always useful in helping us move forward. The only real struggle has been in attracting more people to help in our ministry to children.
- New Youth Group. This also started in September and has quickly become a lively fixture in my working life. It grew from a desire to meet the needs of the young people of our church, many of whom were dutifully coming to worship, despite not having their own group, where they could explore faith in their own way. The process of creating the group was exciting, considering ideas and concepts that would lead to something different. Everything flows from these words of Jesus: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." The Youth Group is an opportunity for young people to explore life as they find it and to consider what a life with God might be like. This has been an important chance for me to minister to a broader group of people, but has also given me fresh insight in to what life is like for young people in this part of the world.
- When I took this job, Chris warned me that after a while the pastoral workload would become heavy. In the past year this has certainly been the case. I have learned that life in Luxembourg is good, but sometimes strange and is not without difficulties. There are often considerable pressures bearing down on us and I have encountered numerous people wrestling with a variety of problems. There are also needs that are not being met due to the peculiarities of life in Luxembourg, something which notably affects families. All of this has been reflected in the amount of time and energy I have devoted to pastoral matters. However, this is time and energy well spent, particularly in light of the positive and friendly responses to the challenges people encounter.

For me, and Caroline, Joshua and Malachi, this past year has been an interesting and exciting journey, full of ups and downs. Thank you for sharing different parts of that journey with us. We look forward to sharing more of it with you in the future.

Blessings

Andy Markey
Assistant Chaplain