

# **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG**

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 11 February 2015  
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andy Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Tania Buhr (Secretary), John Dimond, Moira Hogg, John Overstall, Felix Rusere (Treasurer), Philippa Seymour and Evelyn Sweerts

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

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8 pm with a reading from Hebrews 12, v. 1 onwards, and a prayer.

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

Lynn Barclay, Cheryl Fisher, Simon Norcross, Paul Townend and Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden).

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

The minutes of the meeting of 14 January 2015 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to the following amendments:

- The beginning of the fourth sentence of item 8 (Treasurer's report) to be reworded to read, "Konvikt Centre costs and employment costs were lower owing to ...";
- The third sentence of the second paragraph of item 7 (Evelyn Sweerts' presentation) to be reworded to read, "She envisaged being deployed in a variety of ways overall, this could be a parish ministry + teaching / a ministry with a 'pioneering DNA', and she would like to be based in Luxembourg."

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

Action points review: See separate Action Points spreadsheet.

The Chaplain said the action point concerning the storage of Church archives needed to be acted on; the archives could go to London or Brussels or be put in storage offered by Luxembourg City.

Matters arising:

Evelyn Sweerts said that the Enquirers' Weekend she had recently attended as part of the discernment process had been a very interesting and positive experience, and she thanked the Council for its support.

#### **6. Ministry Report**

The Chaplain reported that a meeting with a small group of people about 'all-age worship' had produced some interesting discussion. Some of the ideas might be taken further but it was important to find the right balance.

The Lent study group on the "hard sayings of Jesus" would be held on Tuesday evenings in the Vicarage, run by the Assistant Chaplain and Phil Harvey.

As Jane Wickens wished to stop doing the sidespersons' rota, a new rota organiser needed to be found; we also needed to discuss the sidespersons' duties and to recruit new volunteers.

## **7. Communications**

- a) Website: John Dimond reported that all was going well and good progress had been made; he would copy some of the old material to the new site;
- b) Facebook: the Chaplain said the Church's Facebook site was moderated by himself, Andy Markey and Evelyn Sweerts, and a fourth moderator would be added; the moderators had the power to post on the site once material had been submitted; any comments on that material would be named; a separate Church Fair events page would be set up and would be moderated by the existing moderators;
- c) Pew Bibles: Catherine Allen showed the Council one of the 100 Bibles she had bought; they would be named and dated (using a bookplate or a stamp) before being placed in the pews; the Chaplain thanked her for buying them;
- d) Computer purchase: the equipment purchased was now in use and the Chaplain thanked John Dimond for all his work in researching, buying and installing it;
- e) Policy: the Chaplain circulated, for discussion, two draft versions of communications policy guidelines (a 10-point version drawn up by Chris Vaudrey and a 7-point version by Philippa Seymour); these included obtaining consent for taking and publishing photos, and not having any exclusive media partnerships; the Chaplain said work on this policy was still ongoing, and thanked Chris Vaudrey, Philippa Seymour and the Communications team for their input.

## **8. Church Fair**

The Chaplain said he would be meeting with Clive Munn soon to discuss finding a small group of people that he could work together with.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

Felix Rusere presented the accounts for January 2015. Collections had decreased in January mainly owing to fewer services compared with December. The expenditure in January had shown no big variances. The increase in employment costs was due to December recoveries of prior duplicate payments; the normal amount was thus deducted in January. Fuel and utilities had decreased in January following the December payment to Petrocenter for oil for the Assistant Chaplain's house. The administrative overheads included the annual insurance premium for the Vicarage. He also pointed out that some of Dana Luccock's "angels" were still paying in contributions and said that the situation needed to be clarified.

The Treasurer sought formal approval for a number of payments (the Christingle collection to the Church of England Children's Society; Dana Luccock's leaving present; expenses for the Enquirers' Weekend; the contributions to the Common Funds of the Archdeaconry of NW Europe (€1 058) and of the Diocese (€7 665)) and for expenditure of some €4 000 made in excess of the approved budget for 2014 (a variance mainly driven by publicity, consultation and accommodation costs); the Council gave its approval.

The Chaplain thanked Felix Rusere for his report.

## **10. 'Convention' negotiations**

The Chaplain circulated copies of the 'Convention' for our Church which had been signed with the Luxembourg Government on 26 January 2015. He explained the various clauses of this agreement to the Council (briefly: it was valid for 20 years; no new recruitment allowed under the old arrangements; the principle of '*pacta sunt servanda*' applied; clergy to retire no later than the age of 65 years; the Church would receive a subsidy from the State to fund 'ministry' – this could be spent on paying the clergy or on other things; the subsidy could be withdrawn if the Church did not comply with the rules; the Church would need to set up an ASBL to administer the subsidy; the Church, like the other religious groups, would be

required to give spiritual help to anyone who asked for it).

Although agreements had been signed between the Government and all the religious groups, some big issues remained unsettled, such as the fate of the RC church buildings, and some controversy had been stirred up over future religious teaching in Luxembourg.

#### **11. Search for new premises**

- a) Church: the Chaplain had contacted the Vicar-General, Ernie Gillen, and thus established that the Konvikt Centre would not in fact have to be vacated in October 2015, as had been said, and would be available for another three years; the Chaplain had also asked if our Church could have its own building (for which we would require seating for 250 people, halls and toilets, a central location and exclusive use); the Vicar-General had replied that we could perhaps have one of the Catholic Church's buildings and suggested contacting Lydie Polfer; the Chaplain was planning to set up a meeting with Lydie Polfer with the help of the British ambassador.
- b) Offices and apartment: there had been little movement on this issue because of the uncertainty concerning the location of our future place of worship. The Chaplain said we should buy office space to stay on the property market and that he would re-contact Alain Devresse.

#### **12. Music Director recruitment**

The Chaplain was keen to explore a proposal made to him that the Church set up a Music Director internship for a student for two years. He was looking to form a Music Committee to take matters forward. He had already talked to a number of people about this and some serious interest had been shown; he was planning a meeting after the half-term holiday. In the meantime there were people in the congregation who would 'hold the fort'. He would get in contact with Dana Luccock's 'angels' to encourage them to continue with their support.

#### **13. Tech team and Sacristy team**

No progress had yet been made on setting up such teams.

#### **14. Any other business**

- a) Exiting church on Sunday mornings: Philippa Seymour pointed out that it took a long time for the congregation to exit the chapel after the service because of the 'tailback' of people waiting to speak to the Chaplains standing just outside the chapel door; it was also a safety hazard, as impatient children sometimes went on ahead of their parents and were then not supervised on the stairs and near the door to the street; after discussion the Chaplains agreed that for a trial period they would stand downstairs to talk to people after the service.
- b) Church Council 'Away Day': Evelyn Sweerts suggested that the Council have an 'Away Day' after the AGM to discuss the changes that have taken place and reflect on what we are about. The Chaplain agreed and various ideas for a venue were discussed.

#### **15. Dates of future meetings**

Monday 16 March 2015 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm.

Thursday 16 April 2015

AGM – Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 7 pm.

#### **16. Closing prayer**

The Chaplain thanked Moira Hogg for arranging supper and Catherine Allen and Evelyn Sweerts for supplying cake. The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.50 pm.