

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG CHURCH COUNCIL

Tuesday 12 March 2013
8 pm, the Vicarage

MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), Cheryl Fisher, Moira Hogg, Philippa Seymour.

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.22 pm with a quotation from the Bible, followed by a prayer.

3. Apologies

The Rev'd Andrew Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Sebastiaan Boelen, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Rani Roloff, Neil Ross, Felix Rusere, Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 19 February 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:

- Action was being taken regarding the confidential matter discussed at the last meeting.
- The choir festival would be held in Bertrange church.

New action points:

- the Chaplain to ask Geoff Thompson's group to organise the Ascension Day Walk.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported on a couple of matters:

- a) Mothering Sunday lunch: the pot-luck lunch after the service had been attended by about 50 people.
- b) Confirmation weekend: Council members were invited to attend the ecumenical event to be held on Friday 26 April as well as the reception for confirmands on 27 April followed by a dinner with Bishop Geoffrey. The

confirmation service would take place on Sunday 28 April, and the Chaplain might be hosting a dinner for the Bishop and guests that evening.

7. Convention: Seminar with “Expert Group” and the Ministre des Cultes, M. François Biltgen

The Chaplain had invited Catherine Allen and Philippa Seymour to attend this seminar with him. There had been a very interesting exchange of views on the position of the clergy in a respectful atmosphere. Philippa Seymour reported that the Chaplain had been applauded for the views he had expressed (a summary was circulated at the Council meeting).

The Roman Catholic Church’s plans to reduce the number of parishes might eventually free up some buildings so that, if and when the Konvikt chapel were to be demolished, other facilities might become available. The Chaplain was told that our needs would be catered for.

A further meeting was to be held on the subject of “communes” and churches.

8. Lent Study Group

The “Glimpses of God” course being run by Andy Markey assisted by Phil Harvey was going well.

9. Music Director

Cheryl Fisher reported that Dana Luccock was in the process of making the necessary appointments with Luxembourg ministries to get her situation sorted out..

10. Revision of the Electoral Roll

About 135 electoral roll forms had so far been returned. The Church Office would chase up those who had been on the previous roll and who had not yet returned a form.

11. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse, was absent but had submitted her report for February 2013, as well as the draft 2012 accounts and a proposed budget for 2013. For the month of February, expenses were generally low as not all invoices had been received. Employment costs were low as the Social Security costs were not included for the month. Fuel and utility costs were high, however, reflecting the oil delivery for the Assistant Chaplain. Sundry costs included 1 183 € paid to Paul Bettingen for the transfer of ownership of the Vicarage, and the Charity payment was the transfer of the Advent appeal collection to the Church of England.

Regarding the KBL account, a letter had been sent to the bank asking them to close the account. A draft set of liquidation accounts had been prepared and sent to the auditor.

The final draft of the financial statements was circulated at the meeting. The audit was complete with only a couple of small items to finalise. The Treasurer had received a draft of the management letter, which would then be discussed with the Chaplain and the Finance Committee.

The proposed budget for 2013 was based on the actual figures for 2012 but with some estimates for heating costs, for example. Owing to the current discussions regarding the Vicarage no provision had been made for maintenance costs.

The Chaplain said that although a budget had been proposed, it did not contain concrete proposals, so it did not necessarily have to be submitted for approval at the AGM.

Cheryl Fisher commented that she felt money should be moved from the General fund into the Capital fund so that it covered Vicarage maintenance costs and the need to provide clergy accommodation.

The Chaplain thanked Sarah Parkhouse for all her work over the last few years and for presenting the accounts.

12. AGM – Tuesday 9 April 2013

The AGM would be held at 8 pm at the Sœurs Franciscaines, Avenue Gaston Diderich, Luxembourg.

Two nominations for new Council members were needed, as Sebastiaan Boelen and Felix Rusere were coming to the end of their term of office, and the Chaplain asked the Council to give this some consideration. Nominations needed to be in before Easter. He also asked for someone to be willing to report on the AGM for the Konvikt magazine.

The Chaplain proposed starting Council meetings earlier, at 7.30 pm, possibly preceded by some food together.

13. Stationery

Philippa Seymour had submitted all her suggestions for changes, and Lynn Barclay was working on the updates.

14. Eastern Regional Ministry Course appeal for funding assistance

The Chaplain said that the Church had received an appeal for funding from the body running the training of ordinands in the eastern region of the UK. This was where Susan Bolen was currently doing her training. The appeal was for 150 € per student per year. The Chaplain wanted to have the Council's views on the principle and the amount of such funding assistance. Our church was already paying a share of Susan Bolen's costs. Philippa Seymour said she would have thought part of the quota we paid to the Church would go towards such training.

15. Church Fair

Ralph Birch had formally agreed to organise this year's Church Fair, to be held on 16 June, and had contacted Simon Norcross about it.

16. Property issues – possible sale of the Vicarage

Apart from some further contact with one of the parties involved, there was little

progress to report on this issue.

17. Any other business

Philippa Seymour asked about who might organise the Ascension Day Walk. The Chaplain said he would ask Geoff Thompson's group of volunteers to organise it. He asked Lynn Barclay to invite the English-speaking Catholic Church to join the walk. (**Action point:** the Chaplain to ask Geoff Thompson's group to organise the Ascension Day Walk.)

18. Dates of next meetings

The **AGM** would be held on **Tuesday 9 April 2013**. Following that, the next Council meeting would be on **Wednesday 17 April 2013 at 7 pm for some food together, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm.**

19. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 10 pm.