

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 15 May 2013
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andrew Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), Cheryl Fisher, Phil Harvey (items 1-4 only), Moira Hogg, Philippa Seymour, Evelyn Sweerts, Paul Townend, Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7.45 pm by welcoming everyone and in particular Phil Harvey. He then read from Exodus 3 and said a prayer.

3. Apologies

John Overstall, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Rani Roloff, Neil Ross.

4. Phil Harvey

The Chaplain introduced Phil Harvey, saying he had been worshipping with us for a couple of years and was seeking to become ordained. To do this he had to ask the Church Council for support; he already had the Chaplain's support. The Church Council resolution was circulated to the meeting. Phil Harvey was a candidate for paid ministry and, once ordained, could be deployed anywhere.

Phil Harvey then gave his presentation, explaining that he had been considering the idea of becoming ordained for over 17 years. He saw the role of a priest as acting as both a servant and a shepherd to his community, helping people to navigate through hard times. He believed in the concept of shared ministry, where a priest worked alongside God's people, rather than being over and above them. He saw priesthood as a very demanding prospect, requiring spiritual maturity and a sense of grounding. Once ordained, he envisaged perhaps a parish ministry in the UK or the Diocese of Europe or a Chaplaincy post in a school or university.

The Council members put a number of questions to Phil Harvey, which he duly answered, and then he left the meeting. The resolution was discussed and voted on in his absence. The Council voted unanimously in favour of the resolution to support Phil Harvey in the testing of his vocation to the ordained Ministry and to offer its full support if he were to be selected for training (see text of resolution in annex).

5. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 17 April 2013 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings.

6. Action Points Review and Matters arising

Action points review:

See separate Action points spreadsheet.

Matters arising:

The Bishop had been given a present of a book token and had enjoyed the hospitality he had received during the confirmation weekend.

New action points:

- the Chaplain to reply to Stuart Alexander about the choir robes.

7. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported as follows:

- a) Confirmation weekend (26-29 April): it had been a packed weekend, which had gone off very well, and Bishop Geoffrey had enjoyed his visit. The receptions on Friday and Saturday evening had been well attended, there had been lunch at the Boelens after the confirmation service, and the Chaplain and the Bishop had also attended a conference in Luxembourg.
- b) Bridge building: as he received invitations to many events, such as conferences, the Chaplain tried to go to them to make contacts and engage with the wider community.
- c) Ascension Day Walk: about 20 people had participated in the walk around Echternach Lake followed by a meal at the youth hostel.
- d) House Groups: since it was proving so difficult to organise the area contact groups, the Chaplain was taking a different approach. Some groups of people in the congregation were already meeting on a regular basis (YAG, Wellsprings, Mothers' Prayers, the Environmental Footprint Group, etc.) and there was room for more such groups, resourced by the clergy. He proposed to invite seven couples already involved in leading groups to a meeting before the Church Fair with a view to setting up three or four new house groups, building on the existing structure of these groups.
- e) Safeguarding: Carol Birch had agreed to take over from Hilary Cole as Safeguarding Officer once she had been trained. An identity checker for the safeguarding policy was still needed. This would involve seeing to the background and ID checks on all those involved in doing duties in the Church. After some discussion it was agreed that Elaine Birch could be asked to do this job as part of her duties in the Church Office.
- f) Flower rota: Lucina Muscat had volunteered to take over the flower rota from Liz Alexander. The Chaplain would hold a meeting in June with Liz Alexander and the flower arrangers.
- g) Sacristan: Louise Whatling was willing to join a rota, along with others, for the duties of sacristan, which involved setting up for the eucharist, clearing away afterwards and laundering the linen.
- h) Archdeaonry Choir Festival: this would be held on 1 June in Bertrange Church.
- i) Quiet Day: Susan Bolen and Steve McCarthy were proposing another Quiet Day on the first weekend in July.
- j) Concert in October: the Chaplain circulated Dana Luccock's proposal to hold a concert in October on the theme of creation. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Sale of the Vicarage

The Chaplain and Chris Vaudrey had met with Immo DP to discuss outstanding and new questions. Immo DP confirmed that they would sustain the proposed project for the site (rather than selling it on), but might also involve other parties. The price, cash or otherwise, was discussed, as were the tax implications. This whole issue was complicated because we were seeking an exchange. Advice on tax was then sought from a lawyer, who explained that as the Vicarage was both a "*domicile*" and a "*presbytère*", it might be possible to avoid paying capital gains tax, but expert tax advice was essential. The Chaplain would seek further advice from an expert.

9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse, was unable to attend the meeting but submitted material by e-mail in advance. However, the print-out of this material circulated at the meeting did not include a report for the previous month. It did include a breakdown of the congregation's giving by age of donor and amount.

10. Music Director

There was much discussion of the issue of funding the post of Music Director in the light of the figures submitted by the Treasurer for the simulated costs for financing (both with and without contributions from the "angels") a net salary of 1 000 € to be paid to the Music Director, Dana Luccock. The Chaplain proposed that the Church Council undertake that, without taking account of any contributions from "angels", it was willing to appoint Dana Luccock as Music Director for 12 months at a salary of 1 000 € net per month, which would involve a total cost to the Church of 15 000 € per year. This was agreed. He intended to thank the "angels" for their contributions, ask them to continue giving and take steps to increase overall giving by the congregation. The Chaplain and the Churchwardens along with Edward Seymour would approach the "angels" on this matter. Other "angels" could also be brought in.

On the subject of a wider giving campaign, the Chaplain felt that, whilst holding a large meeting or putting a reasoned article in the Konvikt magazine could have an impact, personal contact was essential.

11. Church Fair

The Chaplain said that an "Anglican presence" at the Fair would be ensured (Evelyn Sweerts had volunteered to set up a stall for this purpose). Someone was still needed to act as Church Fair treasurer and possibly someone else to help with counting the money.

12. AGM

The draft minutes of the 2013 AGM had been circulated in advance. They would be posted on the Church website once a couple of minor amendments had been made.

As the 2013 venue had been very agreeable, the Chaplain had asked Lynn Barclay to book the same venue for the following year's AGM. She had duly booked it for 29 April 2014. In response to Chris Vaudrey's argument that this was perhaps an unsuitable date (much later than usual and not long after Easter, so possibly clashing with the Chaplains' holidays), the Chaplain said that a later date for the AGM was considered easier in terms of the Treasurer's preparation of the accounts for the Auditor and the task of getting the various activity reports ready, so the date of 29 April 2014 was fine.

13. Council Members' contact list

To facilitate communication, Lynn Barclay was drawing up a list of Council members' mobile phone numbers and would be e-mailing Council members regarding their conditions for and consent to these numbers being circulated amongst other members of the Council.

14. Revision of the Electoral Roll

This was in progress. There had, however, been a response of less than 50% to the Contact Register revision.

15. Any other business

Choir robes: The Chaplain had received a letter from Stuart Alexander criticising the way in which the Easter Sunday service had been “staged” and asking whether the Church could buy new robes for the choir. The Chaplain said that he and Dana Luccock agreed with the criticism. On the question of the robes for the choir, he said this was a complicated and expensive issue. The current robes were unpopular as they were made of polyester. It might be better to ask the choir to dress in some uniform manner, i.e. perhaps all black or a white top and black trousers/skirt. The Chaplain would reply to Stuart Alexander (**Action point**).
Quiet Toys box: Evelyn Sweerts offered to clear up and replenish the box of “quiet” toys in the chapel for children to play with during services.

16. Dates of next meetings

- Wednesday **12 June** 2013 at 7 pm for some food together, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm.
- Thursday **4 July** 2013.

17. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.59 pm.