

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG CHURCH COUNCIL

Tuesday 19 February 2013
8 pm, the Vicarage

MINUTES

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

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.20 pm with a reading from Psalm 69, followed by a prayer.

3. Apologies

Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Moira Hogg, Neil Ross.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2013 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) Administrative issues

The Rev'd Andrew Markey's employment situation had been regularised and his salary had been paid.

b) Music Director

Cheryl Fisher had talked to Dana Luccock about the formal requirements she needed to satisfy in order to be able to stay here.

New action points:

- the Chaplain to formally ask Ralph Birch to act as this year's Church Fair organiser and to ask him to contact Simon Norcross;
- the Chaplain to ask the mayor of Useldange to open the Church Fair.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported on several matters:

- a) Rota: the Assistant Chaplain had drawn up a rota of who was preaching when. There was no set pattern to the rota.
- b) "Glimpses of God": this five-session Lent study course would be run by Andy Markey assisted by Phil Harvey.
- c) "Hot topics": These discussions had been postponed owing to the Chaplain's current heavy workload.
- d) Sunday School/Club/Junior Church: although at the last Council meeting it had been agreed to change the name to Sunday Club, a group of Sunday School leaders had discussed this at greater length and decided that "Junior Church" would be a more fitting name.
The way the rota was organised had not yet been changed.
- e) Evelyn Sweerts: She had been worshipping with us for the last few months and wished to put herself forward for the discernment process for ordination.
- f) Choir Festival: Our choir had invited other Benelux Archdeaconry choirs to come and sing in Luxembourg on 1 June. About 65 singers would be attending, and the venue would probably be Bertrange church.
Philippa Seymour said that apparently Weimerskirch church had refused to allow the festival to be held there because our church was not an ASBL. She raised the question as to whether the non-ASBL status might prove to be a problem in other respects. The Chaplain said that as a church that was "conventionnée" we were actually in a stronger position than an ASBL.
- g) Waldbillig church choir: This choir would be singing a mass in our church on 21 April 2013.
- h) Chaplain's priorities: He had decided to postpone "Hot topics" because of his workload.

7. Church Fair

This year's Church Fair would be held on 16 June and Ralph Birch had agreed to organise it. Chris Vaudrey pointed out that Ralph Birch needed to contact Simon Norcross as a number of matters needed sorting out soon.

It was felt that it would be appropriate to ask the mayor of Useldange to open the Fair again.

Action points: - Chris Lyon would formally ask Ralph Birch to act as organiser and ask him to contact Simon Norcross;
- he would also write to the mayor of Useldange asking him to open the Fair again this year.

8. Revision of the Electoral Roll

Forms had been distributed in church on the previous two Sundays and about 100 had been returned. The Konvikt magazine would be sent out that week together with electoral roll forms for those who had not yet returned any forms. The deadline by which the forms needed to be returned was two weeks before the AGM.

9. Stationery

Philippa Seymour was in the process of combining the “Who’s who” and the “Activities” information so that, once updated, it would be issued as a photocopied A4 sheet. Chris Vaudrey suggested Philippa take over responsibility for the stationery question and she agreed.

10. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse, submitted the accounts for January 2013. Monthly donations and church collections were as expected. The grant of 2 480 € from the State had been received, as had a donation of 200 € and a payment of 50 € for the rental of the Father Christmas outfit.

The accommodation costs and fuel and utilities reflected the costs of running two households. The church quotas had been paid in January (7 848 € to the Common Fund and 1 458 € to the NW Europe Archdeaconry). Now that Andy Markey was receiving his salary from the Luxembourg government he would be able to start repaying the advances the church had paid him.

The cash in hand showed the amalgamated balance of the BGL and KBL accounts. The Treasurer proposed that the KBL account be closed in February. This was agreed. She would draw up a letter for signature.

The Treasurer also circulated the draft financial statements for 2012. The year showed a net operating loss of -3 664 €. She would be meeting with the auditor again soon to continue the audit. The Chaplain thanked the Treasurer for her report. The Chaplain said the church would be organising a giving campaign in the near future. Rani Roloff pointed out that many people in the church generally thought that the church had lots of money, so she considered that more transparency was needed.

11. Property issues – possible sale of the Vicarage

The Chaplain reported that he had contacted company X but no meeting had yet taken place. Council members had, as requested, sent in the questions and issues they thought needed to be addressed: Felix Rusere had submitted some very pertinent financial questions and Philippa Seymour had pointed out that company X must answer all the questions in our initial letter. Sebastiaan Boelen and John Overstall had asked about the *cahier des charges*.

With regard to outside expertise on tax and legal matters, the Chaplain reported that Neil Ross had, as requested, asked his contact how much any advice he might give would cost. His contact had drawn up a proposal for two phases of preparation and negotiation for which the fee would be 27 000 € if the deal went through. It appeared, however, from further contacts initiated by this contact that he would be involved on both sides of the deal, as he had links to a firm that was interested in buying this contract from company X. The Chaplain had consulted the Churchwardens on this and together they had decided that there was too much of a conflict of interests here and the advice was too expensive.

The Council instead discussed asking other contacts, known to the Treasurer and Dennis Robertson, to advise the church on this matter.

The Chaplain said it was still important to get company X to state their cash price for the house.

12. Any other business

- a) The Chaplain had agreed to Geoff Thompson's proposal to organise a pot-luck lunch in the hall after the Family Service on Mothering Sunday on 10 March.
- b) The Chaplain had approached Andrew Gray about becoming the new Treasurer and he had expressed interest.
- c) Chris Vaudrey said that, during his absence in March, Maina Rusere would do any rota changes on the website and Cherry Hooper would keep the events diary up to date.
- d) Rani Roloff suggested that, as the Christingle service was attended by many people who only came to that service, it would be nice to offer refreshments after the service so that we could talk to them. The Chaplain pointed out that there was a tight schedule on Christmas Eve, there was a lot of clearing up to do after the Christingle service and we would have to pay to use the hall for refreshments.
- e) Chris Vaudrey raised a confidential matter with members of the Council.

13. Dates of next meetings

The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 12 March 2013**.
The AGM would be held on **Tuesday 9 April 2013**.

14. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 11.10 pm.