

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Tuesday 11 February 2014
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, John Overstall, Neil Ross, Philippa Seymour, Evelyn Sweerts.

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.05pm with a reading from Ephesians 3, starting at v. 14, followed by a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

Moir Hogg, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Rani Roloff, Paul Townend, Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 15 January 2014 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:

Philippa Seymour asked for details of the hymnbooks used for each service to be posted on the website so that those who wished could buy their own books and bring them to the services.

The workshop for flower arrangers had gone very well.

A transparent donation box had been sourced but, as that model was only available in the UK, Neil Ross would look into finding one that could be delivered to Luxembourg.

New action points:

-Andy Markey to ask Barry Crisp to be Church Fair organiser.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplains reported as follows:

- a) Pastoral situations: the Chaplain said that pastorally it had been an extremely busy time, with funerals, marital breakdowns and other issues.
- b) Lent housegroups: two or three housegroups were due to get under way in Lent and would focus on the "Being the Church" course.

7. Convention

The Chaplain said the leaders of the *cultes conventionnés* had had a meeting the previous

day with, amongst others, the Luxembourg Prime Minister, Xavier Bettel, the Finance Minister and the Minister of the Interior. The Anglican Church had been represented by the Chaplain and Simon Norcross, who, like the others attending the meeting, had both presented themselves. The Chaplain had highlighted the fact that our church was diverse and open to all, and, whilst perhaps appearing to be traditional, was quite progressive, especially on issues such as women priests and same-sex relationships. The Church's mission was to help people to relate to each other, to resource people in Luxembourg, not to reprove them. The Chaplain had pointed out in particular the Church's social work role. The Prime Minister had said the *conventions* would not be abolished but would be revised; 36 million € was being spent per year on religion and the government would be discussing different ways of funding the religious groupings in Luxembourg in order to achieve the necessary 10% cut.

A further meeting with the *chefs de culte* was planned to be held before the summer.

8. Communications

Evelyn Sweerts reported that the newly formed Communications group had met. Those attending were the Chaplain, Chris Vaudrey, Philippa and Edward Seymour, Evelyn and Michiel Sweerts, Lynn Barclay and Claudia Granger. The group had discussed different forms of communication; the progress made on compiling the Welcome packs; the pew sheets and the Konvikt magazine; updating the website; a possible Facebook page for the church. A further meeting was planned.

The Chaplain said it had been a very interesting meeting, with lots of technological expertise.

9. Treasurer's Report

The January 2014 accounts were discussed in the absence of the Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse.

Income for the month was in line with January 2013 and was stable. Accommodation costs were high as they included the insurance for the coming year. The quotas had been paid and totalled 1 476€ for the Archdeacons of Europe and 8 596€ for the Church of England in London (including 500 GBP in costs relating to Susan Bolen). Capital expenditure included two vacuum cleaners which had been purchased for the Konvikt Centre.

The Treasurer had met with the auditor, Michael Chamier, and they had discussed the need to look into reducing costs where practicable.

Catherine Allen had explained to the Music Director, Dana Luccock, that the "angels" donations went into church funds and helped to enable the church to pay her salary of 1 024€ per month. If more money were to be given by the "angels", that extra money would not go to Dana but her salary would cost the church correspondingly less.

John Overstall pointed out that, although the Archdeaconry quota was high, we were eligible to apply for funding for training purposes.

10. Vicarage redevelopment

The Chaplain circulated a paper entitled "Proposal to move forward" (attached in the amended version). The expression "redevelopment" had been used in the Chaplain's paper rather than "sale" of the Vicarage for tax purposes.

It had transpired that any sale or development of the Vicarage might involve the Church being liable to pay capital gains tax of €160 000. Despite the tax liability, the Chaplains and the Churchwardens were of the opinion that the Church should go ahead anyway with redeveloping the Vicarage as the best solution to the accommodation needs.

The Treasurer and the Auditor both agreed that the Church needed to get professional advice on this whole issue and pay for it. A project manager would also be needed. The Chaplain proposed setting up a Vicarage Redevelopment Committee to take this venture further and give advice to the Council. Cheryl Fisher pointed out the importance of defining

the terms of reference of such a committee. Catherine Allen stressed the importance of having someone from our church who would be in charge of the project. After discussing the Chaplain's paper and making some amendments to it, the Council agreed to accept the proposal as amended.

11. Stewardship

The Chaplain said that stewardship campaign meetings had been scheduled for 12 and 26 February 2014, but as only two people, apart from Council members, had indicated that they would attend on 12 February, that meeting had been cancelled. More people had said they would attend the 26 February meeting.

The Chaplain had met with Dennis Robertson to discuss how the stewardship campaign could be presented. The Chaplain would give the good news about the positive new things that were going on and then Dennis would point out that more funding was needed, to help minimise the deficit and in view of the uncertain outlook. Some explanation would be given of how the Church was financed. The video made by the Sweerts would be shown at the meeting.

12. AGM elections

The Chaplain asked the Council to think about possible new candidates to replace the two Council members who would be stepping down at the AGM.

Our two Archdeaconry Synod representatives, Moira Hogg and John Overstall, needed to be re-elected at the AGM this year, as their term was up.

Churchwardens needed to be elected every year; both Catherine Allen and Chris Vaudrey had indicated that they would be willing to stand for re-election for another year.

13. Church Fair

As an organiser still needed to be found for the Fair, it was suggested that Barry Crisp might be asked (**Action point:** Andy Markey to ask Barry Crisp).

14. Any other business

- a) As Father Michael Lapsley would be visiting Luxembourg on 16 or 23 March, the Chaplain wanted to invite him to preach at an evening service on 16 March. The Council was happy for the Chaplain to invite him on one of these dates. The Chaplain also wanted the next Council meeting to discuss sponsoring Father Lapsley's Institute for Healing of Memories.
- b) Lynn Barclay pointed out that some details needed to be settled so that the Welcome packs could be finalised. After some discussion, it was decided to call the group of volunteers organised by Geoff Thompson the "Events Group".
- c) A new crèche coordinator was also needed.

15. Dates of next meetings

Wednesday 12 March 2014 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm;
Wednesday 9 April 2014.

(**NB:** AGM – Tuesday 29 April 2014).

16. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer at 11.03 pm.