

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 12 June 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), Moira Hogg, John Overstall, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Rani Roloff, Neil Ross, Philippa Seymour, Evelyn Sweerts, Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8 pm by welcoming everyone and thanking Moira Hogg and Catherine Allen for the catering; he then read from Ephesians 3, starting at verse 14, and said a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

Cheryl Fisher, Paul Townend.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 15 May 2013 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to correcting the spelling of Steve McCarthy's name and mentioning Evelyn Sweerts' offer to clear up the Quiet Toys box. Philippa Seymour thought that an Action Point should have been included for the action to be taken with regard to the Music Director.

5. Action Points Review and Matters arising

Action points review:

See separate Action points spreadsheet.

Matters arising:

The Chaplain had replied to Stuart Alexander's letter about choir robes. The problem was that there was no unanimity in the choir as to what kind of robe they would like.

New action points:

- the Chaplain to contact the "angels" about their donations to the Music Director.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplains reported as follows:

- a) **Toddlers' Group:** the Assistant Chaplain said that this group, aimed at babies to three-year-olds, would be relaunched in a new form: it would be held weekly in the morning, alternating between the home of Evelyn Sweerts (Hassel) and Jena Goebel (Mamer), and would consist of action songs, a Bible story and an activity based on the story. Amy Cirje and Cherry Kent were also involved.
Chris Vaudrey pointed out that the crèche rota still needed a volunteer. It was suggested that Brenda Foulds might like to help with either the rota or the toddlers' group and Andy Markey said he would ask her.

- b) Youth Group: the Assistant Chaplain proposed starting a Youth Group aimed at the 12 to 16 age group; the idea was for the group to meet twice a month on a Sunday in parallel to the church service, starting in September. The group would meet in the lounge bar of the hotel next to the Konvikt chapel, have a soft drink and discuss some issues proposed by the leaders, Evelyn Sweerts and Andy Markey. There would always be two leaders and parents would have to give their consent to their child joining the group. The drinks would be offered but the children would be asked to contribute to the cost. The Council welcomed the idea.
- c) Archdeaconry Choir Festival: the event had been a success with a good turn-out and joyful singing; the venue had had to be changed to the Konvikt chapel at the last minute as the organ in the original venue, Bertrange church, had proved to be unplayable.
- d) House Group meeting: the Chaplain circulated a paper on house groups which had been discussed at a meeting he had held the previous evening with about a dozen people. The proposal was to set up 3 or 4 house groups to meet regularly for prayer and fellowship, starting in October. The hosts and leaders would be appointed by the Chaplain, support and resources would be provided by the Assistant Chaplain, and Carol Birch would be the coordinator. The idea was to pursue the strategy stated in "Being the Church", the way of affirmation. The Council discussed the issue of confidentiality in these groups and which matters needed to be reported to the clergy. The Chaplain said it was important to establish the ground rules for these groups to develop a healthy culture; supervision by the clergy was just to give support. Neil Ross hoped that one of the house groups would be held in Luxembourg city.

7. Parish Coordinator

The Chaplain explained that the role of the Parish Coordinator, Lynn Barclay, was to act as the church's link with the outside world, and her tasks included keeping the events diary, handling external administrative matters and organising the Chaplain's pastoral and non-pastoral diary. Her remit did not include such matters as doing the catering for the Choir Festival. Her role in connection with internal church events was to check the proposed date and book the venue, but after that the organisation should be done by the person responsible for the event. Chris Vaudrey said that this was a policy item and should be put on the website.

Elaine Birch's job was to deal with internal administrative matters, such as the pewsheets, record-keeping, Junior Church material, and congregational e-mails.

8. Sale of the Vicarage

The Chaplain circulated a paper about the question of whether capital gains tax would be payable if the Vicarage were to be sold. He had discussed this matter with Jean Olinger, who had been able to provide the Chaplain with the name of a person to contact.

9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse, presented the accounts for May. Monthly donations had been as expected, but collections in church had been low. One reason for this was that the money collected at the Confirmation service (974€) was a special collection that went to the Church of England. Expenditure was low, as there were no fuel standing orders (every second month). There were hospitality costs relating to the Confirmation celebrations. The music honorarium for May amounted to 647€, which was the agreed 417€ plus the donations received from the "angels". A charity payment of 1 934€ had been made to the Lent appeal. The Chaplain assured the Treasurer that efforts were being made to find a successor for her.

10. Music Director

The Chaplain had spoken to Dana Luccock who was keen to sign the proposed contract, provided that her insurance was covered.

The Chaplain intended to approach the Music Director's "angels", via Edward Seymour, to thank them for their contributions, explain the decision taken by the Council, ask them to continue giving and tell them he would try to find some more "angels". (**Action point:** the Chaplain to contact the "angels".)

11. Church Fair

The Church Fair coordinator, Ralph Birch, had drawn up a comprehensive safety plan. Ian Kent would act as treasurer on the day of the Fair and Cherry Kent would help with counting the money.

12. Revision of the Electoral Roll & Contact List

The revision of the electoral roll was still ongoing, but there had been a poor take-up for the contact list. The Chaplain proposed telling people their name would be kept on the contact list unless they asked to have it removed.

13. Any other business

The Chaplain's request for some money to fix the lighting in the Vicarage meeting room was unanimously agreed.

14. Dates of next meetings

- Thursday **4 July** 2013 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm;
- Wednesday **11 September** 2013.

15. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.20 pm.