

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 14 January 2015
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), John Dimond, Simon Norcross, John Overstall, Felix Rusere (Treasurer), Evelyn Sweerts and Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.10 pm with a reading from John 2, v. 16 onwards, and a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Cheryl Fisher, Moira Hogg, the Rev'd Andy Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Philippa Seymour, Paul Townend.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 3 December 2014 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings.

5. Action Points Review and Matters Arising

Action points review: See separate Action points spreadsheet.

Matters arising:

- a) Church Fair: the agreed date for the Fair of 7 June 2015 would be posted on the website;
- b) Website: the webmaster, John Dimond, reported that the new website was up and running; he had dealt with some teething problems and would fix some other minor matters; the old site was still available (oldsite.anglican.lu);
- c) Pew Bibles: the Council authorised Catherine Allen to buy 100 copies of the version of the Bible she considered best (a choice between lower quality and cheaper or better quality and more expensive);
- d) Computer purchase: the new computer equipment had been purchased and brought to the Vicarage that evening by John Dimond and would be installed shortly.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported on the Advent and Christmas services; we had done things differently this time and, whilst some aspects were not worth pursuing, it would perhaps be good to continue with some of the new things. The 'Messiah' concert on 14 December had been very good and well attended, but the timing had meant that there had been no evensong in December. He wanted to revert to having the carol service and the congregational Christmas lunch on the second Sunday in Advent. The Christmas pageant on 21 December had also been a great success but had relied very much on Dana Luccock's drive and enthusiasm.

7. Treasurer's Report

Felix Rusere presented the accounts for December 2014. Collections had increased in

December mainly owing to the special services conducted during the month. The expenditure in December had shown no big variances. Konvikt Centre costs and employment costs were lower owing to recoveries of duplicate payments made in November to Goeres Group for September and to Social Security for October. Fees of €2 760 had been paid to Kairos Advisors for Alain Devresse's consultation work regarding properties.

Special collections had included: the Christingle service - €733 (paid to the Church of England's Children's Society); Dana Luccock's leaving present - €760; the Bishop's Advent Appeal - €2 477.

The Treasurer had altered the way in which loan/cash advances were presented in the accounts by distinguishing between 'loan/cash advances' and 'loan/cash advance repayments'.

The income for 2014 had exceeded the budget by €7 000, mainly due to collections. The cumulative expenditure for the year had exceeded the budget by around €4 000 (3%). Overall, there was an excess of expenditure over income of 4% during 2014.

The Treasurer said he would soon be starting preparations for the audit in time for the AGM to be held on 22 April 2015.

The Chaplain thanked Felix Rusere for his report.

8. Vicarage redevelopment

Nothing to report.

9. 'Convention' negotiations

The Chaplain reported that the Government's latest proposals were that each '*culte*' would receive a subsidy equivalent to the priest's stipend. It would then be up to each '*culte*' to remunerate their priest(s). He, Simon Norcross and Philippa Seymour had met with an official from the Ministère des Cultes in December 2014 to discuss needs, buildings and certain employment issues. The Chaplain, together with Simon Norcross, would be attending another meeting with the Government representative on Monday 19 January 2015. The Chaplain would be pushing for the inclusion of certain technical issues in the 'package' that would be agreed with the Government.

10. Music Director recruitment

The Chaplain circulated a paper entitled 'The Search for a new Music Director', setting out his views on the music policy of the church, the musical needs of the congregation, the musical profile and remit of a Director of Music and a proposal to create a music group (on the lines of the Communications group). The proposed music group would be composed of the Chaplain, and others invited from the choir, professional musicians from the congregation, past Directors of Music and possibly outside consultants (Edward Higginbotham or maybe the Director of Music of Holy Trinity Brussels, David Mitchell). Its mandate would be to raise the profile of our church music within the congregation and the wider community, to develop and implement music policy and advise about music matters, to help with recruitment of Choir and First Sunday Group members and organists and to be involved in the appointment of a Director of Music.

For the time being, Dana Luccock had chosen the music for the year, arranged people to direct the choir and organised the organist rota. The Chaplain said he had met with some Choir/First Sunday Group members to discuss the way forward and had noted their views. However, whilst he would be happy to ask Alan Carlisle, who had offered his services for the next six months, to help out occasionally, he felt we really needed to recruit someone new, hence his proposal to set up a music group for this purpose. He thought we should try to set up an internship for a music student with a one-year contract including accommodation. He hoped that a music group could be set up soon and could perhaps recruit an intern as Director of Music by September 2015. The music group could administer the internship and

raise the profile of our church music. We needed to broaden our music so that it included not only traditional church music and classical music but also innovations like the Christmas musical.

After discussing this proposal and suggesting possible candidates for the music group, the Council unanimously approved the Chaplain's proposal to set up such a music group to take things further.

Evelyn Sweerts suggested that the Easter season could be covered by getting an intern for three months from the Episcopal Church in the United States, which had a strong tradition of church music. The Chaplain pointed out this would be very costly.

11. Any other business

Collections rota: Chris Vaudrey reported that, since the efforts to get the Churchwardens' proposed collections rota up and running had not met with great enthusiasm amongst those asked to be on the rota, the sidesmen needed to be told that there would be no change in their existing duties. The layout of the register book used for entering the monies collected would be altered, however. The Chaplain suggested having a customised register printed to meet our requirements.

12. Dates of future meetings

Wednesday 11 February 2015 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm.

Monday 16 March 2015

Thursday 16 April 2015

AGM – Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 7 pm.

13. Closing prayer

The Chaplain thanked Lynn Barclay and John Overstall for arranging supper and Evelyn Sweerts for supplying cake. The meeting closed with a prayer at 11.08 pm.