

# **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG**

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 2 July 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, John Overstall, Philippa Seymour, Evelyn Sweerts, and Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

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

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.05 pm by welcoming everyone. He read from Luke 10, v. 1-9, and said a prayer.

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

Cheryl Fisher, Moira Hogg, Simon Norcross, Sarah Parkhouse (Treasurer) and Paul Townend.

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

The minutes of the meeting of 11 June 2014 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to correcting the "American Ladies Club" to "American Women's Club" in item 8(a).

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

##### Action points review:

See separate Action points spreadsheet.

##### Matters arising:

- a) Social event in the Vicarage for Officials and Group Leaders on Wednesday 25 June: this had gone well but there could have been more people. Church officials and some newcomers had been invited.
- b) Health and Safety walk on Sunday 29 June: Hilary Cole had led this walk, attended by 6 people. She had proposed that we appoint a Health and Safety Officer who was separate from the Safeguarding Officer. At present she was acting as both. A number of practical questions had arisen, i.e. the need for torches and hammers for evacuation of the building. Hilary Cole's suggestions (e.g. regarding the lack of emergency lighting in the building) were good and she needed to be authorised to follow them up. In response to various questions, the Chaplain said health and safety matters were not the responsibility of the hotel, as it did not own the building, the Catholic Church was the owner; our Church was insured for anything that happened to people when we were renting the premises

## 6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported as follows:

- a) Te Deum: the Chaplain had led the prayers at the start of the *Te Deum* held in the cathedral to mark the Luxembourg National Day on 23 June 2014 in the afternoon and a small Anglican Church choir had sung; he had also attended the civil ceremony in the City theatre in the morning.
- b) Pastoral issues: it had been very intense recently.
- c) Family service: the family service on 29 June had gone well; it would be useful to have name badges next time; the Chaplain suggested that a family service could be held once a month on the first Sunday. It was pointed out, however, that that would affect the work Dana Luccock was doing with the children on the first Sunday, and that it would not include some of the congregation who tended not to come to the first Sunday services.
- d) Youth Group BBQ: Andy Markey reported that this event held on 22 June at the Markeys' house, with parents invited too, had gone well and everyone had had a good time.
- e) First Sunday Group meeting: The Chaplains had had a good discussion with Jon Grocock, Jim Kent, Evelyn Sweerts, Cheryl Fisher and Katarina Townend; the group needed a new keyboard player.
- f) Altrimenti: The Chaplain, Lynn Barclay and Simon Norcross had had a very positive meeting on 16 June with the person in charge of Altrimenti, Diego Lo Piccolo. The latter was not concerned about the organ being played, or about the use of the bar area, and he would look into the question of dirty dishes and the messy carpet. The Chaplain said that, as regards the safety issue of the glass in front of the bookcases, we could put up our screens in front of it; a 'muscle team' would be needed for this and for the furniture moving to set up the hall each week for Junior Church and the coffee arrangements; a rota would have to be set up.
- g) Contact lists: Work was in progress on the contact list, which comprised several sub-lists relating to baptisms, marriages, deaths, Junior Church, etc.
- h) Communications Policy: a group had met to discuss all aspects of this issue with the aim of being able to re-launch what we were doing by Advent, with a new communication strategy. One idea was to print our own service booklets with just what we wanted in them for each service.
- i) September 2014-September 2015: a provisional calendar was circulated. The Chaplain said that high energy levels were going to be needed for the coming year, as some big things were on the agenda, i.e. launching a new communication strategy (Advent), selling the Vicarage, appointing a new set of churchwardens at the next AGM. A new breakfast Bible study group by the Wellers was planned, Dana Luccock had set 5 October as the date for a special evensong, Ralph and Carol Birch would be taking over Evelyn Sweerts' Bible study group in September 2014, a confirmation was planned for April/May 2015, possibly with the new Bishop. The Chaplain said that the Church Council could also work differently; there were a number of people who wanted to come and talk to the Council about what they were doing, e.g. Clive Munn, Martin Curwen, Dana Luccock, etc. The Chaplain also proposed that the Council could go on a retreat somewhere outside Luxembourg city. Evelyn Sweerts suggested that the whole Church could go away for a weekend. There was some discussion of both these ideas.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

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

Income was slightly above budget, and employment costs were exceptionally high. The Church Fair had gone well; however, the amount of EUR 11,600 shown in the accounts was

not the final figure as it did not include a number of expenses, such as drinks, ambulance, BBQ food, etc. Transfers had been made in June to the Institute of Healing and to London for the Lent Appeal.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

John Dimond suggested that the accounts could include a new column to show percentage deviation from budget. This could perhaps be done when the new Treasurer took over. The Chaplain said that no hand-over date to the incoming Treasurer, Felix Rusere, had yet been agreed, Chris Vaudrey would enquire as to how things were progressing.

On the tax question, the Chaplain had received a response from the tax authorities stating that the Church would not be liable for capital gains tax on the sale of the Vicarage.

a) Advertising in the American Women's Club's booklet "Living in Luxembourg": the Chaplain said the advertisement would cost about 300 €.

b) Konvikt magazine – cost of printing: after Chris Vaudrey and Edward Seymour, the magazine editor, had approached the firm which had printed the previous issue of the "Konvikt" magazine (at twice the usual price), the firm had agreed to send a revised invoice; the complication had arisen because Rapid-Press had split into two companies; it had been agreed that the next issue would be printed by the other part of the firm with which we had dealt in the past.

## **8. Vicarage redevelopment**

The Chaplain reported that Chris Vaudrey and Simon Norcross had met with M. Bettingen to discuss the questions raised at the Council meeting. They had gone through the '*compromis de vente*' with Mr Kripler who had proposed additions (i.e. a long-stop date for signing) and '*clauses suspensives*'. The next step was to examine these proposals, clarify the wording and work out the minimum price that we could accept. We still needed some technical details from M. Devresse about the meterage of the site. The final wording of the '*compromis de vente*' would then have to be reviewed from a legal point of view by Mr Kripler and after that we could set a date for a Council decision (so far the Council had only decided in principle) and for the sale to be signed with IMMO DPI. It might be possible to do so in July.

## **9. Collections rota**

John Dimond agreed to organise the new Collections rota devised by Catherine Allen and Chris Vaudrey. Those on the rota would be responsible for counting church collections and paying them into the church bank account.

## **10. Church Fair review**

The initial reaction was very positive. Philippa Seymour pointed out, however, that there were too few helpers on some stalls. It was important to start recruiting earlier on. A full review of the Fair could be carried out at the October meeting, with Clive Munn present. Before that, Clive Munn could perhaps hold a debriefing of stallholders at the Vicarage.

## **11. Any other business**

a) The draft minutes of the AGM held on 29 April 2014, which had been previously circulated to the Council, were accepted for posting on the Church website.

b) The Chaplain said he would be writing to the new Bishop, Robert Innes, to express our Church Council's goodwill.

**12. Dates of next meetings**

Tuesday 9 September 2014 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm.  
Wednesday 8 October.

**13. Closing prayer**

The Chaplain thanked Philippa Seymour for providing supper and Catherine Allen for supplying cakes. The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.20 pm.