

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 5 December 2012
8 pm, the Vicarage

MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andrew Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), Moira Hogg, John Overstall, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Felix Rusere, Philippa Seymour, Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.12 pm with a reading from Ephesians, Chapter 3, starting at verse 14, followed by a prayer.

3. Apologies

Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Sebastiaan Boelen, Cheryl Fisher, Rani Roloff, Neil Ross.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 7 November 2012 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.

The Chaplain had asked the Child Protection Officer, Hilary Cole, if she would be willing to become the Safeguarding Officer and she had agreed.

Matters arising:

a) Treasurer's report and b) Presentation of accounts

Sarah Parkhouse submitted the accounts for November 2012, and explained some of the queries arising from the October accounts.

She reported that income was reduced this year, with various standing orders being decreased or cancelled. Collections for the month were as expected. A donation had been received in memory of Michael Cattran Goodwin.

The amounts for both "utilities" and "fuel" were significantly higher, reflecting the running cost of a second residence. The "Chaplains' accommodation costs" included the cost of insurance, maintenance and rental for the Assistant Chaplain. All the expenses relating to recruitment (interview candidates' expenses, Markeys' removal costs) were in "travel and locum".

There was a provision in the accounts for such expenses and some of this provision would be offset against the costs in the year-end financial

statements. Music costs for the month included payments to Dana Luccock for October and November. "Training and youth events" included an amount due to the Church of England in London for the training of Susan Bolen. The Treasurer detailed the cash advances and the car loan paid to the Assistant Chaplain and explained how they had been booked in the accounts.

The payments to the following charities had been made: Mercy Corps, World Vision, Greyton Grenadenal, St Martin's, CSI Lux and Stëmm vun der Strooss. Having just received the go-ahead from the Charities Committee, the Treasurer would make the payment to Christian Aid before the year-end.

c) Closure of KBL account

One donor, despite having been contacted, had still not cancelled the standing order to the ASBL account. As the bank charges were higher than the remaining standing order, the bank considered that the account should be closed. The Treasurer would send a registered letter to the donor in France to inform him that the account would be closed. It was therefore unlikely that the KBL account could be closed before the year-end.

d) Search for a new Treasurer

The Chaplain said that, as Sarah Parkhouse was stepping down after the next AGM, a new Treasurer needed to be found. An appeal could be issued in the Konvikt magazine and in the pew sheets.

New action points:

None.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported on a very busy month with some big pastoral issues:

- a) Administrative issues (raised by Chris Vaudrey): the Chaplain said that certain administrative matters that had been outstanding had now been dealt with (the Confirmation Return had been sent to the Diocesan Office, as had the terms and conditions for Andy Markey's appointment). The Assistant Chaplain's relationship with the Luxembourg government was still to be regularised.
- b) Constitutional issues: The Chaplain said that in connection with the *Report of the Group of Experts charged with studying the relationships between State and Church*, he had met with John Overstall and Philippa Seymour to work out the Anglican Church's response to the report. Martin Curwen had provided some written input. The Chaplain had previously attended a meeting of the leaders of the other "cultes conventionnés" on 5 November. In the response he had drafted (circulated at the Council meeting) he had endeavoured to adopt a helpful and broad approach; he thought there needed to be more focus on the socio-cultural dimension of religion, in that religion created pathways between individuals, helping them to live together and thus build up society. In his response he had said the Anglican Church welcomed the report for its clarity and he had thanked the Government for the support given to the Church. He suggested that the question of what the socio-cultural realities actually were in Luxembourg needed to be examined more thoroughly, and said that it was important to look at the public role that religion had to play, rather than just focus on its role for the private individual. He made specific observations on three

points: accommodating our church within a commune, the language used for our worship, and the provision of religious education
Chris Vaudrey congratulated the Chaplain and his helpers on an excellent response on behalf of the Church.

- c) Legal/pastoral issues: The Chaplain circulated to the Council members present a paper relating to the re-eruption of a sex abuse scandal in our community after 18 years. He explained that 18 years ago there had allegedly been sex abuse of a number of children in the Luxembourg community; the parents of the alleged victims had not sought prosecution at the time and the 10-year statute of limitations had since expired. Recently one of the alleged victims had posted allegations on line and had written to the British Embassy in the hope that others in Luxembourg would denounce the alleged perpetrator. A person from our congregation had contacted the Chaplain and the Child Protection Officer about this matter. The Chaplain was asked to help denounce the perpetrator. In consultation with the Churchwardens and the Child Protection Officer, the Chaplain had drafted a response (circulated to the Council) to the e-mail he had received from the member of the congregation, and he had also sent this response to the Bishop and the acting Archdeacon. He did not intend to take part in any public meeting or other action in connection with this matter, either on his own behalf or on behalf of the Anglican Church of Luxembourg, as he did not consider that the Church had any legal involvement in the case. He was also concerned that the action currently being undertaken in Luxembourg by a group of people might prejudice a possible court case. The Chaplain emphasised, however, that child protection was an issue about which he was very concerned, and the Anglican Church of Luxembourg had had child protection procedures in place for the last ten years.
The Chaplain wanted authority from the Council to get legal advice on this matter, to ascertain whether the points he had made in his response were valid; it was agreed that it would be appropriate for him to seek such advice.
- d) Forthcoming services: Chris Lyon would be away from Boxing Day until 5 January inclusive. Andy Markey would be taking the services during that period, including a wedding.
- e) Office arrangements over Christmas: The Church Office would be closed over Christmas but Elaine Birch and Lynn Barclay would check the post, e-mails and phone messages.

7. Area Contact Groups

The Chaplain reported that, although Lynn Barclay had been working very hard to arrange dates and hosts/contact persons for the planned Area Contact Group meetings and to encourage affiliators to come to these events, it had become apparent that it was not going to be possible after all to organise these meetings in the same way as had been done in the past; the number of people was higher, the areas were not well defined and there were fewer contact persons willing to go and visit people in their area. The idea was for people to know each other in the area and to have face-to-face contact. It was important, the Chaplain said, that we knew each other as a community and were in touch with one another. One of the problems was

that there was currently no visiting of new people going on and not so many people were filling out contact forms and sending them in to the Church Office. It was suggested that the contact forms could be put in the pews or given out with the pew sheets.

As the current set-up appeared to be unworkable, Chris Vaudrey suggested postponing the meetings until the springtime.

8. Report of the Group of Experts charged with studying the relationships between State and Church

This item was dealt with under Ministry Report (constitutional issues).

9. Property issues

The Chaplain reported that he and the two Churchwardens had listened to a presentation from the second developer interested in the Vicarage site, but no offer had yet been received.

10. Christmas party

Arrangements were in hand for the Christmas party to be held in the Salle Rheinsheim on 16 December 2012 after the 11 a.m. Carol Service.

11. Stationery

Chris Vaudrey said he was still working on making the necessary changes.

12. Any other business

Chris Vaudrey said the arrangements for the 2013 Church Fair needed to be decided soon, preferably by the year-end, in particular the venue, the date and the organiser. The Vaudreys were willing to host the Fair in their garden again; a possible date (to be confirmed) was 16 June 2013.

13. Dates of next meetings

The dates for the next meetings were confirmed as:
Wednesday **16 January 2013** and Wednesday **20 February 2013**.
The AGM was likely to be held on 12 or 14 March 2013.

14. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.45 pm.