

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 9 September 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, Moira Hogg, 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 8.15 pm by welcoming everyone. He read from Isaiah 40, starting at v. 27, and said a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

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

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meetings of 2 July 2014 and 27 July 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:

- a) Advertising in the American Women's Club magazine: an advertisement had been placed in the magazine.
- b) Konvikt magazine: the issue of the printing cost had been resolved in our favour by Chris Vaudrey and Edward Seymour.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported as follows:

- a) 'Convention' negotiation: At a meeting in mid-July to which the representatives of the 'cultes conventionnés' and the 'cultes non-conventionnés' (i.e. the Muslims, the Baha'i and the New Apostolic Church) were summoned at short notice, the Luxembourg Government had announced that it was intending to scrap the current 'conventions' by October 2015; furthermore, the amount allocated to the 'cultes conventionnés' would be cut by 10% per year for the next 10 years. Contributions made to 'cultes' would, however, become tax deductible. The 'cultes' were invited to respond to this proposal, which had only just been decided by the Government, by October 2014. The response so far drafted by the 'cultes' was to the effect that existing salary agreements needed to be honoured; if the current 'conventions' were to be abrogated, new ones should be drawn up; the situation needed to reflect current religious/social realities in Luxembourg (i.e. the Muslims, the second largest religion in the country, needed to be included). The whole issue might have very far-reaching consequences, which were difficult at this stage to foresee. One of the

biggest unresolved problems was the question of the '*fabrique d'églises*', which might well affect whether our Church was able to obtain use of a church in the city.

- b) Confirmation: the plan was to hold a confirmation some time after Easter 2015, but no date had been set.
- c) First Sunday Group meeting: The Chaplains had met with the Group, which was becoming rather reduced in number, with some people leaving. The Chaplains planned to have a family service on the first Sunday of every month, starting in October or November.
- d) Altrimenti: Altrimenti wanted to use the hall on 5 October (for elections). The Council discussed whether it was best to hold the Harvest Festival service on 28 September, as planned, but with no guarantee that the Harvest pot-luck lunch would be able to go ahead on that date, or to defer it to 5 October, when there was more likelihood that the lunch could be organised but this would clash with Altrimenti wanting to use the hall. It was agreed that the Harvest Festival service should be kept on 28 September, as had already been advertised, and the Chaplain would find out about whether the Community Group could organise the lunch on that date.
- e) Contact lists: Work on the contact lists was still in progress.
- f) Communications Policy: the communications team was planning to meet again soon. Work on revamping the website and on setting up a Facebook page was in hand. A lot of suggestions had been received for a new name for the church magazine, with the competition due to close on 30 September.

7. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for July and August 2014 were discussed in the absence of the Treasurer, Sarah Parkhouse.

Income for both months had been good, and we were now above budget for the year to date. The Church Fair had raised EUR 10,295 so far; the bags and baubles stall was continuing to sell on eBay, so some more proceeds were received every so often. Employment costs were higher than budget, mainly owing to overtime by Elaine Birch. Accommodation costs for August included house insurance for the Markeys' house and other sundry costs. The costs for 'Publicity and church magazine' were above budget as at the time when the budget was produced it was anticipated that the magazine would only be published two or three times a year.

Arrangements were in hand for Sarah Parkhouse to hand over her post to Felix Rusere, the new Treasurer, probably during September. The Council decided to invite Felix to the next Council meeting (Action point: Tania Buhr to invite him).

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

The Chaplain said that he had received a letter from William Gulliford, Diocesan Director of Ordinands for the Diocese in Europe, asking our Church to make a contribution of £ 3,500 towards Susan Bolen's removal costs to the UK (she had moved in advance of taking up a curacy in England next year), as well as £ 1,000 for this academic year towards the costs of Phil Harvey's ordinand training. After some discussion, the Council gave its agreement to Catherine Allen's proposal to make a counter offer, in view of the demands on our budget, of paying £ 1,000 for Susan Bolen (the amount we would in any case have paid for the coming year of her training, had she remained in Luxembourg) and £ 1,000 for Phil Harvey's training.

8. Vicarage redevelopment

The Chaplain reported that he and Chris Vaudrey had signed the '*compromis de vente*' at the end of July. The reason for the discrepancy in the total surface area of the site (6.87 ares

in our original cadastral plan and 6.42 ares stated in the '*compromis de vente*') was that the Ville de Luxembourg had taken 0.5 ares off the site. IMMO DP had said that it would take a year to obtain the necessary permits for the deal to go ahead. The surveyor had put up markers in the Vicarage garden.

The Chaplain and the Churchwardens had discussed the next step and agreed that it would be best to search in the rue de Muhlenbach for suitable offices/meeting space with a view to making a purchase before the next AGM and moving in next summer. The Council agreed that we should ask M. Devresse to continue working on our behalf.

9. Collections rota

John Dimond explained that, as he had been ill for the last 6-7 weeks, no progress had been made in setting up the new Collections rota, but he would be working on it soon. Chris Vaudrey volunteered to help introducing him to potential candidates for the rota. Catherine Allen said the original instructions had been modified so that instead of using a separate register for recording the collections, the existing register would continue to be used but the entries would be made slightly differently.

10. Church Fair review

A debriefing of stallholders would be held on 24 September at the Vicarage and Clive Munn would be invited to the Church Council meeting on 8 October.

John Overstall said more people needed to be involved, Philippa Seymour said the number of stalls needed to be given careful consideration so that they did not overlap or compete with each other, and the Chaplain pointed out that the Fair should be enjoyable for the stallholders as well, as they were putting in such a big effort.

11. Any other business

Catherine Allen gave some explanations about the church linen arrangements, which were now being taken care of by Lucyna Muscat.

The Chaplain asked the Council for approval to put Phil Harvey's name on the list of people giving the chalice and this was granted.

12. Dates of next meetings

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

Wednesday 5 November 2014

Wednesday 3 December 2014

13. Closing prayer

The Chaplain thanked Moira Hogg for providing supper and Catherine Allen for supplying cake. The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.08 pm.