

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 4 December 2013
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andrew Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), 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 8.14 pm with a reading from Isaiah 40, starting at v. 3, followed by a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

Cheryl Fisher, Moira Hogg, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Neil Ross, Evelyn Sweerts.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes (version Rev. 1) of the meeting of 20 November 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:

The Chaplain reported that he still needed to write to the Music Director's "angels". Dana Luccock, the Music Director, was currently concerned about her visa.

New action point:

- Lynn Barclay to invite a representative from the *Charte de la Diversité* to come and talk to the congregation.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain said he had taken two funerals in the last two weeks, there was a lot of ongoing pastoral work and recently there had also been a number of meetings in connection with the big issue of the "*Convention*".

He reported as follows:

- a) Women Bishops: with the recent favourable General Synod vote, it looked as though the Church of England was moving towards ordaining women bishops in the not too distant future.
- b) Pilling Report: a group of four Church of England bishops chaired by a civil servant, Sir Joseph Pilling (the House of Bishops' Working Group on Human Sexuality), had just issued a report stating that clergy in England should be allowed to bless (not perform) same-sex marriages, using the existing liturgy; this would be at the discretion of the local priest. The report did not have any authority from the Archbishop. Even some evangelical parts of the church had welcomed the report.

The Chaplain said he believed that there was general support for this issue in our congregation; he would be happy if we became known as a church that accepted this, as it was part of our Christian tradition, a tradition that had always been radical.

- c) Meeting with parents re Communion: the Chaplain had asked the Assistant Chaplain to arrange a meeting with parents, possibly after a church service; some instruction sessions would be organised for children given permission by their parents to take communion. It would be for parents to decide whether their children received a blessing or were allowed to take communion. The policy would be that children would be permitted to partake of both the bread and the wine, but would dip the wafer in the wine rather than sipping from the chalice. Chalice bearers would be invited to attend the meetings too;
- d) Charte de la Diversité: the Chaplain circulated a paper about Luxembourg's *Charte de la Diversité* (www.chartediversite.lu) and explained that the church had been invited to sign this charter; it was a Luxembourg NGO that wanted to promote diversity and acceptance of differences. About 900 companies or corporate bodies had already signed up in Luxembourg, including the Roman Catholic church, the Orthodox and the Protestant churches. Signing the charter would involve agreeing to six commitments, and reporting once a year on how the church had implemented the policy. The Chaplain said we should think more about the issue of diversity and accepting differences; as regards signing the charter, we could learn from this and it would be good for us; although we did a lot in this area already, we needed to be aware and do things consciously; we had a mission to wider society and this step would be part of it. The Council gave the Chaplain permission to sign this charter. (**Action point**: Lynn Barclay to invite a representative from the *Charte de la Diversité* to come and talk to the congregation);
- e) Holiday cover: the Chaplain would be on leave from 26 December to 4 January 2014 inclusive; the Assistant Chaplain would take holiday from 30 December to 6 January 2014;
- f) Christmas party: Geoff Thompson and his team of volunteers would be organising the party, to be held after the family carol service on 15 December in the Salle Maria Rheinsheim; the cost of the lunch would be 30€ per adult;
- g) Christingle arrangements: the Christingle service would be held on Christmas Eve at 4 pm in the Konvikt chapel; the Christingles would be made by Junior Church on 22 December or at the Markeys' house.
The Crisp family would be decorating the Christmas tree, which Stuart Alexander was arranging to have supplied and delivered.

7. Treasurer's Report

The November accounts were discussed in the absence of the Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse. The monthly donations were on budget, the church collections were low as only 3 weeks were included in the figures. An additional donation of 100€ had been received for the Church Fair, relating to the dog show plus a donation. The employment costs were as expected. The accommodation costs included an invoice from Delvaux to service the boiler. The money allocated to the Church's various chosen charities for 2013 would be paid that week.

Petty cash and credit card: Lynn Barclay and Elaine Birch had asked about the possibility of having an arrangement for keeping petty cash in the church office and of being allowed access to the PIN code for the church credit card. At present, for small items such as coffee, tea, biscuits, etc., Lynn and Elaine paid out of their own pocket and claimed the amounts back by submitting expenses claims on the basis of receipts. The Chaplain, having discussed this with the Churchwardens, said that an imprest account would be set up for about 150€ or 200€, this would be run by Elaine and arrangements would be made to top it up as necessary. The Treasurer and Chris Vaudrey were not happy about disclosing the PIN

number for the credit card.

8. Stewardship

The Chaplain said it would be important during the stewardship campaign meetings to highlight certain points: extra money would not only help ensure that our church did not run at a deficit, but would also help our mission (e.g. working with children, wider scope of music, welcoming new people joining the church, new premises).

Michiel and Evelyn Sweerts were gathering photos to make the video presentation of our church, to be shown at the meetings.

9. Convention

The Chaplain said that the *chefs de culte* in Luxembourg had held a meeting to prepare themselves to meet the new government.

10. Any other business

None. (Cheryl Fisher had asked to discuss the house groups under this item but was in the end unable to attend the meeting.)

11. Dates of next meetings

Wednesday **15 January** 2014 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm;

Tuesday 11 February 2014;

Wednesday 12 March 2014;

(**NB**: AGM – 29 April 2014).

12. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.16 pm.