

# **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG CHURCH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 11 June 2014  
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andy Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), John Dimond, Cheryl Fisher, Moira Hogg, Simon Norcross, Philippa Seymour, and Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

### **1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer**

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.07 pm by welcoming everyone, especially John Dimond, newly elected as a member of the Church Council. He read from Acts 2, starting at v. 5, and said a prayer.

### **3. Apologies for absence**

John Overstall, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer), Evelyn Sweerts, Paul Townend.

### **4. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 14 May 2014 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to correcting the spelling of a name.

### **5. Discussion on Communication Policy**

Simon Norcross picked up on the previous meeting's discussion of communication policy, saying that this issue needed to be developed further, possibly by the communications team. Philippa Seymour said this team had discussed a number of aspects of communication, and, whilst it had agreed which means of communication were the preferred ones, it had not concluded on updating the website and on whether to launch a Facebook page and/or a blog. The Chaplain said he was keen for the Church to have its own Facebook page, but it would need to be moderated, and that would give rise to many questions about how this could best be done.

The Chaplain said that we did not yet have an articulated policy on communication: whilst we saw the needs, we did not yet know how to meet them. A policy would state what we wanted to communicate and to whom we wanted to do so. Thought also needed to be given to who the "we" was in this process: "we" sought to communicate with the members of the Church, with others in Luxembourg and with the wider community, but, apart from communication by the clergy, there also needed to be communication between members of the congregation and to others and communication by the Church Council. We as a congregation did not talk with each other, we needed to change our mindset and be more confident about where we were going.

The Chaplain concluded that we should ask the communications team (Philippa and Edward Seymour, Chris Vaudrey, Michiel and Evelyn Sweerts and Claudia Granger) to decide what we wanted to communicate, to whom, with whom and for whom and how we wanted to do this. (**Action point:** Chris Vaudrey to ask the communications team to do this).

## **6. Action Points Review and Matters Arising**

### Action points review:

See separate Action points spreadsheet.

### New action points:

- Catherine Allen to ask Andrew Gray to organise a “Collections” rota.
- Chris Vaudrey to ask the communications team to decide about aspects of our communication.

### Matters arising:

- Outstanding Contact forms: The Church office was in the process of contacting those who had not replied about the contact forms to say that the Church was assuming they were happy to still be in contact and that we were still holding information on them.
- Social event in the Vicarage for Officials and Group Leaders on Wednesday 25 June: So far, about 18 people had said they would attend. The Chaplain said some new people might also be invited.
- Ascension Day Walk review: The event had gone well, a report and photos were available on the website. Catherine Allen said it would be good to re-establish the tradition of asking the Catholics to this event and suggested that “invite Catholics to the Ascension Day walk” could be added as one of the ‘recurring action points’ for the ‘after Easter’ time-slot on the action points spreadsheet. Lynn Barclay said it was difficult to know whether this walk would in fact be held as a regular event.

## **7. Vicarage redevelopment**

The Chaplain said that it had been decided to postpone discussion of this item until all the documents were in place: the tax documents, the final ‘*compromis de vente*’ and the definitive cashflow were not yet available. Chris Vaudrey said he had been in touch with the lawyer and was waiting to hear back.

## **8. Treasurer’s Report**

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

The collections for May were higher than budget, although this would probably smooth out over the summer with reduced giving. Expenses were generally as expected although the costs for the Konvikt Centre were high for May as two rental invoices had been received, whereas none had been sent the previous month.

The Chaplain said that no hand-over date to the incoming Treasurer, Felix Rusere, had yet been agreed. Sarah Parkhouse would act as the Treasurer for the Church Fair together with her husband, John.

a) Advertising in the American Women’s Club magazine: the Finance Committee had agreed to place adverts about the Church in the AWC’s “Grapevine” magazine.

b) Konvikt magazine – cost of printing: Rapidpress, the firm with which we had dealt in the past, had split into two firms, and when the material to be printed had been taken to the Rapidpress offices as usual, the staff there had willingly accepted the job but charged twice as much as we had paid previously. There was some discussion about what to do about this issue. Some negotiation with the printers over this invoice was felt to be necessary, given that we had been long-standing customers of Rapidpress in its previous form.

The Chaplain was keen to keep a paper magazine rather than switch completely to an on-line magazine. However, if the magazine was going to cost €700 per issue to print, the Council would have to set a budget per issue.

## **9. Treasury rota**

Chris Vaudrey and Catherine Allen circulated a paper setting out the details of the proposed rota, which they preferred to call the "Collections rota"; its purpose was to strengthen internal control in line with the auditor's recommendations. They suggested a list of possible rota candidates who would be responsible for counting church collections and paying them into the church bank account. There would need to be a sufficient number of people on the rota to allow two people present for each 11 am service. The people potentially on the rota would need to be approached and asked. It was important to have a watertight system, not just based on trust. It was agreed that Catherine Allen should ask Andrew Gray to organise the rota (**Action point**).

Chris Vaudrey also wanted to have a statistical analysis of the collections throughout the year.

## **10. Konvikt Chapel and keys**

a) Altrimenti: The Chaplain said he had met the manageress of the Goeres hotel group, Christine David, for the first time. Changes regarding the Salle Maria Rheinsheim were taking place, a group called Altrimenti was now using it and holding various classes there. Christine David had asked the Church not to make a noise in the chapel when these other events were in progress. Our Church was paying rent, whereas Altrimenti was not doing so at present. We should be allowed to have use of the chapel so that our organists could practise. At present the Goeres group had asked that we do not use the bar or the fridges. Philippa Seymour and Tania Buhr brought up the question of the increasingly difficult access to the tables and chairs needed every Sunday for Junior Church and for serving coffee after the service. A meeting between the person in charge of Altrimenti, the Chaplain, Lynn Barclay and Simon Norcross was scheduled for Monday 16 June to discuss some of these issues.

b) Sunday evening use of hall: the Chaplain would contact Christine David in writing to confirm that we would like to book the hall on Sunday evenings for our use.

c) Keys: Key-rings with a logo would be issued to all those who were responsible for collecting the keys to the Konvikt Chapel and the Salle Maria Rheinsheim from the Goeres hotel, to avoid any confusion.

## **11. Church Fair**

All was reported to be going smoothly in the run-up to the Fair on 15 June 2014.

## **12. Ministry Report**

The Chaplain reported as follows:

- a) Pastoral issues: the Chaplain said that, in the wake two (entirely unrelated) teenage suicides, he had recently been involved with this issue and the question of what to do about children who might be perceived as being "at risk"; he was considering talking to the UK Embassy to pick up on this issue.
- b) Petition about same-sex marriage debate: the Chaplain had been approached by a group wanting to petition the government to state their opposition to same-sex marriage; he did not wish to bring this matter to the congregation's attention.
- c) Breakfast Bible study: Isobel and Graham Weller had suggested two dates in the summer to start their proposed breakfast Bible study session at their house.
- d) Chaplain's laptop: the Chaplain reported that his laptop had died (again), which was awkward for dealing with his e-mails, etc., and he would have it seen to.
- e) Holidays: a chart of the Chaplains' and Church office staff's holidays was circulated.
- f) Preparing to move to new premises: The Chaplain was getting ready to move his

effects, possibly in the autumn.

- g) Diversity network: the Chaplain, having signed the *Charte de la Diversité* on behalf of the congregation on 27 May 2014, had been impressed by the very diverse network run by this organisation, which involved 119 entities, reflecting many different cultures, nationalities, skills, abilities and beliefs. The network held regular meetings and it would be beneficial for the Church to be involved.

**13. Big picture – where might we be in five years’ time? The Chaplain seeks approval to explore possibilities**

In response to a question as to whether this “where might we be” was meant psychologically or geographically, the Chaplain replied that he meant both. In an effort to establish whether we were likely to be pushed out of the Konvikt Centre, he had met with the Vicar-General, Erny Gillen, who hoped to get formal approval by October 2015 to demolish the Konvikt Centre; however, the Vicar-General also hoped that by then he would be in a position to offer us something else, in the wake of the whole re-think of church building use in Luxembourg City. The Chaplain said that we would perhaps like the Hollerich Church, as it was near the city centre. However, the building had big cracks and roof problems. The Vicar-General offered to arrange a meeting with Lydie Polfer.

The Chaplain said he would be attending both the civic service in the Grand Theatre and the Te Deum in the cathedral on the Luxembourg National Day, 23 June. Together with the rabbi and the imam he would be leading the prayers at the Te Deum. He wanted to stress to the Ville de Luxembourg and the Government that we were serving the wider community. He saw his role as to lead the Church in its ministry to Luxembourg, he was there for anyone who wanted the services of an Anglican priest.

Cheryl Fisher said we needed to reflect on how we saw ourselves worshipping in five or ten years’ time and on what sort of building we might want; if we opted for a classic type of church building, this might lock us into a particular way of worshipping. The Chaplain said that he wanted a classical church building, but he did not exclude having other buildings in other venues. In the light of demographic and other changes in Luxembourg City, it was important to keep talking to people about the future.

**14. Any other business**

None.

**15. Dates of next meetings**

Wednesday 2 July 2014 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm.

**16. Closing prayer**

The Chaplain thanked Moira Hogg for providing supper and Catherine Allen for supplying cakes. The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.45 pm.