

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Thursday 4 July 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, Rani Roloff, Philippa Seymour, 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 thanking Moira Hogg and Philippa Seymour for the catering; he then read from Mark 4, starting at verse 3, and said a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

Cheryl Fisher, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Neil Ross, Evelyn Sweets.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2013 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to correcting the spelling of Jean Olinger's name and, under the point about House Groups, mentioning Neil Ross' hope that one of the groups would be held in Luxembourg city.

5. Action Points Review and Matters arising

Action points review:

See separate Action points spreadsheet.

Matters arising:

The Chaplain and Lynn Barclay were looking at the data protection form, which would soon be signed.

The Chaplain was in the process of drafting a letter to the Music director's "angels".

New action points:

- the Secretary to thank Ralph Birch for being Church Fair coordinator.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplains reported as follows:

- Junior Church resources: the Assistant Chaplain said that he was currently looking at several new resources (including "Searchlights" and "Living Stones") to replace the "Seasons of the Spirit" material as of September. The new material would cost £230 for three years.
- Special services: Chris Vaudrey made the point that in cases where special services were arranged and this involved certain things not being done (for example, readings), then it would be helpful if people on the sidespersons rota could be told in advance. The Chaplains took note of this point.

7. Fund-raising process

The Chaplain circulated a paper about the fund-raising process from September to November 2013.

The plan was to adopt a different approach to fund-raising this time (the previous stewardship campaign in 2004 had raised giving by 40%). First of all there would be a meeting at the Vicarage or the Centre Jean XXIII in Kirchberg for Council members and other church officials in October to discuss the fund-raising idea and get them “on side”, and then a couple of weeks later a meeting for the remaining “affiliators”, and finally a few larger meetings in November in the Salle Maria-Rheinsheim for other members of the congregation to present the fund-raising idea and encourage people to increase their giving by standing order.

In response to various questions, the Chaplain said that meetings were needed rather than simply having an article in the Konvikt magazine. The aim was to increase the Church’s basic income and so people would be encouraged to give by standing order. There would be no “guilt-tripping”, however. Although the Church had money in the bank, that was a reserve for a rainy day, and we needed more money for the day-to-day activities and especially for more youth work, music, etc, and for the challenge of vacating the Konvikt chapel in the not too distant future.

Some concern was voiced about persuading people to attend these meetings in the first place and then persuading them to raise their giving. Paul Townend said it was important that people knew the meetings were about fund-raising. Catherine Allen said a good title for the meetings was needed in order to attract people, along the lines of “how is our church doing?”. The Chaplain emphasised that we were already a vibrant congregation that attracted new people, and it would be easy to explain why we needed more money. Council members could talk to people to encourage them to attend the meetings. He suggested that there could be a presentation with perhaps a funny script.

Chris Vaudrey said that Sarah Parkhouse had done a useful breakdown of current givers by age range. He would like to know what the younger generation felt about giving by standing order. At present a small number of people gave regularly, whilst others gave only when they attended church. Even a modest standing order would be useful, people needed to get into the habit of giving regularly. It was important that the congregation was aware that money was needed.

John Overstall said this should all be tied in with next year’s budget. The Chaplain pointed out that a Treasurer was needed in order to have a budget.

The Chaplain asked who would like to be involved in preparing these meetings. The churchwardens were ex officio involved, Paul Townend was willing, and the Chaplain hoped that perhaps Cheryl or Evelyn would like to help too. He suggested that an imaginative approach was needed, perhaps the Young Adults Group could make a Youtube video (at this point he encouraged the Council to watch the “Men stealing food from lions” Youtube version – the 4 minutes 11 seconds version). Also, we could ask the photographer who took pictures of people at prayer in our church to take photos and/or edit a video, or the young people in church could make a video, or the mayor of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel, a non-churchgoer, could be asked to comment on what the Church meant for the wider world. The Chaplain explained that it was also planned to launch the house groups this autumn (this was a separate issue from the fund-raising meetings); the idea was to have two or three training sessions for the leaders in September at the Vicarage.

8. Sale of the Vicarage

The Chaplain said there was no progress to report.

9. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse, was unable to attend the meeting, so the accounts for

June were discussed in her absence. Standing orders were on budget, but church collections were lower, partly due to the missing Sunday service owing to the Church Fair. The amount of 13 052 € shown for the Church Fair represented the money banked and some expenses to date, but, as a large number of expenses still had to be paid, it was expected that the final figures would be lower, as in previous years. For expenses, employment costs were higher as Elaine Birch was regularly working overtime. The amount paid to the Music Director for June was 697€, paid on 1 July. The loan and cash advance repayment heading showed the repayments for the Assistant Chaplain's car loan and cash advances. Charity payments related to discretionary costs of 830€ agreed by the Chaplain. The Chaplain thanked the Treasurer for the June accounts and for her work. Efforts to find a successor for her had not so far borne fruit. The Council discussed a couple of possible candidates for this role.

Bishop Geoffrey's farewell appeal: The Chaplain said that, as Bishop Geoffrey was retiring, an appeal was being launched to mark this event and he asked the Council what amount it considered appropriate to give. As the Church had already given him a present, the Council agreed to donate 50€ to this appeal.

10. Music Director

The Chaplain, after consulting the Churchwardens, was drafting a letter to be sent to the Music Director's "angels", via Edward Seymour, to thank them for their contributions and encourage them to continue their support; he was also drafting a letter to people who it was thought could become "angels" and a letter about general fund-raising for the church.

11. Church Fair

The Chaplain said that the Church Fair had been great with lots of people of many different nationalities attending and perfect weather. Chris Vaudrey, as host, said it had all gone very well and there had been efficient teams to set up beforehand and clear up afterwards. The Chaplain highly commended the organisation of the Fair coordinator, Ralph Birch, and also praised the work of his wife, Carol. Looking forward to next year's Fair, John Overstall asked whether the Catholics could be notified of the date well in advance so that their picnic did not clash with the Fair. (**Action point:** Tania Buhr to write and thank Ralph Birch for his work on the Church Fair.)

12. Revision of the Electoral Roll & Contact List

Evelyn Sweerts had managed to persuade a number of people at the Church Fair to sign up for the Contact List. The names of the people on the baptism list were also on the Contact List. Elaine Birch was just finishing a list of people whose names had been on the Contact List and the Chaplain would be writing to tell them their name would stay on the Contact List unless they asked to have it removed.

13. Any other business

None.

14. Dates of next meetings

Wednesday **11 September** 2013 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm;
Wednesday **9 October** 2013; Wednesday **6 November** 2013.

15. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 10 pm.