

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 20 November 2013
(rescheduled from 6 November)
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andrew Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Tania Buhr (Secretary), Cheryl Fisher, Moira Hogg, Neil Ross, Evelyn Sweets, Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.08 pm by welcoming everyone; he then read from Ephesians 3, starting at v. 3, and said a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

John Overstall, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Rani Roloff, Philippa Seymour, Paul Townend.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 9 October 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:

Lynn Barclay had contacted Mr Erwin about mending the window in the chapel. The Chaplain said that the information concerning the confirmation return had been sent.

New action points:

- None.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplains reported as follows:

- a) Choir retreat: the retreat, which had taken place on 8-9 November in Remerschen youth hostel, had been attended by 20 people and had gone very well;
- b) Remembrance Day: the service had been well attended with very good music; for the first time, the German Ambassador had been present;
- c) Christmas services: the following services would be held: Advent carol service on the evening of 1 December; the Intermedii Christmas concert at 6.00 pm on 8 December (a non-church event, but the Chaplain was participating); the family carol service on 15 December; a service of lessons and carols at 6.30 pm on 15 December in [the Konvikt chapel](#); on Sunday 22 December at 4 pm the Anglican church of Luxembourg would be hosting Evensong, sung by the University College Oxford choir, at the Cathedral under the auspices of the British Ambassador and the Archbishop of

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Luxembourg; Christingle service at 4 pm and Midnight Mass at 11 pm on Christmas Eve; Communion service at 10.30 am on Christmas Day. There were plans for a congregational Christmas lunch on 15 December, but booking the hall was posing a problem.

- d) Youth Group: Andy Markey said the Youth Group, although small in number, was going well so far and feedback was good;
- e) Junior Church: there would be no Junior Church on 24 November as the hall had been booked by another group.

7. Treasurer's Report

The October accounts were discussed in the absence of the Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse. Income for the month had been as expected. Employment costs were high, owing to the three salaries, plus the indexation increase. Junior Church costs included the purchase of new materials. Charitable discretionary payments totalling 380€ were made during the month.

The Chaplain reported that the Vicarage's gas boiler had broken down and had to be repaired at a cost of 305€. It would also need a full service, costing 499.40€.

The Chaplain said that the Parish Coordinator, Lynn Barclay, had now been employed for two and a half years; since the start of her job she and her children had lost the health insurance cover they had previously benefited from by virtue of her husband's employment; as the Luxembourg *caisse de maladie* insurance cover, for which she had to pay, was less advantageous than the previous cover, she would like to be included in that scheme again.

[After some discussion the Council agreed unanimously to pay the monthly insurance premium of 142€ for coverage under the previous scheme.](#)

8. Stewardship

The Chaplain reported on the two meetings held in October to prepare the way for the stewardship campaign, attended by very different groups of people. Those at the second meeting had emphasised the need for the campaign to have clear goals and a vision for the future. They had also brought up the need for people to give their time and talents too. It had therefore been decided that more preparation for the campaign was needed, so the stewardship meetings scheduled for November had been postponed until 5, 12 and 26 February 2014 to allow time for this. Michiel Sweerts had suggested making a video presentation of who we are, and this idea was being worked on.

[By way of background to the campaign, Chris Vaudrey gave some statistics about current giving, highlighting the fact that the 65 people who gave by standing order provided the Church with some 7 000€ in total per month; 27% of this amount was given by 5 people and 38 of those who gave by standing order were aged over 60.](#)

The Chaplain emphasised that we had to be precise, focused, clear and positive, especially as an even greater need might arise.

9. Convention

The Chaplain circulated a letter from the Archbishop of Luxembourg dated 13 November 2013.

He said that it was highly likely that a new government would shortly be formed but it was uncertain what this would mean for our church and its *convention*. According to their election manifestos, the parties in this new coalition wanted a major reform of religion and its financing in Luxembourg. He explained that although the principle of *cultes* being *conventionné* was enshrined in the Luxembourg Constitution, the way this principle was implemented was not, meaning that the financing, for example, could be changed by a simple vote in Parliament. The Chaplain had attended a meeting of *chefs de culte* held by the Archbishop of Luxembourg on 18 November 2013, at which the *chefs de culte* had

decided to form a committee (representing the Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Orthodox churches and the Jews) as a single body with which the Government would be able to deal.

10. Music Director

The Chaplain reported that the legal status of Dana Luccock, the Music Director, remained unclear, as she had still not obtained a *permis de séjour*.

The Chaplain was aware that he still needed to write to the Music Director's "angels". [Also, clarification was needed from the Treasurer as to exactly what Dana was being paid, i.e. whether the contributions from the "angels" were being put towards her salary or being paid in addition to it.](#)

11. Konvikt Magazine Editor

The Chaplain reported that Rani Roloff was resigning as editor after 7 years and so a replacement needed to be found. He said she had done a great job, bringing style and flair to the magazine, whilst proving to be politically very astute.

The Chaplain said there was a need to talk about communication in general.

12. Charities Committee Report

The Chaplain circulated a note to the Church Council from the Charities Committee Convener, Martin Curwen, stating the proposed charities for 2013. Four proposals for funding had been received by the committee during 2013; after due consideration the committee's recommendations were as follows: Greyton Genadendal Education Trust (South Africa); CSI Lëtzebuerg (Congo); World Vision (Romania); Connection St Martin's (UK); Jambange (India); Naledi (South Africa) and Stëmm vun der Strooss (Luxembourg). The Council [agreed](#) to accept the proposed list of charities for funding in 2013.

13. Any other business

None.

14. Dates of next meetings

Wednesday **4 December** 2013 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm.

15. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.05 pm.