

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 16 September 2015
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andy Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), John Dimond, Gerd Gebhard, Victoria Hodgson, Moira Hogg, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden), Isabel Page, Philippa Seymour (Churchwarden), Evelyn Sweerts and Chris Vaudrey (Treasurer)

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7.52 pm and welcomed Isabel Page, who had been co-opted onto the Council to replace Simon Norcross for the remainder of his term of office as member, and Chris Vaudrey, who had taken over as Treasurer. The reading was from Ephesians 3, v. 14 onwards, and a prayer was said.

3. Apologies for absence

John Overstall and Paul Townend

4. Minutes of last meeting (8 July 2015)

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2015 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to the following:

- item 14, replace 'Philippa Seymour suggested' with 'It had been suggested'.

5. Action Points Review and Matters Arising

Action points review: The task of drawing up a budget for the next 2½ years needed to be addressed.

6. Ministry Report

- Sudden death: there had been a number of sudden deaths over the summer as a result of which the Chaplain had been called upon to help;
- Refugees: The Chaplain suggested contacting the Shura in Luxembourg to offer our help; currently, Eyi Geers from our church was helping to organise CalAid and the Serve the City organisation was also helping the refugees; Evelyn Sweerts suggested that we should think about ways of helping with integration and offering friendship;
- Ecumenical Bible study: the Chaplain had received a request for our church to set up an ecumenical Bible study group with the Roman Catholics; he would find out more information about what was proposed;
- Junior Church and Crèche personnel: Andy Markey said more helpers were needed; new children were joining Junior Church; the Youth Group would be starting again on 20 September; both that group and the Junior Church would be involved in the Christmas shoebox campaign;
- Staffing: As Elaine Birch was on sick leave until mid October, Lynn Barclay was helping a lot in the office, but inevitably things were going more slowly than normal;
- First Sunday Group: at present there was no First Sunday Group as one or two people were needed to lead it; the Chaplain wanted to continue to offer a different style of music on

the first Sundays of the month, perhaps Taizé or world music could be tried; he would talk to some musicians about it.

7. Rota organisers

Liz Galvin had agreed to take over the readers and sidespersons rota until January, Moira Hogg had taken over the refreshments rota (coffee rota). For Junior Church, the rota would continue on the current basis until Christmas, the Chaplain had someone in mind to ask to be rota organiser.

8. Safeguarding

The Chaplain said that our Safeguarding Training Day was planned for 24 October; however, neither our safeguarding officer, Hilary Cole, nor our document checker, Elaine Birch, could be there, and the Diocesan staff designated to address the issue of safeguarding had moved elsewhere. There was a lack of clarity about the process and it was important not to do things wrong initially and end up vitiating the whole process. It was decided nevertheless to go ahead with the training day as planned. Philippa Seymour suggested seeking advice from Charles Clark, the author of an article entitled "Safeguarding – where are we and what needs to be done?" published in the autumn edition of The European Anglican. The Chaplain would contact him, and also approach a possible candidate he had in mind to be safeguarding officer.

9. Treasurer's Report

Chris Vaudrey presented the accounts for August 2015.

He reported that he had encountered some difficulties with access when he had first taken over as Treasurer on 1 July 2015, but these had been overcome. He was now trying to do the accounting in a way that would make it possible to eventually outsource the book-keeping, if that was considered the right decision. Further analysis of this issue was needed, as was clearer information from the bank about each transaction.

He said that sidespersons paying in collection monies needed to e-mail him with a breakdown of the total amount.

10. New premises - update

a) Bank loan: on 25 June 2015 the bank had approved a loan to the Church for €1 million, secured on 3 properties; this had created huge problems for the lawyers and lost the church a lot of time in its property transactions; however, this loan had now been restructured;

b) 'Procurations': a '*procuration*' from our Bishop as '*chef de culte*' was required for all three definitive transactions; all the conveyancing had to be done before the necessary '*procurations*' could be drawn up for the Bishop to sign;

c) 33 rue de Mühlenbach flat: once the Bishop had signed the '*procuration*', the Chaplain would be able to sign the '*acte définitif*' for the purchase of this flat for his accommodation;

d) Vendor's costs: as the owners of the 33 rue de Mühlenbach flat were incurring costs because of all this delay with the transaction, the Chaplain felt we should offer to help meet their extra costs; the Council agreed in principle to contribute to these costs.

11. Church Fair Coordinator

It was agreed that the Council would ask Clive Munn if he would be willing to coordinate the 2016 Church Fair and that he would be invited to the October meeting for a debriefing.

(Action point: Simon Norcross to ask Clive Munn about being Fair coordinator next year)

12. Music Director recruitment update

The Chaplain reported that the choir considered that each of the three potential candidates was good in different ways. Ovidiu Dragan would be taking the next choir rehearsal and conducting the choir on 20 September. The Music Group would meet in October to decide on the candidate for the job. The question of payment needed to be looked into further. In the meantime, it was proposed that guest choir directors be paid €50 for each attendance (Thursday rehearsal or conducting on Sunday). The Council agreed to this.

13. Church service times

Evelyn Sweerts circulated a flowchart, saying that this was the third time this topic was on the agenda; her proposal was to bring forward the time of both morning services by 30 minutes; in her view, the crux of the matter was whether or not this was a missional question. After discussion, it was agreed that this was indeed a question concerning not just timing and practicalities but the wider matter of what sort of worship we wanted to engage in, and so it concerned our mission; it needed more study and would be put on the agenda for the Council's forthcoming AwayDay.

14. Any other business

Gerd Gebhard reported that the draft law on the 'Convention' between the Luxembourg State and the Anglican Church had been published ('*projet de loi*' No 6871 '*Projet de loi réglant les relations entre l'État et l'Église anglicane du Luxembourg*', etc.) (available on the Chambre des Députés website, www.chd.lu under 'Travail à la Chambre' and then 'Rôle des Affaires').

15. Dates of future meetings

- Wednesday 14 October 2015 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm;
- Wednesday 11 November 2015;
- Wednesday 9 December 2015;

Also:

- Friday 2 – Saturday 3 October 2015: overnight Church Council AwayDay at Centre Jean XXIII in Luxembourg (arrival on Friday around 7 pm, in time for dinner; depart on Saturday around 3 pm);
- Saturday 24 October 2015: Safeguarding Training at Centre Jean XXIII in Luxembourg.

16. Closing prayer

The Chaplain thanked Philippa Seymour for arranging supper. The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.55 pm.