

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, 16 April 2015 at 19.00

MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andy Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden), Lynn Barclay, Cheryl Fisher, Moira Hogg, Simon Norcross, John Overstall, Felix Rusere (Treasurer) and Philippa Seymour

1. + 2. Welcome and Bible Reading and Prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 19.45 with a reading from Ephesians 3, v. 14 onwards, and a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

Paul Townend, Evelyn Sweerts, John Dimond and Tania Buhr (Secretary)

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16 March 2015 were accepted without any changes.

5. Action Points Review and Matters Arising

No changes to Action Points and any Matters Arising have been included on the agenda.

6. Ministry Report

a) Lent, Holy Week and Easter review

A study group was held during Lent where attendance varied but the discussions were good; several Lent lunches were also held; usual small numbers at the services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; 26 people attended the sunrise service in Munsbach and there were 102 communicants on Easter Sunday.

Simon Norcross had attended the Ash Wednesday service at St Alphonse Catholic Church, as had a few others from our congregation, and he suggested holding this service again in the future in our Church; the Chaplain commented that Fr Ed Hone had been invited on occasions in the past but had not yet taken part in any of our services.

b) Children and Communion Policy Update

In this connection Andy Markey reported that he was looking at the official liturgy from the Church of England to decide what form the special service planned for 28 June 2015 should take and how best to prepare the children and their families. It is important that this service should not be confused with that for baptism or confirmation but the children do have certain things to say and a role to play in committing themselves to communion.

The Chaplain asked Andy Markey to check how many families might be interested to avoid a situation where one child had to go through the process on his/her own. He commented that different Churches have different ways of handling this issue; difficulties may arise and he emphasized the need to proceed with pastoral sensitivity.

c) Chaplain's Holiday Arrangements

The Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain will both be away the last weekend in July. Mike Fox, a retired priest and frequent visitor to Luxembourg, might be here then and willing to officiate; otherwise, leading lay members could be asked to stand in.

7. Communications: Update

a) Website

In the absence of John Dimond, the Webmaster, the Chaplain had nothing to report.

b) Facebook

There were not many 'likes' but the regular report that the page administrators received did show there had been 4 new visitors to the page!

c) Policy

There had been no further work on the Policy; the Communications Committee would be meeting to take a decision.

8. Safeguarding

a) Update on Safeguarding Procedures and Conference Arrangements

The Diocese's new on-line safeguarding training is up and running. Hilary Cole, our Child Protection Officer, encountered problems when she tried to register to do this training which she has reported to Lesley Weaver, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Diocese. John Overstall announced that Lesley Weaver would almost certainly attend the next Archdeaconry Synod to give an update on the new procedures.

b) New date for Safeguarding Training

A day of training will be held on Saturday 24 October in the Centre Jean XXIII on Kirchberg to which everyone with responsibilities involving children or vulnerable adults would be invited along with others with a responsible role in the Church.

Hilary Cole and Isabel Weller will deliver the training with assistance from Elaine Birch.

9. Church Fair: Update

The Chaplain had met with Clive Munn, the Church Fair Co-ordinator, and learned that he was having difficulty recruiting enough stall holders and helpers to cover the 35 stalls on his list. There was a general consensus that most of the stalls with no leader could simply be dropped this year and, regarding helpers, the practice in previous years has been for the stall holder to do the necessary recruiting. Clive Munn has enlisted Rani Roloff and Andrew Gray on to his Church Fair committee. One of the main concerns is finding someone to take charge of the book stall; it was also uncertain whether or not Campbell Thomson would be able to take care of the electrics.

The Chaplain would talk again with Clive Munn and asked Simon Norcross if he would be willing to be involved in an advisory capacity.

10. Treasurer's Report

Felix Rusere reported that the Audit of the 2014 accounts was almost complete; he will include a Note in the accounts to explain the sale of the Vicarage and the planned move but this will not affect the figures. **After some discussion it was decided to make a provision of EUR 4,000 for removal costs and EUR 4,500 per month for rental for 2 years of office space and accommodation for the Chaplain.**

Felix Rusere presented the accounts for March 2015, highlighting that the fall in collections was due to the fact that deposits had been made for only 3 Sundays and that the quotas to the UK Common Fund and the North West Europe Archdeaconry Common Fund had been paid.

The Chaplain will send Felix Rusere the relevant paperwork from the Diocesan office concerning the payment of removal expenses for Susan Boelen which is still outstanding.

11. Search for New Premises

a) Shop Front in Place d'Argent for Rent/Sale

This property has now been taken.

b) Centre Jean XXIII/Konvikt Centre - Renting Accommodation

The Chaplain is going to make enquiries about renting accommodation in the Centre Jean XXIII where he would be happy to reside on a temporary basis. Renting space in the Konvikt Centre was unlikely to happen; Lynn Barclay continues to explore other possibilities.

The Chaplain reported on his meeting with a manager from Azzurro Properties to discuss the possibility of buying 2 flats in the property to be built in the rue de Muhlenbach almost directly opposite the current Vicarage. Detailed plans and photos were passed round the Council and much discussion ensued around amongst other things how well the flats would fit our needs, the reconfiguration of the space in the flat destined to be used for offices and Church activities and what the street parking possibilities will be.

Azzurro already have all the necessary building permissions although permission still has to be sought from the 'Ville de Luxembourg' for the ground floor flats to be used as office space but it was thought that this should not be a problem. The property is due to be completed in 2 years' time.

The purchase process for the flats would entail first buying the ground with follow-up payments being made on an on-going basis as the flats are built.

The Team to continue with the negotiations would consist of the Chaplain and the new Churchwardens, Simon Norcross and Philippa Seymour, and it was agreed to carry on using the services of Alain Devresse.

12. Music Director Recruitment: Update

Following a fruitful meeting between the Chaplain and a number of musicians from our Church community there have been two expressions of interest in the post of Musical Director:

- a friend of Dana Luccock's who has worked in London and has experience of the Anglican tradition, is an organist and also choir director;
- an organist that the Chaplain has met and who played at our Good Friday service; he enjoys working with protestant Churches as he finds this allows him more room to experiment.

The post has not been advertised yet; the Chaplain has a few contacts he would like to make first.

Given the departure of Jon Grocock and the fact that Jim Kent is ever more frequently away, the First Sunday Group is in urgent need in particular of a leader and a keyboard player. Cheryl Fisher agreed to write a piece for the next Lumen magazine to advertise this need to the wider congregation and see what hitherto untapped talent we have sitting in the pews.

13. Church Council Away-day

The Centre Jean XXIII has been reserved for **2-3 October 2015 for the Church Council Away-day.**

14. Any other business

Ascension Day walk on 14 May: Elaine Birch has volunteered to organise the walk.

15. Dates of future meetings:

The next meeting would take place on 6 May 2015.

16. Closing Prayer

The Chaplain expressed his warm and sincerest thanks to departing Council members and Churchwardens, immortalising the moment and their happy, smiling faces with a quick photo, and then closed the meeting with a prayer.